



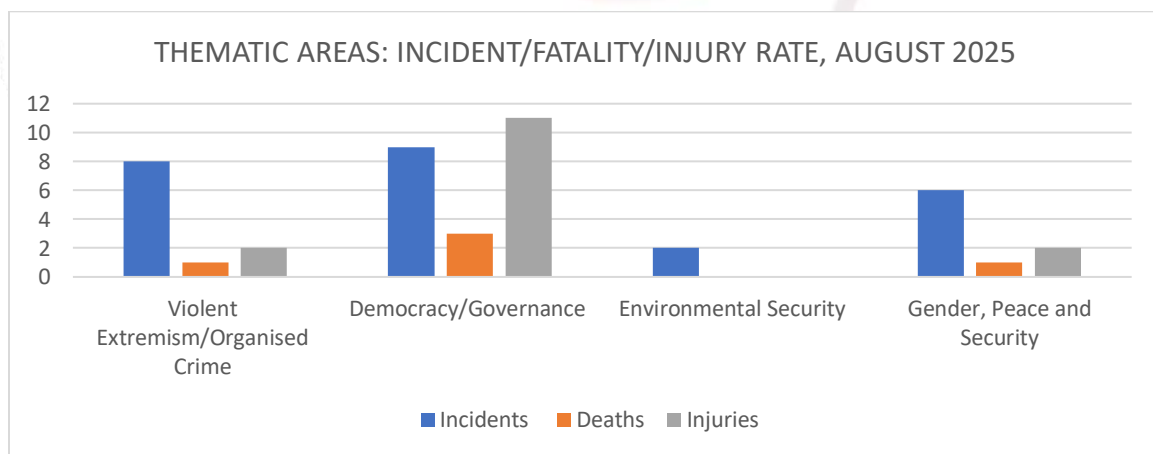
NEWS MONTHLY BULLETIN (WANEP-THE GAMBIA) (AUGUST, 2025)

1. INTRODUCTION

In the reporting period, a total of twenty-five (25) incidents were recorded through the WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS)¹ as part of the *Monthly Conflict Census*. These incidents resulted in five (5) fatalities and thirteen (13) injuries arising from a range of causes including road accidents, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), assault, and domestic violence reported during the month.²

As shown in the thematic graph below, the *Democracy and Governance* theme recorded the highest number of incidents, with a total of nine (9) cases. This was followed by the *Organised Crime and Violent Extremism* theme, which accounted for eight (8) incidents. The *Environmental Security* theme registered two (2) incidents, while the *Gender, Peace, and Security* theme reported six (6) incidents documented.

Geographically, West Coast Region registered the highest number of incidents with a total of sixteen (16), followed by the Banjul with six (6) incidents. The Kanifing Municipality recorded three (3) incidents, while the North Bank Region, the Lower River Region, the Central River Region and the Upper River Region each reported no incident.

