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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

1<sup>st</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Edition No: 007

### ABOUT AFRICA TERRORISM BULLETIN

In line with its mandate to assist African Union (AU) Member States, build their counter terrorism 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

<b>ACSRT</b>	African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism
<b>AMISOM</b>	African Union Mission in Somalia
<b>AMM</b>	Africa Media Monitor
<b>AQIM</b>	Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>BH</b>	Boko Haram
<b>CAERT</b>	Centre Africain d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Terrorisme
<b>CAR</b>	Central African Republic
<b>CT</b>	Counter-Terrorism
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>EUC-JRC</b>	European Union Commission's Joint Research Centre
<b>FAMa</b>	Forces Armées Maliennes
<b>GAF</b>	Ghana Armed Forces
<b>GATIA</b>	Groupe Autodéfense Touareg Imghad et Aliés.
<b>IED</b>	Improvised Explosive Device
<b>IS</b>	Islamic State
<b>ISGS</b>	Islamic State in the Greater Sahara
<b>ISWAP</b>	Islamic State in West Africa Province
<b>JNIM</b>	Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen
<b>KAIPTC</b>	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center
<b>LCB</b>	Lake Chad Basin
<b>LRA</b>	Lord's Resistance Army
<b>MLF</b>	Macina Liberation Front
<b>MNJTF</b>	Multinational Joint Task Forces
<b>MINUSCA</b>	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic)
<b>MINUSMA</b>	Mission Multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation au Mali (
<b>MSA</b>	Mouvement pour le salut de l'Azawad
<b>NISA</b>	National Intelligence Service Agency (Somalia)
<b>OAU</b>	Organization of African Unity
<b>REC</b>	Regional Economic Community
<b>RM</b>	Regional Mechanism
<b>SALW</b>	Small Arms and Light Weapons
<b>US</b>	United States (of America)

## SUMMARY

### QUICK HIGHLIGHTS

- The period under review recorded a total number of 58 terrorist attacks across the African continent.
- A total number of 401 terrorism-related deaths were recorded during the period. Out of this number, Counter-Terrorism operations accounted for 104 of the deaths while 297 deaths resulted from the 58 terrorist attacks.
- A total of (186), out of the 401 terrorism-related deaths were civilians, 183 were terrorists and 32 Military/Security forces
- In 36 out of the 58 attacks, the terrorists used Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). 18 attacks involved the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), three (3) kidnappings and one (1) attack was a combination of IEDs and SALW
- Three (3) cases of kidnapping were recorded. 2 occurred in the Soum province of Burkina Faso and One (1) in Uganda. In all, 14 people were taken hostage, including 2 Cuban Doctors abducted in Kenya. Two (2) out of 14 were released, and 12 remain in hostage.
- Whilst al-Shabaab used SALW in all their attacks, IS affiliates in Egypt and Libya used more IEDs. Boko Haram (Shekau faction), the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and Islamic State in Greater Sahara (ISGS) used mainly SALW. Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen (JNIM) used both IEDs and SALW for their attacks. Civilians were targeted in most of the attacks. 34 of the attacks targeted civilians, 21 targeted security forces, 3 targeted International Organizations (MINUSMA) and One (1) targeted Government Institutions/Officials)
- Whilst most al-Shabaab attacks were against civilians, the attacks by ISWAP, JNIM and IS affiliates in Egypt (Sinai) and Libya were mainly against security forces. Al-Shabaab killed 3 persons (2 civilians, 1 security) Boko Haram killed 18 (5 civilians 13 Security); JNIM killed 1 Security; ISWAP killed 5 (3 civilians, 2 security); ISGS killed 4 (3 civilian, 1 Security) and IS affiliates killed 14 ( 6 civilians, 8 security). Unidentified groups killed 172 (166 civilians, 6 Security personnel.
- Boko Haram suffered the biggest loss, 96 fighters were killed by security forces. Al-Shabaab and IS affiliates in Sinai lost one (1) militant each. 85 militants from unidentified/unaffiliated groups also died.
- The 5 countries most affected by terrorism during the period are Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Mali, Egypt and Cameroon (**In decreasing order**).
- Countries of the Sahel region recorded 39 out of the 58 terrorist attacks. The region recorded a total of 282 deaths (166 civilians, 105 terrorists, 11 security) including deaths from CT operations. This represents 70.25% of the total deaths for the period.
- Civilian, terrorists and military deaths in the Sahel represented 89.2%, 57.4% and 34.4% respectively of the total casualties in Africa.

### RECENT HIGH PROFILE INCIDENTS

- **01 April 2019 in Arbinda, Soum, Burkina Faso.** 32 people were killed and 9 kidnapped in terrorists attack. Subsequent intercommunal clashes resulted in 30 deaths.
- **01 April 2019 in Zoaga, Boulgou, Burkina Faso.** Assailants attacked the village near Ghana Border. Eight persons were killed and four injured.
- **06 April 2019 in Muna Dalti, Borno, Nigeria.** Two female suicide bombers from Boko Haram blew themselves up in Muna Garage. 5 persons were killed, 46 injured.
- **15 April 2019 in Bouhama, Lake Chad.** Boko Haram attacked a military post. 7 soldiers were killed, and 1 wounded. 63 terrorists were also killed by security forces in a counter attack.

Faced with the growing and sophisticated attacks, Security forces have remained responsive to the situation in the first half of April 2019. Beside 80 terrorists eliminated during attacks, Deliberate CT operations resulted in the neutralization of 103 members of terrorist groups. This includes 27 terrorists killed by the Multi National Joint Task Forces (MNJTF) in the Lake Chad Basin area, 25 in Nigeria; 39 in Mali joint operation of FAMA and French operation Barkhane and 11 in the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt.

## 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

The reported period, 1st to 15th April experienced a slight decline in the number of attacks from terrorist and violent extremist groups across the length and breadth of Africa. The areas most affected by terrorism and violent extremism for the period include the Sahel Region, Lake Chad Basin Area, the East and Horn of Africa, the North Africa as well as the Central Africa Region. The situation in Southern Africa remained relatively stable for the period. Although collaborative efforts are delivering some effective preventative and countermeasure responses, terrorist and violent extremist organizations continue to hold considerable initiative. This is manifest in their capacity to continue to launch attacks and cause debilitating harm and destruction to security personnel, civilians and properties. Inter-communal violence, activities of armed bandits and militia groups also continued to destabilize safety, peace and security in a number of regions.

**Lake Chad Basin.** Multi National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) preemptive attacks to degrade the capacity of Boko Haram and the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) appear to have accounted for the slight decline in terrorist activities for the period. In **Chad**, Boko Haram attacked a military post located in Bouhama killing 7 Chadian soldiers and injuring 15 others. The Military repulsed the attack killing 63 militants of BH. In **Cameroon**, MNJTF post located in the village of Ardebe, Far North region was attacked by BH killing three (3) Cameroonian soldiers and injuring 4 others. Separatists in the Anglophone region also carried out attacks in which 8 civilians were killed. In **Nigeria**, the Northeastern states of Borno and Yobe were attacked by BH and ISWAP. On 1 April, ISWAP executed two (2) soldiers and three (3) civilians, whereas two female suicide bombers from Boko Haram blew themselves up on 6 April, killing 5 persons and injuring 46 others. However, the Nigerian Army successfully repulsed Boko Haram attack in Damaratu, Yobe and neutralized a number of militants from the group. Armed Banditry remained a significant threat to peace and stability in Northwestern States of Kaduna, Katsina and Zamfara. Armed Bandits killed 50 people on 7 April in Kaduna and 14 people in Katsina.

**Sahel Belt of West Africa:** The region recorded terrorist attacks from various jihadist groups. Boko Haram, JNIM and ISGS all carried out attacks against security forces, civilians, civilian installations and international organizations particularly, MINUSMA. In **Burkina Faso**, the security situation remained unstable for the period under review with neighboring countries such as Benin, Ghana and Togo facing a heightened threat of terrorist attacks. On 1 April, unidentified armed men carried out an attack in the town of Zoaga, located 2km north from (the) border with Ghana in which 8 civilians were killed. Both ISGS and JNIM claimed responsibility for attacks in the country. The threat of terrorism has also been exacerbated by rising inter-communal violence. On 1 April, an attack carried out by Ansarul Islam, in which a religious leader was executed sparked inter-communal violence. The Arbinda town was attack in retaliation resulting in 62 deaths and 9 injuries. In Mali, terrorist groups continue to use improvised explosives devices as a means of attack against FAMa operational vehicles and MINUSMA convoys. JNIM claimed responsibility for series of attacks targeting military and security forces. Counter-terrorism operations, however gained momentum. The Operation Burkhané caused the neutralization of 35 terrorists in Dioura, Goako and Koro. Attacks by BH in the Diffa region of Niger killed 3 security forces and injured 5.

**East and Horn of Africa.** In **Somalia**, al-Shabaab continues to threaten safety, stability, peace and security. Although, counter-terrorism operations by AMISOM troops, US Africa Command and Somalia National Army (SNA) have resulted in the neutralization of substantial number of militants, the group continues to carry out devastating attacks against security forces and civilians in Somalia and bordering countries. Northeastern part of Kenya experienced an attack attributed to al-Shabaab. On 12 April, al-Shabaab attacked a police escort vehicle, killed a police officer and kidnapped two Cuban Doctors in Mandera town, near the border with Somalia. Thus far the doctors have not been found and no ransom demand has been made. In **Uganda**, armed men kidnapped an American woman and her driver at the Queen Elizabeth Park and demanded \$500,000 for their release.

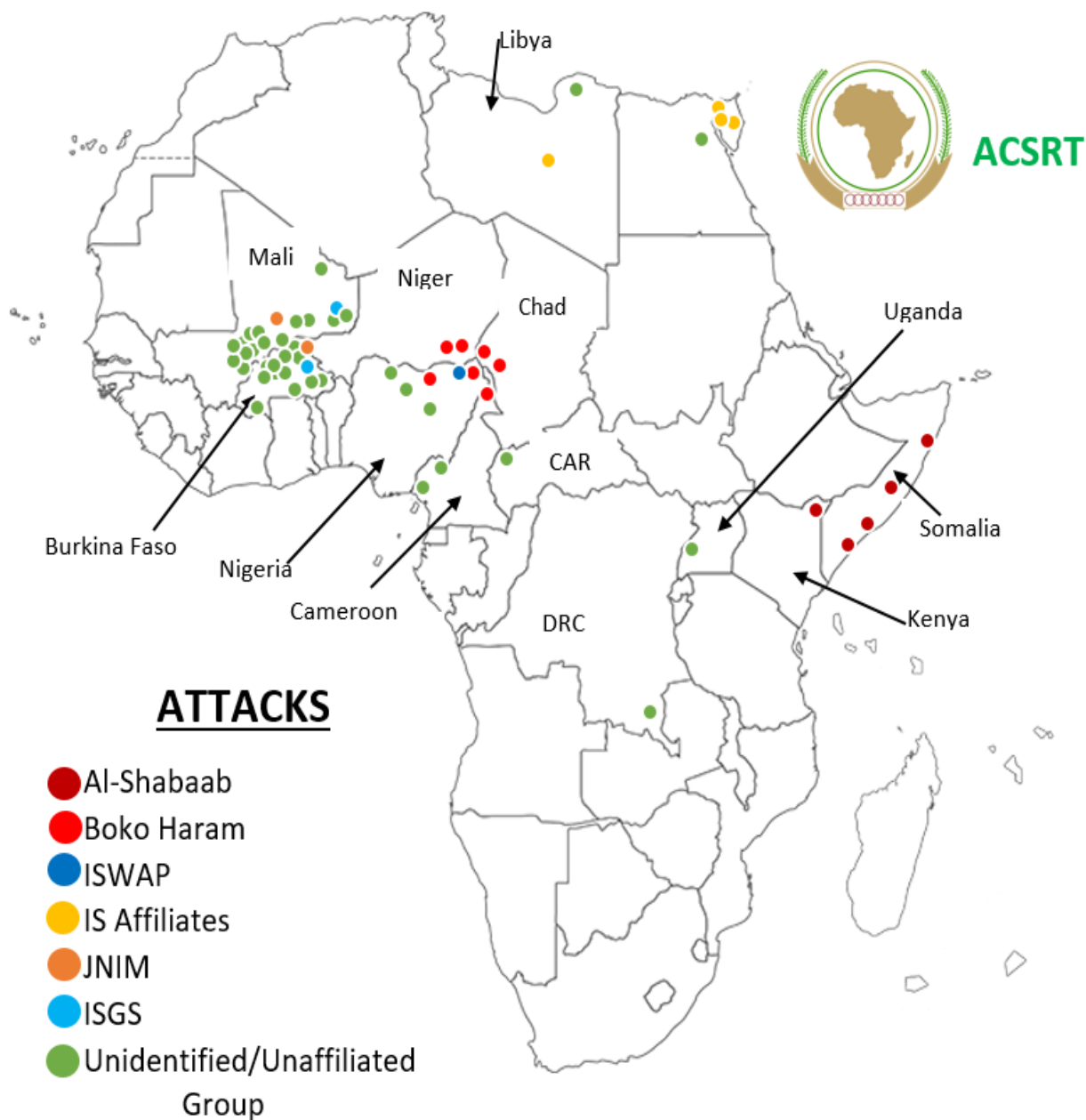
**North Africa and the Maghreb.** In Egypt, on 9 April, a group considered to be an Islamic State affiliate launched an attack in the Northern Sinai settlement of Sheikh Zuweid. A 15-year-old suicide bomber blew himself up killing 4 policemen and 3 civilians. In **Libya**, Islamic State affiliate claimed responsibility for an attack in al-Fuqaha town, which killed 3 civilians. As at 15 April, 174 people had been killed and 758 injured. This is as results of clashes between forces loyal to Government of National Unity (GNA) under Prime Minister, Fayez al-Sarraj and those loyal to Libyan National Army (LNA) under the command of General Khalifa Haftar. The evolving situation, if persists could destabilize Southern Libya. In **Morocco**, Preventative Counter-Terrorism efforts resulted in the destruction of a number of IS linked terrorists' cells and the detention of suspects. In Algeria, the dismantling by Security forces of terrorist cells as well as discovery and destruction of caches of arms and ammunition continued during the period.

