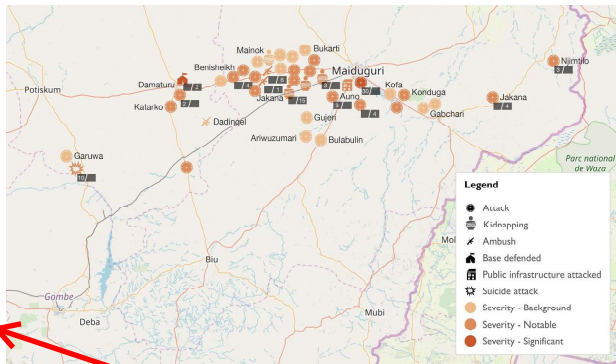


exceeded ISWAP's current capability, but nonetheless marking an interest in inflicting damage on the region's larger cities.

Of the 40 plus attacks, no less than **21 attacks took place along the Damaturu-Maiduguri highway**. The places most affected included Mainok (5 incidents), Jakana (4 incidents), and Auno (5 incidents). While ISWAP claimed at least five of these attacks, the profile of attacks varied considerably, confirming other groups including Shekau's Boko Haram operate there. Attacks claimed by ISWAP targeted soldiers or specific types of civilians (NGO or government affiliated and Christians) and generally aimed at kidnapping civilians rather than killing them. Other attacks targeted civilians deliberately. The most extreme example being a Boko Haram attack in February on sleeping civilians waiting outside Auno, during which 30 civilians were killed.

- 22 Dec: ISWAP launched an attack on Damaturu and attempted to infiltrate the city with 9 gun trucks. Nigerian Military Forces and the Air force repelled the attack and engaged BH IS in a gun battle lasting for two days. Over two days, about 30 BH fighters and 2 soldiers were killed. ISWAP later claim the attack and claim to have overrun a military post and to have destroyed a tank.
- 18 Jan: Ansaru claim to have carried out an ambush on a convoy, killing 22 people. The convoy belonged to the Emir of Potiskum who was unhurt.
- 9 Feb: Between 9.45pm and 1am, Shekau's Boko Haram attacked Auno (Konduga LGA, Borno) and killed 30 people and destroyed upwards of 18 vehicles. Many of the victims were travelers sleeping in their cars who were forced to stay overnight, as they failed to reach Maiduguri before the military checkpoints close. Residents, seemingly mostly women were abducted in the attack. Two minibuses and other vehicles were stolen.
- Over the reporting period, insurgents set up checkpoints at least 6 times on the Damaturu-Maiduguri stretch and at least 2 times on the road down towards Biu. E.g. In Goni Masari between Damaturu and Maiduguri, where insurgents disguised as soldiers established a temporary checkpoint from where they stopped a bus and kidnapped an unknown number of passengers. According to ISWAP via Amaq, 6 soldiers, 6 Christians, and 2 Red Cross workers were captured. Intel suggested the operation was carried out by ISWAP field commander Kinnayi who informed fellow commanders that victims would be taken urgently to the Lake Chad region the following day.

MONGUNO

Overall assessment

After a steady decline in attacks towards the end of 2019, **there was a resurgence in incidents around Monguno** during this reporting period. Still the attacks did not reach August/September levels. Incidents included attacks in Monguno proper and a larger number of kidnappings, checkpoints, robberies, and attacks on the military in the broader area. **On more than one occasion, attacks carried out in the area utilized techniques rarely used in the context, including suicide vehicle borne IEDs (SVBIEDs), mortars,**