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Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for
CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

Contribution of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to the Universal Periodic Review of Cameroon, 2023

The information provided has been gathered by the United Nations. It has been collected and verified by the United Nations based on the guidelines of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on grave violations against children (MRM), established through Security Council resolution 1612 (2005).

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Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for **CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT**

Input for the UPR on Cameroon **Office of the Special Representative of the** **United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict**

14 March 2023

Background

Armed groups such as Boko Haram-affiliated and splinter groups, including Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna (JAS) Lidda'awati wal-Jihad and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) continued to target civilians, including children who were particularly affected by improvised explosive device (IED) and explosive remnants of war (ERW) incidents. From 2018 to 2022, continued abductions, killing and maiming, and targeted attacks on schools, hospitals, teachers, and humanitarian personnel took place. While the overall number of grave violations against children decreased from 2018 to 2022, the abduction of children and attacks on schools and hospitals increased.

2021 was marked by clashes between JAS and ISWAP and by security forces' military operations against those groups, which had a direct impact on the protection of children. The resurgence of attacks by armed groups and military operations in the division of Mayo-Tsanga led to the displacements of more than 10,000 civilians, including children, increased the vulnerability of women and girls and drastically reduced the capacity to monitor grave violations against children. Additionally, 2022 witnessed ISWAP's territorial expansion resulting in further population displacement in the division of Mayo-Tsanaga.

The impact of the crisis on the education sector in the North-West and South-West regions remained a major concern. Armed groups have violently opposed Government-administered education since September 2017. Armed groups have also enforced weekly stay-at-home and "lockdowns" in the North-West and South-West regions, which, in addition to extended bans on road movements, affected children's access to livelihood, education, and health services. More recently, out of 6,515 schools, 46% were functioning and 54% of students were enrolled for the 2022-2023 academic year in the 2 regions as of the end of 2022. Since the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, except for the armed groups-imposed lockdown that delayed the start of the year for 2 weeks, schooling has been proceeding in most relatively safe urban and peri-urban areas in the two regions.

The Government of Cameroon pursued efforts to end and prevent grave violations against children. Following an attack by Cameroonian armed forces in Ngarbuh, North-West Region, on 14 February 2020, which resulted in the death of 14 children, the Government created a commission of inquiry. In June 2020, the Government announced the arrest of two Cameroon Armed Forces soldiers and of a gendarme, whose trial began in December 2020. In 2021, police officers, including in the North-West and South-West regions, were trained by the United Nations on child protection in emergencies with a specific focus on the protection of children in armed conflict and on the handover of children associated with armed groups to civilian child protection actors. The Government continued the reintegration of children formerly associated

with Boko Haram, including unidentified affiliated or splinter groups, through a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration center in Meri, Far North Region.

Recommendations to the Government of Cameroon

- Comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law and continue to pursue efforts to strengthen the protection of conflict-affected children.
- Ensure that all schools being used are swiftly vacated and that further military use of schools is prevented.
- Ensure accountability for grave violations against children and bring perpetrators of grave violations to justice.
- Ensure that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes consider the specific needs and rights of children formerly associated with armed groups and allow child protection actors access to all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration centres.
- Ensure that all children formerly associated with armed groups are primarily treated as victims and handed over to civilian child protection actors. In that regard, sign with the United Nations a handover protocol for the transfer of children allegedly associated with armed groups to civilian child protection actors.
- Use the detention of children only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, and release all detained children. Ensure that children are not detained or prosecuted solely for their association with or membership in any armed group and that any prosecution of children respects internationally recognized standards of juvenile justice.
- Expand child protection training to all Government defence and security forces.

223. The United Nations verified the killing (99) and maiming (128) of 227 children (91 boys, 92 girls, 44 sex unknown) by JNIM (113); unidentified perpetrators (58), including 11 in crossfire between the Defence and Security Forces and JNIM; ISGS (48); the Defence and Security Forces (4) and Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (4). Casualties resulted mainly from gunshots and physical assault (95 each) and improvised explosive devices (15). Most violations occurred in the Sahel (121) and Centre-Nord (85) Regions.

