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

THE AFRICA TERRORISM BULLETIN

1st January - 30th June 2021

African Union

Launch of the AU PCRD Awareness Week
Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development: Greater Awareness, Stronger Peacebuilding
7 - 13 November 2021

SILENCING THE GUNS
Security, Resilience and Recovery Africa

Agenda 2063
The Africa We Want

www.au.int

Edition No: 01

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 monthly 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.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACSRT	African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism
ADF	Allied Democratic Forces
AFRICOM	United States Africa Command Forces
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
AMM	Africa Media Monitor
AQIM	Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb
AS	Al-Shabaab
ASWJ	Al Sunna wa Jummah
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
ISCAP	Islamic State Central African Province
ISGS	Islamic State in the Greater Sahara
ISS	Islamic State in Somalia
ISWAP	Islamic State West Africa Province
JNIM	Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center
KUBN	Uqba Nafi Batallion
LCB	Lake Chad Basin
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
MNJTF	Multinational Joint Task Forces
MINUSMA	Mission Multidimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation au Mali
MSA	Mouvement pour le salut de l'Azawad
NISA	National Intelligence Service Agency (Somalia)
OAU	Organization of African Unity
PBIEDs	Person-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices
RCIEDs	Remotely-Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices
REC	Regional Economic Community
RM	Regional Mechanism
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SNA	Somalia National Army
UNSMIL	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Libya
US	United States (of America)
VE groups	Violent Extremist groups

SUMMARY

General Situation. The reporting period, 1st January to 30th June 2021 recorded a higher number of attacks compared to the period 1st January to 30th June 2020. At the end of June 2021 there were 950 terrorist attacks compared to 867 for the period of 1st January to 30th June 2020, representing almost 10% increase. With respect to casualties, there was a decrease in the number of deaths from terrorist attacks. While there were 4558 deaths recorded in for the first Semester of 2020, 3883 deaths were recorded in the Semester of 2021, representing 15% decrease.

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

Target of Terrorist Attacks. While 530 out of the 950 terrorist attacks were launched against Civilians, 366 targeted Military/Security Forces. 40 attacks targeted International Organisations and 14 attacks targeted Governmental Institutions/Officials. The attacks by ADF and Mai-Mai groups were mainly against Civilians, whilst Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram mostly targeted Military/Security Forces.

Weapons Used. The terrorist groups used Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in 758 out of the 950 attacks. Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were used in 97 of the attacks and complex attacks (IED and SALW) were used in 14 attacks.

Deaths from Terrorists Attacks. 3883 deaths were recorded during the period: 2281 civilians, 724 Military/Security personnel and 878 terrorists.

Casualties Inflicted by Terrorist Groups.

ADF killed 733 persons (632 civilians, 101 Military/Security Forces); Mai-Mai groups killed 462 persons (322 civilians and 140 Military/Security Forces); Al-Shabaab killed 280 persons (153 civilians, 127 Military/Security Forces); Boko Haram killed 175 persons (67 civilians, 108 Military/Security Forces); other Violent Extremist groups killed 90 persons (76 Civilians, 14 Military/Security Forces); ASWJ killed 29 persons (27 civilians and two Military/Security Forces); JNIM killed 12 persons (11 civilians and one Military/Security Forces); ISWAP killed eight persons, all Military/Security Forces); IS and Affiliates killed seven persons (Three civilians and f Military/Security Forces) and Unknown groups killed 1228 persons (1001 civilians, 227 Military/Security Forces).

Casualties Sustained by Terrorist Groups.

Al-Shabaab and Mai-Mai groups suffered highest number of casualties during the period. Military/Security Forces

killed 670 terrorists of Al-Shabaab, 438 members of Mai-Mai groups, 189 of Boko Haram. ADF followed with 97. ASWJ suffered 31 of its members killed, followed by IS and Affiliates 25 members killed, the same as Violent Extremist Groups. Five and 493 terrorists from respectively ISWAP and Unknown groups were also killed.

Kidnapping. 80 cases of kidnappings were recorded.

A total of 923 persons were taken hostage as follows (in decreasing order of number of kidnappings): in DRC (335persons), Mozambique (257 persons), Nigeria (223 persons), Burkina Faso (39 persons), Mali (30 persons), Central Africa Republic (27 persons), Cameroon (five persons). Chad, Kenya and Niger recorded two persons each taken in hostage while Libya recorded one hostage. during the period and 122 were released on the same period.

Focus on Epicentres. Out of the 950 terrorist attacks, the Great Lakes region recorded 575 attacks with 1697 deaths, the Sahel region accounted for 187 attacks and 1058 deaths, the Horn of Africa recorded 51 attacks with 414 deaths and Lake Chad Basin accounted 63 attacks with 469 deaths during the period.

High Profile Attacks.

21 March, Tahoua Region, Niger. Unknown armed men attacks in three villages led to the deaths of 137 civilians.

05 June, Sahel region, Burkina Faso. 132 civilians were killed by unidentified terrorists in an attack on a village in northern Burkina Faso, near the eastern border with Niger. They also burned homes and a market. Another 40 residents were injured. No group claimed responsibility. **02 January, Ouallam Department, Niger.** Suspected Boko Haram terrorists ambushed a civilian convoy escorted by the military. Nine soldiers and 25 civilians were killed, three people were missing while many others were injured. The soldiers killed 13 terrorists.

03 April, Lower Shabelle region, Somalia. Al-Shabaab attacked Governmental military bases. Militants started their attacks detonating vehicle-borne explosive, then followed with infantry attack. 14 SNA soldiers were killed and 80 terrorists were neutralized. **05 June, Kebbi State, Nigeria.** Dozens of assailants on motorcycles attacked seven neighbouring villages in Danko-Wasagu district killing at least 88 people. Scores of others were injured following the attacks. **15 March, Tillaberi Region, Niger.** An attack by unknown gunmen led to the deaths of 58 people. They also destroyed nearby granaries. **27 June, Mudug, Somalia.** Al-Shabaab launched car bomb attack on army base in Wisil town, reportedly leaving at least 17 soldiers and 13 civilians dead; 41 militants were also killed during the attack.

Counter-Terrorism Response. CT operations resulted

in neutralizing 1168 terrorists. 45 Military/Security Forces died during those operations.

Conclusions/Recommendations.

Activities associated with terrorism and violent extremism activities have increased during the first half of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. What drove the continental increase for the reporting period was the high number of attacks and deaths that took place in the Great Lakes Region specifically DRC, where a plethora of terrorist and violent extremist groups are wreaking havoc among communities in Ituri, North-Kivu and South-Kivu provinces of the country. The rest of the regions experienced a decrease in number of attacks during the period as compared to the first half of 2020.

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, the African Union Member States, Regional Economic Communities and 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 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 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

Threat Update January – June 2021

The period from 1st January to 30th June 2021 recorded a total number 950 terrorist attacks that led to 3883 deaths across the continent. The month of January recorded 137 attacks that led to 549 deaths, in February 162 attacks and 616 deaths were recorded, March registered 156 attacks and 687, in April 172 attacks and 569 deaths were registered. From the month of May, terrorism incidents increased particularly in West Africa, 153 attacks that led to 437 deaths were recorded while in June 170 attacks and 1025 deaths were recorded.

Out of the recorded number of terrorist attacks during the first half of 2021, 530 were against civilian targets, 366 against military/security establishments, 40 were against International Organizations while 14 attacks targeted Government Institutions. Of the 3883 encountered deaths, 2281 were civilians, 724 Military/security personnel, while 878 were terrorists. In addition, deliberate counter terrorism operations across the continent eliminated a total of 1943 terrorists.

Compared to the same period in 2020, the number of terrorist attacks increased while related deaths declined between January and June 2021. In the first half of 2020, a total number of 867 terrorist attacks were recorded that resulted in 4558 deaths across the continent. There was an increase of 10% in terrorist attacks and a sharp decline of 15% in number of deaths when comparing the preceding period to the current. Of the first half of 2020 attacks, 500 were against civilian targets, 322 against military/security establishments, 24 International Organizations while 21 attacks targeted Government Institutions. Civilians constituted the highest number of casualties at 2538, followed by military/security personnel with 1078 deaths while 942 terrorists were killed in the first half of 2020 - both patterns for attacks and deaths category continued the same into 2021.