**Central Africa.** In the **Central Africa Republic (CAR)**, some of the armed groups who are signatories to the February 2019 Khartoum peace agreement, continue to launch attacks against civilians and government installations in the country thereby undermining the peace deal. On 4 April, a nurse was killed by unidentified armed men in Batangafo. In **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, a group of Mai-Mai fighters attacked Mukunto Plateau, Lubumbashi resulting in deaths and injuries to civilians.

## GENERAL TREND: TERRORISTS ATTACKS/COUNTER-TERRORISM

Map 2: Map of Terrorism Incidents from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### AFRICA TERRORISM INCIDENTS MAP: FROM 01-15 APR. 2019



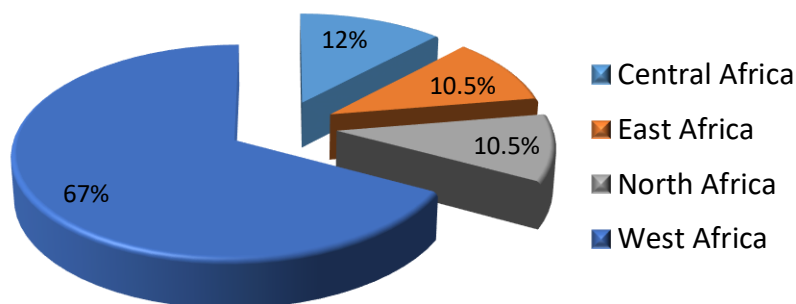
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## 1. Total Terrorist Attacks: 58

A total of 58 terrorism incidents including 3 cases of kidnapping were recorded from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

## 2. Terrorists Attacks by Region

**Figure 1: Terrorists Attacks by Region**



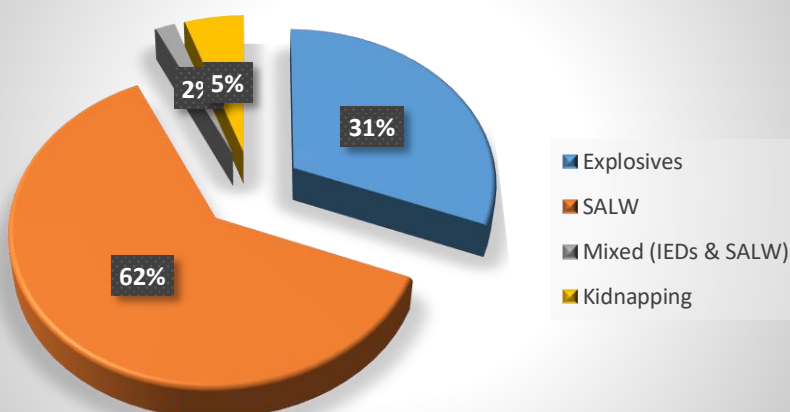
### By Regions:

- Central Africa: 7
  - East Africa: 6
  - North Africa: 6
  - West Africa: 39
- West Africa recorded the highest number of terrorist attacks. A total of 39 attacks representing 67% occurred in the region.
  - Central Africa region recorded 7 attacks, representing 12%. East Africa and North Africa recorded 6 attacks each representing 10.5%. No attack was recorded in Southern Africa for the period.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## 2. Means of Attack

**Figure 2: Means of Attacks**



### Means of Attacks:

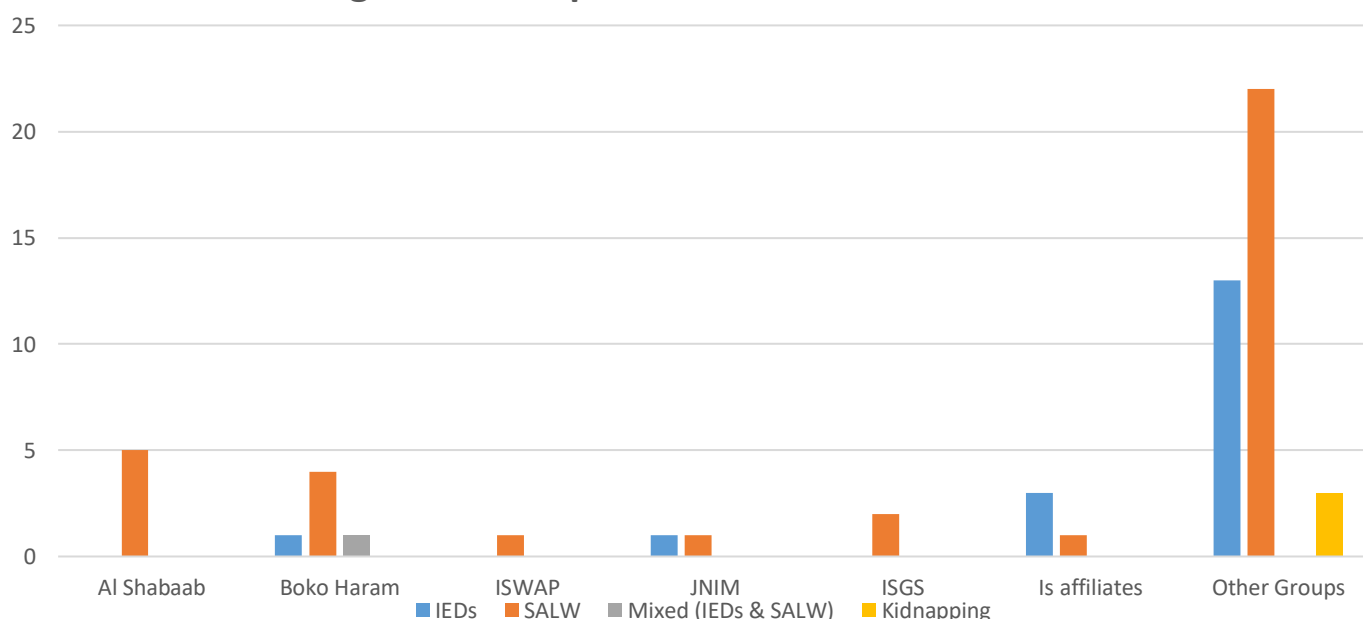
- IEDs: 18
  - SALW: 36
  - Mixed (IEDs & SALW): 1
  - Kidnapping: 3
- SALW recorded the highest means (62%) by which terrorist groups attack their targets. Also in 18 (31%), out of 58 attacks, terrorists used IEDs. 3 cases of kidnapping were recorded.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

### 3. Terrorist Groups and their Means of Attack

- **Al Shabaab :**
    - SALW: 5
  - **Boko Haram:**
    - IEDs : 1
    - SALW: 4
    - Mixed (IEDs &SALW): 1
  - **ISWAP: SALW: 1**
  - **JNIM :**
    - IEDs : 1
    - SALW: 1
  - **ISGS :**
    - SALW: 2
  - **IS affiliates in Egypt & Libya :**
    - IEDs : 3
    - SALW: 1
  - **Unidentified/Unaffiliated Groups :**
    - IEDs : 13
    - SALW: 22
    - Kidnapping: 3
- In all 5 attacks carried out by al-Shabaab, the group used SALW.
  - SALW continue to be the preferred means by which Boko Haram attacks. In 4, out of 6 attacks carried out by the group, SALW were used as a means of attack. Only 1 attack involved the use of IEDs, and the other attack involved use of both IEDs and SALW.
  - ISWAP carried out one attack using SALW.
  - JNIM used IED in one (1) attack ad SALW in another attack
  - ISGS employed SALW in 2 attacks it carried out.
  - IS affiliates used more IEDs. In 3 out of 4 attacks carried out by the group, IEDs were used. Only one (1) attack used SALW.
  - Majority of attacks carried out by unidentified/unaffiliated groups used SALW. In 22, out of 38 attacks by such groups, SALW were used. 13 attacks involved IEDs and all three (3) cases of kidnapping were carried out by unaffiliated groups.

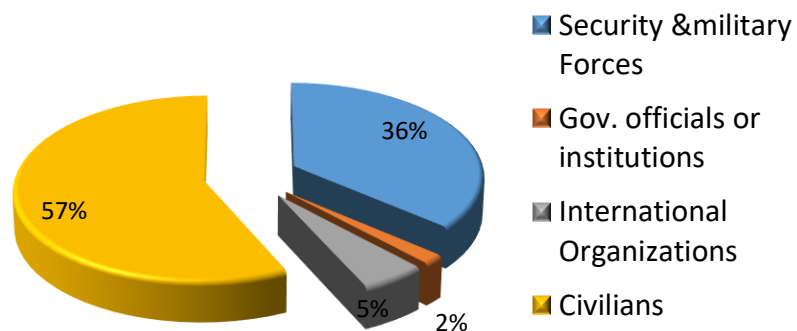
**Figure 3: Groups and their Means of Attack**



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

#### 4. Primary Targets

**Figure 4: Primary Targets**



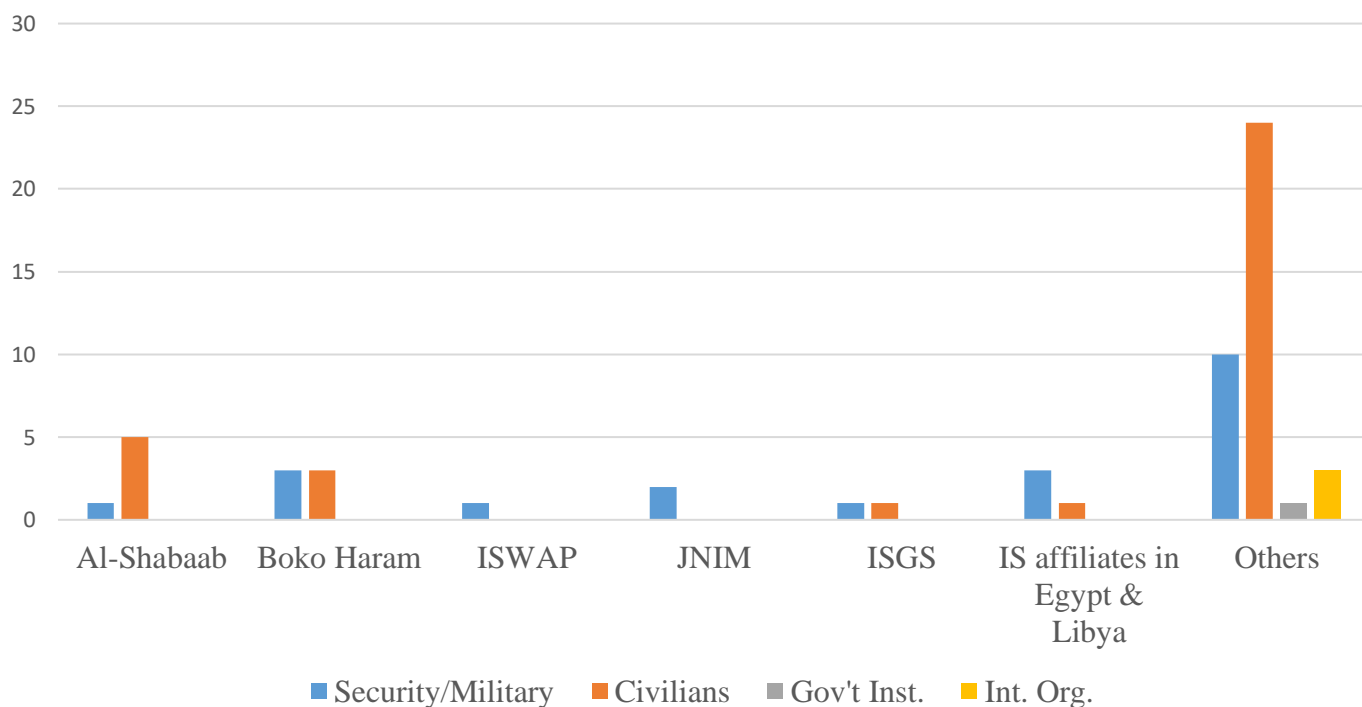
#### Primary Targets

- Security/Military Forces: **21**
  - Govt. Officials or Institutions: **1**
  - International Organaization : **3**
  - Civilians: **33**
- 33 attacks representing 57 % targeted civilians.
  - 21 of the attacks representing 36% targeted Security/Military Forces.
  - 3 attacks representing 5% targeted International Orgs (MINUSMA)
  - One (1) attack targeted Govt. Officials/ institutions.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

#### 5. Terrorist Groups and Primary Targets

**Figure 5: Groups and the Primary Targets**

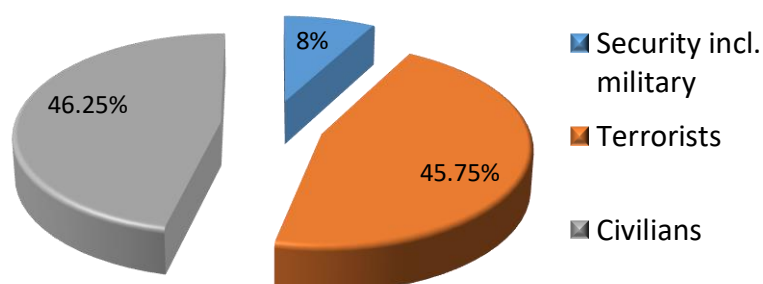


Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

<b>Al-Shabaab: 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Military/Security : 1</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Civilians: 4</b></li> </ul>	Attacks by Al-Shabaab targeted more civilians (4). Only one attack targeted military/Security forces.
<b>Boko Haram: 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Military/Security : 3</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Civilians: 3</b></li> </ul>	In 6 attacks carried out by Boko Haram, 3 targeted civilians and the other 3 targeted Security/Military.
<b>ISWAP : 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Military/Security : 1</b></li> </ul>	ISWAP carried out 1 attack against Military/Security Forces
<b>JNIM: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Military/Security : 2</b></li> </ul>	JNIM carried out 2 attacks against Military/Security Forces.
<b>IS affiliates in Egypt &amp; Libya: 4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Military/Security : 3</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Civilians:1</b></li> </ul>	IS affiliates carried out 3 attacks against Military/Security Forces and One (1) attack against civilians.
<b>ISGS: 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Military/Security : 1</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Civilians: 1</b></li> </ul>	ISGS carried out 2 attacks, one targeting civilians and the other targeting Military/Security Forces
<b>Unidentified/Unaffiliated Groups : 38</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Military/Security : 10</b></li> <li>➤ <b>International Org. (Military): 3</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Gov. Officials &amp; institutions: 1</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Civilians: 24</b></li> </ul>	In attacks where no group claimed responsibility, civilians were mostly targeted. 24 out of 38 attacks by unidentified/unaffiliated groups targeted civilians, 10 targeted Military/Security Forces, 3 targeted International organization (MINUSMA), One (1) targeted Government institutions.

