



TERRORISM

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GLCb2026 Africas Contemporary Security
Challenges

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Terrorism - Definition and Typology

■ Peter Waldmann – Terrorist Calculus:

- a) Violent act (or threat to commit it)
- b) Intended strong emotional reaction
- c) Subsequent certain reaction (hasty, panic-dictated protective and retaliatory measures, but also active assistance in the combat effort)

Table 1. Frequencies of definitional elements in 109 definitions of terrorism

	Element	Frequency %
1	Violence, force	83.5
2	Political	65
3	Fear, terror emphasised	51
4	Threat	47
5	(Psychological) effects and (anticipated) reactions	41.5
6	Victim - target differentiation	37.5
7	Purposive, planned, systematic, organised action	32
8	Method of combat, strategy, tactic	30.5
9	Extranormality, in breach of accepted rules, without humanitarian constraints	30
10	Coercion, extortion, induction of compliance	28
11	Publicity aspect	21.5
12	Arbitrariness; impersonal, random character; indiscrimination	21
13	Civilians, noncombatants, neutrals, outsiders as victims	17.5
14	Intimidation	17
15	Innocence of victims emphasised	15.5
16	Group, movement, organisation as perpetrator	14
17	Symbolic aspect, demonstration to others	13.5
18	Incalculability, unpredictability, unexpectedness of occurrence of violence	9
19	Clandestine, covert nature	9
20	Repetitiveness; serial or campaign character of violence	7
21	Criminal	6
22	Demands made on third parties	4

Terrorism - Definition and Typology

- „Terrorism is the use of aggressive and excessive violence (or the threat of such violence) that is planned with the dominant purpose of sending a serious intimidating message to a significantly larger number of people (the target audience) than just those who are directly harmed by the primary violent acts or threats.”
- The Anarchist wave (1878–1919), the Anti-Colonial wave (1920s–early 1960s), the New Left wave (mid-1960s–1990s), and the Religious wave (1979/1995–?).
- Typology Mareš - the ultra-left, ultra-right, ethnic and territorial, religious, ecological, criminal, psychopathological, single-issue.

- Schmid:

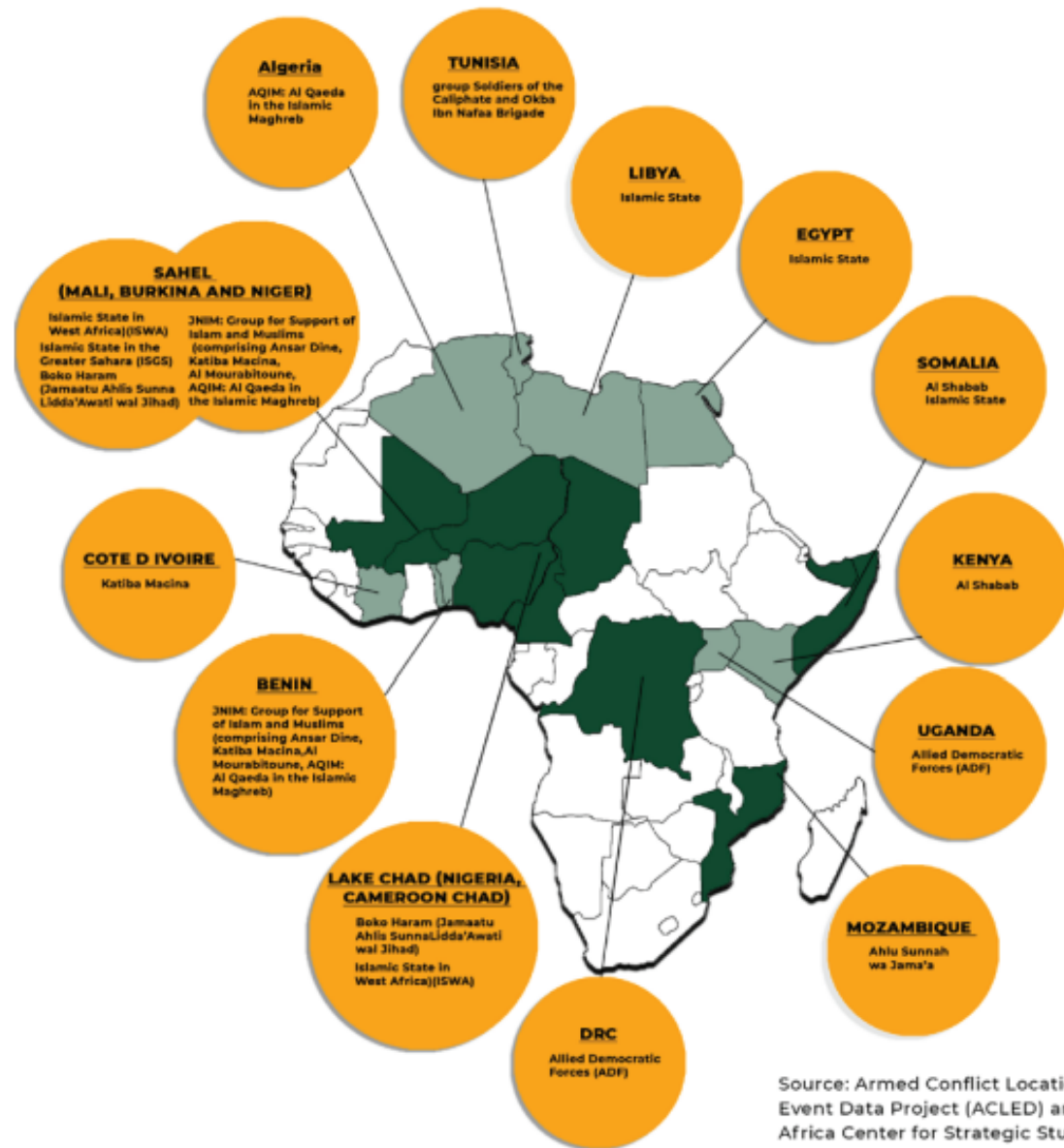
There are many types of terrorism, the most prominent ones being:

