

Nigeria

Attacks targeting education continued in the 2024-2025 reporting period, when at least 90 students, teachers, and other education staff were killed or injured, and the number of students and staff abducted increased sharply, to over 700. Military use also continued, and in several instances led to subsequent targeting by opposing forces. At least one case of sexual violence was reported.

Context

Armed conflict between Nigerian government forces and non-state armed groups continued during 2024-2025, mainly in the north. Boko Haram-affiliated or splinter groups, including the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda' Awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) continued attacks on civilians during the reporting period.¹ In March 2024, at least 400 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were abducted from IDP camps in Gamboru Ngala, Borno state, by suspected Boko Haram fighters.² Human Rights Watch reported that suspected ISWAP fighters killed over 170 people in Yobe state, in September 2024.³ In Borno state in July 2025, 20 women were abducted by JAS in one incident, and 15 civilians in another.⁴ In 2024, the UN verified 2,436 grave violations against children in Nigeria,⁵ including 974 children recruited and used.⁶

In northcentral Nigeria, violence between Fulani pastoralists and mostly Hausa farmer communities persisted.⁷ By October 2024, conflict between farmers and pastoralists in the northwestern and northcentral regions included 1,380 violent events and 3,980 fatalities, which exceeded those attributed to militant Islamic groups in the northeast.⁸ By mid-2025, there were escalating incidents of banditry, civilian fatalities, and abductions by non-state actors across the north of the country.⁹ Over 100 people were killed in two attacks in the context of intercommunal violence in Plateau state in one month in early 2025, according to Amnesty International.¹⁰

In August 2024, during nationwide protests, 24 protesters were killed and over 1,200 detained, including minors, and Nigerian police were accused of using excessive force, according to Amnesty International.¹¹

According to the UN, more than 7.8 million people required humanitarian assistance in 2025, over 80 percent of whom were women and children.¹² At the end of 2025, over 3.5 million million people were internally displaced, mainly in the north of the country.¹³ Nearly 31 million people in Nigeria were facing acute hunger in July 2025.¹⁴ In September 2024, more than 400,000 people in Borno state were displaced from their homes due to severe flooding.¹⁵

According to the UN, by mid-2024, 1.5 million children between ages 3-17 were in need of critical educational assistance.¹⁶ This was further exacerbated by severe flooding, with the UN estimating 2.2 million children newly out of school as of October 2024.¹⁷ By mid-2025, 10.5 million children were out of school across the country. In the northeastern and northwestern states, there was a net attendance rate of just 53 percent, and for girls in the northeast and northwest, that percentage was below half.¹⁸

Attacks on schools

GCPEA identified at least nine attacks on schools in 2024 and 2025, a decrease from the previous reporting period when GCPEA identified four attacks in 2023 and fifteen in 2022.¹⁹

The UN reported one attack on a school in 2024.²⁰ Separately, GCPEA identified two attacks:

- On March 7, 2024, suspected members of an armed group allegedly raided LEA Primary and Secondary School in Kuriga town, Kaduna state, according to ACLED and local media, as well as abducting students, as detailed in the section below.²¹ According to the UN, a teacher was also killed, and the school was closed for at least two months after the attack, affecting over 4,000 students.²²
- On June 5, 2024, suspected members of an armed group allegedly set the Magarya Model Primary School on fire during an attack on Kanwa ward, Zamfara state, according to ACLED and local media.²³ Eleven people were reportedly killed, but GCPEA was not able to establish whether any were students or staff.

GCPEA identified at least seven attacks on schools in 2025. Attacks involved arson or the use of explosive weapons.

