

## 2.4.3. Violence against children

### 2.4.3. Violence against children

Conflict in North-East Nigeria has had a severe impact on children. The UN Security Council has documented six grave violations: recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, sexual violence including rape, attacks on schools and hospitals, abductions, and the denial of humanitarian access. It further notes an increase in the number of verified violations during the current reporting period compared to the previous one.<sup>465</sup> After escaping Boko Haram, many children in Nigeria have been unlawfully detained by the military for months or years without charge, legal counsel, or contact with their families.<sup>466</sup> For more information see [2.13. Perceived Boko Haram members or supporters](#).

In February 2024, over 200 IDPs, mostly children, were reportedly abducted by armed groups in Borno State's Ngala Local Government Area.<sup>467</sup> In the North-West states of Zamfara, Sokoto, and Katsina, ongoing bandit attacks, school kidnappings, and widespread community violence have led to the closure of numerous schools, interrupted education, and displaced large numbers of children and educators.<sup>468</sup> For more information see [2.10. Individuals targeted by Boko Haram](#).

Local sources reported an increase in the recruitment of children by cult groups.<sup>469</sup> See [2.14. Individuals targeted by student cults](#).

In Southern states, such as Akwa Ibom State, hundreds of children are being accused of witchcraft, especially in the Oron LGA, where such beliefs are said to be still common.<sup>470</sup> For instance, in March 2024, in Alkaleri LGA in Bauchi State, a young boy was reportedly left blind following an attack that some members of the community linked to beliefs in witchcraft. <sup>471</sup> See [2.17. Individuals accused of witchcraft](#).

[465](#)

UN Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on Children and armed conflict in Nigeria, 17 July 2024, [url](#), section III

[466](#)

AI, Children and armed conflict, Submission to the UN High Commissioner for human rights for report on the rights of the child and violations of the human rights of children in armed conflicts, 2025, [url](#), pp. 4-5

[467](#)

HRW, World Report 2025 (Events of 2024), Nigeria, 16 January 2025, [url](#); UN OCHA, Mr. Mohamed Malick Fall, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria: Statement on the reported abduction of scores of civilians in Ngala, Borno (6 March 2024), 6 March 2024, [url](#)

468

UNICEF, Nigeria - Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1, 15 May 2025, [url](#), p. 5

469

Nation, Teen killers on the prowl: Tragic rise of Nigeria's child cultists, 8 September 2024, [url](#); Punch, Rise of child cultists turning schools into battlefields (2), 16 February 2025, [url](#)

470

BBC News Pidgin, Di children wey dem beat and troway ontop allegation say dem be winch, 25 September 2024, [url](#)

471

Wikki Times, Flashback: Some Reported Witchcraft Cases in Bauchi 2021-2025, 14 March 2025, [url](#)

© European Union Agency for Asylum 2026 | Email: [info@euaa.europa.eu](mailto:info@euaa.europa.eu)