SECTION 5. EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK
DATASET CODEBOOK

Toolkit for Collecting and Analyzing Data on Attacks on Education

January 2023
SECTION 5.
EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK DATASET CODEBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

GCPEA codes the form, location, date, perpetrator, victims, and impacts of attacks on education and military use of educational facilities around the world. Information comes from UN, NGO, civil society, and media reports, as well as partner organizations in the field. GCPEA’s aim is to count, analyze trends, and raise awareness about attacks on education and military use of schools and universities. This codebook describes the categories in the Education under Attack dataset and procedures for entering data into the relevant spreadsheets.

This Codebook corresponds to the Primary Data Template, although the definitions and instructions found here are relevant for all the templates. The templates can be downloaded here.

Overview

Attacks on education are any threatened or actual use of force against students or education personnel, as well as attacks on education facilities or resources. Military use of schools and universities includes occupying and using them for bases, barracks, weapons stores, fighting positions, and detention centers. Attacks on education and military use are intentionally or indiscriminately perpetrated by armed forces, other state security forces, or non-state armed groups for political, military, ideological, sectarian, ethnic, or religious motivations.

The unit of observation in the dataset is events. Events correspond to attacks on education and military use of schools or universities. Each row of the excel spreadsheet is one (or more) event(s) and may be used to enter one of four types of information:

1. **Event**: a report of attack(s) on education or military use that occurred at a single point in time. For example, a school was bombed. Although rare, an event may include more than one incident, for instance a report might reveal that several teachers at the same school received individual threats on the same day.¹

2. **Ongoing event**: a report of attack(s) on education or military use that occurred over an extended period of time. For example, an abduction or detention.

3. **Aggregate counts**: reported tallies of attacks on education or military use over a particular time period. For example, “100 attacks on schools occurred in Country from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2018.”

4. **Qualitative data**: attack(s) on education or military use reported as a qualitative description without sufficient details (i.e., date, location, etc.) to record the occurrence as an event. This data type is most common for child recruitment and sexual violence. For example, “officials reported that parents in the region feared sending their children to school due to risk of recruitment en route” or “an armed group was known to use schools to commit sexual violence.”

**Educational facilities** are defined as any facility where students learn from a designated instructor and which supports the educational process, at any level of education. This may include kindergartens, schools, universities, technical and vocational education training institutes, textbook and school warehouse facilities, student or teacher dormitories, vehicles carrying school supplies, or school buses.

**Educational materials** include textbooks, school records, and teaching and learning materials.

**Education personnel** are defined as anyone working professionally in the education system or volunteering at any level of the education system. These may include teachers, academics, education support and transport staff—such as education administrators, janitors, bus drivers, librarians, school security guards—or education officials.

For additional guidance on definitions and counting attacks on education and military use, see the Definitions and Key Concepts appendix and Education under Attack 2022 (Methodology, pp. 82-89).

¹ Military use is typically an ongoing event, since one armed group or force may occupy a school for several days, months, or even years. However, an armed group or force may also use a school as a refuge from opponents for several hours, for instance, or kill captives in a school yard then immediately leave, both of which are single points in time rather than ongoing events.
1 EVENT INFORMATION

1.1 EventID (Column A)

*Event ID* is an identifying number that is unique to each event, aggregate count, or qualitative description entered into the Excel database. It is formulated as follows:

**COUNTRY CODE-DATE-EVENT NUMBER**

*COUNTRY CODE* is a three-letter identifier, as determined by the International Organization for Standardization (excluding Kosovo, for which there is no identifier):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Name</th>
<th>Country Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>AFG</td>
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<td>Algeria</td>
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<td>Colombia</td>
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<td>Cote d’Ivoire</td>
<td>CIV</td>
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<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
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<td>Ecuador</td>
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</table>

**SECTION 5. EDUCATION UNDER ATTACK DATASET CODEBOOK**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country Name</th>
<th>Country Code</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>Senegal</td>
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<td>Sierra Leone</td>
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<td>Somalia</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
<td>ZAF</td>
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<td>South Korea</td>
<td>KOR</td>
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<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>SSD</td>
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<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>LKA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>SDN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swaziland/eSwatini</td>
<td>SWZ</td>
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<td>Syria</td>
<td>SYR</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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<td>Togo</td>
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<td>Trinidad Tobago</td>
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<td>Tunisia</td>
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<td>Turkey</td>
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<td>Turkmenistan</td>
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<td>Uganda</td>
<td>UGA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>UKR</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
<td>ARE</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>VEN</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>ZWE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DATE is a six-figure number formulated as Day-Month-Year. For example, May 16, 2019, is written as 160519.

- **Event**: the date entered is the date that the incident took place. If the information entered is specific to a particular incident, but it is not clear when the incident took place, the date should be recorded as the day the incident was reported.
- **Ongoing event**: the date is the start of the incident.
- **Aggregate count**: the date entered is the end-date of the tally period.
- **Qualitative description**: the date entered is the first of the relevant month or year.

EVENT NUMBER is a two-digit number that is specific to the events that occur in a specific country on a specific day. It is entered consecutively as events are recorded in the database. For example, the second attack on education recorded in Colombia on May 21, 2019, would be given the number “02.” A count or qualitative description would be given the number “01,” if first, or “02” and so on, if recorded after other events, counts, or qualitative descriptions.

**EventID examples:**
- One school is attacked in South Sudan on August 13, 2017. The EventID is SSD-130817-01.
- In Colombia, a report from a UN agency indicates that five schools were attacked between April 1, 2016, and September 15, 2016. The EventID is COL-010916-01.
- In Syria, a second school is attacked on May 15, 2019. The EventID is SYR-150519-02.

1.2 StartDate (Column B)

StartDate is the date when the event occurred, or the date when the ongoing event, tally or qualitative description began. It is recorded as DAY-MONTH-YEAR, where DAY is a two-digit number, MONTH is a three-letter abbreviation, and YEAR is a two-digit number.

