



# IN BRIEF

## East Africa and North and West Africa Counterterrorism Operations

This is the 8th quarterly report submitted by the Lead Inspector General for the East Africa Counterterrorism Operation and the North and West Africa Counterterrorism Operation. This report summarizes the quarter's key events and oversight of the U.S. mission to degrade and contain al-Qaeda and ISIS affiliates, and other violent extremist organizations (VEO), in designated areas of Africa.

### Violence Continues, Despite COVID-19

*pp. 10, 14-15, 44-45*

- USAFRICOM observed **no changes in VEO violence or tactics** due to COVID-19.
- USAFRICOM provided **reduced or remote** advising to African partners to lower the risk of COVID-19.

### Al-Shabaab Continues Insurgent-Style Attacks in East Africa

*pp. 14-18*

- Al-Shabaab conducted **multiple targeted killings** in Mogadishu and **mortar attacks on the city's airport** where the U.S. Embassy is located.
- **Violence declined slightly** in the Somalia-Kenya border region despite weekly al-Shabaab attacks.
- USAFRICOM cited adverse weather and resource allocation for **decreased airstrikes in Somalia**.

### USAID Increases Funding for COVID-19 Response

*pp. 28, 51-55*

- USAID allocated **\$17.6 million** in COVID-19 aid to Somalia and **\$66.7 million** to the Lake Chad region and central Sahel states.
- Administrative hurdles, additional layers of approval, and inconsistent guidance **slowed USAID's COVID-19 humanitarian response**.
- Nigeria's military has **increased harassment** of healthcare workers since the onset of the virus.

### Oversight

*pp. 58-73*

- Lead IG agencies **completed 16 reports** related to these operations, including the DoS's oversight and management of related foreign assistance programs.

### ISIS-Libya Resumes Attacks in North Africa

*pp. 32-33*

- ISIS-Libya conducted its **first attacks** in more than a year in Libya's desert region, including small arms attacks targeting the Libyan National Army (LNA) and civilians.
- USAFRICOM monitored VEOs in Libya remotely although it did not use **aerial or ground intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance** in Libya during the quarter.
- **ISIS-Libya has remained significantly degraded** since U.S. airstrikes in 2019 killed a large number of fighters, including several high-value targets.

### Foreign Interference Complicates Libyan Civil War

*pp. 34-39*

- USAFRICOM released images of **Russian combat jets** and equipment supporting Wagner Group mercenaries and their LNA allies.
- Russia supported approximately **3,000 Wagner Group mercenaries** and approximately **2,000 Syrian mercenaries** in Libya during the quarter.
- The LNA **lost territory around Tripoli**. The Government of National Accord (GNA) discovered **mass graves** in areas previously controlled by the LNA.
- DoS diplomatic efforts focused on **achieving a UN-led ceasefire and solution** to the Libyan civil conflict.

### Violence Grows in West Africa Despite CT Successes

*pp. 44-47*

- **VEO violence remained uncontained** as extremist groups expanded operations in the Western Sahel and coastal states.
- In June, a French-led, U.S.-supported operation in Mali **killed a top al-Qaeda leader in Africa**.
- A Chadian operation **killed a large number** of Boko Haram fighters in April.