



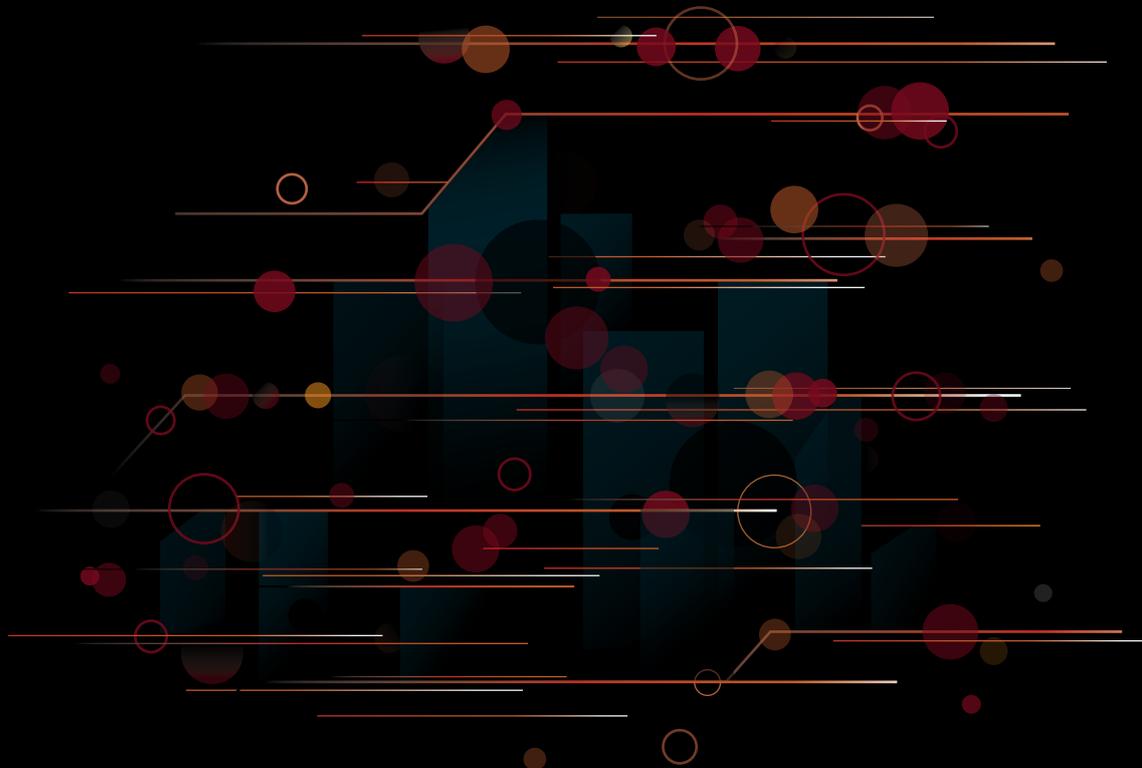
Global Terrorism Index Briefing 2026

○ Global
Results

○ Trends in
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○ Terrorism and
Borderlands

○ Youth
Radicalisation



2026 Global Terrorism Index Briefing

Measuring the Impact of Terrorism

The thirteenth annual edition of the Global Terrorism Index highlights that terrorism remains a persistent global threat, despite an overall decline in activity. The number of countries experiencing at least one terrorist incident increased to 66, the highest level since 2018. In 2025, global deaths and incidents both fell, however the distribution of terrorism remains uneven, with activity becoming more concentrated and shifting across regions, even as many countries recorded improvements in their overall impact from terrorism.