Where reports are not specific, the date is estimated. Dates are estimated as follows:

- **“Last week”** is the Wednesday of the week the incident occurred.
  - A media report on June 17, 2019, indicates that a school was attacked “last week.” The date used is June 12, 2019.
- **“During XX week/month/year”** is the middle day of that week/month/year.
  - “Students were abducted from their school in February 2017.” The date used is February 15, 2017.
- **“At the beginning of XX week/month/year”** is the first of that week/month/year, with Sunday defined as the beginning of the week and Saturday defined as the end of the week.
  - A media report dated June 17, 2019, indicates that students were abducted from their school “at the beginning of last week.” The date used is June 9, 2019.
- **“At the end of XX week/month/year”** is the last day of that week/month/year, with Sunday defined as the beginning of the week and Saturday defined as the end of the week.
  - A media report dated June 17, 2019, indicates that students were abducted from their school “at the end of last week.” The date used is June 16, 2019.
- **“In the middle of XX week/month/year”** will be a Wednesday, the 15th of the month, or July 1, respectively.
  - A media report indicates that a professor was killed “in mid-2015,” the date used is July 1, 2015.
1.3 EndDate (Column C)

*EndDate* is the date when the event occurred, or the date when the ongoing event, tally, or qualitative description ended. *StartDate* and *EndDate* will be the same day if the event is *not* ongoing, an aggregate count, or a qualitative description. If the end date of an ongoing incident, tally, or qualitative description is unknown, enter “.”.

*EndDate* is recorded as DAY-MONTH-YEAR, where DAY is a two-digit number, MONTH is a three-letter abbreviation, and YEAR is a two-digit number.

Where reports are not exact, *EndDate* will need to be estimated following the same guidelines as described under *StartDate* above.

**StartDate and EndDate examples:**
- A teacher is abducted on December 7, 2015, and released on December 22, 2015. The StartDate is 07-Dec-15. The EndDate is 22-Dec-15.
- A school is attacked on April 14, 2018. The StartDate is 14-Apr-18. The EndDate is 14-Apr-18.
- A university student is arrested and detained on August 13, 2016. There is no information about if and when he was released. The StartDate is 13-Aug-16. The EndDate is marked as “.”.

1.4 PreciseDate (Column D)

*PreciseDate* is a “yes/no” binary variable with a dropdown list that indicates whether the precise date of an incident is known. “No” should be selected if either the *StartDate* or *EndDate* has been estimated.

1.5 DataType (Column E)

*DataType* is a categorical variable with a dropdown list containing three options: event, ongoing, tally (aggregate count), and qualitative. The purpose is to indicate which type of information is entered in the row: an *event* that occurred at a single point in time; an *ongoing event* that occurred over an extended period of time (e.g., an abduction, detention, or military use); a *tally* (aggregate count) of the number of incidents of an attack or military use that occurred over an extended period of time (e.g., x attacks on schools between January 1 and December 31); or a *qualitative description* of an attack or military use incident without sufficient details (i.e., date, location, etc.) to record as an event or aggregate count.

1.6 Description (Column F)

*Description* of the attack is open-ended and can be copied and pasted from the original source. It should include all relevant details about the location, targets, perpetrator, and victims of the attack, as well as any other relevant details including the gender of the victims. It can include information copied from multiple sources. Irrelevant pieces of information should be omitted; details repeated across sources can be omitted the second and subsequent times it is entered. For attacks with multiple sources, the name of each source should be bolded, with the description following. A space should be left between each source.

1.7 nIncident (Column G)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of incidents referred to in the event description, aggregate count, or qualitative description. For single or ongoing events, *nIncident* is typically “1.” In the case of aggregate counts, the number of incidents referred to in the tally is entered. In the case of qualitative data, the number of reported attacks or military use incidents is entered if available; if such details are not included, enter “1.”

For single or ongoing events that include several incidents, record the number of incidents for *nIncident*. For instance, if two schools are struck in the same bombing or two cases of child recruitment at the same school are
shared in one report, enter “2.” However, if the level of schooling in the incidents is different (e.g., school and university), record each incident (or related group of incidents) in its own row in the spreadsheet and record nIncident as appropriate for each row.

For aggregate counts that attribute attacks or military use to more than one perpetrator or geographic area, or other detail (e.g., attacks on personnel and attacks on schools), record the constituent parts in separate rows in the spreadsheet. For instance, if, in 2020, a named armed force perpetrated 5 attacks on schools and a named non-state armed group perpetrated 3 attacks on schools, each set of attacks should receive its own row (allowing for ProvState or Perpetrator to be accurately recorded). Breaking up an aggregate count may not always be possible, even when more than one perpetrator, geographic area, or similar are mentioned, due to insufficient details, in which case one row should be used.

**Note:** When calculating the total number of incidents for a specific time period by adding up nIncident, aggregate counts should never be added with events or qualitative descriptions from the same time period and geographic area, since doing so may result in double counting.

### 1.8 EventType (Columns H, K)

There are two EventType columns (EventType1, EventType2) that should be used to categorize the attack or military use into one of seven subcategories: attacks on schools; attacks on students, teachers, and other education personnel; military use of schools or universities; child recruitment at, or on the way to or from, school; sexual violence at, or on the way to or from, school or university; attacks on higher education facilities; attacks on higher education students or personnel. Each column is a dropdown list that includes the seven subcategories.

These categories are defined as follows:

- **Attacks on schools:** targeted and indiscriminate violent attacks on primary or secondary schools, or kindergartens, preschools, or nonformal education sites that teach at the primary or secondary school levels. This category also includes attacks on primary and secondary school infrastructure, such as school playgrounds, libraries, storage facilities, or examination halls. An incident is considered an attack on a school if it takes place in a school setting and if armed forces, other state security forces, or non-state armed groups damaged the school facility or attempted or threatened to do so.

