

2.17. Children



Please note that this country guidance document has been replaced by a more recent one. The latest versions of country guidance documents are available at [/country-guidance](#).

COMMON ANALYSIS

Last updated: February 2019

[\[Targeting, 3.14\]](#)

Nigerian children that may be at particular risk in situations, such as the following:

? Children involved in student cults: The phenomenon of student cults nowadays may also affect young primary or secondary school pupils [\[Targeting, 2.3.4\]](#). See the profile [Individuals targeted by student cults](#).

? Children accused of being witches: Children are one of the profiles at particular risk of being accused of witchcraft. See the profile [Individuals accused of witchcraft or threatened in relation to ritual killings](#).

? Violence against children, including domestic violence and sexual violence: With regard to violence against girls, see the profile [Women and girls](#). Violence also affects boys. For example, in the North East, boys may be kidnapped and recruited as child soldiers by Boko Haram. The assessment of well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of a ground under Article 10 QD should take into account the individual circumstances of the child.

? FGM/C: FGM/C affects girls in various parts of Nigeria. See the profile [Women and girls](#).

? Child marriage: Despite the legal age of 18 years, child marriage occurs in Nigeria. See the profile [Women and girls](#).

? Trafficking in human beings: Children are vulnerable to trafficking situations. They may be victims of trafficking themselves or be vulnerable as children of victims of trafficking. See the profile [Victims of human trafficking, including forced prostitution](#).

Under the above mentioned profiles, being a child may generally be considered as an important risk-enhancing circumstance.