



Name | **Boko Haram**



Official Name | **Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad**



Declared Caliphate
2014
(in controlled territories)



Founded | **2002**



Designation
Terrorist organization
(U.S., 2013)



Origin | **Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria**



Militant Insurgency Began
2009



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Core Beliefs:

Two key stances define the ideology of Boko Haram:

- Opposition to democracy
- Rejection of Western-style education

Objectives:

- Overthrow Nigerian government
- Establish Sharia-governed Islamic state

Recruitment Base:

Primarily Kanuri ethnic group

Members: 1500 – 2000 members



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Period	Leader	Group / Status
2002 - 2009	Muhammad Yusuf	Founder & ideological leader
2010 - 2015	Abubakar Shekau	Leader of Boko Haram (JAS)
March 2015	Abubakar Shekau	Pledges allegiance to ISIS; ISIS recognized Abu Musab al-Barnawi as leader → ISWAP formed
August 2016	Split	Boko Haram divides into JAS (Shekau) and ISWAP(ISIS-aligned faction)
2016 - 2021	Abubakar Shekau	Leads JAS faction after the split
2021 - Present	Bakura Doro (reported)	Leads JAS after Shekau's death



Geographic Focus

- Main hotspots: Borno, Yobe, Adamawa
- Cities most affected: Maiduguri, Gwoza, Kukawa
- Border violence: Cameroon, Chad, Niger

Humanitarian Impact:

Food Insecurity (2017)

11 million affected

5.5 million children
impacted

Infrastructure Damage

>50% Schools destroyed.

Displacement (Lake Chad Basin)

2.4 million displaced.



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Global Impact

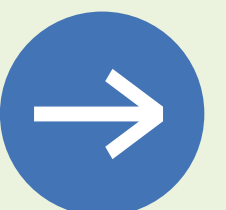
2014: Boko Haram + Islamic State responsible for **51%** of global terrorism deaths

Deadliest Period: 2014–2015

11,500 deaths in 2015 alone



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Civilian Deaths from Boko Haram Attacks, Nigeria (2020–2022)



Source: Statista (original dataset). Figures processed and analyzed by the author.