- **Attacks on students, teachers, and other education personnel:** attacks that intentionally target students or school staff members, or indiscriminately cause harm to students or school staff members while they are at or on their way to or from school. Targeted attacks on education officials are also coded in this category. Also included are cases in which armed forces, other state security forces, or non-state armed groups arrest, or use excessive force, such as live ammunition, teargas, or water cannons, against students or education staff during protests that either (a) occur on school grounds, regardless of their aim, or (b) are related to education, even if they occurred off school grounds. These attacks are distinct from attacks on schools in that the target appears to be people, rather than infrastructure. This category does not include education-related child recruitment or sexual violence, which are distinct categories.

- **Military use of schools or universities:** cases in which armed forces, other state security forces, or non-state armed groups partially or fully occupy schools or universities and use them for purposes that support a military effort.

- **Child recruitment at, or on the way to or from, school:** occurs when armed forces, other state security forces, or non-state armed groups forcibly recruit children from their schools, or while they are on their way to or from school. Recruitment for any purpose is included, such as serving as fighters, spies, or intelligence sources; for domestic work; or to transport weapons or other materials. This category does not include cases of recruitment for sexual violence, such as rape or forced marriage, which are included in the sexual violence category.
• **Sexual violence at, or on the way to or from, school or university:** occurs when armed forces, other state security forces, or non-state armed groups sexually threaten, harass, or abuse students or educators of all genders. Sexual violence includes rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, forced abortion, forced circumcision, castration, genital harm, and any other nonconsensual sexual act, as well as acts that may not require physical violence or contact but include humiliation or shaming of a sexual nature, such as forced nudity.

• **Attacks on higher education facilities:** targeted or indiscriminate attacks on universities, technical and vocational education training institutes, and other higher education facilities.

• **Attacks on higher education students or personnel:** targeted or indiscriminate attacks against students, professors, or other higher education staff. Also included are cases in which armed forces, law enforcement, or other state security entities arrest or use excessive force, such as live ammunition, teargas, or water cannons, against students or education staff during protests that either (a) occur on campus, regardless of their aim, or (b) are related to education, even if they occur off campus. Sexual violence by armed forces or non-state armed groups that is committed against university students or personnel is categorized as sexual violence.

For more details about each attack on education and military use, and their distinctions from one another, see the Definitions and Key Concepts appendix and *Education under Attack 2022* (Methodology, pp. 82-89).

The first column is the primary column. It is often sufficient.

If two attack types are involved (e.g., an armed group attacks a school then abducts students), then each attack type should be recorded in its own row.\(^2\)

Events that require recording two *EventTypes* in the same row involve military use only. If there is no military use, then the row should have only one *EventType*.

In cases in which a school or university is first used for military purposes then attacked, “military use of schools or universities” should be *EventType1*, and “attack on school” or “attack on higher education facilities” should be *EventType2*.\(^3\) In cases in which students are recruited at a school by armed forces or armed groups using their school for military purposes, “child recruitment” should be *EventType1*, and “military use” should be *EventType2*. In cases in which sexual violence perpetrated by armed forces or armed groups occurs in a school or university while it is being used for military purposes, “sexual violence” should be *EventType1* and “military use” should be *EventType2*.\(^4\)

If one armed force or group is occupying a school or university, then another force or group takes over the educational facility to use for military purposes, each instance of military use is recorded as a new event in a new row.

### 1.9 SubTypes (Columns I, J, L, M)

Each *EventType* can have two possible *SubTypes* (*SubType1a* and *SubType1b*). *SubType* is a categorical variable with a dropdown list that is dependent on *EventType*. *SubTypes* are defined as follows. (The higher education *EventTypes* are combined with schools and students/personnel for ease).

1. **Attacks on schools and Attacks on higher education facilities**

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\(^2\) This is to ease subsequent data analyses. Each attack having its own row prevents double counting harm, schools damaged, and other variables when sorting by attack type. For example, if there is an attack on a school (involving the injury of 5 teachers) and a related attack on students and staff (involving the abduction of 5 teachers), when a researcher is sorting by attack type, only one set of (injured or abducted) teachers should appear and be included in the relevant totals.

\(^3\) This is to align with international humanitarian law, under which a school used for military purposes may lose its protection as a civilian object and become a legitimate military target. In such a case, the incident would count only as military use (rather than both) for global totals, but having the additional information is useful.

\(^4\) Since school-related child recruitment and sexual violence are under-reported, past Education under Attack reports have counted these violations as child recruitment or sexual violence (rather than military use) in order to highlight their occurrence. This codebook keeps in line with such practices.
- **Armed clash**: a violent interaction between an armed force and armed group in the vicinity of a school or university.
- **Arson**: armed forces or armed groups set fire to the school or university or its materials or attempt to do so.
- **Raid**: armed forces or armed groups forcibly enter or attempt to forcibly enter a school or university to injure, kill, abduct, arrest, or detain students or education personnel, or to cause damage or destruction to the educational facilities or materials.
- **Small arms fire**: shots fired at a school or university from a gun, rifle, or other small arm.
- **Threat**: armed forces or armed groups threaten to violently attack schools or universities verbally or in writing. Threats can be either one-off events (e.g., a threatening note left in a school) or ongoing events (e.g., a demolition or stop-work order that is undergoing an appeal process).
- **Vandalism/Looting**: armed forces or armed groups vandalize a school or university by writing on its walls or materials, or by destroying learning materials, or they forcibly remove learning or other educational materials or property from the school or university.
- **Demolition**: armed forces or armed groups use a bulldozer to destroy a school or university, or otherwise confiscate school infrastructure.
- **Air-launched explosive**: explosive dropped from a plane, helicopter, drone, or similar targeted at or landing near a school or university, sometimes referred to as an “airstrike.”
- **Ground-launched explosive**: explosive launched from a howitzer, tank, tactical vehicle, grenade launcher, shoulder-mounted weapon system, or similar targeted at or landing near a school or university, sometimes referred to as “shelling” or “artillery fire.”
- **IED (directly emplaced)**: explosive installed at or near a school or university, including IEDs, landmines, anti-personnel mines, car bombs, road-side bombs, and similar.
- **UXO/ERW**: unexploded ordnance or explosive weapons of war located at or near a school or university, often reported as such or as a grenade or other explosive students find near a school.
- **Other**: armed forces or armed groups carry out an attack on a school or higher education facility not listed above; this code should be used when the attack subtype is reported, but not listed here.
- **Unknown**: the subtype of an attack on a school or higher education facility is not reported.