Ten Countries Most Impacted by Terrorism

Pakistan surpassed Burkina Faso as the country with the highest impact of terrorism in 2025.

| Country | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Pakistan | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Burkina Faso | 114 | 113 | 111 | 110 | 52 | 30 | 21 | 15 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Niger | 50 | 60 | 45 | 34 | 19 | 19 | 18 | 19 | 14 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 3 |
| Nigeria | 8 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| Mali | 40 | 22 | 19 | 21 | 16 | 13 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Syria | 19 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Somalia | 5 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Congo, DRC | 18 | 16 | 20 | 24 | 33 | 35 | 48 | 58 | 38 | 21 | 16 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 8 |
| Colombia | 11 | 12 | 10 | 12 | 15 | 17 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 14 | 9 |
| Israel | 22 | 18 | 22 | 23 | 29 | 31 | 33 | 31 | 34 | 34 | 35 | 26 | 2 | 8 | 10 |

Source: IEP

Deaths

5,582

Incidents

2,944

Terrorism remains a significant global threat. In 2025, 5,582 people were killed in terrorist attacks across 2,944 incidents.

The impact of terrorism fell in 81 countries, the highest number of annual improvements since 2021, while rising in just 19 countries.

Deaths in SSA countries

10 ↓ | **4** ↗

Although sub-Saharan Africa remains the epicentre of terrorism, there was some improvement. Deaths fell in ten countries while rising in just four.



Pakistan was the country most impacted by terrorism this year, the first time it has been ranked at number one on the Index. It has been ranked among the ten countries most impacted by terrorism every year since the inception of the Index.

1 For more of Section 1: Results, see the 2026 report

The average radicalisation timeline has contracted dramatically: from 18 months in 2005 to 13 months in 2016. Today, radicalisation can occur within a matter of weeks.

History of neglect or psychological abuse

87%

Abandonment experience

77%

An estimated 87 per cent of radicalised minors had a history of neglect or psychological abuse, and 77 per cent had experienced abandonment prior to radicalisation.