## 6. Total Terrorism-related Deaths

**Figure 6: Total Terrorism-Related Deaths**



### Total Terrorism-related Deaths: 401

- Security/Military: 32
- Terrorists: 183
- Civilians: 186

- A total of 401 terrorism-related deaths were recorded within the period under review.
- Out of the number, 46.25% were civilians whereas 45.75% were members of terrorist groups. 8% of the deaths were Security/Military Forces.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

### Total Deaths from Terrorist Attacks: 297

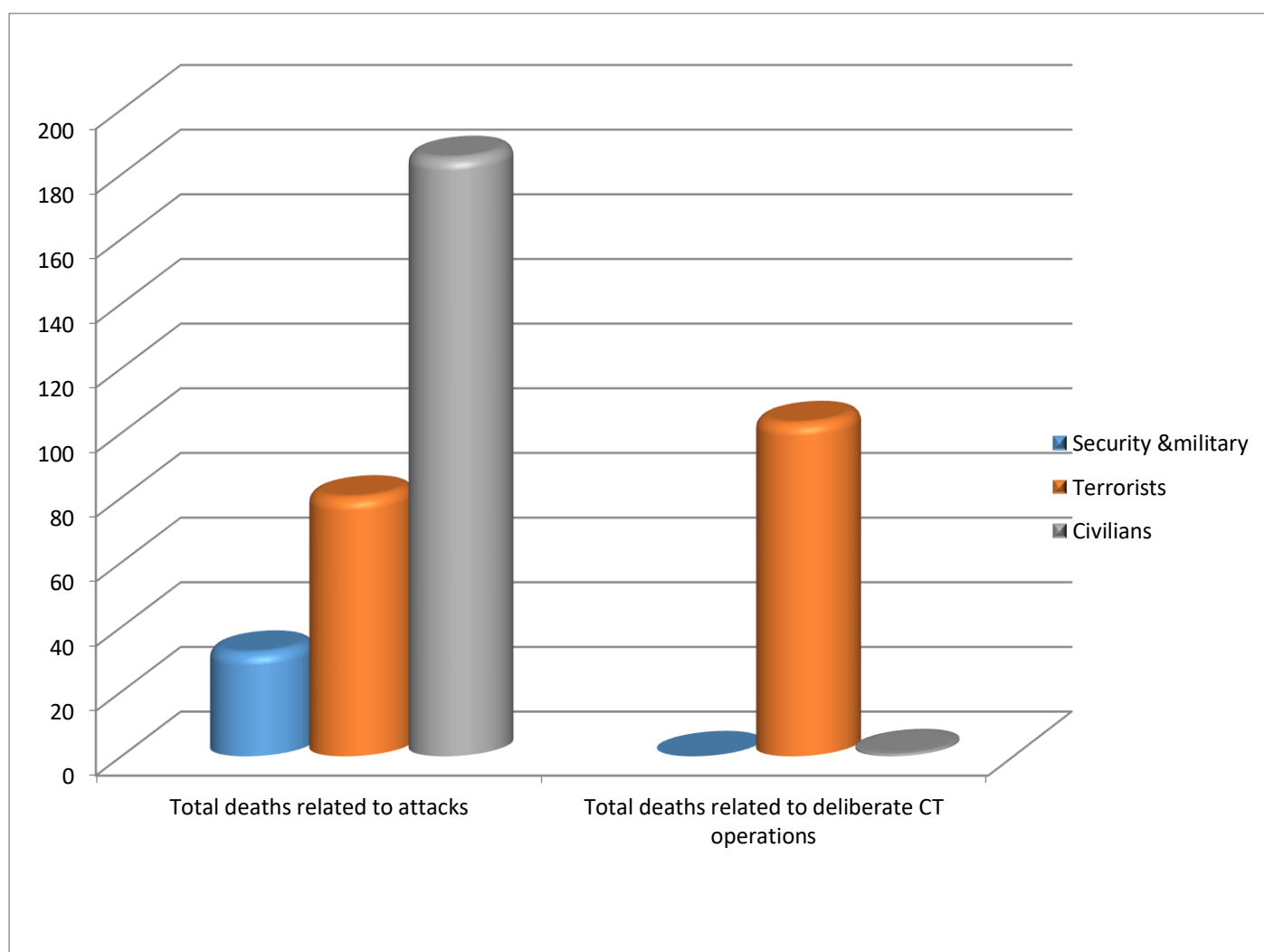
- Security/Military: **32**
- Terrorists: **80**
- Civilians: **185**

### Total Deaths CT Operations: 104

- Terrorists: **103**
- Civilian: **1**

- 297 out of the 400 terrorism-related deaths resulted from terrorist attacks.
- Civilians suffered the most casualties of 185 (62.3%) out of 297 deaths.
- CT Operations resulted in 103 deaths, and all were members of terrorist groups.

**Figure 7: Deaths Related to Terrorist Attacks and Deliberate CT Operations**



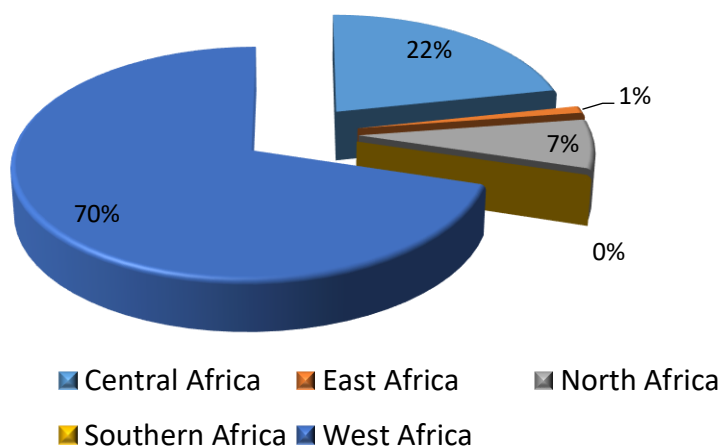
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## 7. Terrorism-related Deaths by Region

**Table 1: Terrorism related deaths by region and category.**

	Central Africa: 87			East Africa:4			North Africa:28			West Africa:281		
	Attacks	CT	Total	Attacks	CT	Total	Attacks	CT	Total	Attacks	CT	Total
<b>Military/Sec.</b>	10	0	<b>10</b>	1	0	<b>1</b>	10	0	<b>10</b>	11	0	<b>11</b>
<b>Civilians</b>	12	0	<b>12</b>	2	0	<b>2</b>	6	0	<b>6</b>	165	1	<b>166</b>
<b>Terrorists</b>	65	0	<b>65</b>	0	1	<b>1</b>	1	11	<b>12</b>	14	92	<b>106</b>

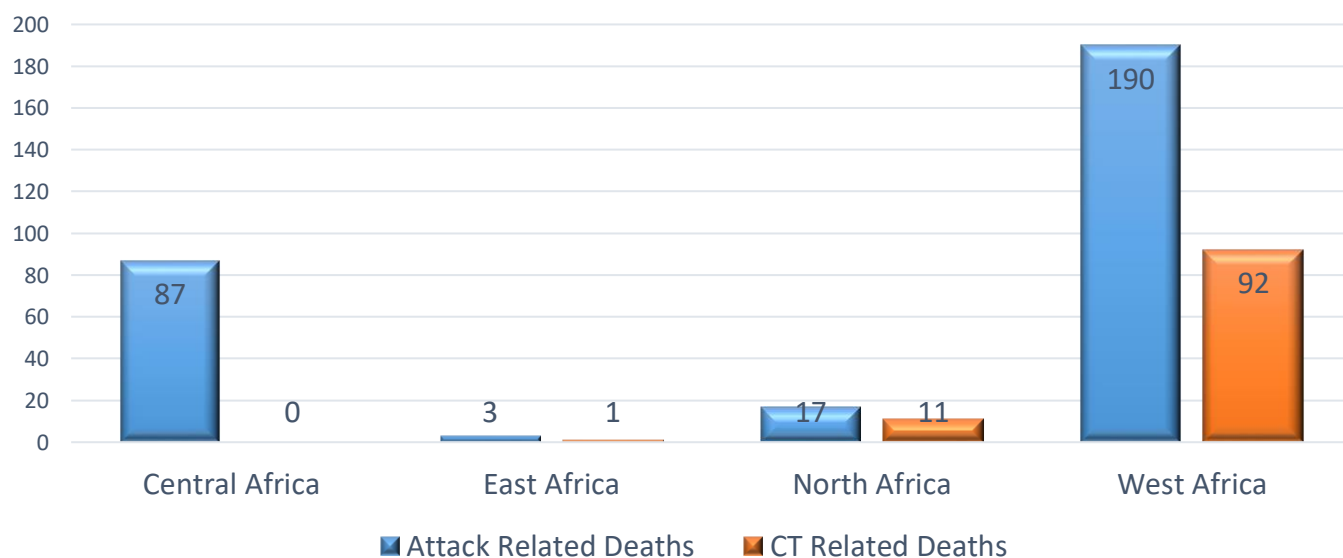
**Figure 8: Total Deaths by Regions**



- West Africa region recorded the highest number of terrorism-related deaths. 70% of deaths recorded within the period occurred in the region.
- 22%, 7% and 1% of all terrorism-related deaths within the period occurred in, Central, North and East Africa regions respectively.
- Southern Africa region did not record any terrorism incident for the period.

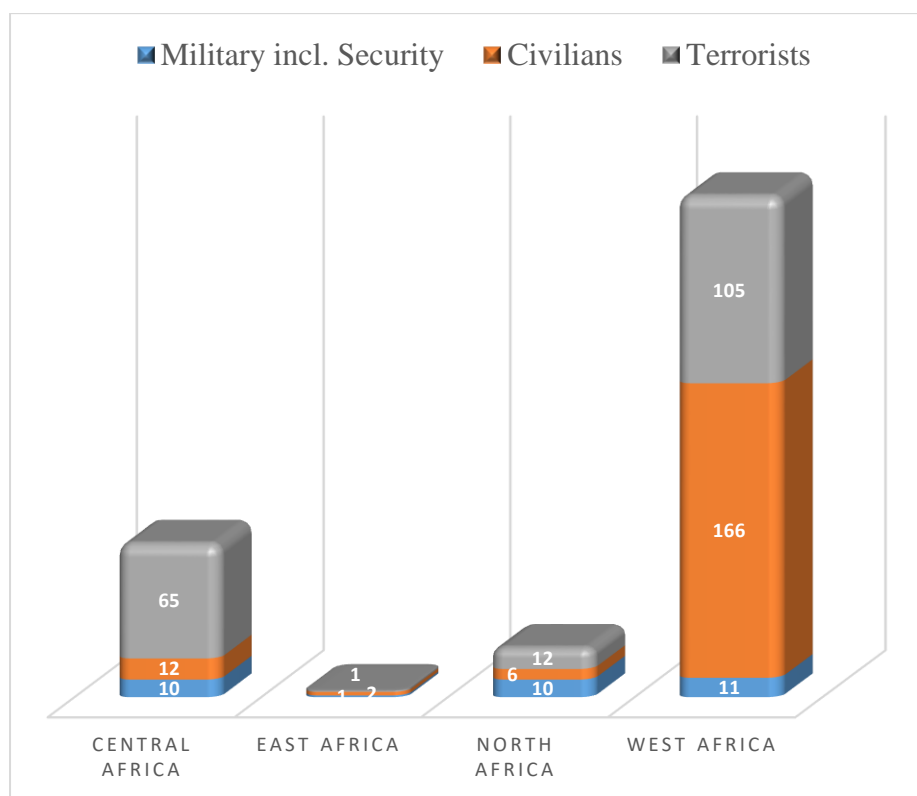
Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