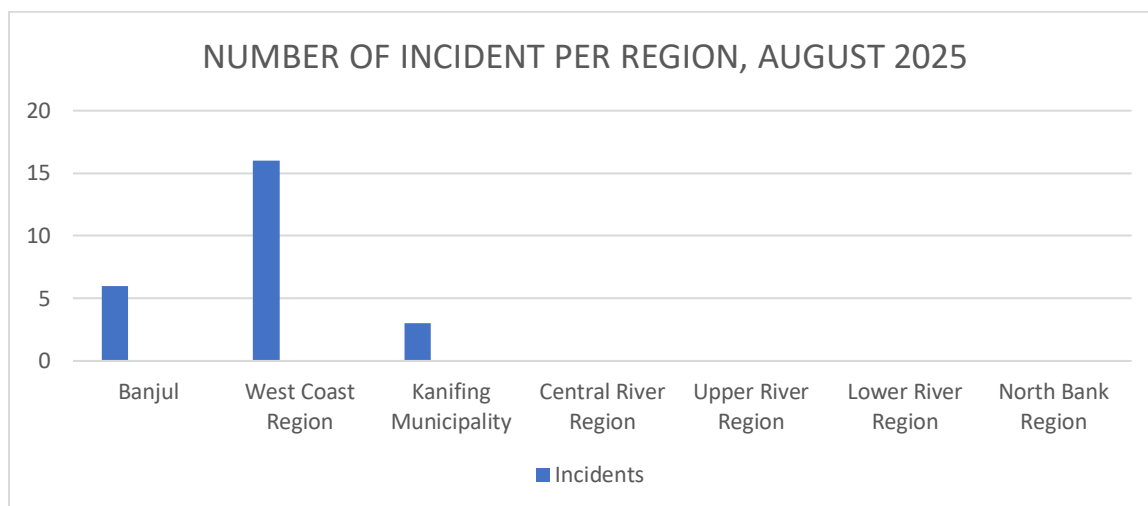


Source: WANEP-NEWS³

¹ news.wanepsystems.net

² WANEP National Early Warning System (NEWS): news.wanepsystems.net

³ news.wanepsystems.net



Source: WANEP-NEWS⁴

2. ORGANISED CRIME AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

In the reporting period, a series of incidents across The Gambia have raised serious security concerns. The National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC) uncovered over two dozen illegal electricity connections at the former President Yahya Jammeh's Batokunku garden⁵, highlighting persistent challenges of unauthorized utility connections. Meanwhile, the son of former President Sir Dawda Jawara reported vandalism at his residence following his public political endorsement of opposition leader Essa Faal⁶, raising concerns about politically motivated violence. The Drug Law Enforcement Agency (DLEAG) apprehended three foreign nationals with illicit drugs and firearms⁷, while the Serekunda Police arrested 19 suspects involved in a large-scale online scamming operation, seizing electronics, passports, and cash.⁸ Additional incidents include an assault case in Old Jeshwang, and a Police Intervention Unit (PIU) raid in Paradise Estate resulting in the arrest of 11 foreign nationals linked to suspected cybercrime.

The recurring incidents underline vulnerabilities across multiple dimensions of human security. Energy security is threatened by illegal connections, which compromise infrastructure reliability and expose communities to fire hazards. The reported vandalism of the Jawara residence points to political intolerance, undermining civic freedoms and threatening personal safety. The drug

⁴ news.wanepsystems.net

⁵ Foroyaa Newspaper (2025). NAWEC Uncovers Over 25 Illegal Electrical Connections at Former President's Garden in Batokunku. Available at: <https://foroyaa.net/nawec-uncovers-over-25-illegal-electrical-connections-at-former-presidents-garden-in-batokunku/> (Accessed August 3, 2025).

⁶ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Jawara's son says house vandalised after publicly endorsing Essa Faal. Available at: <https://standard.gm/jawaras-son-says-house-vandalised-after-publicly-endorsing-essa-faal/> (Accessed August 3, 2025).

⁷ The Standard Newspaper (2025). DLEAG arrest 3 foreigners with drugs, firearms. Available at: <https://standard.gm/dleag-arrest-3-foreigners-with-drugs-firearms/> (Accessed August 8, 2025).

⁸ Foroyaa Newspaper (2025). Police Arrest 19 Suspected Online Scammers in Brusubi. Available at: <https://foroyaa.net/police-arrest-19-suspected-online-scammers-in-brusubi/> (Accessed August 14, 2025).

and firearm seizures reflect risks of transnational organized crime that endanger community health and security. Rising cases of cybercrime in The Gambia, especially involving foreign nationals, threaten economic security, public trust, and social stability. Meanwhile, reckless driving and physical assaults contribute to community-level insecurity, highlighting gaps in law enforcement, urban safety, and social cohesion.

3. DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE

In August 2025, concerns over transparency and accountability have emerged in The Gambia's governance landscape. A group of Gamtel and Gamcel staff has demanded government clarification on the conflicting compensation figures provided by two cabinet ministers regarding a World Bank–approved package, with the Finance Minister citing \$10 million while the Communication Minister reported \$6.4 million. Similarly, the Gambia Immigration Department's ongoing issuance of national identity cards abroad has sparked criticism and protest from opposition parties and civil society⁹, who allege the exercise is politically motivated and aimed at influencing upcoming elections. Meanwhile, land-related disputes have resurfaced in Kartong, where residents protested what they described as an unfair allocation of land to the Jammeh Kunda family¹⁰, raising questions about equity in land administration and the protection of community rights.