- single-issue terrorism;
- lone wolf/actor terrorism
- vigilante terrorism;
- separatist (ethno-nationalist) terrorism;
- left-wing terrorism;
- right-wing terrorism;
- religious terrorism;
- cyber-terrorism;
- chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) terrorism;
- state (or regime) terrorism.²¹

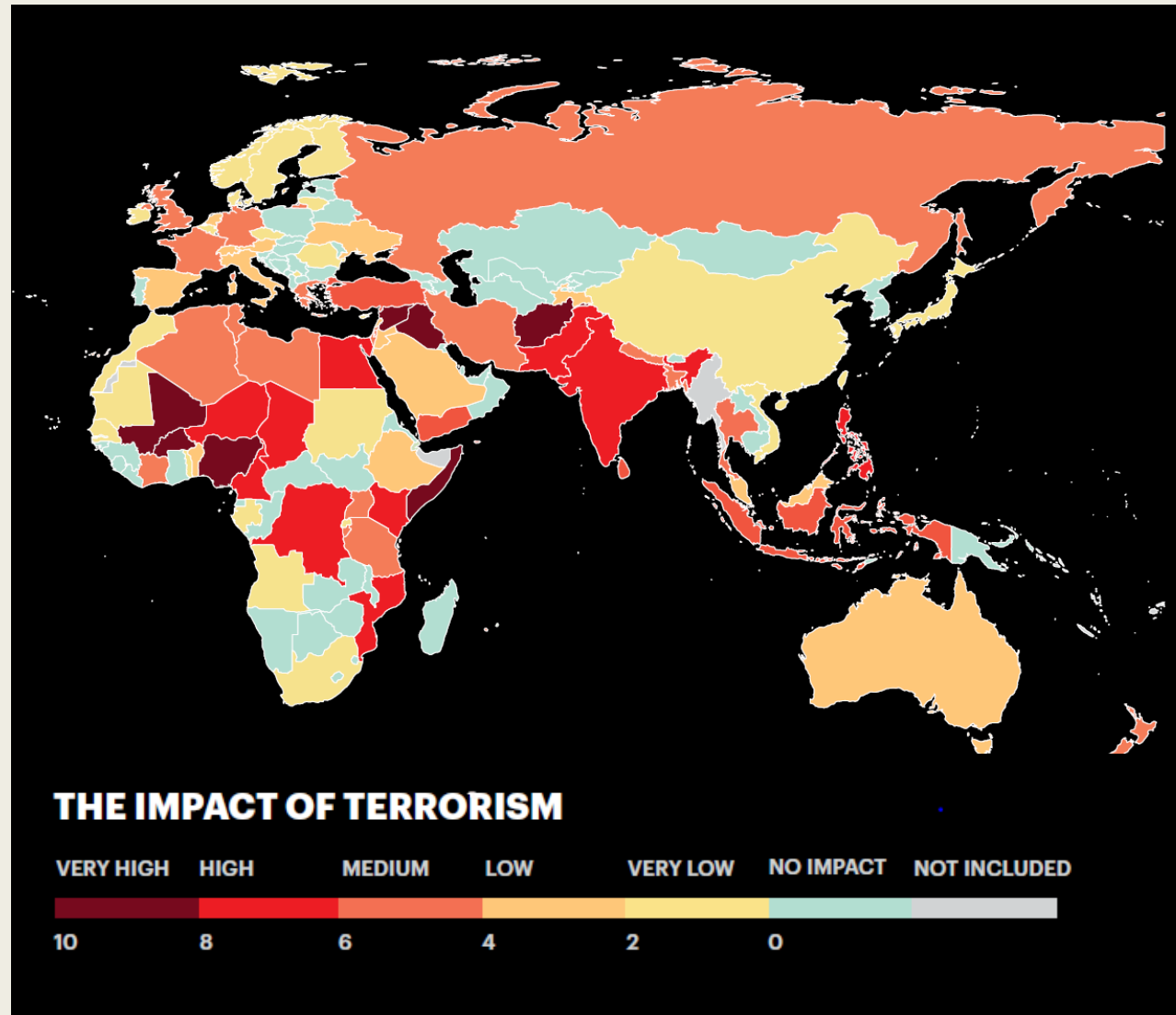
Trends of Contemporary Terrorism

- 2007-2021 - number of terrorist attack?
- Violent conflicts the main driver of terrorism, 97% of terrorist attacks in 2021 took place in a country where is an ongoing conflict.
- The worst situation is in the Sahel, 48% (3461) of all attacks, the worst situation in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA), Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM).
- Improvement in Nigeria (Boko Haram)
- IS the deadliest terrorist group (Islamic State - Khorasan Province (ISKP), Islamic State - Sinai Province (ISSP) and ISWA).
- **Three main trends in Africa.**
- <https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>

Trends of Contemporary Terrorism - Africa



Trends of Contemporary Terrorism



RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE	RANK CHANGE
1	Afghanistan	9.109	↔
2	Iraq	8.511	↔
3	Somalia	8.398	↔
4	Burkina Faso	8.270	↓ 2
5	Syria	8.250	↔
6	Nigeria	8.233	↑ 2
7	Mali	8.152	↔
8	Niger	7.856	↓ 4
10	Pakistan	7.825	↑ 2
11	Cameroon	7.432	↔
12	India	7.432	↑ 2
13	Mozambique	7.432	↑ 4
14	Colombia	7.068	↔
15	Egypt	6.932	↑ 2
16	Philippines	6.790	↑ 1
17	Democratic Republic of the Congo	6.733	↓ 5
18	Chile	6.496	↓ 5
19	Chad	6.379	↑ 3
20	Kenya	6.166	↑ 2
21	Yemen	5.870	↑ 1
22	Thailand	5.723	↑ 3
23	Turkey	5.651	↑ 6
24	Indonesia	5.500	↓ 4
25	Sri Lanka	5.445	↑ 4
26	Libya	5.100	↑ 1
27	Iran	5.015	↔