The five most terrorism-affected countries during the period under review were Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with 1682 terrorist attacks and 574 deaths, Nigeria registered 429 attacks and 53 deaths, Somalia recorded 414 attacks and 51 deaths, Mali recorded 339 attacks and 130 deaths while Burkina Faso recorded 331 attacks and 42 deaths.

The five most active terrorist and violent extremist groups during the reporting period were Mai-Mai groups, Allied Democratic Front (ADF), Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram and Al-Sunnah Wa Jamaa (ASWJ) in descending order. Boko Haram, ADF, Al-Shabaab, ASWJ and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), respectively, were the deadliest terrorist groups in the same period of 2020.

Terrorist and violent extremist groups sustained 1988 casualties in both attacks and in deliberate counter-terrorism operations during the period under review. Al-Shabaab, Mai-Mai groups, Boko Haram and ADF sustained the highest number of casualties encountered in both terrorist attacks and counter terrorism operations. In 2020, terrorist and violent extremist groups recorded 4558 deaths during the same period. Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) were the most used means of attack during the period under review, SALWs accounted for 80% of the total attacks, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) accounted for 10%, Kidnapping was 08% while Complex Attacks (SALWs/IEDs/Kidnapping) was 02% of the attacks. This was the same trend witnessed in 2020.

Great Lakes Region

The region recorded the highest number of terrorist attacks across the continent during the reporting period, most of the attacks recorded in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The country registered 595 attacks that resulted in 1758 deaths during the first half of 2021. During the same period last year it registered 217 attacks and 1323 deaths. Both attacks and resultant deaths increased by 174% and 25% respectively, demonstrating the growing capability and resilience by terrorist and violent extremist groups operating in the area. Ituri, North-Kivu and South-Kivu provinces in Eastern DRC remain the hotspots for TVE activities.

Mai-Mai groups and the Allied Democratic Forces/Madina at Tawheed wal Mujahedeed (ADF/MTM) operating in the DRC were the most active groups not only in DRC but in the entire continent. ADF/MTM also referred to as the Islamic

State Central Africa Province (ISCAP) noticeably increased its operations around Ituri and North Kivu provinces during the period. The growing violence perpetrated by Mai-Mai groups makes the situation even more complex. The groups have been committing atrocities against civilians, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and United Nations Organization Mission in Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), with civilians bearing the brunt of the violence. The continuous violence undermines the efforts of the ongoing counter-insurgency operations by FARDC.

Sahel Belt of West Africa

The region recorded a total of 195 attacks during reporting period that led to 1098 deaths. This was 33% decline in attacks as well as 22% decline in deaths in comparison to the preceding period of 2020 where 291 attacks and 1411 attacks were recorded. As a result in the decline, the region, has dropped from being the most affected region in terms of attacks during the same period last year and has been replaced by the DRC. The decline could be due to confrontations between the Jamaat Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimeen (JNIM) and Islamic State in Greater Sahara (ISGS), which started late 2019 and led to big losses amongst fighters. Another factor was the result of comprehensive counter terrorism operations conducted by security forces in the region. While there was a general decline in attacks in Mali and Niger, Burkina Faso, which had also witnessed a sharp reduction in terrorist attacks in 2020, saw a significant increase in attacks during the reporting period. Terrorists attacked Solhan town of Sahel region in June killing 132 civilians; the deadliest attack the country had ever experienced. The attacks seemingly spilled over to neighboring Cote d'Ivoire alongside its border with Burkina Faso, in which six Ivorian soldiers were killed and five were injured. IEDs were used for the first time in Cote d'Ivoire in two incidents during the reporting period.

Lake Chad Basin

The Lake Chad Basin region registered 55 attacks and 429 deaths during reporting period representing a decline in both terrorist attacks and deaths of 215% and 206% respectively, when compared to the first six months of 2020 where there were 173 attacks and 1313 deaths. Boko Haram and ISWAP activities drastically reduced in the region during the reporting period, particularly due to clashes between the two groups that led to the death of Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau, in April. It was reported that when ISWAP fighters attacked Boko Haram position in Sambisa Forest, Shekau detonated an explosive on himself to avoid being captured.

While it is still early to affirm, the death of Shekau could possibly make ISWAP prominent in the region and the group might start wooing for Boko Haram fighters. ISWAP triumph could in turn seal Islamic State (IS) foothold in the Lake Chad Basin. Furthermore, the north-western Nigerian region continues to witness violence from bandits. Deaths associated with banditry far surpassed those attributed to terrorist groups during the review period. Although there is high possibility that ISWAP and Boko Haram could join forces, some of Boko Haram fighters might opt to join smaller criminal groups operating in north-western region of the Nigeria in pursuit of power and recognition.

In Chad, the death of President Idris Deby who was killed on 19 April while visiting troops fighting the Chadian rebel group FACT, which is based in Libya, and the subsequent installation of his son Mahamat Idriss Deby have worsened security situation in the country. President Deby, during his tenure had played an important role in counter-terrorism operations in both the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin. His death could therefore be a serious setback in counter-terrorism efforts both in Chad and at the regional level.

East and Horn of Africa

East Africa incidents were recorded mainly in Somalia and to a lesser extent in Kenya with al-Shabaab as the only active terrorist group in the region. The region recorded 69 attacks that resulted in 455 deaths during the first half of 2021. In comparison to the same period last year where there were 126 attacks and 368 deaths recorded. The record reveals a sharp decline of 45% in number of attacks and 24% in deaths. In spite of this, violence surged in Mogadishu as al-Shabaab targeted hotels, restaurants and military establishments during the first three-month of 2021. In January a car bomb was detonated at the entrance of hotel Afrik in Mogadishu before gunmen stormed the building resulting in the deaths of nine people. In March, a car loaded with explosives detonated in front of a popular restaurant killing 25 people and injuring 30 others. The group continues to demonstrate its ability to orchestrate complex attacks against critical infrastructures as well as to use IEDs. In April, protests against extension of presidential mandate and elections issues led to a tensed situation that was exploited by al-Shabaab to increase its violence by carrying out targeted

killings and suicide bombings. Counter-terrorism operations intensified in Mogadishu and the rest of Somalia in preparation for the parliamentary elections which were scheduled to take place on 25 July, as a result, terrorist attacks significantly reduced.

In Kenya, al-Shabaab increased its activities around Lamu, Mandera, Wajir and Garissa Counties during the first quarter of the year, targeting mainly government officials and civilian workers constructing the border wall with Somalia. It was reported that Mandera county lost control of some territories to al-Shabaab but the situation subsided toward end of April due to intensive counter-terrorism operations against the group.

Southern Africa

ASWJ continues to operate in the Mozambique northern province of Cabo Delgado , the only affected country in Southern Africa region. The group was primarily active around Macomia, Palma, and Mocimboa da Praia districts of Cabo Delgado during the reporting period. The region recorded 22 attacks that led to 100 deaths representing a sharp decline of 54% in number of attacks and 88% in number of deaths compared to the same period in 2020, where there were 28 attacks that resulted in 240 deaths. This drastic decline could be due to massive counter-terrorism offensive by Mozambique Armed Defence Forces (FADM) against ASWJ that dismantled terrorist camps and hideouts across Cabo Delgado. Between 24-29 March, terrorists attacked Palma town, the government confirmed dozens had been killed without specifying number. The Palma siege was the only high-profile attack during the period under review.

