

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Region: Somalia-Democratic Republic of the Congo-Nigeria-Niger-Mali

Date: 15 April 2026

Scope: Security | Diplomacy | Defence

Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Operational tempo across the Sahel remains elevated, with JNIM intensifying multi-point attacks in Burkina Faso, demonstrating sustained territorial ambition and tactical coordination against both military and auxiliary VDP positions. Concurrently, ISSP activity in Niger and Mali indicates continued pressure on security forces and affiliated militias, while the Malian army's operations near Sandare suggest ongoing counteroffensive efforts to disrupt insurgent mobility and logistics.

In Nigeria, the security environment remains volatile, with Boko Haram and ISWAP maintaining attack capability, while reported reprisals by security forces against civilian infrastructure risk exacerbating local grievances and undermining counterinsurgency efforts. In Somalia, large-scale airstrikes against Al-Shabaab reflect continued reliance on partner-enabled kinetic operations, amid growing political uncertainty that could complicate governance and security coordination.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, sustained clashes involving AFC-M23, FARDC, and Wazalendo are driving significant civilian displacement, while restrictions on humanitarian access highlight worsening protection conditions and operational constraints for aid actors. Overall, the regional picture reflects simultaneous escalation in insurgent activity, state military responses, and civilian vulnerability across multiple theaters.

BURKINA FASO

- BIR troops conducted operations in Aribanda, Burkina Faso, seizing a large number of motorcycles, rifles, and supplies, while released footage showed dozens of JNIM militants killed.
- JNIM claimed it took control of a military position in Ouinga, Burkina Faso, and a VDP position in Tio.

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- JNIM claimed it attacked soldiers on the outskirts of Titao, Burkina Faso, and seized a VDP position in Ouahigouya.
- JNIM claimed it killed one VDP member and seized motorcycles and equipment during an attack on a VDP position in Koulpelogo, Burkina Faso.
- JNIM claimed it killed eight soldiers and seized rifles and ammunition during an attack on a military position in Namssiguia, Burkina Faso.

MALI

- ISSP claimed it attacked an MSA (pro-government Tuareg group) position east of Ménaka, Mali, and killed an MSA fighter in Menaka.
- The Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) announced that it neutralized a significant number of terrorists during an operation northeast of Sandare, Mali, and seized weapons, ammunition, and motorcycles.
- Armed groups reportedly detonated an explosive device targeting a civilian truck in the Aguelhok (Kidal) area, Mali, resulting in injuries.

SOMALIA

- Somalia's Future Council stated that Somalia is entering a constitutional vacuum, warning that a president nearing the end of his term is creating political uncertainty around the election process.
- According to local sources, armed elements killed a mother and her daughter in Daray-Madoobe, Somalia, and stole their livestock, while Puntland forces reportedly launched an operation to recover the stolen animals.
- The Ministry of Defense announced that the Somali National Armed Forces, with international partners, carried out six airstrikes in Tardho, Ugunji, Daynuunaay, and Qumbi, Somalia, killing 54 Al-Shabaab militants, wounding several others, and destroying key positions and supply stockpiles.

NIGERIA

- Boko Haram reportedly carried out an attack on Safilunna town in the Pissa/Kabe district of Borgu LGA, Niger State, Nigeria.

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- The Nigerian Army reportedly repelled an attack in Benisheikh, Borno State, Nigeria.
- The Nigerian Army also reportedly repelled an attack on Tara village in Sabon Birni LGA, Sokoto State, Nigeria.
- Following ISWAP attacks that killed Colonel I.A. Mohammed and six soldiers in Monguno, Nigeria, troops reportedly destroyed and burned civilian infrastructure in the Chali 2 community, accusing residents of failing to provide early warning of the attack.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- Clashes between AFC-M23, FARDC, and Wazalendo in the Masisi area of North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, reportedly triggered large-scale displacement, with at least seven villages fully depopulated since March 27, 2026.
- Human Rights Watch stated that FARDC and various armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are obstructing humanitarian aid delivery and preventing civilians from fleeing conflict zones.

NIGER

- ISSP claimed it killed five police officers in an attack on a police checkpoint near Diffa, Niger.