- On January 6, 2025, in Kuchibuyi in the Federal Capital Territory, an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded at an Islamic school, and killed two people, as well as injuring four civilians, although GCPEA was not able to establish whether they were students or staff, as reported by ACLED and local media.²⁴
- Around February 8, 2025, in Okpoga, Benue state, classroom blocks were reportedly set on fire at Central UBE Secondary School in Ugwu-Okpoga and Junior Secondary School in Abossa, according to ACLED and local media.²⁵
- On February 25, 2025, suspected members of an armed group allegedly set multiple schools on fire when they attacked two communities in Hong, Adamawa state, according to ACLED and local media.²⁶
- On June 30, 2025, suspected members of an armed group allegedly set a school on fire when they attacked three villages in Kakihun, Niger state, as reported by ACLED and local media.²⁷
- On September 16, 2025, at LGEA Primary School in Ater, Benue state, a grenade reportedly detonated and injured seven students, as reported by ACLED and local media.²⁸

Attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel

GCPEA identified at least 14 attacks on school students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2024 and 2025. This is consistent with the number of reported attacks in the previous reporting period, when GCPEA identified eight attacks in 2023 and seven in 2022.²⁹ However, the number of students and teachers harmed in attacks in 2024 and 2025 was approximately 694, a sharp increase from the previous reporting period, when approximately 52 were injured, abducted, or killed.

GCPEA identified at least six attacks on students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2024.

- On January 31, 2024, at Ikotun High School in Alimosho, Lagos state, police reportedly intervened in a clash between students, using teargas and firing live ammunition into the air. According to reports, ten people were hospitalized in the ensuing stampede and an unspecified number of students were arrested, as reported by ACLED and local media.³⁰
- On February 9, 2024, at Iloro Secondary School in Agege, Lagos, police reportedly responded to student clashes with teargas, and a canister allegedly hit and injured a female student, as reported by ACLED and local media.³¹
- On March 7, 2024, suspected members of an armed group allegedly stormed LEA Primary and Secondary School in Kuriga, Kaduna state, abducting at least 287 students, as reported by the UN, ACLED, and international media.³²
- On March 9, 2024, unidentified gunmen allegedly abducted at least 15 children from an Islamic school in Gidan Bakuso, Sokoto state, as reported by ACLED and local media.³³
- On August 30, 2024, in Hausari, Geidam LGA, Yobe state, suspected members of an armed group allegedly entered the Faudiya School and shot and killed three students and injured at least one more, as reported by ACLED and local media.³⁴
- On November 20, 2024, one or more suspected members of an armed group allegedly abducted two children on their way home from school in Zaria town, Kaduna state, as reported by ACLED and local media.³⁵

GCPEA identified at least eight attacks on students, teachers, and other education personnel in 2025.³⁶ These included:

- On May 10, 2025, suspected members of an armed group allegedly attacked and killed a secondary school teacher at the Government Day Secondary School in Tsafe, Zamfara state. The teacher was resisting abduction when he was killed, as reported in ACLED and local media.³⁷

- On May 12, 2025, unidentified assailants allegedly attacked civilians returning home from school and their farms in Munga Dosso, Taraba state. Eight people were killed and 12 others injured, including an unspecified number who were students on their way home from school, according to ACLED and local media.³⁸
- On May 29, 2025, gunmen reportedly opened fire at the Government Secondary School in Odugbo, Benue state, while students were taking exams. Police and the Civilian Joint Task Force repelled the attack, as reported by ACLED and local media.³⁹
- On November 17, 2025, at a government girls secondary school in Maga town, Kebbi state, unidentified gunmen allegedly killed the vice principal, and abducted 25 female students, as reported by the UN and international media.⁴⁰
- On November 21, 2025, unidentified gunmen allegedly abducted 303 children and 12 teachers from a Catholic secondary school in the Papiri community, Agwara, Niger state, as reported by the UN and international media.⁴¹ Fifty children escaped in the subsequent days.⁴²

Military use of schools and universities

GCPEA identified five incidents of military use of schools and universities in the 2024-2025 reporting period. This was a sharp decrease from the previous reporting period when GCPEA identified 159 incidents of the military use of educational facilities.⁴³

In 2024, GCPEA identified three instances of military use of schools.