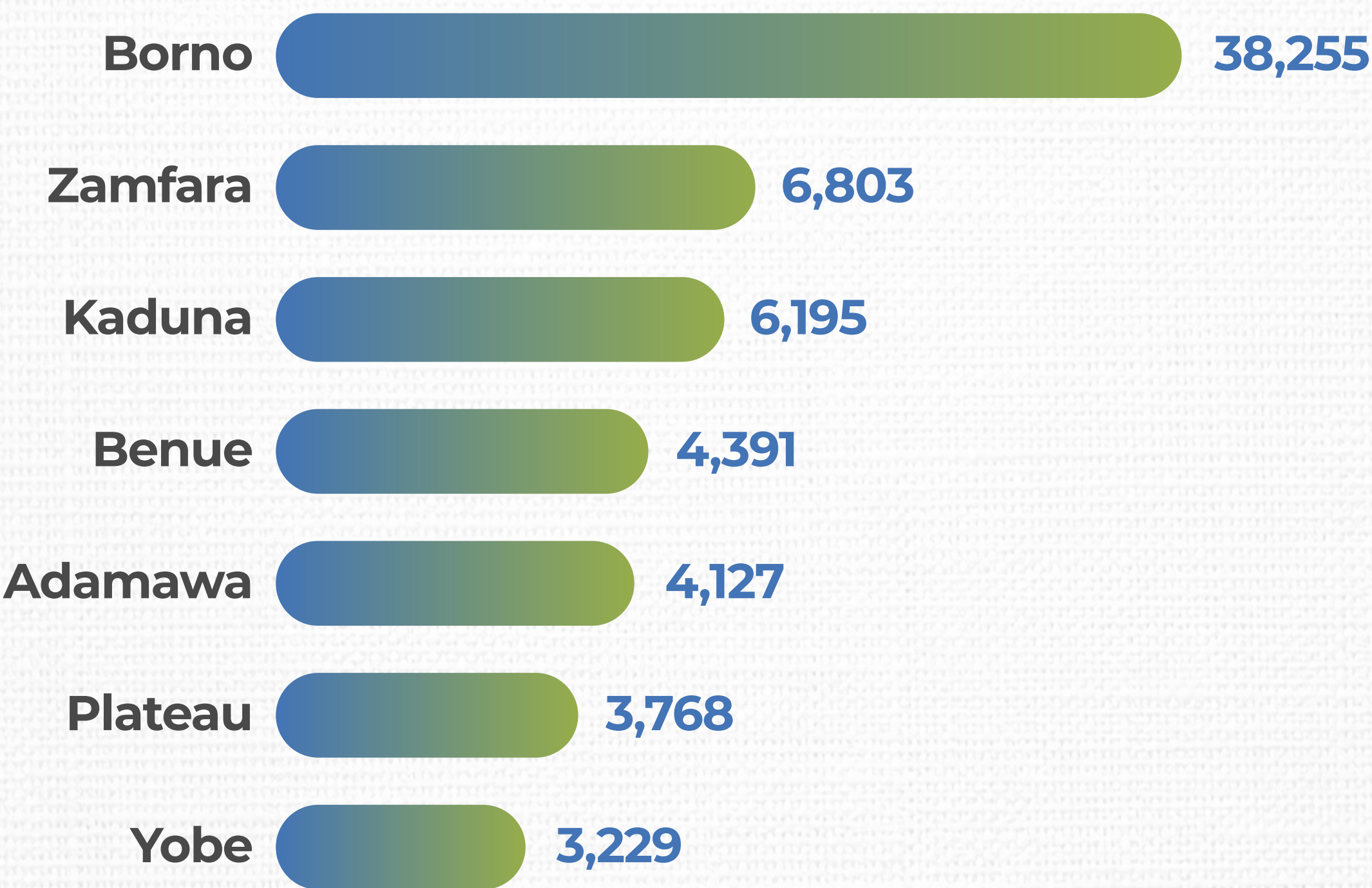


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States Most Affected by Boko Haram Attacks (2011–2023)

Number of deaths.



Source: Statista



Nigeria Ranked 6th Globally in Terrorism Deaths (2024) – 565 Killed

Deadliest Attacks by Boko Haram

January 20, 2012 – Kano Bombings
200+ killed

April 14, 2014 – Chibok School kidnapping
276+ abducted

Jan 3–7, 2015 – Baga Village massacre
~2,000 killed

April 23, 2015 – Kukuwa-Gair Village attack
174+ killed



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Targets included:

- *Police and military*
- *Politicians*
- *Clerics and Christian preachers*
- *Churches, bus stations, bars*
- *gambling spots*
- *Teachers, students*
- *Journalists, health workers*
- *Women & Girls: Abduction, Forced Marriage, Sexual Violence*

Funding Sources:

- *Kidnap for ransom / hostage trading –*
- *Extortion & illegal “taxes”*
- *Looting banks, military/police facilities.*
- *Black-market sales of stolen goods*
- *Estimated annual income: ~\$10 million.*



Types of Weapons



Assault rifles



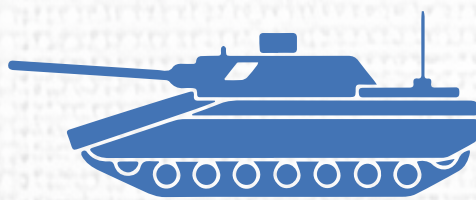
Rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs)



Mortars



Improvised bombs & shells



Tanks & armored personnel carriers



**Pickup trucks (“technicals”)
with heavy machine guns**



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Sources of Weapons

- *Looted Nigerian military & police arsenals (primary supply)*
- *Improvised explosives (fertilizer-based IEDs)*
- *Regional black-market networks across West Africa*
- *Limited foreign arms inflow (Russian/Eastern European origin)*

Women in Operational Roles

- *Used as weapons couriers*
- *Concealed AK-47s / IEDs under clothing*
- *Paid **\$30–\$312** per mission*
- *Exploited to bypass security checks*