**Figure 9: Attacks/CT Related Deaths by Regions**



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

**Figure 10: Regional Deaths by Category**

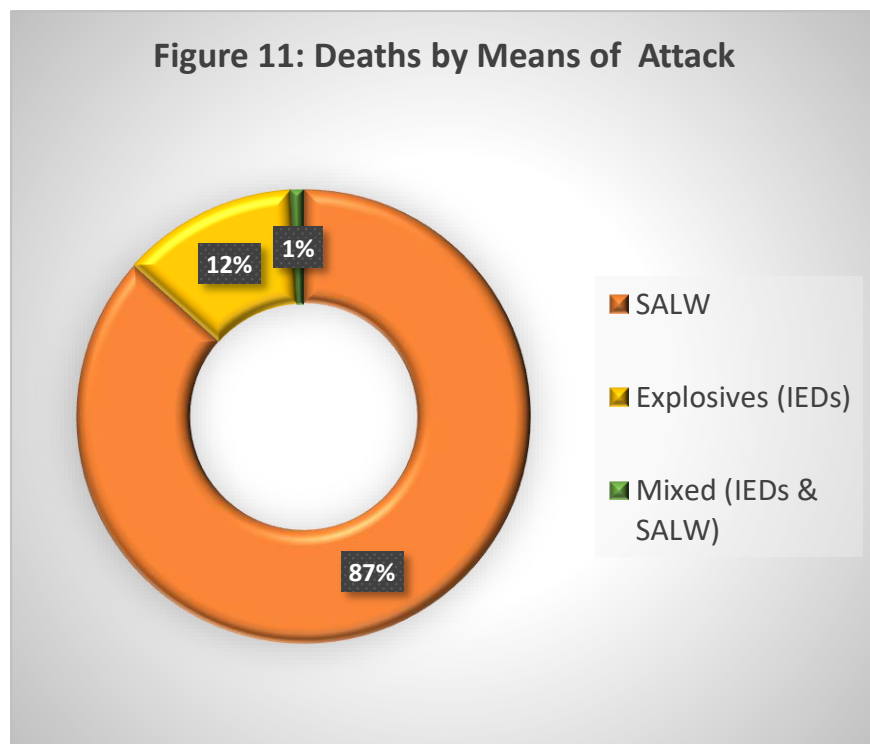


- West Africa recorded the highest deaths. While 190 persons died through terrorist attacks, 91 deaths in the region was associated with CT operations.
- Central Africa recorded 87 deaths from terrorists attack.
- North Africa recorded 17 death from terrorist attacks while CT operation accounted for 11 deaths.
- East Africa recorded 3 deaths related to terrorists' attacks while CT operation accounted for 1 death.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## 8. Deaths by Means of Attack

**Figure 11: Deaths by Means of Attack**



### Deaths by Means of Attack

- IEDs: 27
  - SALW: 188
  - Mixed (IEDs & SALW): 2
- SALW accounted for 87% of the deaths occasioned by terrorists attack, whereas IEDs accounted for 12% of deaths related to terrorist attacks.
  - 1% of the deaths were associated with the use of both IEDs & SALW.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## 9. Attacks/Victims by Terrorist Groups

### Attacks by Terrorist Groups

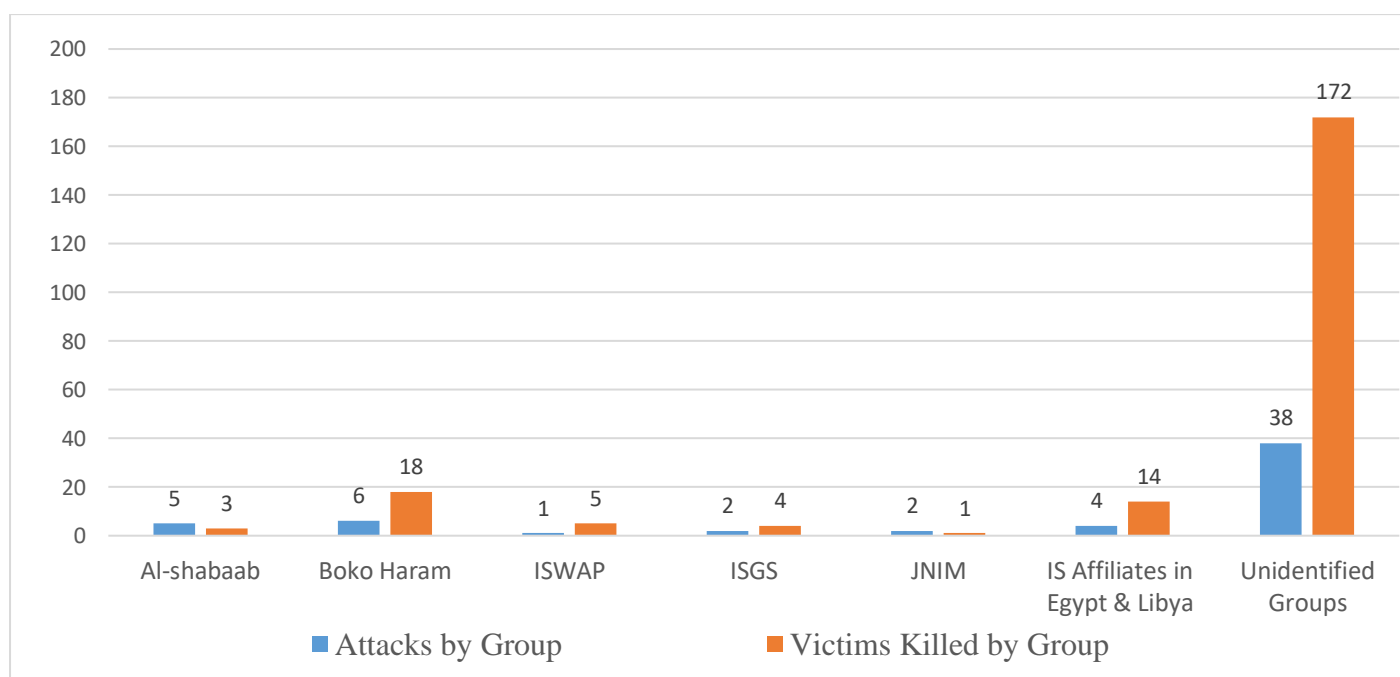
- Al-Shabaab: 5
- Boko Haram: 6
- JNIM: 2
- ISGS: 2
- ISWAP: 1
- IS affiliates in Egypt & Libya: 4
- Unidentified/Unaffiliated Groups: 38

### Victims Killed by Terrorist Groups: 229

- Al-Shabaab: 3 (2 Civilians; 1 Military )
- Boko Haram: 18 (13 Military; 5 Civilians)
- JNIM: 1 (Military)
- ISWAP: 5 (2 Military; 3 Civilians)
- ISGS: 4 (3 civilians; 1 Military)
- IS affiliates in Egypt & Libya: 14 (8 Military; 6 Civilians).
- Others: 172 (6 Military; 166 Civilians)

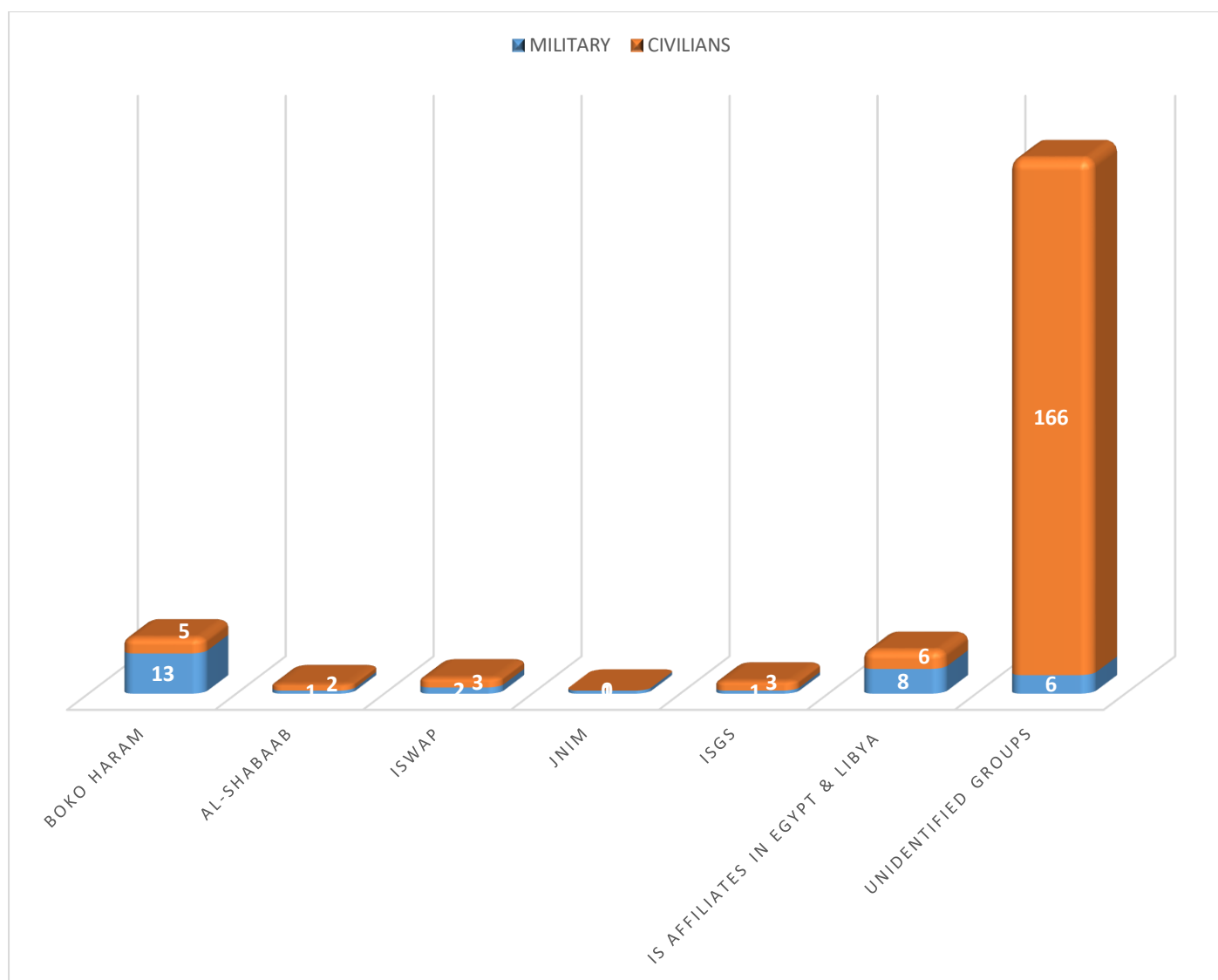
- Boko Haram carried out the highest number attacks (6). In their attacks, Boko Haram killed a total of 18 persons (13 military, 5 civilians).
- Al-Shabaab carried out 5 attacks, killing a total of 3 persons (2 Civilians, 1 Military/Security forces).
- IS affiliates carried out 4 attacks, killing a total of 14 persons (6 civilians; 3 were killed in Sinai Peninsula and 3 killed in Libya, and 8 Military/Security forces; all killed in Sinai Peninsula )
- JNIM conducted 2 attacks, killing one (1) Military/Security forces.
- ISGS conducted 2 attacks, killing 4 persons (3 civilians, one (1) Military/Security forces).
- ISWAP carried out 1 attack, killing 2 persons (one Security/Military forces and one Civilian).
- A total of 38 attacks were carried out by unidentified/unaffiliated groups. This resulted in 172 deaths comprising 166 Civilians and 6 Military/Security forces.

**Figure 12: Attacks/Victims by Terrorist groups**



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

**Figure 13: Category of Victims Killed by Terrorist Groups**



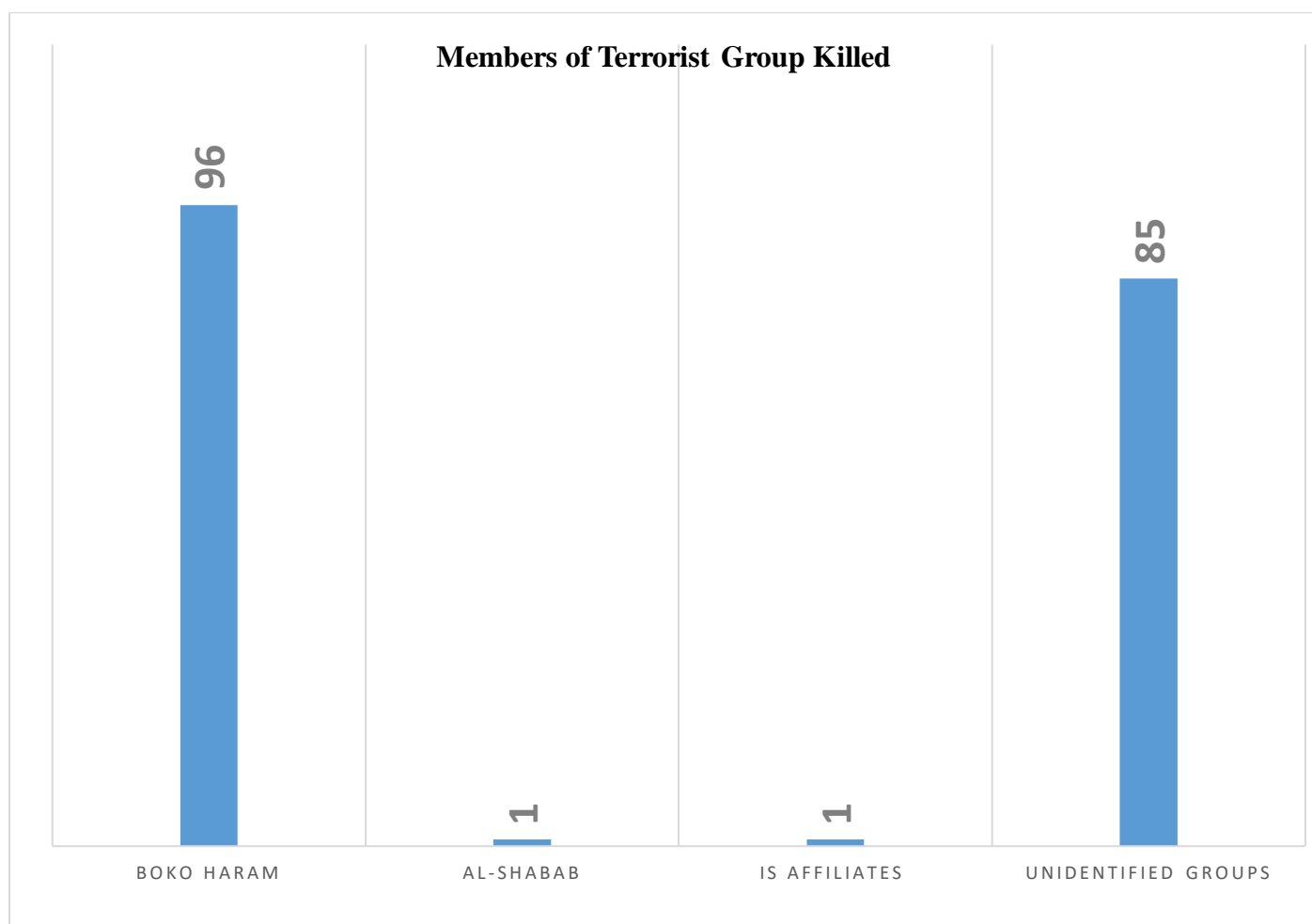
*Source: ACSRT Database, 2019*

### **10. Members of Terrorist Groups Killed**

#### **Members of Terrorists Groups Killed: 183**

- Boko Haram: 96
- Al-Shabaab: 1
- IS affiliates in Egypt & Libya: 1
- Unidentified/Unaffiliated Groups :85
- Among the members of terrorist groups killed in counter- terrorism operations and combat missions, Boko Haram (Shekau faction) suffered the highest number of casualties. 96 fighters of the terrorist group were killed.
- 1 fighter of Al-Shabaab and 1 fighter of IS affiliates in Egypt (Sinai Peninsula) were also eliminated.
- 85 other terrorists killed belong to unidentified/unaffiliated groups.