2. **Attacks on students and education personnel** (from pre-primary through tertiary education)
   - **Abduction**: kidnapping of students or education personnel by non-state armed groups or forced disappearance by members of state forces or security services.
   - **Arrest/detention**: imprisonment of student or education personnel by members of state forces, law enforcement, or security services.
   - **Small arms fire**: shots fired at a student, teacher, or education personnel from a gun, rifle, or other small arm.
   - **Physical assault**: armed forces or armed groups inflict physical harm on students or education personnel.
   - **Threat**: armed forces or armed groups threaten to violently attack students or education personnel verbally or in writing.
   - **Use of force (peaceful)**: armed forces or armed groups use teargas, water cannons, rubber bullets, live ammunition, or other violent means to repress a protest that is reported to be largely peaceful.
• **Use of force (disruption):** armed forces or armed groups use teargas, water cannons, rubber bullets, live ammunition, or other violent means to repress a protest in which protesters are reported to be engaged in some form of violent disruption, such as throwing stones or damaging vehicles or buildings.

• **Air-launched explosive:** explosive dropped from a plane, helicopter, drone, or similar targeted at or landing near students or education personnel (including en route to school or university), sometimes referred to as an “airstrike.”

• **Ground-launched explosive:** explosive launched from a howitzer, tank, tactical vehicle, grenade launcher, shoulder-mounted weapon system, or similar targeted at or landing near students or education personnel (including en route to school or university), sometimes referred to as “shelling” or “artillery fire.”

• **IED (directly emplaced):** explosive installed along routes to or from school or university or in a student’s or educator’s home or car (regardless of whether they detonate), including IEDs, landmines, anti-personnel mines, car bombs, road-side bombs, and similar.

• **UXO/ERW:** unexploded ordnance or explosive weapons of war located along routes to or from school or university (regardless of whether they detonate), often reported as such or as a grenade or other explosive students find.

• **Other:** armed forces or groups carry out an attack on students or educators not listed above; this code should be used when the attack subtype is reported, but not listed here.

• **Unknown:** the subtype of an attack on a school or higher education facility is not reported.

3. **Military use of schools or universities**

• **Base/Barracks:** armed forces or armed groups use a school or university to accommodate troops for any length of time.

• **Checkpoint:** armed forces or armed groups establish a checkpoint in the vicinity of a school or university.

• **Detention/interrogation center:** armed forces or armed groups use a school or university to detain or interrogate prisoners for any length of time.

• **Fighting position:** armed forces or armed groups use a school or university as a defensive position to shelter them from fire, an observation post, offensive position, or firing position.

• **Training:** armed forces or armed groups use a school or university to conduct military trainings or drills.

• **Threat:** armed forces or armed groups threaten to use a school or university for military purposes.

• **Weapons storage:** armed forces or armed groups stockpile weapons in a school or university to hide, cache, or store them.

• **Other:** armed forces or armed groups carry out a subtype of military use not listed above; this code should be used when the subtype is reported, but not listed here.

• **Unknown:** the subtype of military use is not reported.

4. **Child recruitment at, or on the way to or from, school**

• **Domestic work:** an armed force or group uses a child to perform domestic tasks, such as cooking for troops, cleaning tents or a base, or transporting equipment or materials from one place to another or between camps.

• **Fighter:** an armed force or group uses a child as a combatant.
• **Spy**: an armed force or group uses a child to gather information about an opponent, or the child serves as an intelligence source about their community.

• **Threat**: an armed force or group threaten to recruit a child at school or along school routes.

• **Other**: armed forces or groups carry out a subtype of recruitment not listed above; this code should be used when the subtype is reported, but not listed here.

• **Unknown**: the subtype of child recruitment is not reported.

5 **Sexual violence at, or on the way to or from, school or university**

• **Forced marriage**: students or education personnel, abducted from an education facility or otherwise targeted based on their status as students or educators, are forced to marry without consent members of armed forces or armed groups.

• **Rape/sexual assault**: armed forces or armed groups rape or sexually assault, such as through groping or other unwanted sexual contact, students or education personnel.

• **Sexual harassment**: armed forces or armed groups make unwelcome and inappropriate sexual remarks or threats targeting students or education personnel.

• **Threat**: armed forces or armed groups threaten to commit sexual violence at a school or university or along school or university routes.

• **Other**: armed forces or armed groups carry out other forms of sexual violence or abuse against students or education personnel, such as sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, forced abortion, forced circumcision, castration, genital harm, or forced nudity; this code should be used when the subtype is reported, but not listed above.

• **Unknown**: the subtype of sexual violence is not reported.

1.10 **Weapons (Columns N, O)**

There are two columns to indicate the type of weapon(s) used in an attack (*Weapon1, Weapon2*). This is a categorical variable. If no weapon is used, for instance in the case of military use, choose “N/A” from the dropdown options.

Weapons are defined as follows:

• **Arson**: includes deliberate setting of fire.

• **Guns**: includes shooting or sniping, as well as the use of guns to carry out threats, abduction, intimidation, or assault.

• **Knife**: includes instruments with blades.

• **Batons**: includes clubs of various materials.

• **Crowd control gas**: includes teargas and other non-lethal crowd control gases.