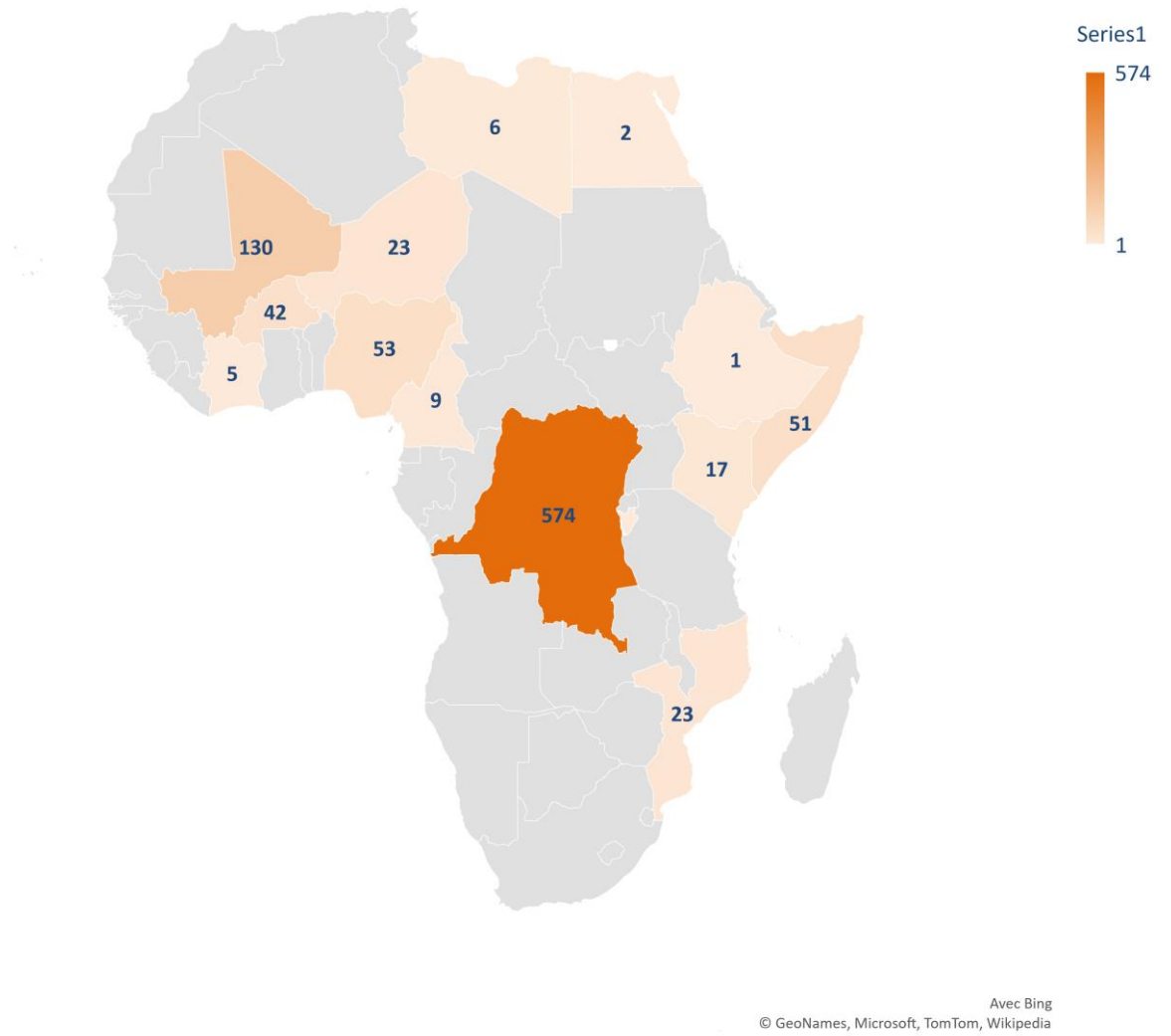
North Africa

North Africa maintains its record as the least terrorism-affected region in the continent during the first half 2021 as it was through the same period in 2020. The region recorded 11 terrorist attacks and 32 related deaths compared to 21 attacks and 65 deaths during same period last year. Both al-Qaeda and IS affiliates groups are active in all countries of the region. However, concerted counter-terrorism operations in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt have resulted in significant reduction of terrorist attacks. Marking ten years of Arab spring, the region's political landscape remains fragile, characterized by weak democracies, something that the existing terrorist cells operating across all countries of the region can take advantage of.

General Trend: Terrorism and Violent Extremist Groups Deaths (Attacks and Deaths)

Map 1: Map of Terrorism and Violent Extremism Attacks from 1st January to 30th June 2021

Map, Terrorism and Violent Extremism Attacks
January -June 2021

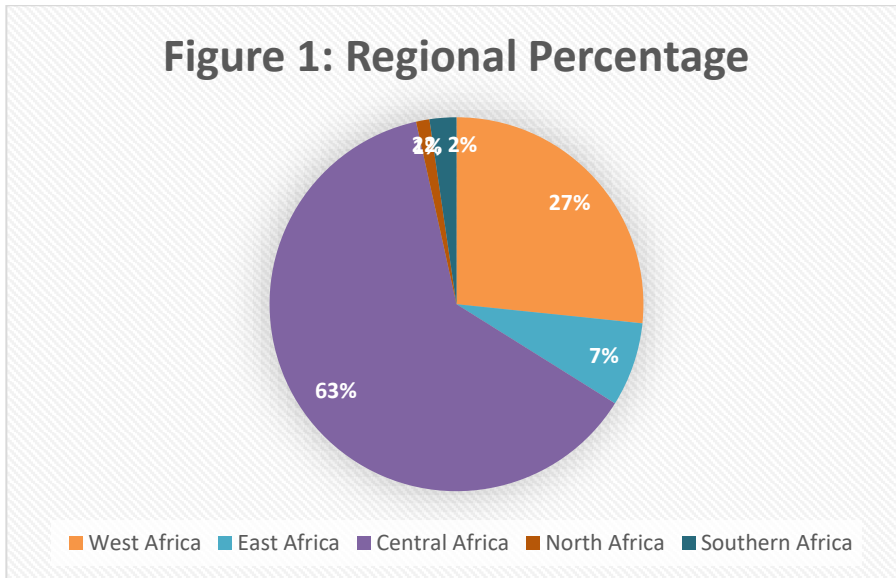


Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

1. Total Number of Terrorist and Violent Extremist groups Attacks:

A total of 950 terrorism and violent extremism incidents including 80 cases of kidnapping were recorded from 1st to 30th June.

2. Terrorist and Violent Extremist Attacks by Region

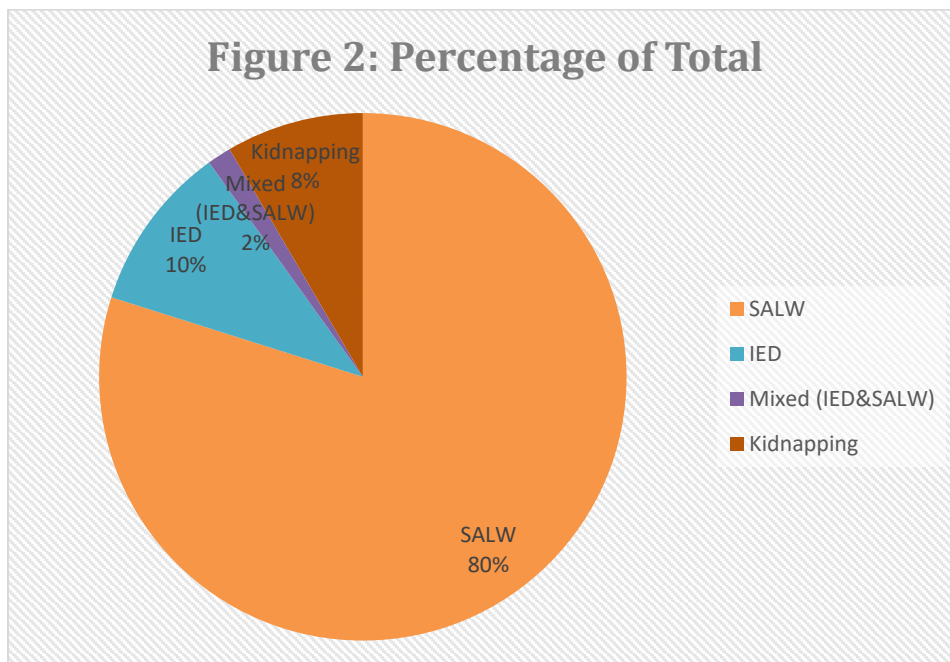


Number of Attacks per Region:

- Central Africa: **595**
- West Africa: **253**
- East Africa: **69**
- Southern Africa: **22**
- North Africa: **11**

Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

3. Types of Attack



Number of Attacks per Type:

- SALWs: **758**
- IEDs: **97**
- Mixed (IED&SALW): **14**
- Kidnapping: **80**

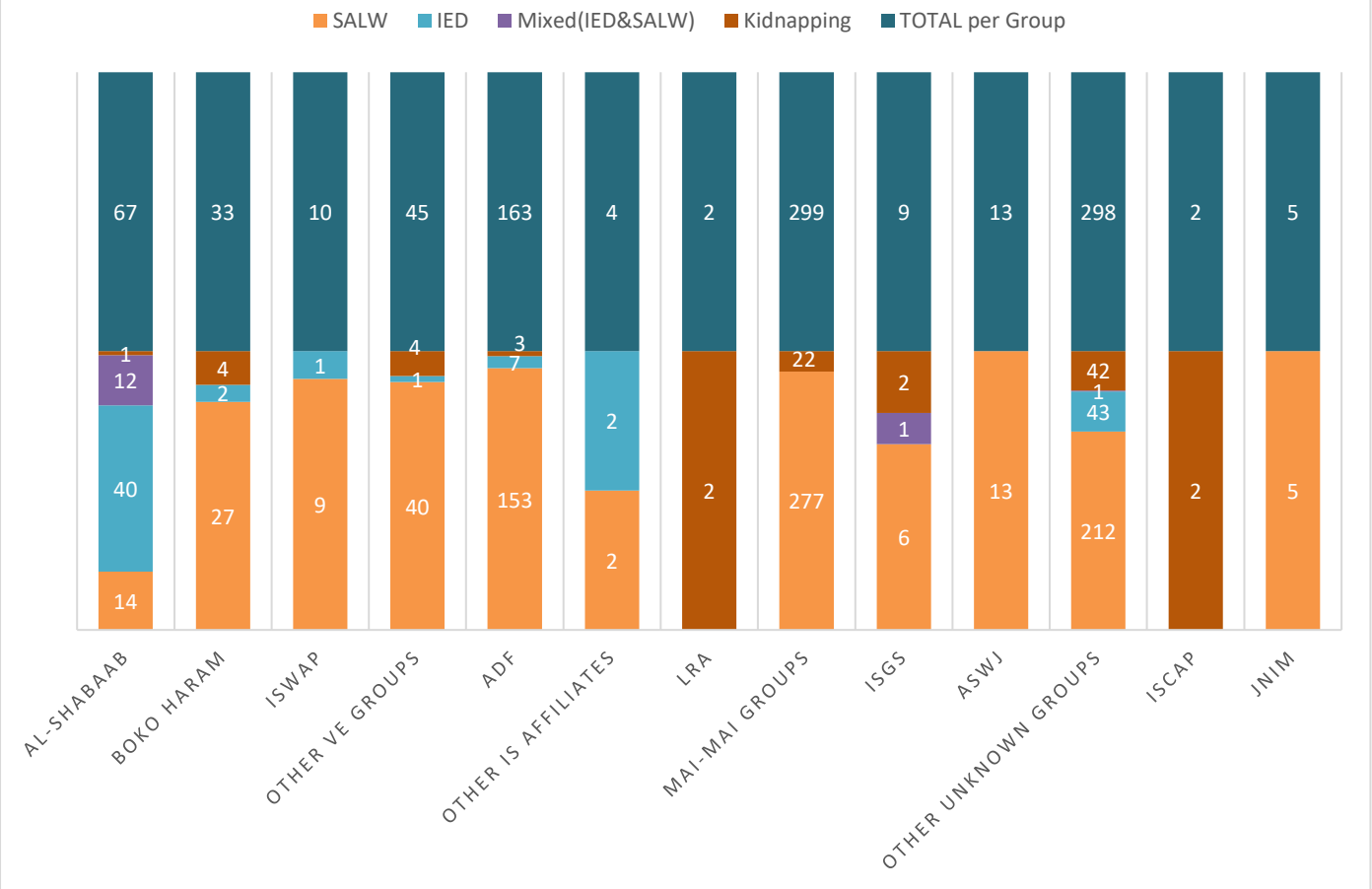
Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

Table 1: Types of Attacks by Terrorist and Violent Extremist groups

Terrorist Group	SALW	IED	Mixed	Kidnapping	Comments
Al-Shabaab	14	40	12	1	In a total of 67 attacks by the group, 40 involved IED, 14 were SALW, 12 were for complex attacks and one for kidnapping
ADF	153	7	-	3	ADF carried out 153 attacks using SALWs, seven attacks using IED and proceed for three kidnappings.
Mai-Mai groups	277	-	-	22	Mai-Mai groups carried out 277 attacks using SALWs is responsible of 22 kidnappings.
Boko Haram	27	2	-	4	Boko Haram carried out 33 attacks. 27 involved SALWs, two involved IED and four kidnapping.
ISWAP	9	1	-	-	ISWAP carried out nine attacks using SALW and one using IED.
JNIM	5	-	-	-	JNIM used SALWs to carry out five attacks.
ASWJ	13	-	-	-	ASWJ carried out 13 attacks using SALWs.
IS Affiliates	2	2	-	-	IS and Affiliates used SALWs to carry out two attacks and two others using IED.
Other VE Groups	40	1	-	4	Other Violent Extremist groups carried out 40 attacks using SALW and one using IED. They are also responsible of four kidnappings.
AQMI	-	1	-	-	AQMI used IED for one attack.
ISGS	6	-	1	2	
LRA	-	-	-	2	LRA carried out two kidnappings.
Unknown groups	212	43	1	42	Unknown groups used SALWs in majority of the attacks. In 212 out of 298 attacks by these groups, SALWs were used. They used IEDs in 43 attacks and one complex attack. They were also responsible for 42 cases of kidnapping.
TOTAL	756	95	14	80	

Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

Figure 3: Percentage of means employed by terrorist and violent extremist groups



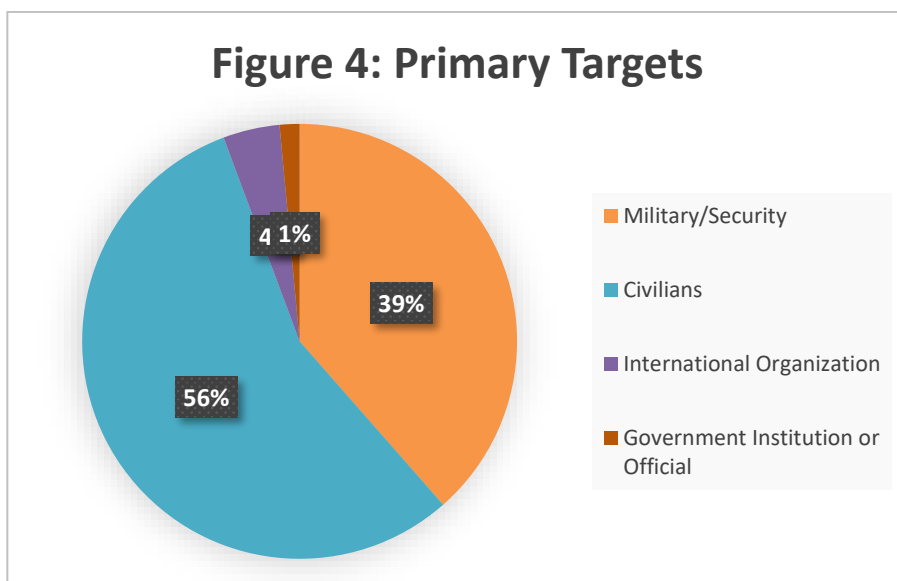
Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

4. Primary Targets

Primary Targets

- Civilians: **530**
- Military/Security Forces: **366**
- International Organization: **40**
- Government Institutions/Officials: **14**

Figure 4: Primary Targets



Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

5. Terrorist and Violent Extremist groups and their Primary Targets

Table 2: Details of Terrorist and Violent Extremist groups and their Primary Targets