**Figure 14: Members of Terrorist Groups Killed**



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

### 11. Five Most Affected Countries

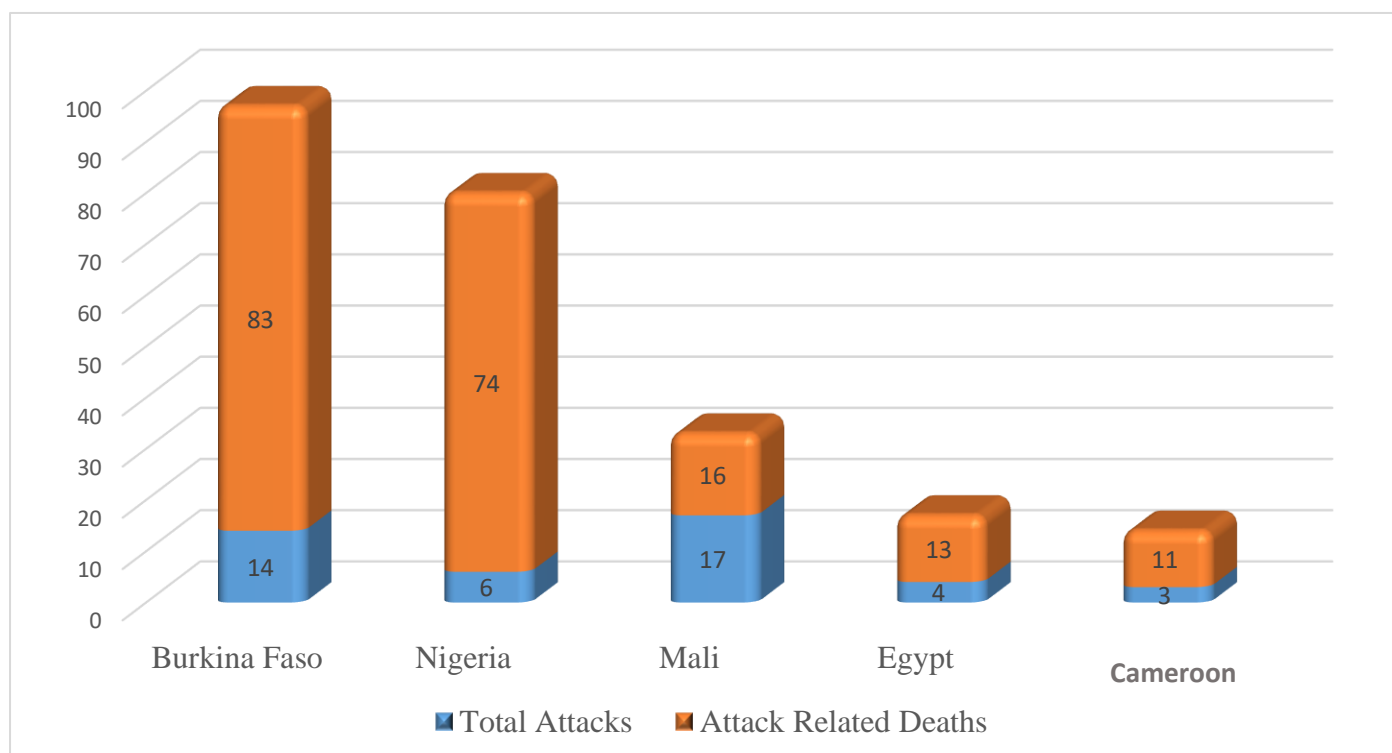
**Table 2: Five (5) Countries Most Affected**

Country	Total Attacks	Total Deaths Related to Attacks	Total injured
Burkina Faso	14	83	6
Nigeria	6	74	46
Mali	17	16	6
Egypt	4	13	2
Cameroon	3	11	4

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

- Burkina Faso recorded the highest number of deaths (83), resulting from 14 attacks.
- Nigeria recorded 74 deaths from 6 attacks.
- Mali recorded the highest number of attacks (17), resulting in 16 deaths.
- Egypt recorded 4 attacks, Cameroon recorded 3 attacks, resulting in 13 and 11 deaths respectively.

**Figure 15: Five Most Affected Countries**



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## TERRORISM INCIDENTS

## THE MOST FATAL ATTACKS

### 12. Most Fatal Terrorist Incidents

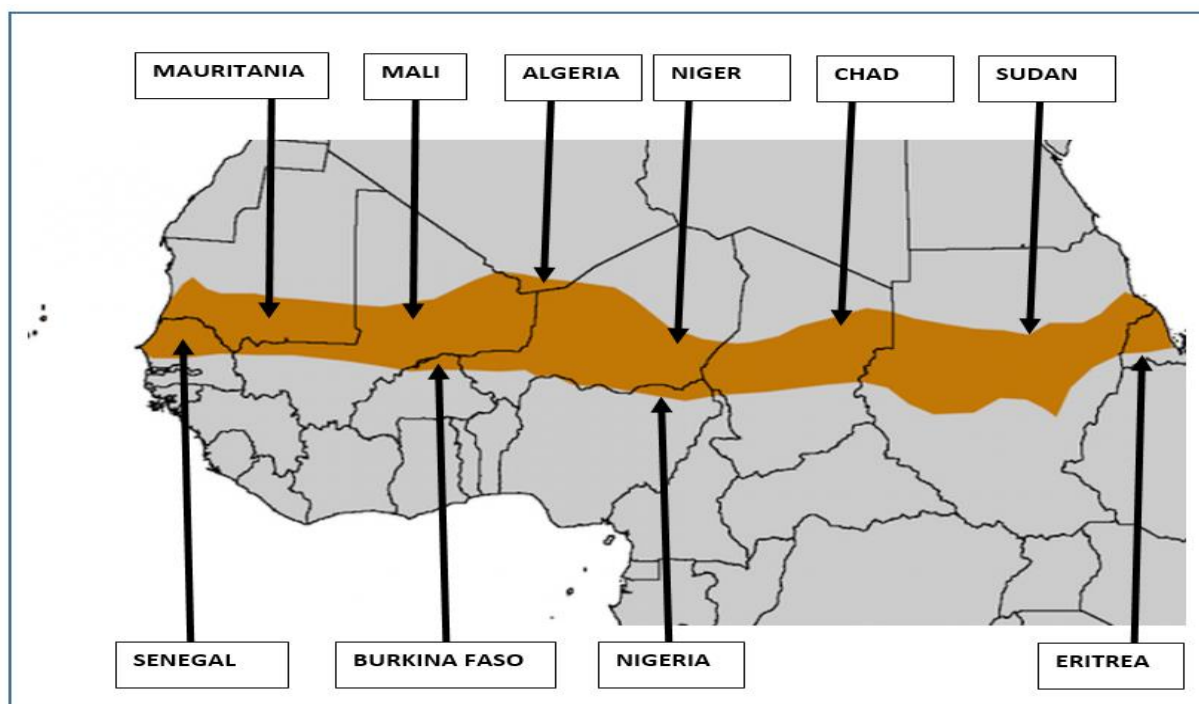
**Table 3: List of Most Fatal Terrorist Incidents**

No	Country	City	Date	Group	Deaths	Description
1	Burkina Faso	Arbinda, Soum	01/04/19	*NGCR	62	32 people were killed and 9 kidnapped in terrorists attack. Subsequent intercommunal clashes resulted in 30 additional deaths.
2	Burkina Faso	Zoaga, Boulgou,	01/04/19	*NGCR	8	Assailants attacked a village near Ghana Border killing 8 civilians. Four people were also injured.
3	Chad	Bouhama, Lake Chad	15/04/19	Boko Haram	7	Assailants attacked a military post killing 7 soldiers. 15 soldiers were wounded.
4	Egypt	Sheikh Zuweid, Northern Sinai	09/04/19	IS	7	A 15-year-old suicide bomber blew himself up killing 4 policemen and 3 civilians
5	Nigeria	Muna Dalti, Borno	06/04/19	Boko Haram	5	Two female suicide bombers blew themselves up. 5 persons were killed, 46 people injured

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

\*No Group Claimed Responsibility

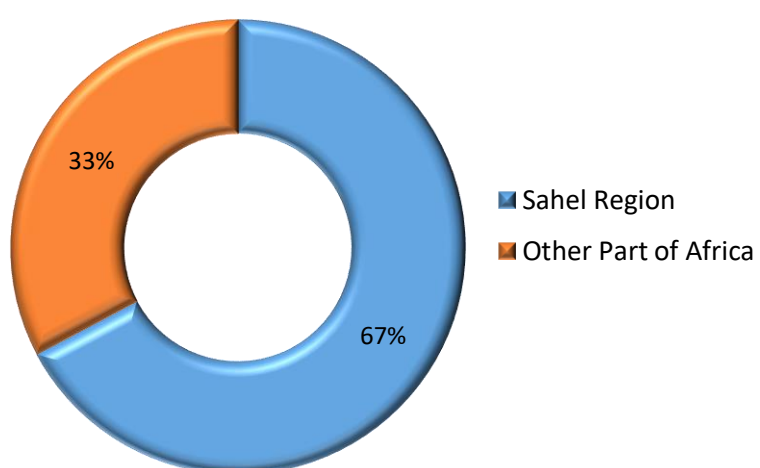
Map 2: Map Showing Countries of the Sahel Region



Source: Adapted from World Atlas, 2017

### 13. Total Attacks in the Sahel Region

**Figure 16: Attacks in the Sahel**



**Total Attacks in Africa: 58**

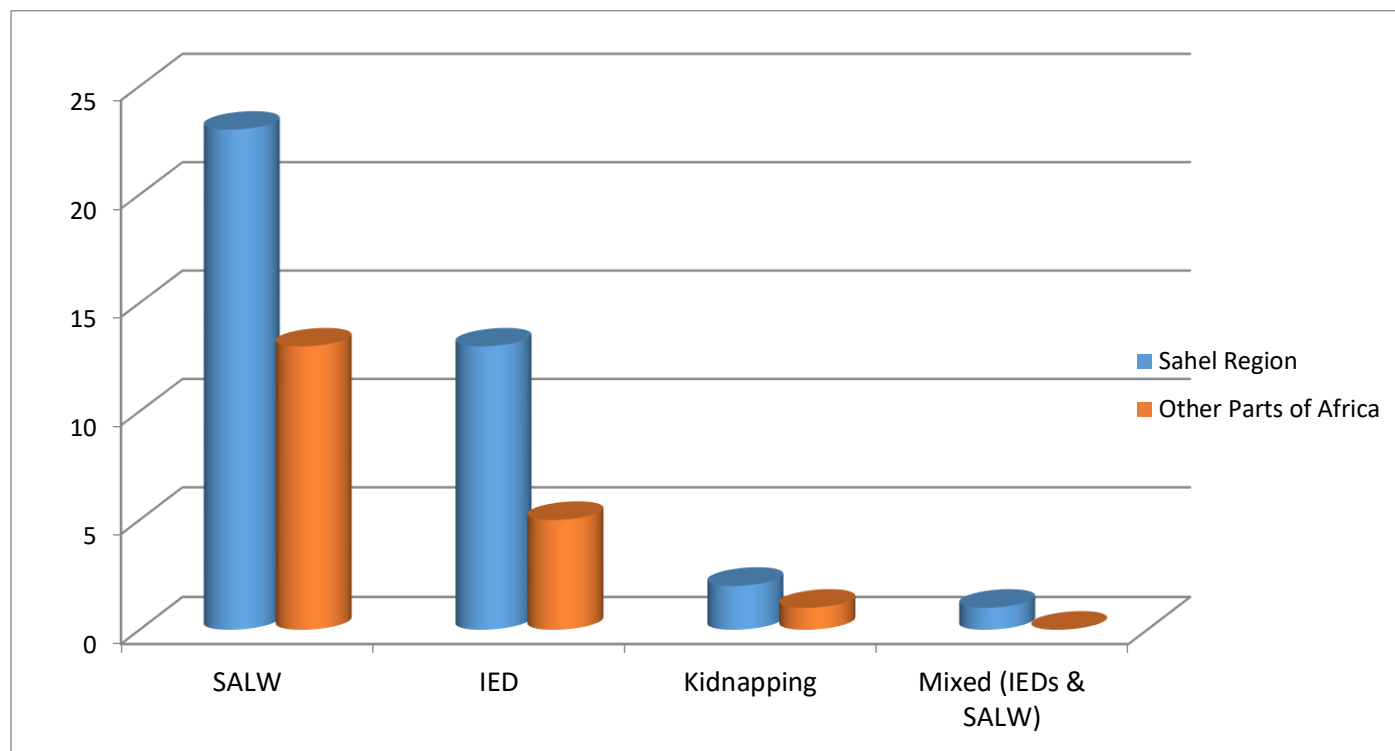
- Sahel region: **39**
- Other Parts of Africa: **19**