• **Water cannon**: includes high- or low-velocity streams of water, whether attached to permanent or mobile water supplies, typically used for crowd dispersal or preventing access to an area.

• **Vehicle**: use of a vehicle, such as a bulldozer or car, to carry out an attack.

• **Chemical/incendiary weapons**: includes sarin gas, mustard gas, chlorine gas, and anthrax, napalm, or white phosphorus.

• **Missile/rocket**: can be air- or ground-launched; missiles include Scud, MANPAD, etc.; rockets are typically missiles that do not contain guidance systems and include Grad, Katyusha, etc.

• **Shells/mortars**: ground-launched munitions typically fired indirectly.
• **Grenade**: grenades with explosive blasts (does not include “stun,” “flash,” or “sound” bombs or grenades, which are not intended to function as explosive weapons).
• **IED**: includes improvised explosive devices that are planted, vehicle-born, or body-born.
• **UXO/ERW**: any undetonated explosive weapon or remnant of an explosive weapon.
• **Other**: use of any other weapon not listed.
• **Unknown**: the weapon used is not reported.
• **N/A**: the attack does not rely on a particular weapon, such as military use, indoctrination used for child recruitment, arrest and detention, or physical force without a weapon.

### 1.11 DoubtInclusion (Column P)

This is a binary “yes/no” variable used to indicate if there is any doubt whether the event, tally, or qualitative description meets GCPEA’s definitions for an attack on education or military use. Generally, an event should only be recorded if the researcher is certain it meets GCPEA’s definitions; however, there sometimes remains a degree of doubt. For instance, this variable should be marked as “yes” if one news report says a school was attacked but another news report refers to a monastery; likewise, it is useful if one report refers to the perpetrator as “bandits,” but another reliable source names a specific armed group; and finally, a tally may include attacks on schools as well as schools damaged due to the presence of displaced persons and thus “yes” should be marked.

### 1.12 PrevAttack (Column Q)

This is a categorical variable with three options: yes/no/unknown. It is used to indicate whether the facility or individual has been attacked previously, meaning any time in the past, from hours to years. This variable includes receiving threats in the past.

### 2 LOCATION

#### 2.1 ProvState (Column R)

This is a categorical variable. The province/state/department/prefecture in which the attack occurred is entered. If entering a tally and the attacks or military use occurred nationwide, or in multiple provinces, write “nationwide” or list the provinces, separated by commas.

#### 2.2 District (Column S)

This is a categorical variable. The district/municipality/commune/sub-prefecture is entered. If entering a tally and the attacks or military use occurred nationwide, or in multiple districts, write “nationwide” or list the districts, separated by commas.

#### 2.3 Vicinity (Column T)

This description is open-ended. If more precise information on the location of the event is available, enter it here. If no more precise information is available, mark a “.” in this column.
3 PERPETRATOR DETAILS

3.1 Perpetrator (Column U)
This is a categorical variable with a dropdown list containing ten options. Select one of the following:

- **State armed forces**: includes the national military.
- **Police**: includes the civil forces of a national or local government that is officially responsible for maintaining public order.
- **Intelligence services**: a government agency that is tasked with collecting and analyzing information to support law enforcement, national security, or military objectives. Includes secret police and secret services.
- **State-backed paramilitary**: an unofficial force that is organized in a similar way to national armed forces and supports state objectives but is not formally part of the national armed forces. Paramilitaries may include militias, auxiliary forces such as national guards or presidential guards, or volunteer defense corps.
- **Armed non-state group**: a group fighting against a state, such as guerilla groups, armed opposition groups, or armed separatist groups.
- **Foreign military**: the national forces of a state other than the state where the attack took place.
- **Multinational forces**: an armed force comprised of members from multiple countries. Multinational forces may carry out a variety of roles, including peacekeeping and combat operations.
- **Multiple perpetrators**: select when the attack was carried out by more than one of the above perpetrators, for instance when a shootout between an armed force and group (or two armed groups) occurs near a school or when a tally lists multiple attack perpetrators.
- **Other**: includes any perpetrator that does not fall into one of the categories on this list, such as Israeli settlers.
- **Unknown**: this option is selected when the perpetrator is unknown.

3.2 PerpCertain (Column V)
This is a binary yes/no variable, with a dropdown menu. “Yes” should only be selected if the perpetrator details have been verified, or if a particular group claimed responsibility for the attack. Verified, in this case, means that the event has been investigated and the perpetrator is directly assigned by the UN, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, or similar organizations that conduct rigorous verification of attacks or military use in line with international standards.
4 TARGET DETAILS

4.1 Target (Column W)
This is a categorical variable with three options. The intention is to indicate whether the perpetrator intentionally targeted students, education personnel, or educational facilities, or whether the attack was the result of indiscriminate violence. Select one of the following:

- **Targeted**: the attack was directed at one or more students, educators, or education facilities. Military use, child recruitment, sexual violence, and protest repression are in most cases targeted; attacks on schools and students and education personnel may fall into either category.
- **Indiscriminate**: the attack occurred during armed conflict but was not directed at a student, educator, or education facility.
- **Unknown**: it is unknown whether the student, educator, or education facility was the target of the attack.

5 SCHOOL OR UNIVERSITY DETAILS

The variables in this section apply only to attacks on schools, attacks on higher education facilities, and military use of schools or universities. If EventType is any other form of attack, enter “0” or mark “N/A,” as applicable.5

5.1 nSch (Column X)
This is a numerical variable used to record the total number of schools or universities attacked or used from an event or aggregate count. For events, the number entered is typically “1,” since generally one school or university is attacked or used at a time (an exception would be an explosive detonating nearby two or more schools); in the case of aggregate counts, the number entered is the number of schools or universities relayed in the count. This variable applies only to attacks on schools, higher education facilities, and military use; if the EventType is another form of attack, enter “0.”

nSch also applies to education infrastructure other than schools or universities, such as ministry of education buildings or school playgrounds or yards.