Trends of Contemporary Terrorism

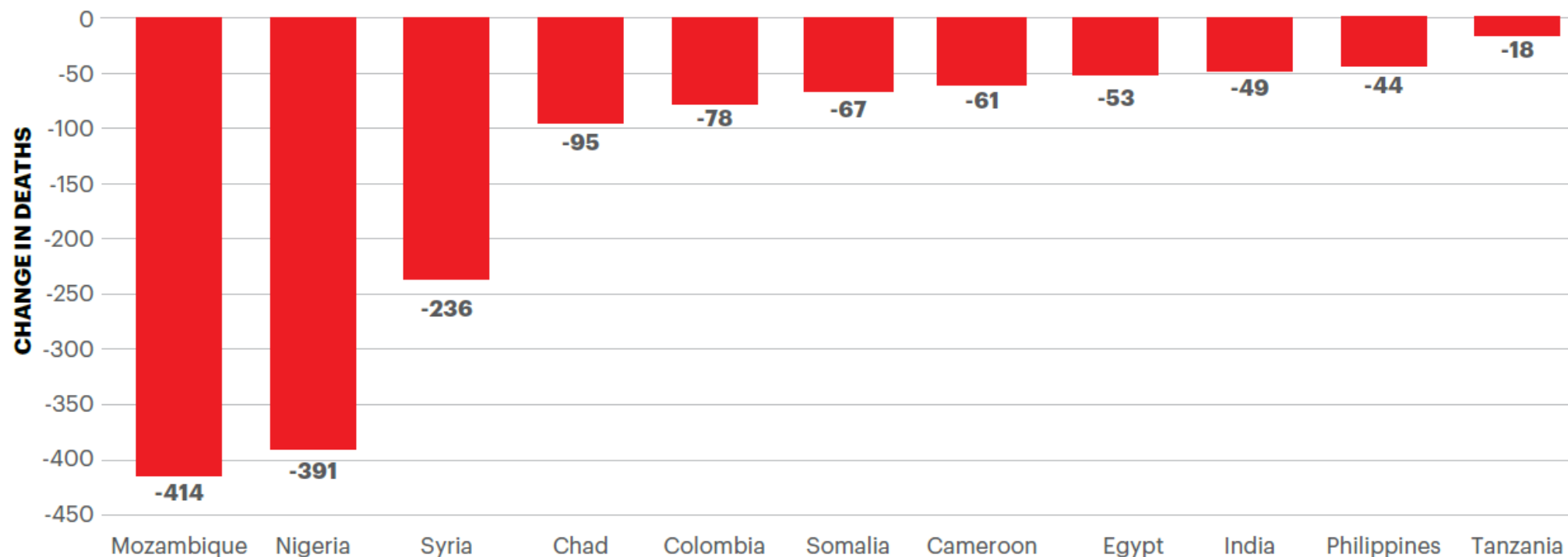
					DESCRIPTION
1	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	PROVINCE	KABUL	DEATHS 170 A suicide bomber killed at least 170 people and injured at least 200 others when he detonated his explosives at Kabul International Airport. The attack was followed by another suicide bomb nearby, with reports of gunfire. Islamic State - Khorasan Province claimed responsibility for the attack.
	DATE	26/8/21	GROUP	ISLAMIC STATE - KHORASAN PROVINCE	
2	COUNTRY	BURKINA FASO	PROVINCE	YAGHA	DEATHS 160 Gunmen killed at least 160 people and wounded at least 40 others in Solhan village in the Sahel region. The assailants first attacked members of a volunteer defence force militia before attacking civilians and burning down houses and a market. No group had claimed responsibility for the attack but jihadists operate in the area.
	DATE	5/6/21	GROUP	UNKNOWN	
3	COUNTRY	NIGER	REGION	TAHOUA	DEATHS 137 Gunmen killed 137 civilians in three coordinated attacks in the Tahoua region. Islamic State West in Africa (ISWA) claimed responsibility, saying they targeted pro-government militia members.
	DATE	21/3/21	GROUP	ISLAMIC STATE IN WEST AFRICA (ISWA)	
4	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	PROVINCE	KANDAHAR	DEATHS 100 Gunmen killed at least 100 civilians they forced from their homes in Kandahar province. The Ministry of Interior Affairs said that at least another 200 people remained unaccounted for. The Ministry said the Taliban was responsible, although the group denied it had carried out the attack.
	DATE	22/7/21	GROUP	TALIBAN	
5	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	PROVINCE	KABUL	DEATHS 86 A series of three bombs killed at least 86 civilians, most of them students, and wounded 150 others at a high school in Kabul province. A car bomb initially exploded, followed by two others of unspecified type that detonated as students fled outside. No group had claimed responsibility for the attack, but based on location and tactic jihadists were probably responsible. The Taliban issued a statement denying responsibility for the attack.
	DATE	8/5/21	GROUP	UNKNOWN	
6	COUNTRY	BURKINA FASO	REGION	SAHEL	DEATHS 80 Gunmen killed 59 civilians, 15 security forces personnel and six pro-government militiamen, and wounded 19 others, in an attack on a military convoy that was escorting civilians on the road between Arbinda and Gorgadji in the Sahel region. Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM) claimed responsibility for the attack.
	DATE	18/8/21	GROUP	JAMAAT NUSRAT AL-ISLAM WAL MUSLIMEEN (JNIM)	
7	COUNTRY	NIGER	REGION	TILLABERI	DEATHS 70 Gunmen on motorbikes killed around 70 civilians and wounded around 17 others in the village of Tchombangou. Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA) claimed responsibility, saying they targeted pro-government militia members.
	DATE	2/1/21	GROUP	ISLAMIC STATE IN WEST AFRICA (ISWA)	
8	COUNTRY	BURKINA FASO	REGION	SAHEL	DEATHS 53 Gunmen killed at least 49 police officers and four civilians at a police post near an abandoned mine in the Sahel region at around 0500hrs on 14 November. No group had claimed responsibility for the attack at the time of writing, but local media outlets reported that Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM) was probably responsible.
	DATE	14/11/21	GROUP	JAMAAT NUSRAT AL-ISLAM WAL MUSLIMEEN (JNIM)	
9	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	PROVINCE	KUNDUZ	DEATHS 50 A suicide bomber detonated explosives during Friday prayers in a Shia mosque in the Kunduz province. Local officials reported that at least 50 civilians were killed and 140 more wounded. Islamic State - Khorasan Province claimed responsibility.
	DATE	8/10/21	GROUP	ISLAMIC STATE - KHORASAN PROVINCE	
10	COUNTRY	AFGHANISTAN	PROVINCE	KANDAHAR	DEATHS 47 Four suicide bombers killed at least 47 people and injured at least 80 others in an attack on a Shia mosque in Kandahar province. Two suicide bombers detonated explosives at the entrance to the mosque, followed by two further detonations inside the mosque. Islamic State - Khorasan Province claimed responsibility for the attack.
	DATE	15/10/21	GROUP	ISLAMIC STATE - KHORASAN PROVINCE	

