

Central African Republic

Reported attacks on education increased during the current reporting period, when sporadic attacks on schools, as well as military use of schools, and attacks on students and staff, continued. Attacks involving child recruitment and sexual violence at, or on the way to or from, school, were also identified.

Context

The security situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) remained volatile throughout 2024 and 2025, marked by continued clashes between government forces, jointly with allied forces, and armed groups affiliated with the Coalition des Patriotes pour le Changement (CPC).¹ Despite relative stability in Bangui, violence persisted in rural areas, with CPC-aligned groups increasingly using guerilla tactics such as kidnappings and the use of explosive weapons.² Amnesty International reported that armed groups carried out killings, unlawful attacks, and sexual violence against civilians during the reporting period.³ The Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and other government-aligned groups were accused of serious human rights abuses, including extrajudicial executions and inhumane detention practices.⁴ According to Human Rights Watch, violence in the country impacted half of the population, approximately 2.3 million people.⁵

Efforts to stabilize the country included continued engagement by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and regional mediation initiatives.⁶ MINUSCA supported the implementation of the 2019 Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation, and in April 2025 two CPC-aligned groups (the Retour, Réclamation et Réhabilitation (3R) and the Unité pour la Paix en Centrafrique (UPC) recommitted to the agreement.⁷ Subsequently, in November 2025, another CPC-aligned group, Mouvement patriotique pour la Centrafrique (MPC), also recommitted to the agreement.⁸ However, persistent attacks by armed groups, including spillover from the conflict in Sudan, have constrained progress toward peace and the protection of civilians.⁹ The UN reported three attacks by armed groups on MINUSCA missions in the country, including an attack on June 20, 2025, in the Vakaga prefecture, in which one MINUSCA peacekeeper was killed.¹⁰ Despite efforts at disarmament and peace-building, conflict-related displacement and death of civilians continued.¹¹

The political situation remained fragile since the December 2023 constitutional referendum and amid preparations for local elections in December 2025.¹² Opposition parties noted concern over electoral delays and restricted political space.¹³

Humanitarian conditions remained dire, with the civilian population facing severe protection risks and violence.¹⁴ The UN estimated that 2.4 million people, over half the population, required humanitarian assistance in 2024, including 1.1 million children.¹⁵ As of August 2025, over 1.4 million Central Africans were forcibly displaced from their homes.¹⁶ The World Food Programme warned of rising food insecurity, exacerbated by armed conflict, floods, and supply disruptions along major roads.¹⁷ Blockades and attacks on humanitarian workers were reported throughout 2024 and 2025.¹⁸

Violence continued to severely impact children, including their protection, recruitment to armed groups, and education. The UN verified 479 violations against children in 2024, and reported that 331 children were recruited by armed groups.¹⁹ Over 840,000 children were reported to be in need of education assistance in 2024.²⁰

Attacks on schools

GCPEA identified at least seven attacks on schools in 2024 and 2025; this was a decrease as compared to the previous reporting period, when 11 were reported in 2023 and 13 in 2022.²¹

GCPEA identified at least four attacks in 2024. The UN reported four attacks on schools in 2024.²² MINUSCA also reported one case of denial of education by an armed group in June 2024, although GCPEA was unable to establish whether this constituted an attack on a school, or on students, teachers, and other education personnel, or a case of military use, so this was not included, to avoid double counting.²³ Separately, GCPEA identified four incidents of attacks on schools, although since it is likely that these overlap with the number reported by the UN, these were not added, to avoid double counting. Examples included:

- In January 2024, an armed group attacked two schools, as reported by MINUSCA.²⁴
- In May 2024, MINUSCA reported one attack on a school.²⁵

GCPEA identified at least three attacks on schools in 2025:

- On January 10, 2025, in Basse-Kotto Prefecture, other security personnel allegedly entered a high school that was in session and fired live ammunition in the air, as reported by the UN.²⁶ No injuries were reported, but students and teachers evacuated the premises, and the perpetrators allegedly used the school for military purposes after the attack, as detailed below.
- As reported on May 2, 2025, in Zémio, Haut Mbomou Prefecture, an armed clash near a school between FACA and the Azandé Ani Kpi Gbé (AAKG) armed group led to two children being killed in the crossfire, and also interrupted learning, as reported by the Education Cluster.²⁷
- As reported on June 24, 2025, at the Zoukoutouniala public school in Bamingui Bangoran Prefecture, armed men threatened students and staff.²⁸ The school served 96 students, both boys and girls.

Attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel

GCPEA identified at least five attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2024 and 2025. This represented a slight increase as compared to the previous reporting period, when one attack was identified in 2023.²⁹

GCPEA identified two attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2024:

- The UN and local media reported that, on February 26, in front of the Berengo school, in Berengo, Lobaye Prefecture, FACA and other security personnel beat and injured at least 23 boy students, aged 12 and 13, who were leaving school, and eight of them were reportedly transferred to Bangui for treatment. Students did not return to school for some time after the attack.³⁰
- On December 18, 2024, near the Avenir School Complex in Arrondissement 1, Bangui, a FACA soldier allegedly shot and injured a female student, who was transferred to hospital for treatment, as reported by ACLED and local media.³¹ GCPEA was not able to establish whether the student was the target of the gunfire.

GCPEA identified three attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2025:

- On February 11, 2025, in Bangui, police allegedly fired live ammunition to suppress students from Gbaloko high school who were protesting against alleged extortion by the school in relation to examinations, as reported by ACLED and local media.³²
- On March 5, 2025, near Bokine, Ouham prefecture, six suspected members of an armed group allegedly attacked staff at a school project and assaulted one person, as well as stealing possessions, as reported by the UN.³³
- On October 24, 2025, in Bangui, police and the BIR (Rapid Intervention Battalion) allegedly suppressed students from Lycee d'Etat des Rapides who were protesting against alleged violence by a teacher; the BIR allegedly fired live ammunition at the students, injuring several, as reported by ACLED and local media.³⁴

Military use of schools and universities

At least 13 cases of military use were reported during the 2024-2025 reporting period, a decrease as compared to the previous *Education under Attack*, when 11 cases were reported in 2023 and 14 in 2022.³⁵ The UN reported that national defence forces occupied one school in 2024, and had not vacated the school as at June 2025.³⁶

GCPEA identified six cases of military use in 2024.³⁷ For example:

- In April 2024, other security personnel allegedly occupied and subsequently vacated two schools Haute-Kotto and Nana-Gribizi prefectures, as reported by the UN.³⁸
- Between October 1 and October 7, 2024, in Dembia, Mbomou Prefecture, armed groups allegedly occupied the primary school and used school furniture as firewood, as reported by the UN.³⁹

GCPEA identified seven cases of military use in 2025.⁴⁰ For example:

- On January 10, 2025, in Basse-Kotto Prefecture, other security personnel allegedly attacked a high school as detailed above, and then used the school for military purposes, as reported by the UN.⁴¹ GCPEA was unable to establish if or when the school was vacated.
- The UN reported that UPC members occupied a school in February 2025.⁴² GCPEA was unable to establish if or when the school was vacated.
- As reported by the UN on July 15, 2025, in Kouki, Ouham Prefecture local sources alleged that armed men had been occupying the primary school since 8 July.⁴³
- As reported on November 2, 2025, in Sam-Ouandja, Haute-Kotto Prefecture, UPC members allegedly occupied a primary school, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁴⁴
- As reported on November 2, 2025, in Sam-Ouandja, Haute-Kotto Prefecture, other security personnel allegedly occupied the Zaire school, which was reportedly previously occupied by UPC as part of the disarmament process. According to reports from ACLED and local media, the occupation of the school had deprived over 1,000 students of their right to education since the beginning of the academic year, although GCPEA was unable to establish whether this was the same school detailed in the incident above.⁴⁵
- As reported on May 21, 2025, other security personnel vacated a school that they had been occupying in Obo, Haut Mbomou prefecture, as reported by international media *RFI*.⁴⁶

Child recruitment at, or on the way to or from, school

GCPEA identified two reports of child recruitment that occurred at, or along routes to or from, school during the current reporting period. This represents an increase as compared to the previous reporting period when no such attacks were reported.⁴⁷

No reports were identified in 2024.

In 2025, GCPEA identified at least two reports of child recruitment:

- As reported by the Education Cluster on April 3, 2025, armed clashes near Koumboli Primary School, Haut Mbomou Prefecture, led to a number of violations which affected students and teachers, including forced recruitment.⁴⁸
- Also reported by the Education Cluster on April 3, 2025, at Jacques Legendre high school in Kondo, Haut Mbomou Prefecture, armed groups recruited and abducted three students, one who was a minor and two who were over 18; the school closed afterwards.⁴⁹

Sexual violence at, or on the way to or from, school

GCPEA identified one report of sexual violence that occurred at, or along routes to or from, school during the current reporting period. This represents an increase as compared to the previous reporting period when no such attacks were reported.⁵⁰

While no reports were identified in 2024, one such attack was reported in 2025: as detailed above, reports from the Education Cluster on April 3, 2025, indicated that armed clashes near Koumboli Primary School, Haut Mbomou Prefecture, led to a number of violations which affected students and teachers, including sexual violence.⁵¹