Similarly, The Gambia Police Force reportedly arrested nineteen (19) individuals for staging a protest outside the premises of the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA). The demonstrators were voicing their dissatisfaction with the newly introduced mandatory data price floor imposed on GSM operators, which many citizens believe will further burden consumers already grappling with high costs of living.

The Police in Kalagi and Brikama have reported two tragic road accidents that claimed the lives of children and left several others injured. In Kalagi, a commercial vehicle suffered a tyre burst while traveling from Bondali towards Soma, leading to a collision with a Senegalese-registered private vehicle. The accident resulted in the death of a 12-year-old boy and left eight others injured. In a separate incident at Bafuloto village, a motor vehicle struck two pedestrians—a woman and a child—leaving the child dead and the woman hospitalized with a fracture.

These developments underscore persistent challenges in democratic governance, particularly in transparency, accountability, and institutional credibility. Conflicting ministerial statements on compensation weaken public trust in government communication and cast doubt on the fairness of the restructuring process. Allegations of politicized issuance of ID cards abroad highlight

⁹ The Standard Newspaper (2025). IPC to call emergency meeting over controversial overseas ID card issuance scheme. Available at: <https://standard.gm/ipc-to-call-emergency-meeting-over-controversial-overseas-id-card-issuance-scheme/> (Accessed August 8, 2025).

¹⁰ The Standard Newspaper (2025). Kartong protests' unfair land demarcation'. Available at: <https://standard.gm/kartong-protestsunfair-land-demarcation/> (Accessed August 18, 2025).

concerns about the integrity of electoral processes and the misuse of state institutions for partisan advantage, threatening democratic consolidation. Furthermore, community protests over land demarcation reflect weak land governance and the recurring politicization of land ownership, which can fuel grievances and undermine social cohesion.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

In the reporting period, the resurfacing of tensions in Kartong over alleged illegal sand mining highlights ongoing environmental management challenges, as disputes between the Village Development Committee, traditional authorities, and miners threaten community cohesion and sustainable resource use.¹¹ At the same time, severe flooding in Tallinding Koloban, Tallinding Farokono, and Churchills Town¹² underscores the vulnerability of urban settlements to climate impacts, exacerbated by poor drainage infrastructure. Together, these incidents reflect the intersection of weak regulatory enforcement, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, and inadequate urban planning, all of which undermine human security and resilience. If left unaddressed, such issues risk escalating community grievances, heightening environmental degradation, and increasing public health and safety hazards.

5. GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY

The death of a one-month-old baby in Wellingara, allegedly linked to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), the assault of a woman in Farato in a case of domestic violence, and the attempted rape of an 8-year-old girl in Jabang collectively point to deep-rooted gender-based violence and harmful practices threatening women and children in The Gambia. These incidents underscore systemic gaps in law enforcement, community protection, and public awareness, as well as the urgent need to strengthen accountability mechanisms against perpetrators. They also highlight the persistence of harmful traditions like FGM despite existing bans, alongside rising cases of sexual and domestic violence, which erode human security, dignity, and social stability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

a. To address the growing threats of organized crime and violent extremism, the Ministry of Interior should prioritize enhancing law enforcement capacity through specialized training, intelligence-sharing, and modern investigative tools to dismantle criminal networks. Stronger cross-border collaboration with regional security bodies is crucial in tackling transnational crimes such as drug trafficking, cybercrime, and illegal arms smuggling. At the community level, investing

¹¹ Foroyaa Newspaper (2025). Alleged Illegal Sand Mining Sparks Controversy in Kartong. Available at: <https://foroyaa.net/alleged-illegal-sand-mining-sparks-controversy-in-kartong/> (Accessed August 6, 2025).