- Within the period under review, the Sahel region recorded a total number of 39 attacks representing 67% of all the attacks in Africa.
- Countries in the Sahel region that recorded attacks are Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. 17 attacks occurred in Mali, 14 in Burkina Faso, 6 in Nigeria and 2 in Niger.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## 14. Means of Attack in the Sahel

**Figure 17: Means of Attack in the Sahel**



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

### Means of Attack in the Sahel

#### ➤ SALW: 36

- Sahel: 23
- Other Parts of Africa: 13

#### ➤ IED: 18

- Sahel: 13
- Other Parts of Africa: 5

#### ➤ Kidnapping: 3

- Sahel: 2
- Other Parts of Africa: 1

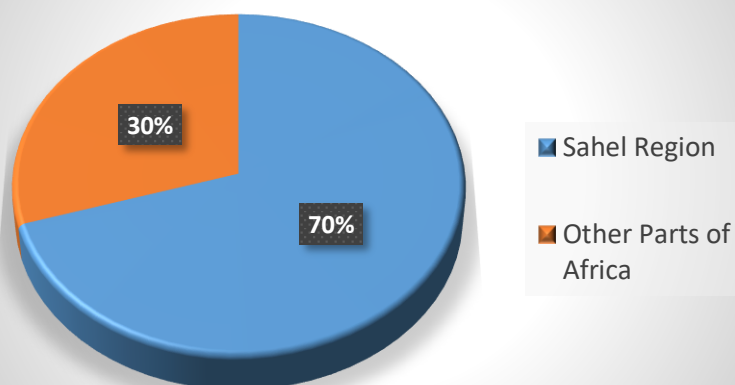
#### ➤ Mixed (IEDs & SALW): 1

- Sahel: 1
- Other Parts of Africa: 0

- In the Sahel region, SALW remain the highest means by which terrorist groups attack their target. Out of a total of 36 attacks using SALW, the Sahel recorded 23.
- The use of IEDs were also high in the Sahel region. 13 attacks in the Sahel used IEDs as against 5 in the rest of Africa.
- The Sahel region also recorded 2 cases of kidnapping as against one (1) the rest of Africa.
- The only attack involving the use of both SALW and IEDs happened in the Sahel.

## 15. Total Deaths Recorded in the Sahel (Stretch)

Figure 18: Deaths in the Sahel Region



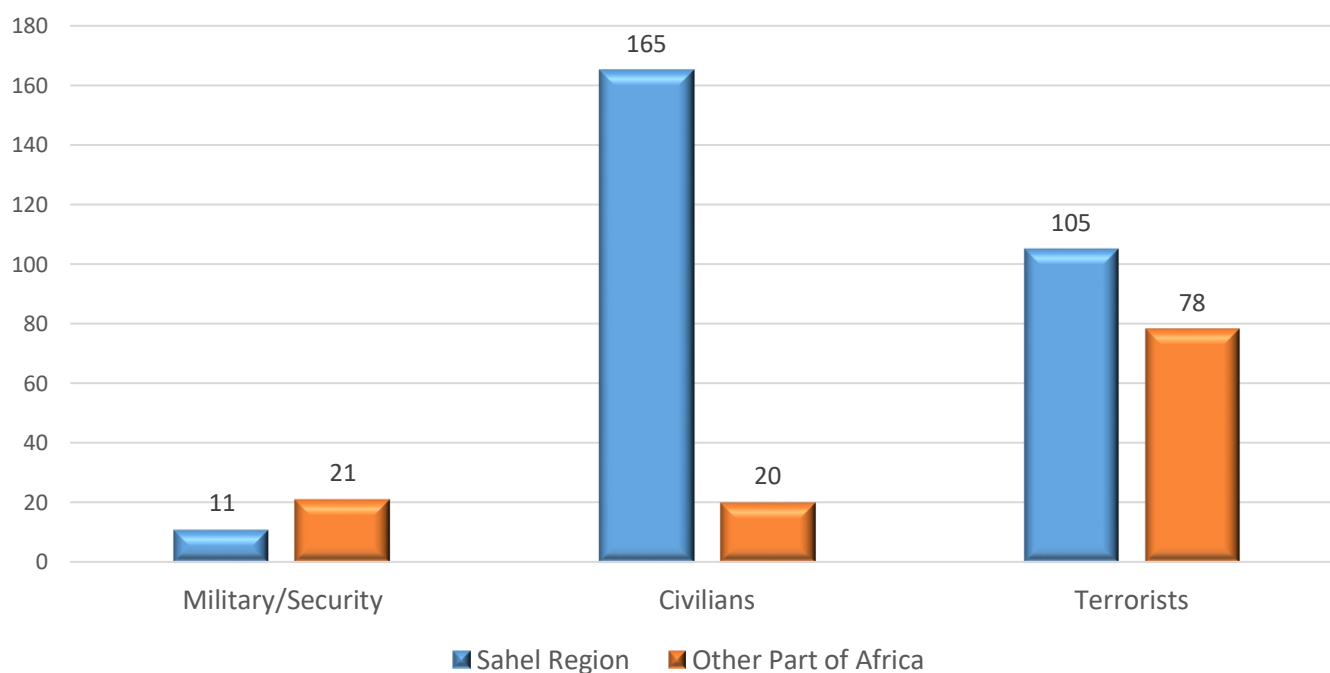
### Total Deaths in Africa: 401

- Sahel Region: **282**
- Other Parts of Africa: **119**
- 70% of the terrorism-related deaths recorded within the period under review occurred in the Sahel region as against 30% in the rest of Africa.
- The countries in the Sahel where these deaths occurred were Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria.
- Burkina Faso alone recorded 83 deaths out of 281 deaths in Sahel.
- Nigeria recorded 74, whereas Mali and Niger recorded 17 and 7 deaths respectively.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## 16. Deaths by Category of Actors in the Sahel Region

Figure 19: Deaths by Category in the Sahel Region



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

### Deaths by Category in the Sahel Region

- Security: **32**
    - Sahel: 11
    - Other Parts of Africa: 21
  - Civilians: **185**
    - Sahel: 165
    - Other Parts of Africa: 20
  - Terrorists: **183**
    - Sahel: 105
    - Other Parts of Africa: 78
- 166 civilians representing 89% of all civilian deaths occurred in the Sahel Region as against 20 (11%) in the rest of Africa
  - Majority of the Security/Military forces who died during the period were not from the Sahel. 11 Military/Security personnel (34%) were killed in the Sahel whereas 21 (66%) were killed in the rest of Africa.
  - 105 (57%) members of terrorist groups were eliminated in the Sahel region as against 78 (43%) in the rest of Africa.

## KIDNAPPINGS

- The phenomenon of suspected terrorists and armed men kidnapping people featured prominently in the first half of April 2019.
- Three (3) cases of kidnapping were recorded across Africa. A total of 14 persons were taken hostage in Burkina Faso, Kenya and Uganda.
- Out of the 14 hostages, 2 people were released unhurt.
- The Soum Province in Burkina Faso recorded 2 cases of kidnapping. On 1 April in Arbinda, a group of armed terrorists kidnapped 10 people and on 14 April, a government official was kidnapped by a group of armed men
- Two (2) Cuban Doctors were abducted in the locality of Mandera in Kenya and still remain missing.
- In Uganda, near the border with DRC, an American woman and her driver were abducted and the kidnappers demanded 500 000 USD in ransom for her release. Security Forces later rescued the two.

## 18. Synthesis of Terrorism Incidents in Africa

Table 4: Synthesis of Terrorism Incidents in Africa

No	Country/ Regions:	Type and total of attacks				Rebels/terrorists Clashes	Total Dead			Total Wounded			Hostages	Hostages Released	Arrested Terrorists	Primary Targets			
		Explosives (IED)	Small Arms and light weapons (SALW)	Mixed (IED and SALW)	Kidnapping		Security/Military	Terrorists	Civilians	Security/Military	Terrorists	Civilians				Security/Military	Government officials or institutions	International Organizations	Civilians
1	Central Africa Cameroun	-	3	-	-	-	3	-	8	4	-	-	-	-	40	1	-	-	2
2	Central Africa CAR	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
3	North Africa Chad	1	1	-	-	-	7	63	2	15	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
4	Central Africa DRC	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
5	East Africa Kenya	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-
6	East Africa Somalia	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	4	-	-	10	-	-	-	4
	East Africa Uganda	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	8	-	-	-	1
7	North Africa Algeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-
8	North Africa Egypt	3	1	-	-	-	10	12	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
9	North Africa Libya	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
10	North Africa Morocco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
11	West Africa Burkina Faso	1	11	-	2	-	3	5	80	2	-	4	10	-	-	7	1	-	6
12	West Africa Mali	11	6	-	-	-	3	39	14	5	-	1	-	-	5	4	-	3	10
13	West Africa Niger	-	1	1	-	-	3	4	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
14	West Africa Nigeria	1	5	-	-	-	2	57	72	-	-	46	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Sub-Total		18	36	1	3	-	32	183	186	34	0	55	14	4	79	21	1	3	33
General Total		58				-	401			89			14	4	79	58			

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

**NB:** The color codes show countries in regions where incidents were recorded  
**DRC:** Democratic Republic of Congo

**CAR:** Central African Republic  
**Nd:** Not determined

## 19. Synthesis Terrorist Groups Activities in Africa

Table 5: Synthesis of Terrorist Groups Activities in Africa

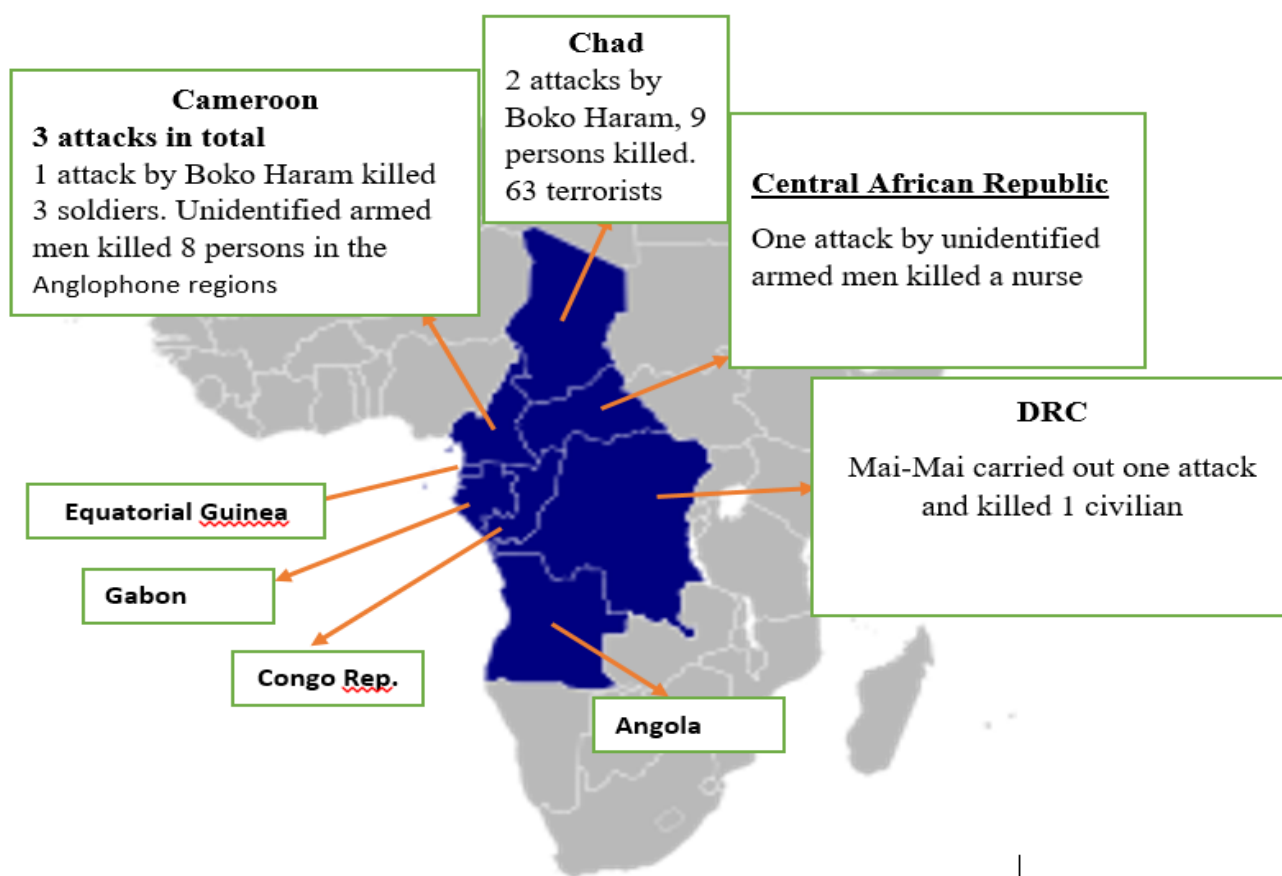
			al-Shabaab	Boko Haram	ISWAP	JNIM	ISGS	IS affiliates	Others	Sub-Total	TOTAL
Attacks		Military & Security	1	3	1	2	1	3	10	21	58
		International Org.	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	
		Gov. Off. & Institutions	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
		Civilians	4	3	-	-	1	1	24	33	
Victims	Deaths	Military & Security	1	13	2	1	1	8	6	32	217
		Civilians	2	5	3	-	3	6	166	185	
	Injured	Military & Security	-	24	-	-	-	-	10	34	89
		Civilians	4	46	-	-	-	-	5	55	
Means of attack		IEDs	-	1	-	1	-	3	13	18	58
		SALW	5	4	1	1	2	1	22	36	
		Mix (IEDs & SALW)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	
		Kidnapping	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	
Lost (Killed)			1	96	-	-	-	1	85	183	183
Arrested			10	40	-	-	-	4	25	79	79

Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

# TERRORIST ATTACKS RECORDED BY REGIONS

## CENTRAL AFRICA

Map 3: Map Showing Incidents in the Central Africa Region



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## CAMEROON

**On 06 April 2019, Ardebe, Far North.** Boko Haram attacked MNJTF position manned by Cameroonian army, killing 3 soldiers and injuring 4 others.

