

SAFE SCHOOLS

UNICEF NIGERIA

BASIC EDUCATION

SCHOOL ATTACKS AT A GLANCE

Globally: 11,000 education attacks; 22,000 learners and educators affected in 8,300 incidents (2015-19).¹

WCAR: 9,272 school closures affecting 1.91 million children and 44,000 teachers (2019).

Nigeria:

25 schools attacked; 1,470 learners abducted, 200 still missing, over 1 million children afraid to return to schools (2021).³

11,500 schools closed in 2020 due to attacks.

Northwest accounts for 76% of attacks.⁴

SOURCES OF CONFLICTS

Northwest: Armed banditry

1,446 learners and 24 personnel abducted (2021)⁶

Northeast: Organized Armed Groups

108 head teachers hit by bullets, shells, or shrapnel; 51 schools experienced armed actor attacks and 64 schools (10% of assessed) targeted by suicide bombing in 2021.⁷

North Central: Communal clashes & climate change

1,254 persons (627 children) displaced due to multi-dimensional crisis (2021)⁸

IMPACT OF SCHOOL ATTACKS



Over **11,500 schools closed** (June-September 2021)⁹

5 million children lost a quarter academic session (Terms 2 and 3) in 2020

Increased school dropout – due to increased actual and potential violence, with direct impact particularly on the girls

Poor **teacher concentration & capacity to cope**, especially female teachers

Overstretching of school resources and inability of the system to cope with **influx of IDP learners**

Life-long **emotional distress, affecting wellbeing of children especially the girls** (health issues, unwanted pregnancy, stigma)

\$3.4 billion lifetime economic loss¹⁰

Sustainable Development Goal Target 4.a (school environment): Schools should be child-friendly, inclusive, nurturing, non-violent and safe

Indicator: 4.A.3: *Number of attacks on students, personnel, and institutions*

Nigerian Child Rights Act 2003¹¹ passed in 27 states, prohibits abductions (section 47)

The Senate Act of 2013 focusing on **Terrorism Prevention Amendment**¹² proscribes 30-year jail term for kidnappers or colluders.

In 2016, the Federal Government launched '**Campaign to End Violence Against Children by 2030**'

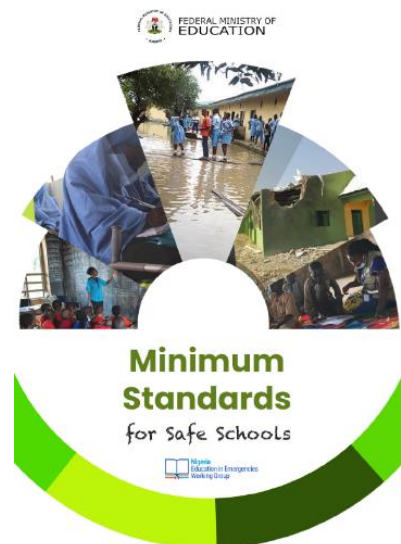
Nigeria endorsed the global **School Safety Declaration** (SSD) on 8 March 2018.

National Policy for Safety Security and violence-free schools¹³ (NPSSVFS) and

Minimum Standards¹⁴ was approved by the National Council on Education in August 2021.

State education sector plans incorporate provision for conflict and disaster risk response to attacks

POLICY LANDSCAPE



National Safe School Declaration Plan of Action for 2021-2023¹⁵ guides state-level domestication of the Safe Schools Declaration.

BARRIERS AND BOTTLENECKS

Lack of **real-time data (EMIS) and tracking** of school attacks and safety.

Poor security infrastructure in schools make the institutions soft targets; lack of security guards¹⁷

Distances from home to schools exposes children to more attacks

Boarding schools located in isolated locations increase vulnerability to attacks and abductions

Weak functionality of SBMC's (only 67% functional)¹⁶ to coordinate a school community response.

Low community awareness of school safety and its gender implications to retention, completion, and transition.

UNICEF RESPONSE

Engaged high-level government and political actors on increased **public financing for safe schools**.

Strengthened **coordination mechanism** among Education in Emergencies actors.

Supported the development of costed, emergency responsive **education sector plans** in 33 of 36 states and FCT¹⁸

Supported states to implement **risk informed CDRR and EPRP**.

Supported the **implementation of minimum standards on safe school** in 11 states¹⁹ with plans to scale to all the 36 states.

Built resilience of 30,480 teachers to respond to emergencies including attacks on schools.

Strengthened capacity of school and community structures in **psychosocial support**.

Developed capacity of 793 **school-based management committees**²⁰ to build community engagement on safe schools (11% of target of 7,500 SBMCs)

Trained communities on school safety, CDRR and developed School EPRP

Provided supplies (including temporary learning spaces) to schools

Provided **alternate and home-based e-learning support** to children (community learning hub, radio, and television) to ensure continuity of learning.

KEY PRIORITIES FOR 2022



1. High level **advocacy for public investment and coordinated response** to school safety.
2. Engage states on **multi-sectoral coordination, planning, budgeting, monitoring** and set up of early warning systems on school safety.

3. Support **school-based gender responsive risk identification & school emergency preparedness** and implement minimum standards on safe schools
4. Build **school response and resilience mechanisms** including provision of psychosocial support.
5. Mobilize **School Based Management Committees** and school communities including youth as partners on school safety.
6. Ensure **continuity of learning** through low tech (community learning hubs, radio, television) and high tech (digital) platforms.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Footnotes & References

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 - 2 UNICEF Child Alert (2019) Education under threat in West and Central Africa
 - 3 SB Intelligence (2021). Attacks on Education in Nigeria 2020-2021
 - 4 SB Intelligence (2021). Attacks on Education in Nigeria 2020-2021
 - 5 SB Intelligence (2021). Attacks on Education in Nigeria 2020-2021
 - 6 SB Intelligence (2021). Attacks on Education in Nigeria 2020-2021
 - 7 JENA (Joint Education Needs Assessments) 2021 (Report writing in progress)
 - 8 IOM #82 Flash Report report:(2021). Population displacement North-West/North-Central Nigeria.
<https://displacement.iom.int/sites/default/files/public/reports/IOM%20Nigeria%20DTM%20Flash%20Report%20NCNW%2082%20%2828%20December%202021%29.pdf>
 - 9 Ministry of Education Kaduna/Zamfara/Sokoto (June 2021). State Governor's close schools due to attacks.
 - 10 Financial impact analysis by technical partners (2021)
 - 11 Nigerian Child's Rights Act (2003) <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5568201f4.pdf> & <https://lawsofnigeria.placng.org/laws/C50.pdf>
 - 12 National House of Assembly Nigeria Senate Act 2013; Section 15. Terrorism Prevention Act 2013
 - 13 Federal Ministry of Education Nigeria (2021). National Policy on Safety, Security and violence-free School. <https://education.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/National-Policy-on-SSVFSN.pdf>
 - 14 Federal Ministry of Education (2021). Minimum Standards for SSD (2021). <https://education.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Minimum-Standards-for-Safe-Schools.pdf>
 - 15 <https://ssd.protectingeducation.org/>
 - 16 UNICEF SBMC Effectiveness Monitoring Report 2021
 - 18 33 states commenced development of costed and emergency responsive education sector plans as of 2021
 - 19 Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi, Lagos, Oyo, Sokoto, Kano, Zamfara, Katsina and Kebbi
 - 20 793 (of 7,500) SBMCs reached (11%)
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