

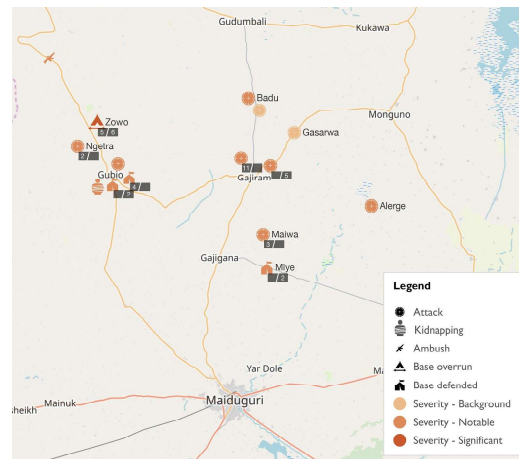
Community feeling - atmospherics

KIs remain fearsome in and around Gubio, even if the number and size of attacks on Gubio proper is still lower than during the September/October onslaught on the town. In particular, people are afraid where there is no permanent military presence. Attacks on the gates of Gubio and its checkpoints serve as reminders of insurgents' presence immediately outside town, and multiple KIs expressed concern about ISWAP's "new system of impersonating the military personnel and setting up illegal checkpoints to kidnap or slaughter victims" (Felo). A number of KIs expressed concern that the Chadian soldiers have left. Some feared incoming retribution from ISWAP because people – contrary to ISWAP standing orders – had "associated" themselves (cooperated) with the Chadian soldiers. On a positive note, KIs said the deployment of mobile forces by the government (not: the military, but likely MOPOL) would help mitigate the vacuum after the Chadians.

In Gajiram in Nganzai, KIs felt safer, citing increased security presence and cooperation with hunters and CJTF. Some suggested in interviews carried out on 10 February that Chadians had been stationed in the area.

Incidents

There were around 15 incidents in the Gubio hub during the reporting period, 7 of which were in Gubio LGA. On a positive note, there were no attacks inside Gubio proper, suggesting the security architecture has become more rigorous since the months around September and October, when ISWAP ran a veritable campaign to overrun Gubio and Magumeri. Unlike November, there were nonetheless incidents, of which 2 were on the edges of Gubio 1 and 2. The most substantial attack in Gubio LGA took place in the smaller village Zowo, 10k outside Gubio, which was attacked and overrun by ISWAP who used the occasion to preach to villagers and to punish some of them.



- 5 Jan: In Zowo, 10k north of Gubio in the afternoon, insurgents arriving in gun trucks disguised as soldiers attack and overrun a military post, killing around 6 soldiers. CJTF and vigilantes mount resistance for 20 minutes, until they're overrun too. Villagers are gathered under a tree, women and men separately, and are "preached" to by "their leader" who encouraged people to support the group so they can go to heaven. Conversely, the leader also warns that attacks may become more frequent. Around 5 civilians were said to have been killed and property was destroyed. According to one KI, 2 boys were "cut with a knife on their back, but they didn't die." Insurgents stole 1 vehicle.
- 17 Jan: Insurgents open fire on a military checkpoint at the outskirts of Gubio 1, leading to an exchange of gunfire during which 2 soldiers and an unknown number of insurgents were killed. Vehicles were destroyed. The fight ended when reinforcements from a nearby Super Camp arrived.

In Nganzai east of Gubio, checkpoints were set up on a few instances, and Gajiram town was the target of attacks claimed by ISWAP at least 2 days in a row.