5.2 nSch_f (Column Y)
This is a numerical variable used to relay the total number of schools or universities attacked or used that serve girls or women from an event or aggregate count. For events, the number entered is typically “0” or “1” and must be equal to or less than nSch; in the case of aggregate counts, the number entered is the number of girls’ schools or women’s universities relayed in the tally and must be equal to or less than nSch. If it is unknown whether the school(s) or university(ies) attacked or used served only one gender or was co-ed, enter “.” to indicate missing information. This variable applies only to attacks on schools, higher education facilities, and military use; if the EventType is another form of attack, enter “0.”

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1 In most contexts, information on these variables is not available for the other EventTypes (e.g., attacks on school teachers and staff, attacks on higher education personnel, school-related child recruitment, and education-related sexual violence). However, where available, this information should be entered if practicable, in particular the level of schooling and the school or university operator.
5.3 nSch_m (Column Z)

This is a numerical variable used to relay the total number of schools or universities attacked that serve boys or men only from an event or aggregate count. For events, the number entered is typically “0” or “1” and must be equal to or less than nSch; in the case of aggregate counts, the number entered is the number of boys’ schools or men’s universities relayed in the tally and must be equal to or less than nSch. If it is unknown whether the school(s) or university(ies) attacked or used served only one gender or was co-ed, enter “.” to indicate missing information. This variable applies only to attacks on schools, higher education facilities, and military use; if the EventType is another form of attack, enter “0.”

5.4 nSch_mix (Column AA)

This is a numerical variable used to relay the total number of schools or universities attacked that serve all students from an event or aggregate count. For events, the number entered is typically “0” or “1” and must be equal to or less than nSch; in the case of aggregate counts, the number entered is the number of schools or universities without a gender distinction relayed in the tally and must be equal to or less than nSch. If it is unknown whether the school(s) or university(ies) attacked or used served only one gender or was co-ed, enter “.” to indicate missing information. This variable applies only to attacks on schools, higher education facilities, and military use; if the EventType is another form of attack, enter “0.”

5.5 Sch_lvl (Column AB)

This is a categorical variable relaying the level of school or type of university, from which preschool, kindergarten, primary, secondary, university, vocational, technical, nonformal, ministry office, unknown, or N/A can be selected. Select “ministry office” if the facility was a ministry of education office (not to be confused with an administrative office in a school or university); select “unknown” if the information is not provided in the report; select “N/A” if the form of attack is one other than attacks on schools, higher education facilities, or military use.

5.6 Sch_op (Column AC)

This is a categorical variable relaying the operator of the school or university, from which government, private, NGO, religious, unknown, or N/A can be selected. Select “unknown” if the information is not provided in the report; select “N/A” if the form of attack is one other than attacks on schools, higher education facilities, or military use.

6 NUMBER OF CASUALTIES

Variables in this section relate to the number of students and education personnel killed, injured, arrested, or otherwise harmed in an attack. Individual(s) must be recorded in only one column in this section. Variables other than injure or threat should be prioritized. For example, if a student is reported as arrested and injured, she should be recorded as only arrested in the spreadsheet (not both).

Sometimes sources report different casualty numbers. Where reports disagree, the coder should decide what number to use based on a combination of which source is most reliable and most recent.

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6 This is to ease analyses. If more than one category were recorded, researchers would be more likely to incorrectly sum up the global total number of students and personnel harmed in attacks.
Sources often provide imprecise information on the numbers of victims. Where imprecise language is used, numbers are tallied as follows:

- Tens = 20
- A dozen = 12
- Dozens = 24
- Hundreds = 200
- A score = 20
- Scores = 40
- Students = 2
- Teachers = 2
- Some = 3
- Several = 3
- A few = 3
- A number of = 2

For more details, see the Definitions and Key Concepts appendix.

The following variables apply only to students and educators, not other civilians or fighters. Relevant terms, such as education personnel are defined in the introduction to this codebook and the Definitions and Key Concepts appendix.

6.1 nKill (Column AD)

This is a numerical variable that relays the number of students and education personnel killed in the attack. If no students or education personnel were killed in the attack, enter “0”. If non-student or non-educator civilians were killed in the attack, enter “0”; if a total number of people killed is reported, but there is no information on whether any of them were students or education personnel, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.2 nKill_f (Column AE)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female students and education personnel killed in the attack. If no female students or education personnel were killed in the attack, enter “0”. If the information on the number of students and education personnel killed is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.3 nStuKill (Column AF)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of students killed in the attack. If no students were killed in the attack, enter “0”. If there is no information on whether any of the people killed were students, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.4 nStuKill_f (Column AG)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female students killed in the attack. If no female students were killed in the attack, enter “0”. If the information on the numbers of students killed is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.
6.5 nTeachKill (Column AH)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education personnel killed in the attack. If no education personnel were killed in the attack, enter “0”. If there is no information on whether any of the people killed were education personnel, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.6 nTeachKill_f (Column AI)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female education personnel killed in the attack. If no female education personnel were killed in the attack, enter “0”. If the information on the number of educators killed is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.7 nInjure (Column AJ)

This is a numerical variable that relays the number of students and education personnel injured in the attack. If no students or education personnel were injured in the attack, enter “0”. If non-student or non-educator civilians were injured in the attack, enter “0”; if a total number of people injured is reported, but there is no information on whether any of those people were students or education personnel, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

Most forms of sexual violence, other than threats or harassment, are considered injuries and so the number of students and education personnel are recorded here. Students or personnel arrested, abducted, or recruited are marked only in those categories (below), rather than marked as injured.

6.8 nInjure_f (Column AK)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female students and education personnel injured in the attack. If no female students were injured in the attack, enter “0”. If the information on the numbers of students and education personnel injured is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

Most forms of sexual violence, other than threats or harassment, are considered injuries and so the number of students and education personnel are recorded here. Students or personnel arrested, abducted, or recruited are marked only in those categories (below), rather than marked as injured.