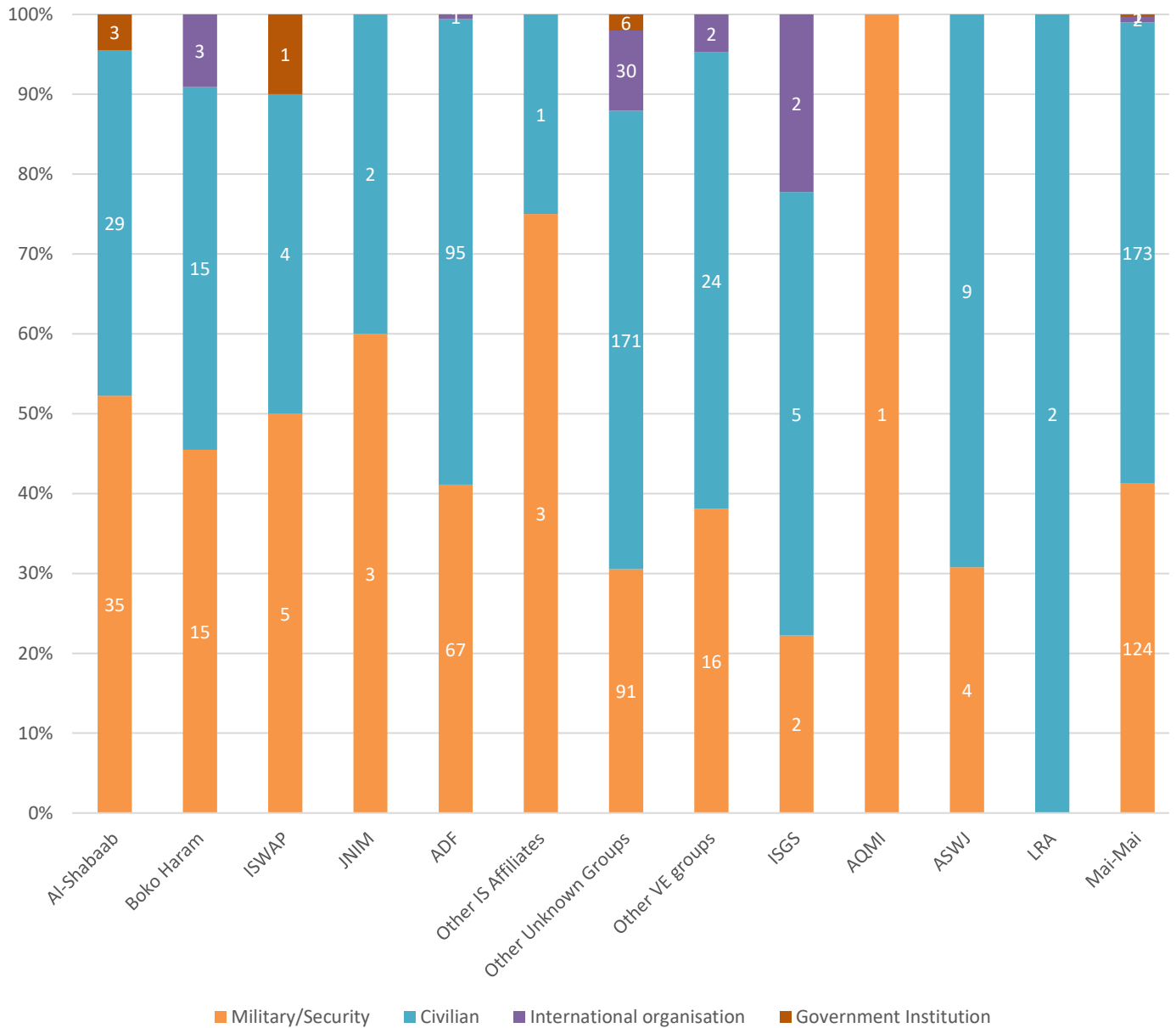
Terrorist Groups	Military / Security	Civilians	Int. Org.	Gov't Inst.	Comments
Al-Shabaab	35	29	-	3	Al-Shabaab carried out 35 attacks against Military/Security Forces and 29 against civilians. They were responsible of three others attacks on government institutions/Officials.
ADF	67	95	1	-	ADF targeted 67 attacks against Military/Security force and 95 attacks against civilians. They were responsible of one attack against International Organisation.
Boko Haram	15	15	3	-	Boko Haram carried out 15 attacks against civilians, another 15 attacks against Military/Security Forces and three against International organisations.
ISWAP	5	4	-	1	ISWAP terrorists carried out five attacks against Military/Security Forces, four attacks against civilians and one attack against Government Institution/Officials.
ASWJ	4	9	-	-	ASWJ carried out four attacks against Military/Security Forces and nine attacks against civilians.
JNIM	3	1	-	-	JNIM carried out three attacks against Military/Security Forces and one attack against civilians.
ISGS	2	5	2	-	ISGS carried out two attacks against Military/Security Forces, five attacks against civilians and two attacks against International organisations.
LRA	-	2	-	-	LRA carried out two attacks against civilians.
IS & Affiliates	3	1	-	-	IS and its Affiliates carried out three attacks against Military/Security Forces and one attack against civilians.
AQMI	1	-	-	-	AQMI carried out one attack against Military/Security Forces.
Mai-Mai groups	124	173	2	1	Mai-Mai groups carried out 124 attacks against Military/Security Forces, 173 attacks against Civilians and were responsible of two attacks against International Organisations and one attack against Government Institutions/Officials.
Other VE groups	16	24	2	3	Other Violent Extremist groups carried out 16 attacks against Military/Security Forces, 24 against civilians. They were responsible of two attacks against International organisations and three attacks against Government Institutions/Officials.
Unknown groups	91	171	30	6	Attacks for which no group claimed responsibility mostly targeted civilians. 171 out of 298 attacks targeted civilians; 91 targeted Military/Security

Forces, 30 targeted International Organizations and six targeted government Institutions/Officials.

TOTAL	366	529	40	14
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Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

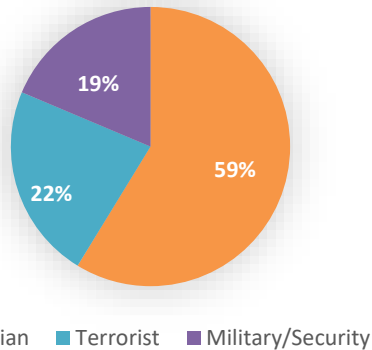
Figure 5: Percentage of Target per Group



Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

6. Total Deaths

Figure 6: Percentage of Total Deaths



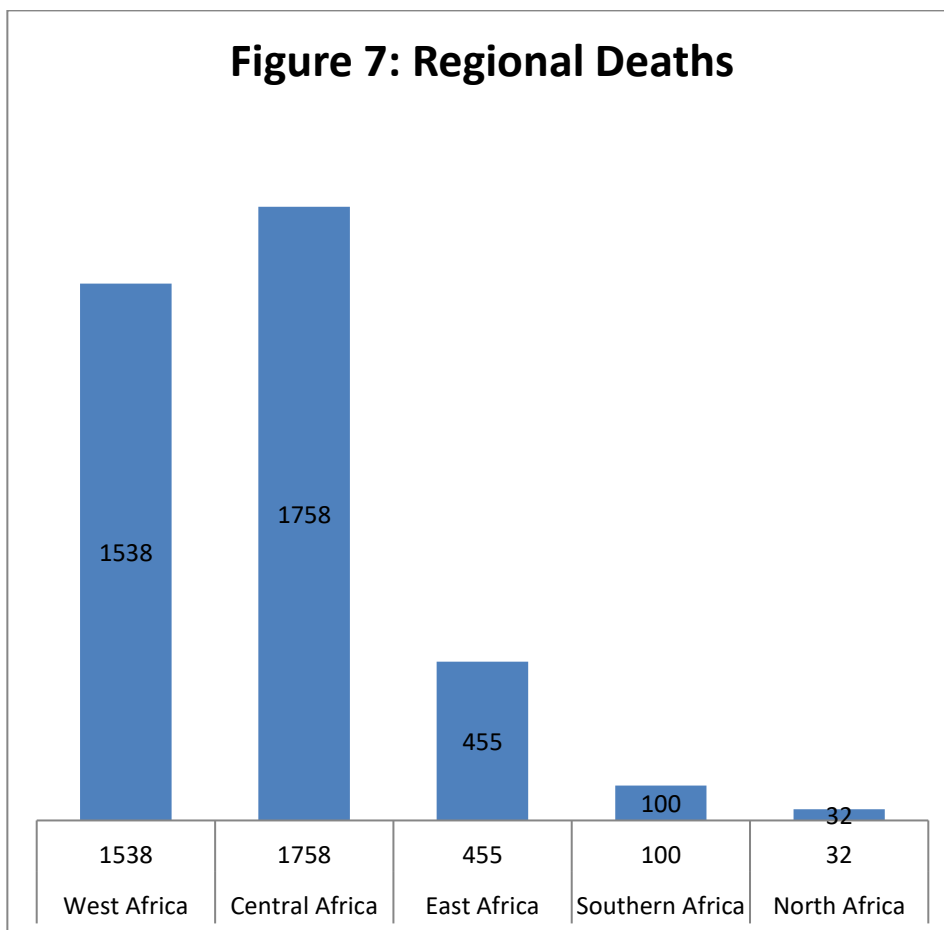
Total Deaths: 3883

- Civilians: **2281**
- Military/Security Forces: **724**
- Terrorists: **878**

Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

7. Deaths Per Region

Figure 7: Regional Deaths



Deaths per Region

- **Central Africa** recorded the highest number of deaths accounting for **45%** of total deaths.
- **West Africa** recorded the highest number of deaths accounting for **39%** of total deaths.
- **East Africa** recorded **12%**
- **Southern Africa** recorded **3%** of deaths.
- **1%** of all terrorism

Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

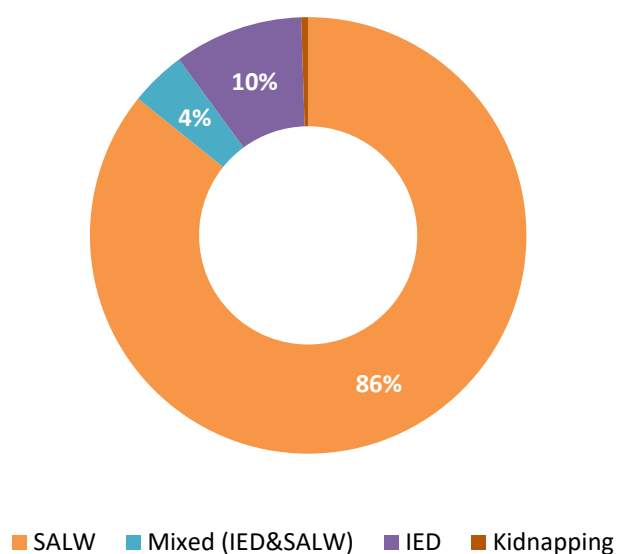
Figure 8: Regional deaths by category



Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

8. Deaths per Types of Attacks

Figure 9: Deaths per Means of Attack



Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

Deaths by Types of Attacks

- SALWs: **3336**
- IEDs: **372**
- Mixed (IED&SALW): **161**
- **SALWs** accounted for **86%** of the deaths occasioned by terrorist attacks.
- **10%** accounted for **IED**.
- **4%** accounted for **Mixed (IED&SALW)**

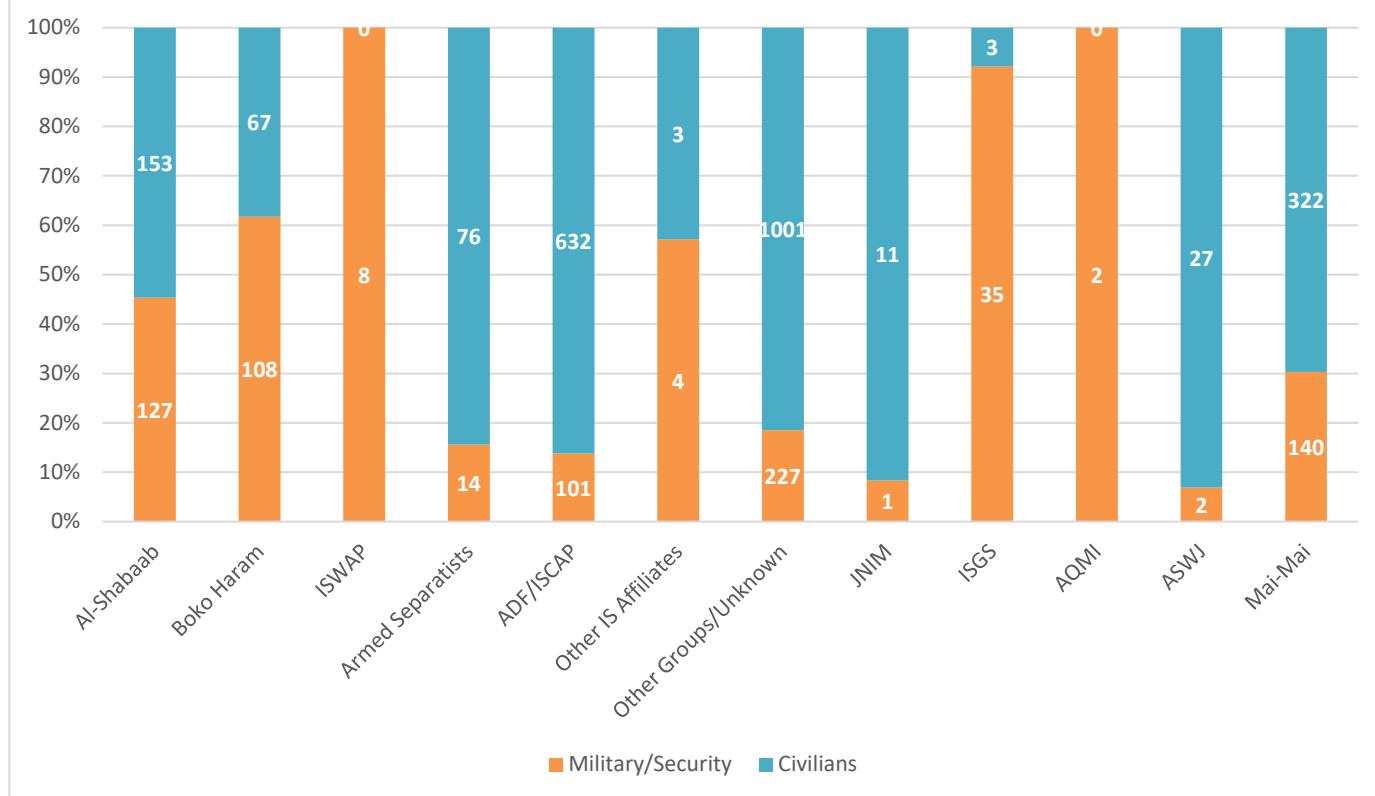
9. Attacks and Casualties Inflicted per Terrorist and Violent Extremist groups

Table 3: Attacks and Casualties by Terrorist and Violent Extremist groups

Terrorist Group	Number of Attacks	Number of Deaths	Comments
Al-Shabaab	67	280	Al-Shabaab carried out 67 attacks, killing 280 persons.
ADF	163	733	ADF carried out 163 attacks, killing 733 persons.
Mai-Mai groups	300	462	Mai-Mai groups carried out 300 attacks, killing 462 persons.
Boko Haram	33	175	Boko Haram carried out 33 attacks, killing 175 persons.
ISWAP	10	8	ISWAP carried out 10 attacks, killing eight persons
ASWJ	13	29	ASWJ carried out 13 attacks, killing 29 persons.
AQMI	1	2	AQMI carried out one attack, killing two persons.
IS Affiliates	4	7	IS and its Affiliates carried out four attacks, killing seven persons.
ISGS	9	38	ISGS carried out nine attacks, killing 38 persons.
LRA	2	0	LRA carried out two attacks with casualties.
JNIM	5	12	JNIM carried out five attacks, killing 12 persons.
Other VE groups	45	90	Other Violent Extremists groups were responsible 45 attacks, killing 90 persons.
Unknown groups	298	1228	298 attacks were carried out by Unknown groups. These attacks added up to 1228 deaths.
TOTAL	950	3064	

Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

Figure 11: Category of Victims Killed by Terrorist Group



Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

10. Members of Terrorist and Violent Extremist groups Killed (In Attacks and CT Operations)

Table 4: Details of Casualties Sustained by Terrorist and Violent Extremist groups

Terrorist Group	Number Killed	Comments
Mai-Mai groups	438	There is 438 of Mai-Mai groups members were killed
Boko Haram	189	A total of 189 terrorists killed were from Boko Haram group.
Al-Shabaab	670	670 Al-Shabaab members were killed.
ADF	97	97 ADF member were killed
AQMI	0	No registered member of AQMI was killed
ISWAP	5	ISWAP lost five persons
ISGS	0	No registered member of ISGS was killed
ASWJ	31	ASWJ lost 31members
IS Affiliates	25	25 IS and Affiliate members were killed.
JNIM	15	JNIM lost 15 of its members
LRA	0	None of LRA member was killed
Other VE groups	25	25 Violent Extremist group members were killed.
Unknown groups	493	A total of 493 terrorists killed were from Unknown groups.
TOTAL	1988	

Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

11. The Five Most Affected Countries

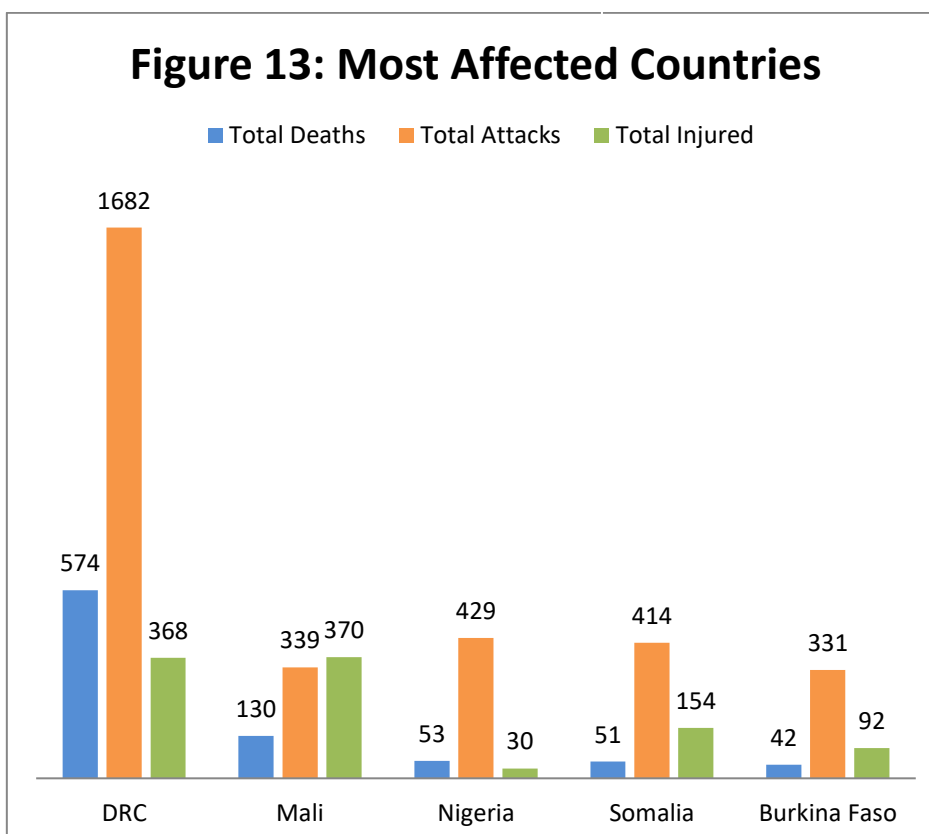
Table 5: Five Countries Most Affected

Country	Total Attacks	Total Deaths	Total injured
DRC	574	1682	368
Mali	130	339	370
Nigeria	53	429	30
Somalia	51	414	154
Burkina Faso	42	331	92
TOTAL	850	3195	1014

Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

- **DRC** recorded the highest number of **attacks 574** resulting in 1682 deaths.
- **Mali** recorded the second highest number of **attacks 130** resulting in the **339** deaths.
- **Nigeria** recorded **53 attacks** resulting in **429** deaths.
- **Somalia** recorded **51 attacks** resulting in **414** deaths.
- **Burkina Faso** recorded the lowest number of attacks **42** resulting in **331** deaths.

Figure 13: Most Affected Countries



Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

12. High Profile Attacks

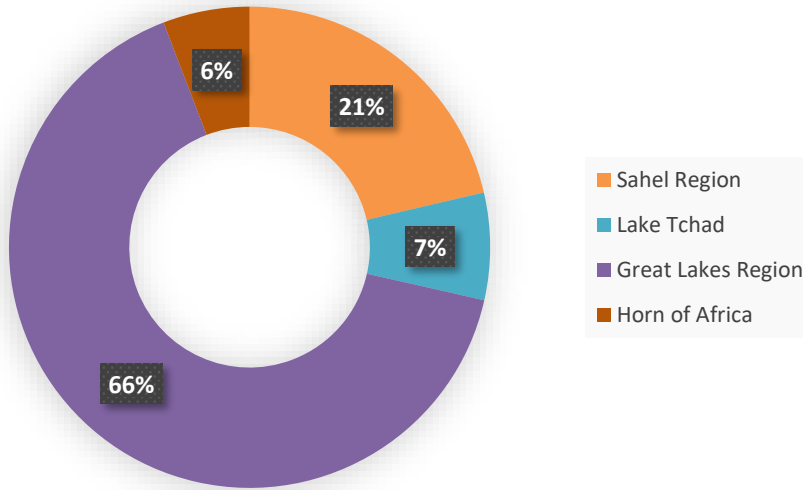
Table 6: List of high-Profile Attacks

No	Country	Place	Date	Group	Deaths	Description
1	Niger	Tahoua Region	21/03/2021	Unknown	137	Unknown armed men attack in three villages led to the deaths of 137 civilians
2	Burkina Faso	Sahel region	05/06/2021	Unknown	132	132 civilians were killed by unidentified terrorists in an attack on a village in northern Burkina Faso, near the eastern border with Niger. They also burned homes and a market. Another 40 residents were injured. No group claimed responsibility
3	Niger	Ouallam Department	02/01/2021	Unknown	100	Suspected Boko Haram terrorists ambushed a civilian convoy escorted by the military. Nine soldiers and 25 civilians were killed, three people were missing while many others were injured. The soldiers killed 13 terrorists.
4	Somalia	Lower Shabelle region.	03/04/2021	Al-Shebaab	94	Al-Shabaab attacked Somali military bases. Militants started their attacks detonating car bombs followed with infantry attack. 14 SNA soldiers were killed and 80 terrorists were neutralized.
5	Nigeria	Kebbi State	05/06/2021	Unknown	88	Dozens of assailants on motorcycles attacked seven neighbouring villages in Danko-Wasagu district killing at least 88 people. Scores of others were injured following the attacks.
6	Niger	Tillaberi Region	15/03/2021	Unknown	58	An attack by unknown gunmen led to the deaths of 58 people. They also destroyed nearby granaries.
7	Somalia	Mudug	27/06/2021	Al-Shebaab	71	Al-Shabaab launched car bomb attack on army base in Wisil town, reportedly leaving at least 17 soldiers and 13 civilians dead; 41 militants also killed.

Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

Attacks in Epicentres

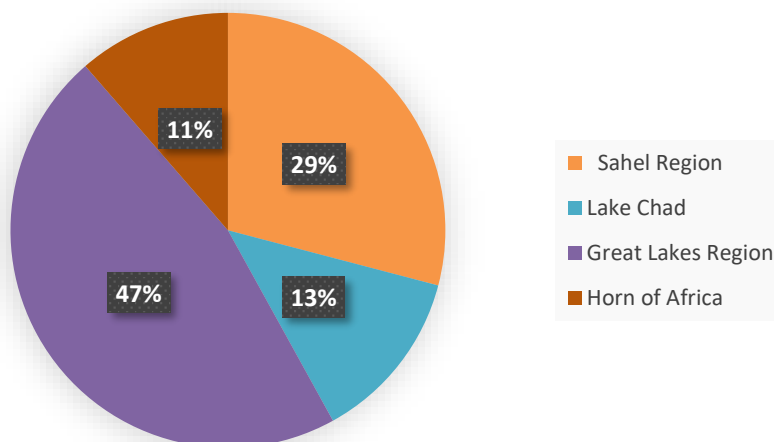
Figure 12: Percentage of Attacks in Epicentres



Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

13. Deaths Recorded in Epicentres

Figure 13: Deaths in Epicentres



Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

Total Attacks in Epicentres: 876

- **Great Lakes (DRC): 575**
 - **Sahel region: 195**
 - **Lake Chad basin: 55**
 - **Horn of Africa: 51**
- Within the period under review, the **Great lakes (DRC)** recorded **66%**;
 - **Sahel region** recorded **22%**;
 - **The Horn of Africa** recorded **6%** of all the attacks in Africa.
 - The **Lake Chad Basin** recorded **6%** of all the attacks.

Total Deaths in Africa: 3638

- **Great Lakes (DRC): 1697**
 - **Sahel Region: 1098**
 - **Lake Chad basin: 429**
 - **Horn of Africa: 414**
- **47%** of the deaths recorded in the **Great Lake Region**.
 - **30%** of the deaths occurred in the **Sahel**.
 - **12%** of the deaths recorded in the **Lake Chad Basin**.
 - **11%** of the deaths recorded within the period under review occurred in the **Horn of Africa**.

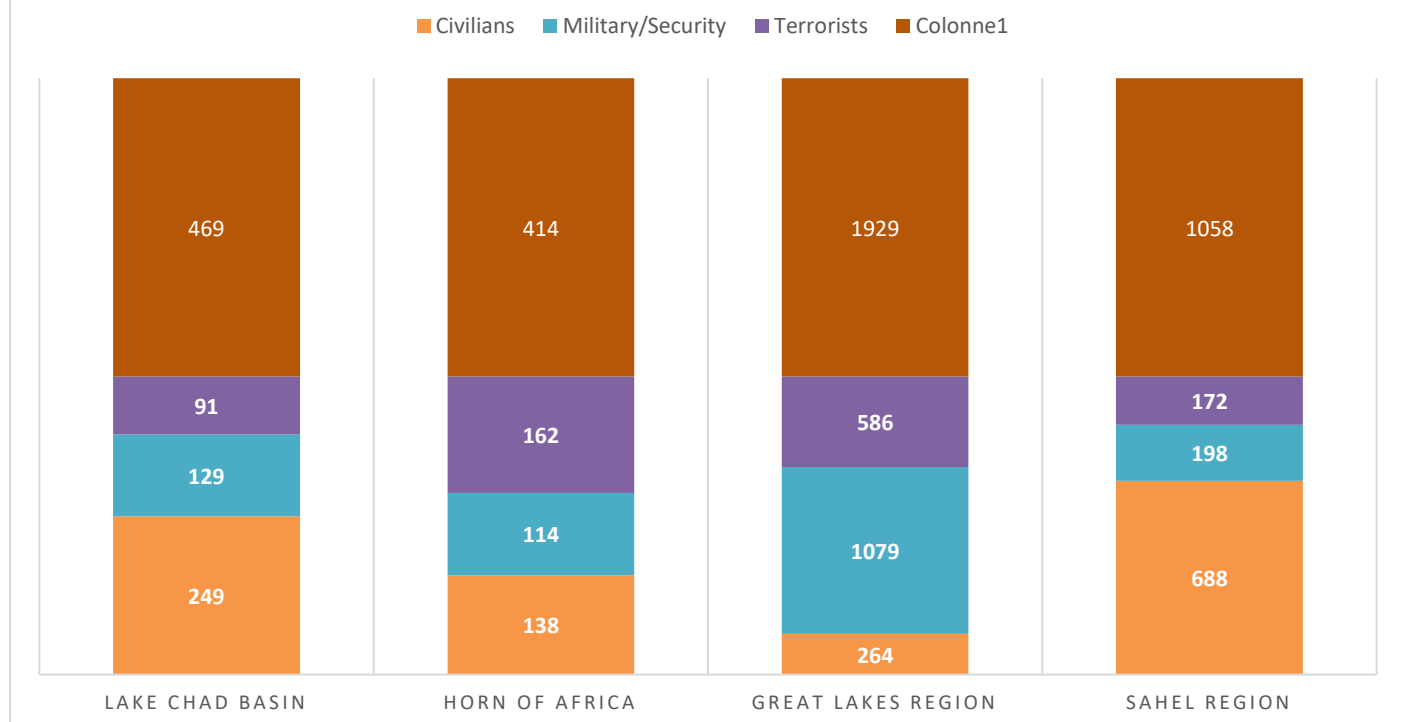
14. Deaths by Category in Epicentres

Table 7: Category of Deaths in Epicentres

Epicentre	Civilian	Military	Terrorists	Comments
Great Lake Region	264	1079	586	The Great Lakes region (DRC) recorded the highest number of deaths against Military/Security Forces among the epicentres
Sahel Region	688	198	172	The Sahel region recorded the highest number of deaths against Civilians among the epicentres.
Lake Chad Basin	249	129	91	The Lake Chad basin recorded the lowest number of deaths against Terrorists among the epicentres.
Horn of Africa	138	114	162	The Horn of Africa recorded the lowest number of deaths against Civilians among the epicentres
TOTAL	1339	1520	1011	

Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

Figure 14: Percentage deaths category in epicentres



Source: ACSRT Database, 2021

CONCLUSION

The data gathered by the ACSRT reveals that activities associated with terrorism and violent extremism have shot up in the first half of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020. The increase in terrorist attacks is consistent with the previous years except for 2020 when the continent witnessed a decline.

In our analyses, the decline in the number of terrorist attacks and deaths in 2020 was attributed to three main factors, namely; the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic that interestingly also affected the movement of terrorist fighters partly due to the fear of contracting the virus as well as the lockdown imposed by governments across the continent to contain the spread of the virus; intensive counter terrorism operations by national, regional and international forces across Africa and infighting among some of the active terrorist groups on the continent particularly between ISGS and JNIM on one hand and Boko Haram and ISWAP on the other hand.

The ease of restrictions on movements and the opening up of economies might have contributed to the increase in the terrorist attacks during the first half of 2021. If this trend continues, 2021 could witness an overall sharp increase in terrorist and violent extremist incidents on the continent, exceeding not only 2020 figures but the years prior.

While this scenario paints a gloomy picture, a closer look reveals a decrease in attacks in most hitherto hotspots such as the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin. What is driving the continental increase for the period under review is the number of attacks and deaths taking place in the Great Lakes region specifically DRC, where a plethora of terrorist and violent extremist groups are wreaking havoc among communities in Ituri, North-Kivu and South-Kivu provinces in the Eastern part of the country.

For Southern Africa where there has also been a drastic decline in terrorist attacks and deaths in Cabo Delgado region of Mozambique, the effort by the security forces needs to be sustained to ensure that the ASWJ group is significantly weakened and to prevent them from maintaining a foothold in the country and beyond.

In East Africa and the Horn of Africa Al-Shabaab's mastery of complex attacks means that in spite of a drastic fall in number of attacks, casualties resulting from those attacks were higher than those recorded for the same period in 2020.

With the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic appears to be behind us and countries opening their economies and easing restrictions, security and defense forces must remain vigilant to ensure that terrorist and violent extremist groups do not exploit the easing of restrictions including movements to launch further attacks in the various regions affected by the scourge.

FORECAST FOR NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the Africa Terrorism Bulletin will cover terrorism incidents from 1st June – 31st December 2021.

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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