Trends of Contemporary Terrorism

FIGURE 1.3

Largest decreases in deaths from terrorism, 2020–2021

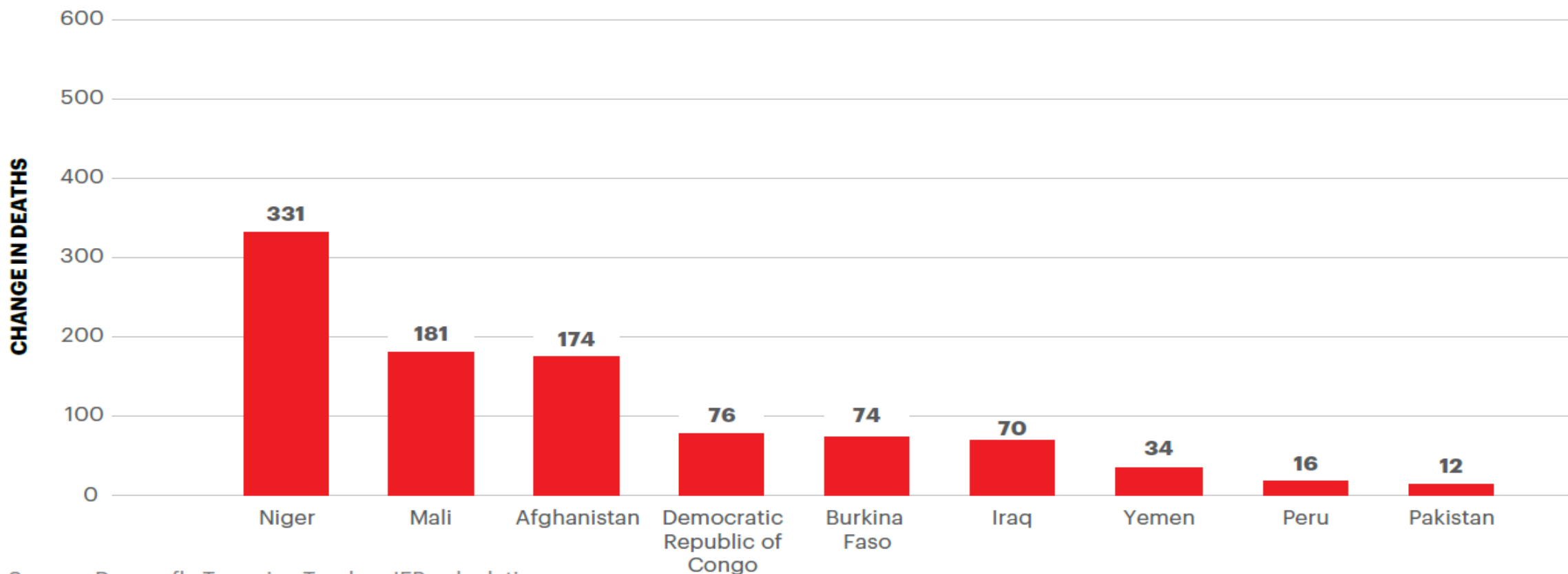
Mozambique had the largest decrease in the number of deaths from terrorism, reversing seven years of consecutive increases.



Source: Dragonfly TerrorismTracker, IEP calculations

Trends of Contemporary Terrorism

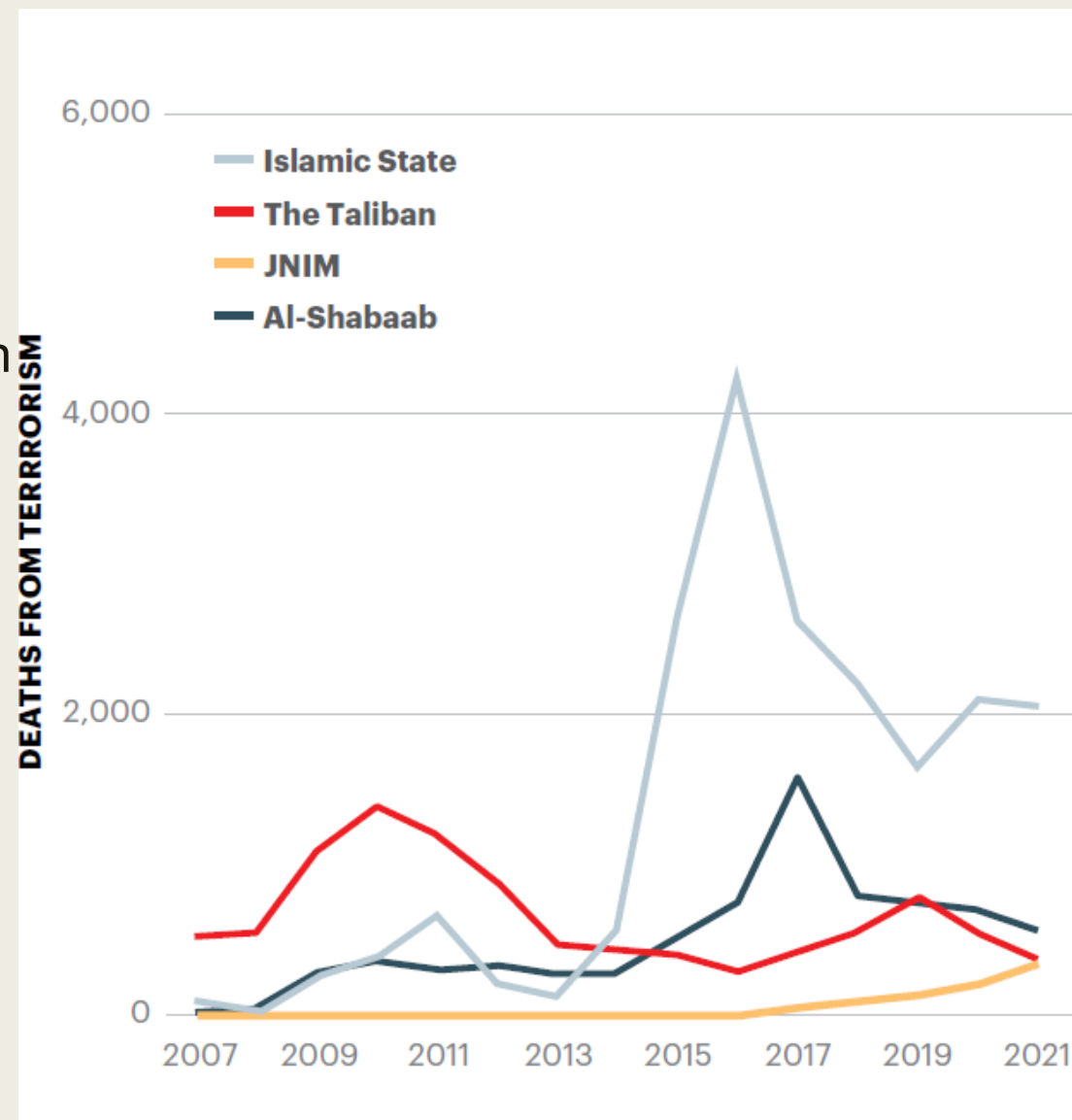
Largest increases in deaths from terrorism, 2020–2021