**On 05-07 April 2019 in Buea.** Unknown gunmen killed 2 people following a ten-day lockdown decreed by secessionist activists.

**On 14 April 2019 in Ekona, Southwest.** Unidentified gunmen attacked the town. 6 civilians were killed and others injured.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**On 04 April 2019 in Batangafo and Bouca.** Unidentified armed men killed a nurse working for Doctors without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières) in CAR.

## CHAD

**On 13 April 2019 in Miski.** A landmine explosion hit a passing civilian vehicle, 2 people were killed and several others were wounded.

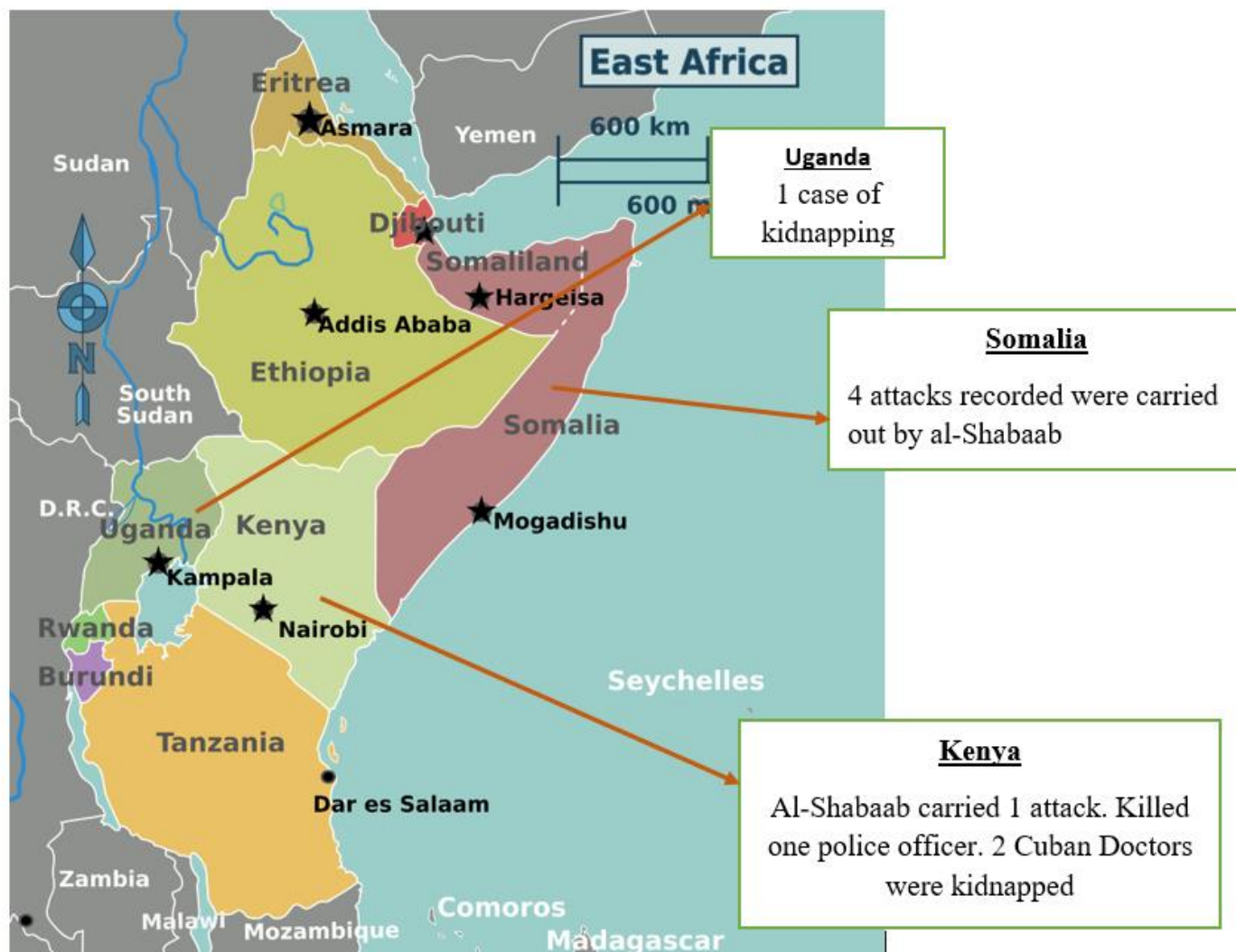
**On 15 April 2019 in Bouhama, Lake Chad.** Assaultants from Boko Haram attacked a military post. 7 soldiers were killed, 15 were wounded and 63 terrorists were also killed by security forces.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**On 12 April 2019 in Mukunto Plateau, Lubumbashi.** A group of Mai-Mai fighters armed with firearms, knives and other small weapons entered a village and killed a civilian. 2 fighters were also killed by security forces.

## EAST AFRICA

Map 4: Map Showing Incidents in the East Africa Region



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## KENYA

**12 April 2019 in Mandera.** Al-shabaab attacked police escort car near the border with Somalia. One Police officer was killed. Two Cuban doctors were abducted.

## SOMALIA

**01 April 2019 in Sabid, Lower Shabelle.** Al-shabaab carried out an attack in the town. SNA forces repulsed the attack. The SNA forces seized a truck loaded with explosives.

**On 04 April 2019 in Marka, Lower Shabelle.** Al-Shabaab attacked the community. Two civilians were killed.

**On 06 April 2019 in Dag Adey, Juba.** Al-Shabaab attacked the community. Jubaland State security forces repulsed the attack. No casualties were reported.

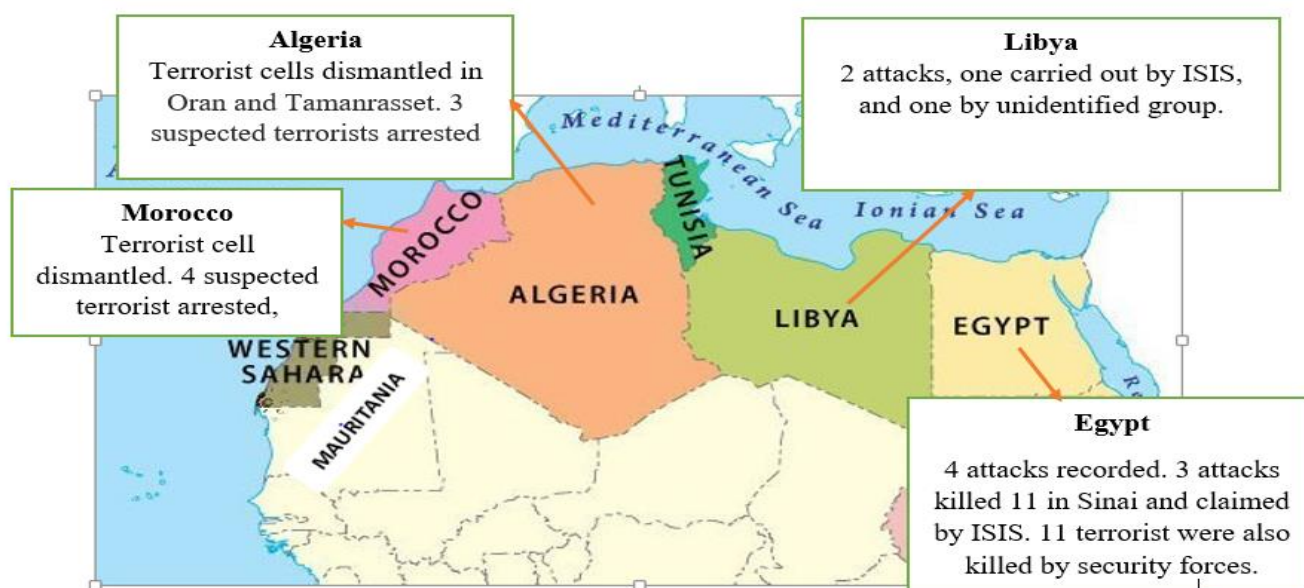
**On 12 April 2019 Golol, Kismayo.** Assailants hurled a grenade in a shop. Four people were injured. Authorities suspect the attack was carried out by al-Shabaab.

## UGANDA

**03 April 2019 at Queen Elizabeth.** Unidentified gunmen kidnapped an American woman and her driver in Queen Elizabeth National Park, near the border with the DRC. The kidnappers demanded 500,000 dollars in ransom for her release. Security forces rescued the woman and her. Eight suspects were arrested.

## NORTH AFRICA

**Map 5: Map showing Incidents in the North Africa Region**



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## EGYPT

**On 07 April 2019 in Cairo.** Unidentified gunmen armed with automatic rifles opened fire at the police vehicle, killing a police officer and the driver. 2 other police officers were injured.

**On 09 April 2019 in Sheikh Zuweid, Northern Sinai.** A 15-year-old suicide bomber blew himself up killing 4 policemen and 3 civilians. ISIS claimed responsibility.

**On 09 April 2019 in Sheikh Zuweid, Northern Sinai.** Unidentified armed men carry out 2 separate explosive attacks killing 4 policemen. A local terrorist group affiliated to ISIS is suspected to have carried out the attack.

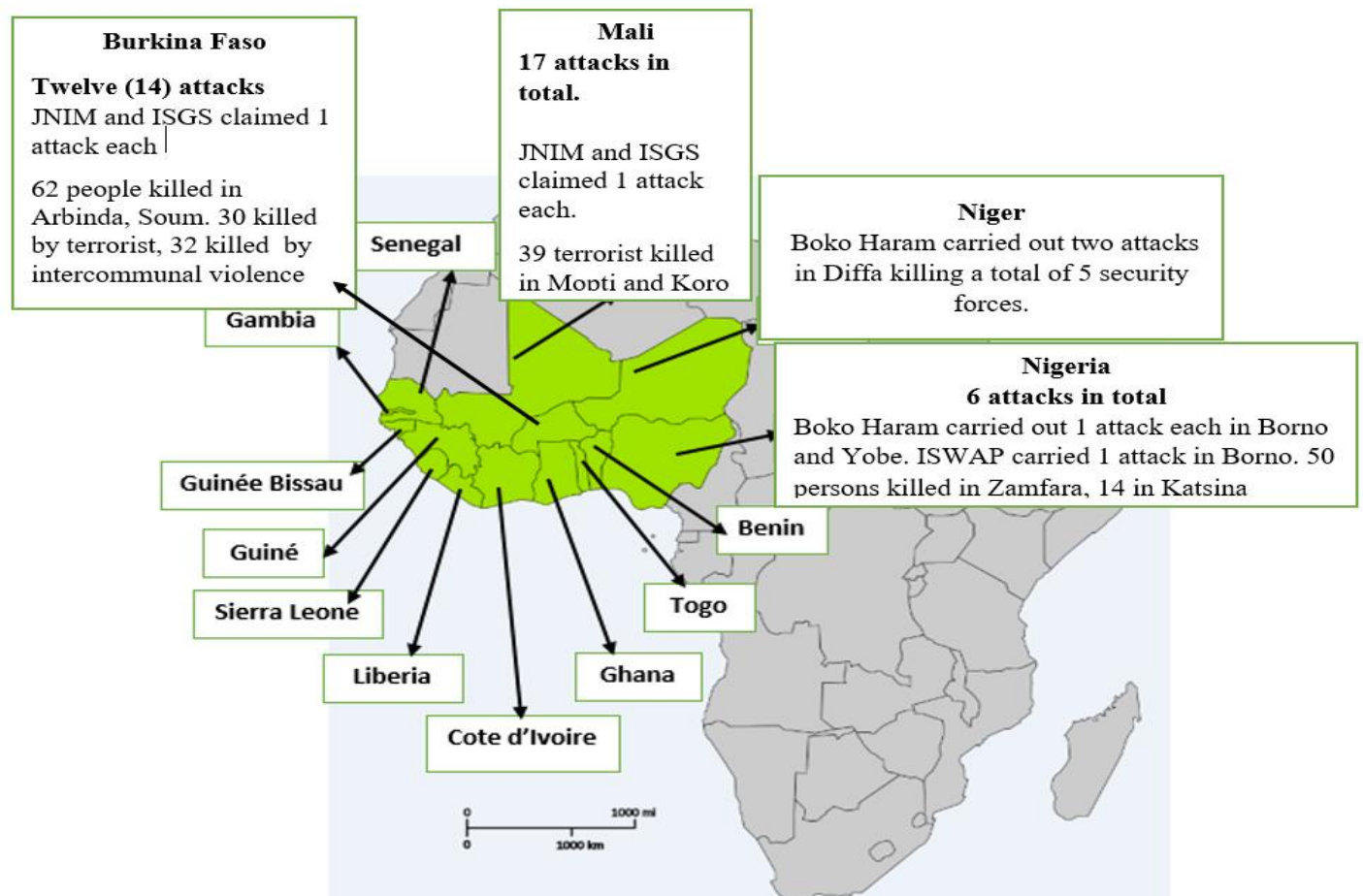
## LIBYA

**On 08 April 2019 in al-Fuqaha, Libya.** Islamic States (IS) launched an overnight attack and killed 3 civilians including mayor of the town and they also burnt several houses.