- On February 21, 2024, in Yargoje, Katsina state, following fighting between Nigerian security operatives and a suspected armed group, airstrikes reportedly targeted the armed group who were allegedly gathered in Dinary Primary School, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁴⁴
- On April 19, 2024, in Batura, Plateau state, Plateau State University students protested near a military checkpoint that was close to a university entrance, and soldiers allegedly responded by firing live ammunition, reportedly killing at least three students and injuring an unspecified number of students, as reported by ACLED, and local and international media.⁴⁵
- On October 22, 2024, suspected members of an armed group reportedly set fire to a primary school that was allegedly being used as a police base in Yartsamiya, Katsina state, according to ACLED and local media.⁴⁶

In 2025, GCPEA identified two instances of military use of schools:

- On January 17, 2025, Nigerian soldiers reportedly destroyed several facilities allegedly used by a non-state armed group, including a weapons store located in a school, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁴⁷

- On April 3, 2025, suspected members of an armed group allegedly killed eight people and set a primary school, which was reportedly occupied by Zamfara State Community Protection Guard, on fire, according to ACLED and local media sources.⁴⁸

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

GCPEA identified one instance of sexual violence during the 2024-2025 reporting period. No such reports were identified in *Education under Attack 2024*.⁴⁹ Over two days of attacks on February 15 and 16, 2024, unidentified armed gunmen allegedly attacked and raped three female students at their hostel in Ogwashi-Uku, Delta state, as well as killing one male student, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁵⁰ At the time of writing, no attacks of this type were reported in 2025.

Attacks on higher education

GCPEA identified 30 attacks on higher education infrastructure and on students, educators, and personnel, during the 2024-2025 reporting period, during which at least 55 were killed, injured, or abducted, and at least 48 were reportedly arrested or detained. This was an increase from the 18 attacks reported in the previous reporting period as well as the number of students and academics harmed. Of the nine attacks each reported in both 2022 and 2023, a total of approximately 20 were reportedly killed, injured, or abducted, and around ten were detained or arrested.⁵¹

GCPEA identified 12 attacks in 2024.⁵² For example:

- On April 1, 2024, suspected members of an armed group allegedly abducted two students from the campus of Federal University Wukari, in Taraba state, as reported by ACLED and local media; at least one of the victims was female.⁵³
- On April 19, 2024, suspected members of an armed group allegedly attacked communities around the Plateau State University in Bokkos, Plateau state, killing one student. The university was closed for ten days, as reported by international media.⁵⁴
- On May 9, 2024, armed bandits attacked the Confluence University of Science and Technology in Okene, Kogi State, kidnapping at least nine students from their classrooms, as reported by local and international media.⁵⁵
- On August 15, 2024, unidentified gunmen abducted 20 medical students traveling from the University of Jos and the University of Maiduguri to an annual conference in Benue State, as reported by Scholars at Risk and international media; the students were released on August 23.⁵⁶

GCPEA identified 18 attacks on higher education students, educators, and personnel, and one attack on a university, in 2025.⁵⁷ Examples included:

- On February 20, 2025, police allegedly used teargas and live ammunition to disperse protesting students who had blocked the entrance to the Federal University Lokoja in protest of recent deaths of fellow students, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁵⁸ The university was reportedly closed.
- On February 21, 2025, at the Federal University in Dutsin-Ma, Katsina state, an armed clash was reported involving Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and an armed group, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁵⁹ According to reporting, three members of the armed group were killed and three people who had been kidnapped were rescued, although GCPEA was not able to establish whether any were students.
- On February 25, 2025, four female students were allegedly abducted from Joseph Sarwan Tarka University in Makurdi, Benue state, by suspected members of an alleged armed group, according to Scholars at Risk.⁶⁰
- On March 8, 2025, members of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps reportedly used teargas and assaulted students at the University of Jos in Jos North, Plateau state, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁶¹
- On March 18, 2025, suspected members of an armed group allegedly kidnapped two students from the Federal University of Dutsin-Ma in Dutsin-Ma town, Katsina state, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁶²
- On April 16, 2025, suspected members of an armed group allegedly attacked a group of students from the Rivers State University and Ignatius Ajuru University of Education in Ugbogui, Edo state. Two students were injured and ten were abducted, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁶³
- On August 12, 2025, police reportedly used teargas to disperse protesting students of the Federal Polytechnic Bauchi who had blocked the road near campus over security concerns. Police reportedly arrested an estimated 48 students, and the campus was shut down, as reported by ACLED and local media.⁶⁴