¹² Foroyaa Newspaper (2025). Heavy Rains Cause Flooding in Tallinding and Churchills Town. Available at: <https://foroyaa.net/heavy-rains-cause-flooding-in-tallinding-and-churchills-town/> (Accessed August 6, 2025)

in awareness campaigns and community policing will help build trust, encourage early reporting of suspicious activities, and reduce vulnerabilities.

b. Strengthening democratic governance requires improved transparency, accountability, and institutional credibility. The government should standardize official communication to avoid conflicting statements, ensuring citizens receive accurate and consistent information.

The electoral process must be safeguarded by placing independent oversight over the issuance of national identity cards abroad to prevent manipulation. In addition, reforms in land governance, such as digitizing land records and establishing impartial dispute-resolution mechanisms, are necessary to address community grievances.

c. Environmental security challenges require a multi-pronged response combining regulation, infrastructure development, and community engagement. The Ministry of Lands should strictly enforce laws against illegal sand mining, and it should be accompanied by sustainable livelihood alternatives for affected communities to prevent economic dependence on harmful practices.

The government must prioritize investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, including effective drainage systems in flood-prone areas, to mitigate the impacts of heavy rainfall. Strengthening local participation in environmental governance can empower communities to monitor natural resource use and mediate disputes, while national climate adaptation strategies should be integrated into development policies to enhance resilience against environmental shocks.

d. Promoting gender, peace, and security demands urgent action to combat harmful practices and gender-based violence. The government must enforce existing laws against FGM, domestic abuse, and child exploitation, ensuring timely prosecution of offenders to deter impunity. Survivor-centered support services, including safe shelters, medical care, counselling, and legal aid, should be expanded nationwide to protect and rehabilitate victims. National awareness campaigns involving religious leaders, community elders, and youth groups are essential to challenge harmful social norms and promote gender equality.

CONCLUSION

The range of incidents reported across The Gambia—from organized crime and politically motivated violence to governance challenges, environmental hazards, and gender-based abuses—highlights the interconnected nature of human security risks. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach that strengthens law enforcement, enhances institutional transparency, promotes community engagement, and protects vulnerable populations. By implementing targeted interventions across these thematic areas, the government and its partners can build resilience, foster social cohesion, and ensure the safety, dignity, and well-being of all citizens. Effective coordination, sustained political will, and active

public participation are essential to transforming these recommendations into tangible improvements in security, governance, and societal stability.

CENSUS OF INCIDENTS FOR AUGUST 2025

| THEMATIC AREA | NO of Attacks. | VICTIMS | |
|--|----------------|---------|--|
| | | DEATHS | INJURIES |
| Cybercrime/Fraud | 2 | - | - |
| Physical/Armed Assault | 2 | | |
| Illicit Drug Trafficking | | | - |
| Homicide | | | |
| Suicide | 1 | 1 | - |
| <u>DEMOCRACY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE:</u> | | | |
| Demonstration (peaceful) | 3 | - | |
| Demonstration (violent) | | | |
| Strike | | - | - |
| Intimidation and Threats | | - | - |
| Arrest/Detention | 3 | - | - |
| Road Accident | 2 | 3 | 11 |
| Building Collapse | | | |
| Election-Related Violence | | | |
| <u>ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY:</u> | | | |
| <u>Pandemic/Epidemics:</u> | | | <u>Confirmed/Infected Cases</u> |
| | | - | |
| Flood/Rainstorm | 2 | | - |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|-----------|
| | | | |
| <u>GENDER, PEACE AND SECURITY:</u> | | | |
| SGBV: Sexual Assault/Rape | 4 | 1 | |
| Human Trafficking | | - | - |
| Total | 19 | 4 | 11 |

Through its National Early Warning System (NEWS), the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP- The Gambia) develops and disseminates a monthly bulletin on Human Security at the end of each month to inform the different actors and / or partners and formulates recommendations to different decision-makers for targeted responses to the given alerts.

This monthly monitoring is based on information gathered from the field by the WANEP-(The Gambia) field monitors, and also information gathered from the various national and international media.

OFF MAMA YAKUME AVENUE, FAJARA, KSMD, TEL +220 2777179, WEBSITE: WWW.WANEP.ORG