4 For more of Section 4: Trends in Youth Radicalisation, see the 2026 report

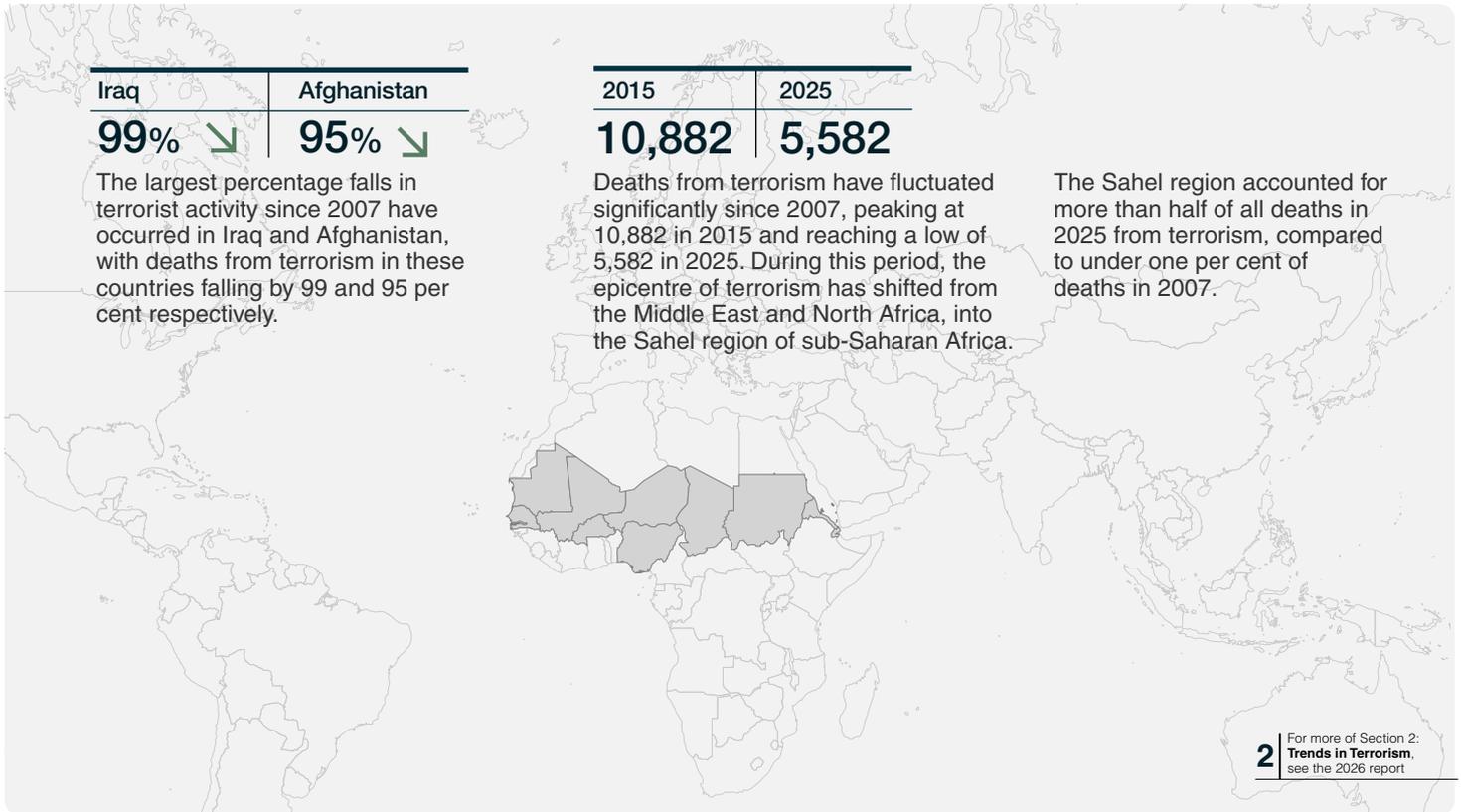
Terrorism in border areas

24%

Terrorist groups are less likely to claim responsibility for attacks near borders, particularly those targeting civilians. In 2025, claimed attacks within 50km of a border accounted for just 24 per cent of total attacks, the lowest since 2013.

Several of the world's most persistent terrorism hotspots are concentrated along border regions: the Colombia—Venezuela frontier, the Afghanistan-Pakistan borderlands, the Central Sahel tri-border area, and the Lake Chad Basin.

All these hotspots share common features: porous borders, under-governed territory, and connected communities that span national boundaries.



Borderlands often represent authority gaps: remote areas where state control is weakest. Difficult terrain and distance from major cities create spaces where terrorist groups can recruit, train, and operate with relative freedom.

| International border | 2011 | 2025 |
|----------------------|------|------|
| 50 Kilometres | 38% | 23% |
| 100 Kilometres | | |
| 41% | | |
| 64% | | |

Border proximity is a defining feature of modern terrorism. Just over 41 per cent of attacks occur within 50 kilometres of an international border, and 64 per cent occur within 100km.

Terrorism in border areas has become more common in the last 15 years. Attacks that occurred over 100km from a border fell from 38 per cent in 2011 to 23 per cent in 2025.

3 For more of Section 3: Terrorism and Borderlands, see the 2026 report

Properties of Youth Radicalisation

Between 2022 and 2025, 97 per cent of terrorist plots involving a minor were foiled, compared to a 68 per cent foil rate for adult-only plots.

93%

Lone-wolf actors carried out 93 per cent of fatal terrorist attacks in the West over the last five years and were three times more likely to successfully execute an attack than groups of two or more plotters.

Motivations for youth radicalisation vary by region. In the West, alienation and social isolation are the key factors. In sub-Saharan Africa, 71 per cent of recruits cited human rights abuse by state security forces as the tipping point for joining a violent extremist group, while a quarter cited a total lack of job opportunities.

GTI 2026 Overall Results

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM

THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM



ABOUT

The GTI is developed by the Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress.

IEP is headquartered in Sydney, with offices in New York, The Hague, Abuja, Nairobi and Manila. It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organisations on measuring and communicating the economic value of peace.



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