Source: Dragonfly TerrorismTracker, IEP calculations

Trends of Contemporary Terrorism

- Islamic State (IS), Al-Shabaab, Taliban and Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen
- 3,364 (47% of all victims).

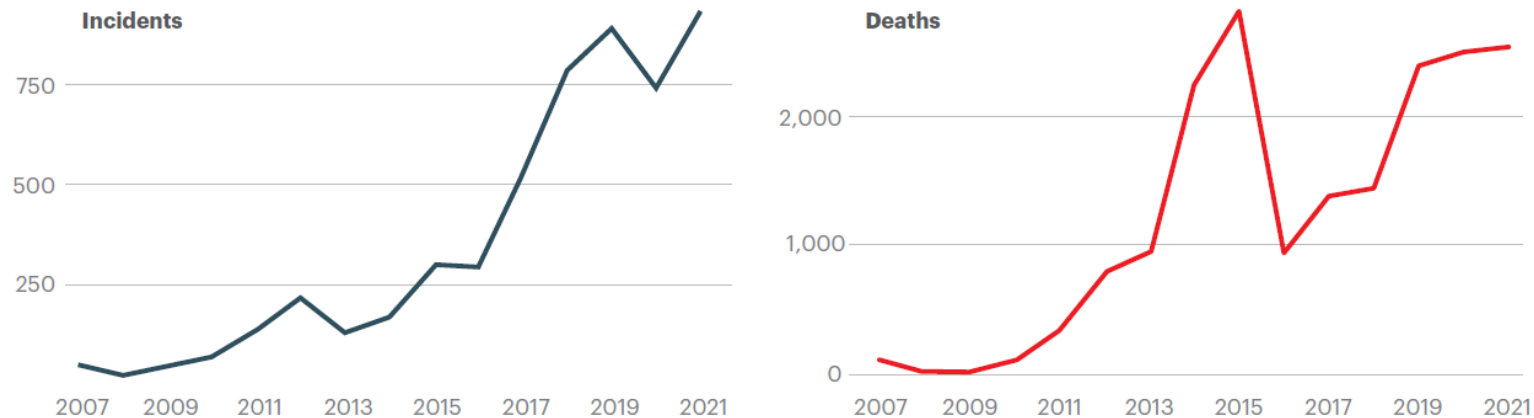


Trends in Sahel

- Three types of terrorist groups in the Sahel – international, local with ethnic-nationalist-religious overtones and local arising as a reaction to a certain problem (Dan Nan Ambassagou Association, Koglweogos).
- Factors affecting the success of TG in the Sahel: rapid population growth, lack of water and food, political instability, corruption, weakness of the security apparatus, terrain and porous borders, poverty, etc.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcAzHyg3HHw>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4L9VxCg_-VQ

Incidents and deaths from terrorism in the Sahel, 2007–2021

Both incidents and deaths increased by well over 1,000 per cent from 2007 to 2021.



