



CrisisWatch

September Alerts & August 2023 Trends

Our monthly conflict tracker highlights **two conflict risk alerts** in September.

Significant clashes broke out in **Mali's** north between government forces and former rebels for the first time since the 2015 peace agreement. September could see more violence and the collapse of the peace process as the UN mission's withdrawal continues.

The West African regional bloc ECOWAS continued to threaten the use of force in **Niger** to restore constitutional order following the coup in July. An intervention could trigger major pushback and put Niger and the wider region at risk of war.

CrisisWatch identified **eleven deteriorated situations** in August. Notably:

Military officers seized power from President Ali Bongo in **Gabon** moments after authorities announced his re-election for a third term.

In **Syria**, a major battle broke out between the regime and the northwest's dominant rebel group Hei'at Tahrir al-Sham as Russia renewed airstrikes, while the Islamic State killed dozens as it stepped up attacks in the country's centre.

President Lasso declared a nationwide state of emergency in **Ecuador** following a spate of political assassinations in the lead-up to the presidential election.

In **Cyprus**, violent skirmishes between Turkish Cypriots and UN personnel in the buffer zone injured multiple peacekeepers and Turkish Cypriot police officers and sparked a strong diplomatic rebuke.

Our tracker also assessed **two improved situations**.

The **Colombian** government's landmark ceasefire with the National Liberation Army guerrilla group took effect, marking an important step forward in President Petro's "total peace" efforts.

Guatemala's presidential election went ahead despite judicial and other interference, resulting in a landslide victory for centre-left candidate Bernardo Arévalo endorsed by the outgoing president.

Aside from the scores of conflict situations we usually cover, we tracked significant developments in **Bahrain, Nile Waters** and **Senegal**.

TRENDS IN AUGUST



Deteriorated Situations

Ecuador, Zimbabwe, Somalia, Ethiopia, Mali, Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cyprus, Syria



Improved Situations

Colombia, Guatemala

ALERTS FOR SEPTEMBER



Conflict Risk Alerts

Mali, Niger



Resolution Opportunities

None