**On 15 April 2019 in Benghazi, Libya.** A car bomb exploded injuring a security official injured.

## WEST AFRICA

**Map 6: Map showing Incidents in the West Africa Region**



Source: ACSRT Database, 2019

## BURKINA FASO

**On 01 April 2019 in Zoaga, Boulgou.** Armed assailants attacked nearby villages, along the Ghanaian border. Eight persons were reportedly killed in the attack and four were injured. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

**On 1 April 2019 in Arbinda, Soum.** Unidentified armed men attacked a religious leader killing him and six of his family members.

**On 1 April 2019 in Arbinda, Soum.** Unidentified armed men attacked the community. 62 deaths recorded. Government source indicates 30 were killed by inter communal violence and 32 were killed by terrorists. 9 people were also kidnapped.

**On 2 April 2019 in Gomboro and Toéni, Sourou.** Unidentified armed men attacked a Gendarmes brigade. No casualties were recorded.

**On 9 April 2019 in Fada N'Gourma-Pama.** Military vehicle run over an IED. 2 soldiers were wounded. No group claimed responsibility for the planting of the IED.

**On 09 April 2019 in Fada N'Gourma-Pama.** Unidentified armed attacked Defense and Security Forces (SDF) team. The security forces repulsed the attack. No casualties were recorded.

**On 10 April 2019 in Guadebou.** Armed men attacked a gendarmerie post of Goudebou refugees' camp. One gendarme was killed.

**On 11 April 2019 in the Namssiguia, Bam.** Unidentified armed men attacked a gendarmerie post. One gendarme and five assailants were killed.

**On 11 April 2019 in Goudebou, Seno.** Assailants from ISGS attacked the gendarmerie post at the Entrance of the Goudebou Refugee Camp. One gendarme was killed.

**On 12 April 2019 in Gasseliki, Soum.** Unidentified armed men assassinated the village chief of Gasseliki, a municipal Councilor from the village of Aladjou, and two youths.

**On 12 April 2019 in Essakane, Oudalan.** JNIM militants attacked a police station. An unknown number of motorbikes and a pickup were burnt. No casualties were recorded.

**On 14 April 2019 on Djibo – Arbinda, Soum.** A group of armed men kidnapped a government agent and threatened to execute him if no action is undertaken to free him.

## MALI

**On 1 April 2019 in Itigneberé, Mopti.** FAMa vehicle jumped on IED. One soldier died and 2 wounded. No group claimed responsibility for the planting of the IED.

**On 01 April 2019 in Kassawan Da, Mopti.** One person was killed when his donkey cart hit an explosive device between Kassawan Da village and Anagadia Dogon hamlet of Karakindé village.

**On 01 April 2019 in Soye, Mopti.** A couple on a motorcycle reportedly hit an explosive device near Soye village. The explosion killed the woman and seriously injured her husband.

**On 01 April 2019 in Tabankort, Gao.** Assailants fired a gun shot towards a MINUSMA Force logistic convoy near Tabankort. No casualties were recorded.

**On 01 April 2019 in Djinguendjina, Mopti.** FAMa vehicle hit an explosive device. The incident resulted in one FAMa killed and three injured.

**On 2 April 2019 in Gourma.** An Operation Barkhane armored vehicle operating in the area was struck by an explosive device. One French soldier was killed. JNIM claimed responsibility for the attack.

**On 3 April 2019 in Kidal.** Unidentified armed men attacked MINUSMA camp using rockets. One soldier was wounded. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

**On 05 April 2019 in Outtagouna, Ansongo.** Assailants on motorcycles attacked the village, and killed a shepherd.

**On 05 April 2019 in Boni, Mopti.** A truck heading toward Douentza town, struck an IED between Boni and Douentza, causing the damage of the vehicle.

**On 06 April 2019 in Madougou, Mopti.** Two persons were killed when their vehicle hit an explosive device

**On 06 April 2019 in Ouattagouna, Ansongo.** Assailants on a motorcycle killed a combatant of the Coordination des Mouvements et Forces Patriotiques de Résistance-I (CMFPR1).

**On 06 April 2019 in Bodio, Bankass.** A public transport bus struck an explosive device. No casualties were recorded. The vehicle was damaged.

**On 7 April 2019 in Menaka.** Assailants attacked a town targeting the leader of Karssassotane, Mouhama AG Kassoum. Two persons killed including the leader and one injured. No group claimed responsibility.

**On 08 April 2019 in Diangassagou, Bandiagara.** Two people died when their cycle hit an explosive device between Diangassagou and Worossagou villages.

**On 08 April 2019 in Gossi, Mopti.** A FAMa vehicle escorting public transport bus was struck by IED. No injuries were recorded. No group claimed responsibility.

**On 08 April 2019 in Dioura, Mopti.** A FAMa soldier mistook an accidentally dropped grenade for an attack and open fired on a group of civilians. One person was killed and four others injured.

**On 11 April 2019 in Kiringya.** Armed men from ISGS murdered Hadama Ag Haynaha, an officer of the Movement for the Salvation of Azawad (MSA), and 2 of his colleagues.

**On 11 April 2019 in Mopti.** A MINUSMA logistics convoy travelling from Gao to Mopti, hit a remote controlled Improvised Explosive Device/ mine. No casualty was reported.

## **NIGER**

**On 10 April 2019 in Diffa.** Armed men from Boko Haram attacked a Gendarmes camp. One police officer was killed. Two terrorists were also killed by security forces.

**On 09 April 2019 in Diffa region.** Armed men from Boko Haram attacked the city. Two policemen were killed and other 4 police and 1 military were wounded in the attack. Two terrorists were also killed.

## NIGERIA

**On 1 April 2019 in Borno.** ISWAP released a video on Amaq claiming to have executed 5 soldiers. However, security forces disagreed to the numbers putting them at 2 soldiers and 3 civilians.

**3 April 2019 in Mando, Kaduna.** Assailants attacked Mother Cat Construction Company. Security forces repulsed the attack killing three of the assailants.

**On 6 April 2019 in Muna Dalti, Borno.** Two female suicide bombers from Boko Haram blew themselves up in Muna Garage. 5 persons were killed, 46 people injured.

**On 10 April 2019 in Damaratu, Yobe.** The Army repelled a possible Boko Haram attempted attack on the community. Some members of the group were neutralized and others injured.

**On 07 April 2019 in Zamfara.** Clashes between local vigilante and armed bandits resulted in 50 deaths.

**On 07 April 2019 in Katsina.** Clashes between local vigilante group and armed bandits resulted in 14 deaths.

## COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS

**On 01 April 2019 in Oran and Tamanrasset, Algeria.** Security forces dismantled a terrorist cell in Oran and arrested 3 suspected terrorists, while in Tamanrasset 2 terrorists also surrendered to the military.

**02 April 2019 in Sabiid, Somalia.** Troops of the AMISOM re-captured the town which has been under al-shabaab control.

**On 03 April 2019 in Oran, Algeria.** Algerian Army and Security Forces arrested 7 individuals implicated in the support of the terrorist cell dismantled on 26 March 2019, and have seized four shotguns, a quantity of ammunition, as well as knives and other items.

**On 4 April 2019 in Ajia, Zamfara, Nigeria.** The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) killed 25 armed bandits and in Zamfara State in an operation fire for fire against the notorious armed bandits.

**On 07 April 2019 in Mogadishu, Somalia.** Somali security forces seized a cache of weapons, including suicide belts, remote detonators and explosive materials, belonging to al-Shabaab militants. A senior al-Shabaab militant in charge of explosives was arrested.

**On 07 April 2019 in Sabiid Anole, Lower Shabelle, Somalia.** AMISOM forces backed by Somali troops conducted a security operation in southern region and arrested nine members of al-Shabaab.

**On 7 March 2019 in Dioura, Mopti, Mali.** The Malian army and the French force Barkhane have carried out CT operation. 15 suspected jihadists were killed.

**On 10 April 2019 in Taza, Morocco.** Security forces dismantled a terror cell of 4, whose leader is a former ISIS fighter in Syria and Iraq. The 4 have been arrested.

**On 11 April 2019 in al-Arish, Sinai, Egypt.** Egyptian armed forces conducted counter terrorism operation and killed 11 militants.

**On 11 April 2019 in Gakou, Koro, Mali.** The Burkinabe anti-terrorist unit and FAMa carried out CT operation. 24 terrorists were killed and 5 arrested.

**On 13 April 2019 in Far North, Cameroon.** The army conducted an operation and arrested 40 suspected members of Boko Haram.

**On 13 April 2019 Wulgo, Lake Chad, Nigeria.** Troops from MNJTF carried out joint CT operation. 27 Boko Haram Terrorists were killed, weapons and ammunitions recovered.

**On 14 April 2019 in Iskushuban, Bari, Somalia.** Security forces carried out an airstrike against suspected terrorists. The second in command of Islamic State in Somalia was killed.

## CONCLUSION

During the period under review, the overall number of terrorist attacks and related deaths in all regions of the continent declined slightly in comparison with the period from 15 to 30 March 2019. Whilst the decline could be attributed to enhanced efforts by the Intelligence and Security agencies to degrade the capability of known terrorist groups, it is to be seen if the momentum of that effort could be sustained.

The Counter-Terrorism Intelligence effort of the MNJTF in facilitating recent operational successes against BH and ISWAP needs particular commendation. Recent European Union (EU) assistance to enhance the capability of the MNJTF and other partner support could help sustain this momentum.

The offensive operations of Operation Barkhane have reduced the capabilities of AQIM, JNIM, ISGS and their affiliates considerably. The deployment of MINUSMA has also been a source of deterrence to terrorist groups' freedom of movement within Mali. Resourcing the G5 Sahel to enable the force deploy appropriately and conduct operations in fulfillment of their enforcement mission remains a major setback to operations in the Sahel. The G5 Sahel Force would have to be deployed urgently to tackle the terrorist threats in the Sahel flank of Northern Burkina Faso.

Burkina Faso remained a challenging situation within the period. The threat in the South of the country in particular, which threatens to spread into the neighboring countries of Benin, Ghana and Togo should engage the attention of policy makers and partners. A reinforcement of the technical capability of the Intelligence effort and providing adequate equipment for the Security forces are issues that should engage the urgent attention of the Policy makers in all the four AU Member States (Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana and Togo) as well as their development partners. The central role of intelligence in the fight against insurgencies and terrorism could only be ignored at a rather high price.

The impact of the evolving situation in Libya on the Sahel region needs anticipation of future tasks for purposes of planning and preparation. The current effort of the Security forces particularly in the Kidal, Adrar des Ifoghas and Adrar Tirgharghar corridor have pushed the leadership of AQIM and a number of its commanders into South Libya where they have found a safe haven. The evolving situation in Libya could change that. The early deployment of the G5 Sahel force could ensure the domination of the mobility corridors between Mali, Niger and Chad on one hand and Southern Libya on the other while the situation in Libya unfolds.

The use of IEDs by terrorist groups continued to remain prominent during the period. While the use of IEDs by known terrorist groups reduced during the period, the use of IEDs by unidentified/unaffiliated terrorist assailants increased. Unidentified/unaffiliated terrorist assailants used IEDs in 13 of the 38 attacks they launched across the continent. Out of the 17 terrorist attacks recorded in Mali, 11 were by means of IEDs.

Further control measures in the distribution of explosive material and detonators could help reduce the access terrorist groups have to these materials. The proliferation of artisanal gold mining in almost all countries of the Sahel and ECOWAS regions is considered to be a source of these materials to terrorist groups. The huge influx of persons from other countries within the 2 regions to artisanal gold mining sites in local communities to carry out mining activity needs addressing. Authorized artisanal mining sites could have all persons working at such sites properly registered for purposes of identification. Supply of explosive materials and accessories to such sites could also be controlled to minimize terrorist groups' access.

The overall number of deaths owing to Inter community violence decreased over the period. The Suom village intercommunity violence that occurred in Burkina Faso and resulted in 62 deaths was a reprisal attack on a community suspected to have collaborated or facilitated a terrorist attack against the other community. The 23 March 2019, Ogossagou village inter community violence in Mali which resulted in 160 deaths and 410 injuries was for similar reason of collaboration with terrorist groups. These bring to the fore, the issue of existing mistrust and suspicion among ethnic groups as to who is collaborating with terrorist groups or facilitating terrorist activity against the other. In order to ensure peaceful co-existence, the shaping of the intercommunity relations of those ethnic based communities which have outstanding disputes bearing on such mistrust has become a priority that should engage the urgent attention of community leaders, Local Government authorities and policy makers, particularly in Mali and Burkina Faso.

### **FORECAST FOR NEXT EDITION**

The next edition of the Africa Terrorism Bulletin will cover terrorism incidents from 15<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April, 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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