MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Region: Somalia-Democratic Republic of the Congo-Nigeria-Mali-Niger
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Scope: Security |Diplomacy | Defence
Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Escalation remains concentrated across the Sahel and Horn of Africa, with jihadist groups sustaining operational tempo while state actors respond through targeted military actions and restrictive security measures.

JNIM continues asymmetric attacks in Mali, targeting military mobility and infrastructure with IEDs and raids, indicating persistent freedom of movement and localized tactical superiority in central and northern corridors. In Nigeria, ISWAP retains infiltration capability despite significant losses, while mass-casualty attacks on civilians underscore enduring security gaps in northwestern states.

In Somalia, the situation is marked by dual pressure: intensified U.S.-supported counterterrorism strikes against al-Shabaab and ISIS-Somalia, alongside deepening political fragmentation as Southwest State suspends ties with the federal government, increasing risks of internal destabilization.

In eastern DRC, continued clashes between AFC/M23 and Wazalendo point to sustained frontline volatility without de-escalation indicators.

Niger's temporary mobility restrictions in Tillabéri reflect heightened threat perceptions and a reliance on short-term containment measures rather than structural security improvements.

MALI

• JNIM claimed it targeted a Malian Army and Africa Corps vehicle with an IED and landmine between Kidal and Anefis.

• JNIM claimed it carried out an attack on a military position in the Yanfolila, killing one soldier, destroying two military vehicles and motorcycles, and seizing a motorcycle and rifles; local sources reported that one civilian was also killed in the attack.

• JNIM claimed it targeted a Malian Army vehicle with an IED between Yangasso and Bla.

SOMALIA

• The Southwest State administration announced that it suspended all cooperation and relations with the federal government in Mogadishu; state officials accused the federal government of arming militias and attempting to overthrow State President Abdiaziz Hassan Mohamed Laftagareen.

• Southwest State President Abdiaziz Laftagareen announced his resignation as Deputy Chairman of the JSP in Somalia, stating that he cannot support unconstitutional actions and reaffirming his commitment to Somalia's unity, democracy, and rule of law.

• AFRICOM announced that, in coordination with the Somali government, it conducted airstrikes targeting al-Shabaab in Mubarak on March 15 and ISIS-Somalia elements 45 km southeast of Bosaso on March 16 in Somalia.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

• Local sources reported that clashes occurred between Wazalendo and AFC/M23 in villages under the Bwito chiefdom in the Rutshuru area.

NIGERIA

• The Nigerian Army announced that, in coordination with the Nigerian Air Force, it repelled an ISWAP infiltration attempt in Malam Fatori, Abadam LGA, Borno State, Nigeria, neutralizing more than 60 militants; visuals shared by local sources showed numerous militants killed.

• Local sources reported that terrorists carried out an attack on Falale village in the Daddara area of Jibia LGA, Katsina State, killing at least 15 people, injuring many others, and abducting an unspecified number of individuals.

NIGER

• The authorities in Tillabéri Region, Niger, issued a decree banning the movement of motorcycles and tricycles for 72 hours between Wednesday, March 18 and Friday, March 20, 2026, in certain areas and localities of the Tillabéri department.