Source: Dragonfly TerrorismTracker, IEP calculations

BOX 3.1

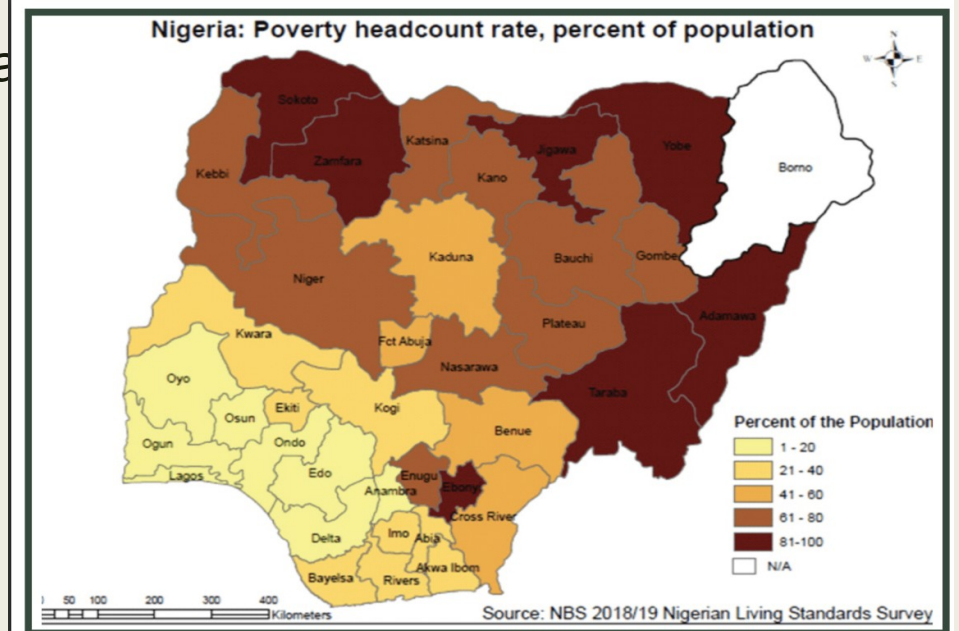
The Sahel

Definitions of the Sahel vary. In this analysis, the Sahel region denotes the semi-arid region of western and north-central Africa, which comprises parts of ten countries:

- Burkina Faso,
- Cameroon,
- Chad,
- The Gambia,
- Guinea,
- Mali,
- Mauritania,
- Niger,
- Nigeria
- Senegal.