6.9 nStuInjure (Column AL)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of students injured the attack. If no students were injured in the attack, enter “0”. If there is no information on whether any of the people injured were students, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

Most forms of sexual violence, other than threats or harassment, are considered injuries and so the number of students and education personnel are recorded here. Students arrested, abducted, or recruited are marked only in those categories (below), rather than marked as injured.

6.10 nStuInjure_f (Column AM)

This is a numerical variable that relays the number of female students injured in the attack. If no female students were injured in the attack, enter “0”. If the information on the numbers of students injured is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

Most forms of sexual violence, other than threats or harassment, are considered injuries and so the number of students and education personnel are recorded here. Students arrested, abducted, or recruited are marked only in those categories (below), rather than marked as injured.
6.11 nTeachInjure (Column AN)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education personnel injured in the attack. If no education personnel were injured in the attack, enter “0”. If there is no information on whether any of the people injured were education personnel, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

Most forms of sexual violence, other than threats or harassment, are considered injuries and so the number of students and education personnel are recorded here. Education personnel arrested or abducted are marked only in those categories (below), rather than marked as injured.

6.12 nTeachInjure_f (Column AO)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female education personnel were injured in the attack. If no female education personnel injured in the attack, enter “0”. If the information on the numbers of personnel injured is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

Most forms of sexual violence, other than threats or harassment, are considered injuries and so the number of students and education personnel are recorded here. Education personnel arrested or abducted are marked only in those categories (below), rather than marked as injured.

6.13 nAbduct (Column AP)

This is a numerical variable that relays the number of students and education personnel abducted or forcibly disappeared in the attack. The number of students recruited by armed forces or armed groups in an incident of child recruitment is also counted here. If no students or education personnel were abducted or disappeared in the attack, enter “0”. If a total number of people abducted or disappeared is presented, but there is no information on whether any of those people were students or education personnel, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.14 nAbduct_f (Column AQ)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female students and education personnel abducted or forcibly disappeared in the attack. The number of girl students recruited by armed forces or armed groups in an incident of child recruitment is also counted here. If no female students or education personnel were abducted or disappeared in the attack, enter “0”. If the information on the numbers of students and education personnel abducted or disappeared is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.15 nStuAbduct (Column AR)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of students abducted or forcibly disappeared in the attack. The number of students recruited by armed forces or armed groups in an incident of child recruitment is also counted here. If no students were abducted or disappeared in the attack, enter “0”. If there is no information on whether any of the people abducted or disappeared were students, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.16 nStuAbduct_f (Column AS)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female students abducted or forcibly disappeared in the attack were female. The number of girl students recruited by armed forces or armed groups in an incident of child recruitment is also counted here. If no female students were abducted or disappeared in the attack, enter “0”. If the information on the numbers of students abducted or disappeared is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.
6.17 nTeachAbduct (Column AT)
This is a numerical variable that relays the number of education personnel abducted or forcibly disappeared in the attack. If no education personnel were abducted or disappeared in the attack, enter “0”. If there is no information on whether any of the people abducted or disappeared were education personnel, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.18 nTeachAbduct_f (Column AU)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female education personnel abducted or forcibly disappeared in the attack. If no female education personnel were abducted or disappeared in the attack, enter “0”. If the information on the numbers of personnel abducted or disappeared is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.19 nArrest (Column AV)
This is a numerical variable that relays the number of students and education personnel detained or arrested. If no students or education personnel were detained or arrested, enter “0”. If a total number of people detained or arrested is reported, but there is no information on whether any of those people were students or education personnel, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.20 nArrest_f (Column AW)
This is a numerical variable that relays the number of female students and education personnel detained or arrested. If no female students or education personnel were detained or arrested, enter “0”. If the information on the number of students and education personnel detained or arrested is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.21 nStuArrest (Column AX)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of students detained or arrested. If no students were detained or arrested, enter “0”. If there is no information on whether any of the people detained or arrested were students, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.22 nStuArrest_f (Column AY)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female students detained or arrested. If no female students were detained or arrested, enter “0”. If the information on the number of students detained or arrested is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.23 nTeachArrest (Column AZ)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education personnel detained or arrested. If no education personnel were detained or arrested, enter “0”. If there is no information on whether any of the people detained or arrested were education personnel, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

6.24 nTeachArrest_f (Column BA)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female education personnel detained or arrested. If no female education personnel were detained or arrested, enter “0”. If the information on the numbers of personnel detained or arrested is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.
6.25 nThreat (Column BB)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of students and education personnel who received threats. If no students or education personnel were threatened, enter “0”. If a total number of people threatened is reported, but there is no information on whether any of them were students or education personnel, enter “.” to indicate missing information. Threats of child recruitment are included, as is threatened sexual violence and sexual harassment.

6.26 nThreat_f (Column BC)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female students and education personnel who received threats. If no female students or education personnel were threatened, enter “0”. If the information on the numbers of students and education personnel threatened is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information. Threats of child recruitment are included, as is threatened sexual violence and sexual harassment.

6.27 nStuThreat (Column BD)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of students threatened. If no students were threatened, enter “0”. If there is no information on whether any of the people threatened were students, enter “.” to indicate missing information. Threats of child recruitment are included, as is threatened sexual violence and sexual harassment.

6.28 nStuThreat_f (Column BE)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female students threatened. If no female students were threatened, enter “0”. If the information on the numbers of students threatened is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information. Threats of child recruitment are included, as is threatened sexual violence and sexual harassment.

6.29 nTeachThreat (Column BF)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education personnel threatened. If no education personnel were threatened, enter “0”. If there is no information on whether any of the people threatened were education personnel, enter “.” to indicate missing information. Threatened sexual violence and sexual harassment are included.

