

# Niger

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Attacks against education continued, and hundreds of schools were non-operational or otherwise impacted by violence and insecurity. Threats against schools, teachers, and students also impacted access to education.

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## Context

Conflict and violence continued in Niger in 2024 and 2025, as non-state armed groups continued to perpetrate attacks, with Tillabéri, Tahoua, Maradi, Agadez, Dosso, and Diffa regions particularly affected.<sup>1</sup> The Global Protection Cluster reported that non-state armed groups (NSAGs) continued to target civilians in 2024, including children, who represented approximately 12 percent of victims, and in many attacks were abducted and forcibly married to NSAG members.<sup>2</sup> As reported by ACLED in 2024, Islamic State Sahel Province (ISSP) expanded its influence and control in Niger and in the region, and continued to target civilians in attacks, including high profile kidnappings of foreign nationals for ransom.<sup>3</sup> The withdrawal of the US military was announced in early 2024 and completed in September of that year.<sup>4</sup> Nigerien forces carried out military operations, some jointly with forces from Burkina Faso and Mali, in particular in the tri-border area.<sup>5</sup>

Together with Burkina Faso and Mali, the first summit of Heads of State of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) was held in Niamey on July 6, 2024, as the three countries withdrew from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).<sup>6</sup> In early 2025, Brigadier General Abdourahmane Tiani was formally sworn in as President of the Republic for a five-year renewable term.<sup>7</sup> In September 2025, the three countries also announced their intention to withdraw from the International Criminal Court.<sup>8</sup>

Humanitarian challenges persisted in 2024 and 2025. The UN reported that 2.6 million people across the country required humanitarian aid in 2025.<sup>9</sup> Flooding in July 2024 compounded the humanitarian needs in Niger, affecting more than 1.4 million people, and killing more than 390, as well as leading to increased food shortages, as reported by the UN.<sup>10</sup>

Violence, insecurity, and climate events impacted access to education. In 2025, the UN reported that schools were non-operational in Tillabéri, Tahoua, Maradi, Agadez, and Diffa regions where armed groups carried out attacks.<sup>11</sup> At the end of 2025, over 750 schools were reported non-operational because of insecurity.<sup>12</sup> Flooding in July 2024 destroyed at least 5,500 classrooms,<sup>13</sup> as well as damaging many more, and almost 2,000 were used as shelter by people displaced by the flooding, which led the

government to delay the start of the school year, from October 1 to October 28.<sup>14</sup> Maradi was one of the worst affected regions, with over 10,000 people displaced by the floods still sheltering in schools in October.<sup>15</sup> Similarly in 2025, at least 1,100 schools were damaged by flooding, according to the UN.<sup>16</sup>

## Attacks on schools

GCPEA identified at least 14 attacks on schools in 2024 and 2025. A similar number of attacks on schools were identified in the current reporting period, compared to ten in 2023 and three in 2022.<sup>17</sup>

The UN verified five attacks on schools in 2024.<sup>18</sup> Separately, GCPEA identified six incidents, although this number was not added to the UN count, to avoid double counting.<sup>19</sup>

- On April 15, 2024, in the village of Dina, Gotheye district, Tillaberi region, suspected members of an armed group reportedly carried out an arson attack on a school and looted the canteen, as reported by ACLED.<sup>20</sup>
- On April 25, 2024, in the village of Bangou Karey Koulbaga, Gotheye district, Tillaberi region, suspected members of an armed group reportedly carried out an arson attack on a primary school, as reported by ALCED.<sup>21</sup>

GCPEA received reports of nine attacks on schools in 2025.<sup>22</sup>

## Attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel

GCPEA identified at least two attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2024 and 2025. Reports of attacks decreased in the current reporting period, compared to the previous one when GCPEA identified two attacks in 2023 and four attacks in 2022.<sup>23</sup> Although the number of reported attacks appears to be declining, it is unclear whether this is attributable to a decrease in attacks, a decrease in reporting, or the high number of schools that were closed because of insecurity and climate events.

Teachers still faced threats and dangers in the current reporting period,<sup>24</sup> Examples of attacks included:

- On January 10, 2024, suspected members of an armed group reportedly shot and killed a teacher near a school in Makalondi, Torodi department, Tillabéri region, as reported by international media *DW*.<sup>25</sup> The teacher had been kidnapped, along with a colleague, from school in October 2023, as detailed in *Education under Attack 2024*.<sup>26</sup> According to reports, the other teacher was released. Teachers in the area refused to work and, together with the National Union of Basic Education Contractual Workers (SYNACEB), demanded protection and security measures from the authorities.
- On February 4, 2024, in the village of Garin Ali, Tillia district, Tahoua region, suspected members of an armed group allegedly removed students from a school while classes were in session, as reported by ACLED.<sup>27</sup>

No attacks were identified in 2025.

## Attacks on higher education

GCPEA identified at least one attack on higher education students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2024 and 2025. This was consistent with the sporadic reported attacks in the previous reporting period, when GCPEA identified no attacks in 2023 and two attacks in 2022.<sup>28</sup>

No attacks on higher education in 2024 were identified.

As reported on May 23, 2025, soldiers allegedly threatened students on campus at the University of Dosso, Dosso city and region, according to local media *Actu Niger*.<sup>29</sup>