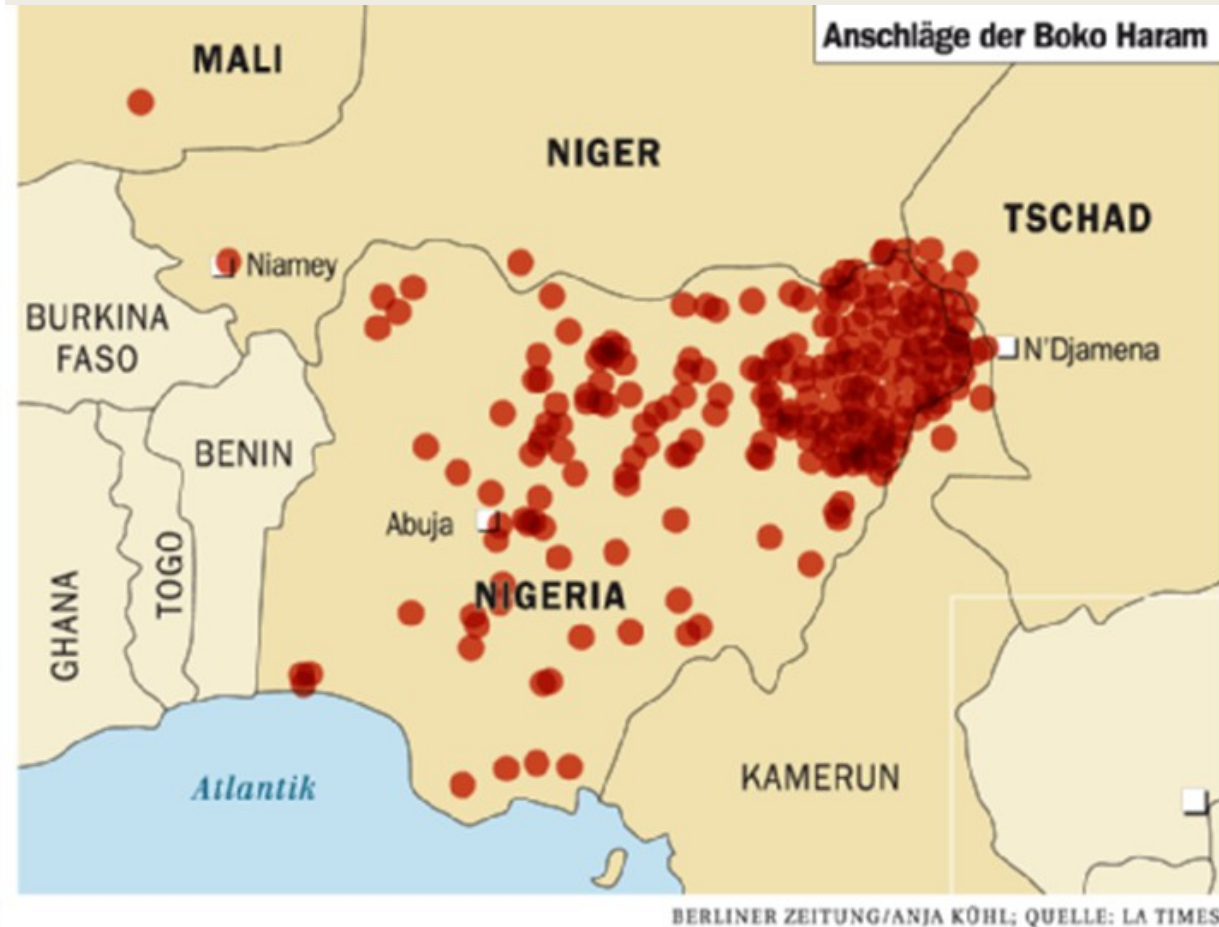
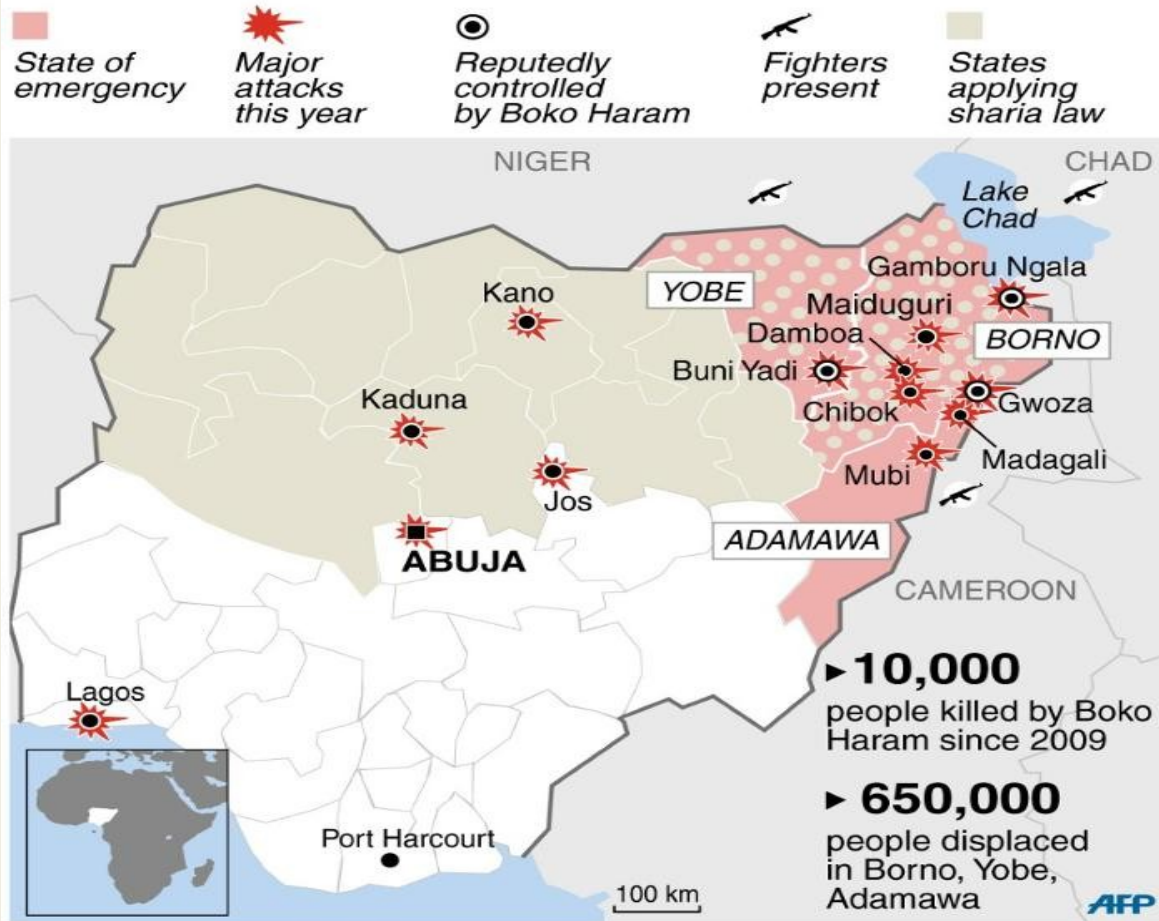
Case Study: Boko Haram

- Factors influencing the creation of BH - high level of corruption, poverty, non-transparency, unemployment, corruption of the elites, social inequalities, lack of national awareness, weak security apparatus, etc.
- The Rise of Boko Haram – Mauduguri 2001 - Mohammed Yusuf.
- Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad – (Boko Haram – Hausa language).
- Organization structure and ideology.
- Abubakar Shekau (2009) – violent activity, wide spectrum of activity, Sambisa.
- Khalid Barnawi – Ansaru (2012) x Abu Musab al-Barnawi – ISIS-WA (2016).
- International links to the Islamic State and al-Qaeda
- Bakura Doro a Bakura Sa'alaba



Case Study: Boko Haram

Boko Haram's impact on Nigeria



Thank you for your
attention