6.30 nTeachThreat_f (Column BG)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of female education personnel threatened. If no female education personnel were threatened, enter “0”. If the information on the number of personnel threatened is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information. Threatened sexual violence and sexual harassment are included.
7 NUMBER OF FACILITIES DAMAGED OR DESTROYED

Variables in this section relate to the damage and destruction of educational facilities. This section applies only to attacks on schools, attacks on higher education facilities, and military use of schools and universities. If Event Type is any other form of attack, enter “0” or mark “N/A,” as applicable.

Sometimes sources report different levels of damage or destruction. Where reports disagree, the coder should decide which level of damage to record based on a combination of which source is most reliable and most recent.

Damage ranges from a broken window or similar to an unusable classroom in an otherwise operational school or university; destroyed means the school or university has been rendered unusable. Educational facilities are defined in the Introduction. More details can be found in the Definition and Key Concepts document.

7.1 nFacilityDest (Column BH)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education facilities destroyed in the attack to the point of being rendered unusable. If no facilities were destroyed in the attack, enter “0”. If there is no information on the extent of destruction to education facilities because of the attack, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

7.2 nFacilityDest_f (Column BII)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education facilities serving only female students that were destroyed and rendered unusable in the attack. If no facilities serving only female students were destroyed, enter “0”. If information on the number of facilities destroyed is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

7.3 nFacilityDest_m (Column BJ)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education facilities serving only male students that were destroyed and rendered unusable in the attack. If no facilities serving only male students were destroyed, enter “0”. If information on the number of facilities destroyed is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

7.4 nFacilityDest_mix (Column BK)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education facilities serving all students destroyed and rendered unusable in the attack. If no co-educational facilities were destroyed, enter “0”. If information on the number of facilities destroyed is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

7.5 nFacilityDam (Column BL)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education facilities damaged in the attack. If no facilities were destroyed in the attack, enter “0”. If there is no information on the extent of damage to education facilities because of the attack, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

7.6 nFacilityDam_f (Column BM)

This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education facilities serving only female students damaged in the attack. If no facilities serving only female students were damaged, enter “0”. If this information is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.
7.7 nFacilityDam_m (Column BN)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education facilities serving only male students damaged in the attack. If no facilities serving only male students were damaged, enter “0”. If this information is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

7.8 nFacilityDam_mix (Column BO)
This is a numerical variable that counts the number of education facilities serving all students damaged in the attack. If no co-educational facilities were damaged, enter “0”. If this information is not disaggregated by gender, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

8 IMPACT
The following variables apply only to attacks on schools, attacks on higher education facilities, and military use of schools and universities. If EventType is any other form of attack, enter “0” or mark “N/A,” as applicable.

The exception is when a school is closed due to another category of attack (EventType). For instance, if a school is closed after protest repression or a teacher is killed, then the following columns can be filled in with information about the protestor’s or teacher’s school.

8.1 nSchClosed (Column BP)
The number of schools or universities that are either temporarily or permanently closed because of the attack or military use. This variable pertains only to the directly affected education facility or facilities (closures at nearby facilities not directly attacked are not included). If no schools or universities were closed, enter “0”. If no information on whether the schools or universities closed is available, enter “.” to indicate missing information; do not assume a school is closed because it was destroyed. Generally, if there is a closure, “1” is marked here unless a tally mentions several school closures or in the instances that a single attack incident involves several schools.

If the attack was against students or educators, and their school or university was closed as a result, then this is the number of schools or universities attended by the students or where the educators are employed.

8.2 nSchClosureLength (Column BQ)
The approximate length of time, recorded in days, that the school or university was closed due to the attack or military use. If the school or university was not closed due to the attack, enter “0.” If more than one school or university is closed due to the attack, then add together the durations and record the total number of days.

Since reports often state that a school or university was closed or occupied for a month or half a year, the coder may need to perform basic math to determine the number of days. If the school or university is reported as still closed, then calculate the number of days between the attack and the date the report was published; make no assumptions about whether the school or university remained closed after publication. See the Definition and Key Concepts appendix for details on conservative estimates and counting.

8.3 nEnroll (Column BR)
The number of students enrolled in the school or university where the attack or military use occurred. If no information on the number of students enrolled is available, enter “.” to indicate missing information.

If the attack was against students or educators, and their school or university was closed as a result, then this is the number of students enrolled where the student attends or educator is employed.
9 ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The following section records administrative information, such as who entered the report, as well as citations and data types.

9.1 EnteredBy (Column BS)
This is open-ended. The name of the person entering the information into the spreadsheet is recorded.

9.2 EntryDate (Column BT)
The date when the information was entered.

9.3 Sources (Columns BU, BX, CA, CD)
There are five columns for entering sources, which should be recorded as a full citation.

9.4 SourceTypes (Columns BV, BY, CB, CE)
There are five columns for identifying the type of each source. The following six options are available:

- **UN**: the source is a UN report or article.
- **INGO**: the source is a report or article by an international NGO.
- **Civil Society**: the source is a report or article by a civil society organization operating in the country where the attack occurred.
- **ACLED**: the source is an article or report identified by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project.
- **GTD**: the source is an article or report identified by the University of Maryland’s Global Terrorism Database.
- **Media**: the source is a media report.
- **Other**: any source other than those listed above.

9.5 SourceConfid (Columns BW, BZ, CC, CF)
There are four columns for identifying whether the source of the information is confidential or not. The following three options are available:

- **Open**: the source is a publicly available document.
- **Private-confidential**: the source was shared privately and in confidence. The information should not be cited publicly.
- **Private-not confidential**: The source was shared privately but can be cited as agreed.

10 ADDITIONAL VARIABLES

Several additional variables and their descriptions, such as perpetrator name and number of staff, are included in the Appendices.
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The Toolkit is independent of the individual member organizations of the Steering Committee of GCPEA and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Steering Committee member organizations.

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Toolkit for Collecting and Analyzing Data on Attacks on Education

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