

STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE DAILY

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

Date: 25 March 2026

Scope: Security | Diplomacy | Defence

Classification: Client Confidential

Executive Assessment

Security dynamics across the Sahel and Central Africa remain volatile, with insurgent groups sustaining operational tempo while states pursue parallel military and political responses. In Mali and Burkina Faso, JNIM and FLA activity highlights continued asymmetric pressure on military positions, while Nigeria faces both logistical support networks and direct attacks on its forces.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, simultaneous military operations, insurgent claims, and reported withdrawals point to a fluid battlefield shaped by both kinetic pressure and ongoing diplomatic engagement. Somalia reflects a dual-track approach, combining counterterrorism cooperation with international partners and a reintegration strategy aimed at weakening extremist recruitment pipelines.

At the regional level, Niger's deepening cooperation with Algeria and planned trilateral coordination with Nigeria signal a growing emphasis on cross-border security and strategic infrastructure, particularly energy corridors. Overall, the environment indicates persistent insurgent capability alongside increasing state coordination, with outcomes likely to hinge on the effectiveness of combined military pressure and regional cooperation mechanisms.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

- AFC/M23 claimed that the Congolese army conducted drone strikes in the Minembwe area between the night of Tuesday, March 24 and the morning of Wednesday, March 25, destroying multiple homes and causing civilian casualties.
- It was reported that the Congolese army repelled an attempted attack by AFC/M23 in the Walikale territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- AFC/M23 was reported to have withdrawn its forces from several villages in the Lubero area of North Kivu province; published footage showed the withdrawal, which is assessed to be linked to the trilateral talks held on March 17–18 in Washington under U.S. mediation between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

- The Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), together with the Ugandan army, conducted joint operations in Ituri and North Kivu, recapturing the strategic mining town of Muchacha in the Mambasa area of Ituri province from ISCAP; during the operation, an ISCAP commander was killed and hostages were freed.

SOMALIA

- President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud announced a 90-day amnesty for individuals forcibly recruited into extremist groups; the federal government stated that those who surrender will be allowed to reintegrate into society without fear of reprisals.
- The Commander of the Somali National Army, Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Mohamed Mohamud, held a meeting with U.S. SOCAFRICA Commander Maj. Gen. Claude K. Tudor to enhance security cooperation, advance military training, and accelerate joint counter-terrorism operations.
- ISIS-Somalia carried out a mortar attack on a Golis Company facility in the village of Sheebaab, in Qandala district of Bari region in Puntland; communication disruptions were reported following the attack, while no casualties have been confirmed.

NIGER

- Algerian Prime Minister Nadir Larbaoui and Nigerien Prime Minister Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine concluded two days of government consultations with the signing of more than 20 agreements in Niger; both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism.
- The Algerian Prime Minister expressed the intention to revive economic partnership and accelerate major projects such as the Trans-Saharan Highway and the Trans-Saharan Gas Pipeline; a trilateral meeting between Nigeria, Niger, and Algeria is planned to be held in Algeria next month.

NIGERIA

- The Nigerian army announced the arrest of 18 individuals linked to providing logistical support to Boko Haram; according to the army, the suspects were intercepted while transporting supplies via Gubio toward Gudumbali, with initial confessions indicating economic hardship as a key driver behind their involvement.

MINTEL WORLD

Conflict and energy consultancy

- Local sources reported that Lakurawa militants killed several Nigerian soldiers in the Girinmasa area of Yauri LGA in Kebbi State.

MALI

- FLA claimed to have carried out a drone and rocket attack against Malian army and Africa Corps positions in the Aguelhok ; published footage showed that two kamikaze drone strikes were successful.

BURKINA FASO

- JNIM claimed to have ambushed an army patrol in the Dedougou.