224. The United Nations verified rape and other forms of sexual violence against nine girls by unidentified perpetrators (5), JNIM (3) and ISGS (1).

225. There were 85 verified attacks on schools (46) and hospitals (39), including protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals, attributed to ISGS (37); JNIM (37); unidentified perpetrators (10), including four in crossfire between the Defence and Security Forces and JNIM; and the Defence and Security Forces (1), mostly in the East (58) Region. Incidents involved the abduction and killing of related protected persons, threats directed against protected persons, and the destruction, looting and forced closure of schools.

226. Two schools and one hospital were used for military purposes by the Defence and Security Forces (2) and unidentified perpetrators (1).

227. A total of 250 children (88 boys, 159 girls, 3 sex unknown) were abducted by JNIM (187), mostly as punishment for not adhering to JNIM norms, by unidentified perpetrators (55) and ISGS (8). Most violations occurred in the Centre-Nord (177) and Sahel (66) Regions. Among those abducted, 238 children were subsequently released.

228. Seventeen incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to JNIM (8), ISGS (7) and unidentified perpetrators (2) in the Sahel (10), East (4) and North (3) Regions. Incidents included threats and violence directed at humanitarians, the abduction of humanitarians, as well as looting.

Developments and concerns

229. I welcome the fact that the Government progressed with the validation of a handover protocol for the transfer of children allegedly associated with armed groups to civilian child protection actors. I call upon the authorities to endorse and implement the protocol, to treat children associated with armed groups primarily as victims and to release all children in its custody.

230. I am deeply troubled by the sharp increase in grave violations. I am alarmed by the scale of abductions, particularly of girls, and by the recruitment and use of children, with JNIM as the main perpetrator. I urge JNIM and other parties to cease all violations and release associated children.

231. I call upon parties to immediately cease the killing and maiming of children and take necessary measures to protect children during operations, and to cease and prevent attacks on schools and hospitals and on protected persons and prevent their military use. I call upon all parties to engage with the United Nations to end and prevent violations and further urge the authorities, including Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie, to prevent grave violations committed during security operations and to pursue accountability.

Cameroon

232. The United Nations verified 174 grave violations against 129 children (62 boys, 57 girls, 10 sex unknown) in the Far North (94), North-West (45) and South-West (35) Regions, including 7 children who were victims of multiple violations.

233. Three boys, some as young as 10, were recruited and used by unidentified Boko Haram-affiliated and splinter groups as spies and to run errands in the Far North Region.

234. Five children (2 boys, 3 girls) were detained in Far North by the Cameroon Armed Forces for their alleged association with armed groups and remained in detention as at December 2021.

235. A total of 75 children (48 boys, 25 girls, 2 sex unknown) were killed (44) and maimed (31) by Boko Haram-affiliated and splinter groups (50), including Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) (25) and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) (2); the Cameroon Armed Forces (14) and unidentified perpetrators (11), including in crossfire between armed groups and the Cameroon Armed Forces (4). Casualties occurred in the Far North (49), South-West (14) and North-West (12) regions and resulted mainly from gunshots (55) and improvised explosive devices or explosive remnants of war (16).

236. Sexual violence perpetrated against one girl by unidentified perpetrators was verified in the South-West Region.

237. A total of 22 attacks on schools (18) and hospitals (4), including protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals were attributed to unidentified armed groups in the North-West and South-West (16), ISWAP (2), the Cameroon Armed Forces (2) and unidentified perpetrators (2), including one attack that occurred during crossfire between armed groups and the Cameroon Armed Forces. Incidents were verified in the North-West (11), South-West (8) and Far North (3) Regions and involved attacks and threats against related protected persons, including their killing and abduction, and destruction and damage to facilities.

238. The United Nations verified the military use of 21 schools by the Cameroon Armed Forces in the Far-North for one year. Four schools continued to be used as at December 2021.

239. The United Nations verified the abduction of 55 children (14 boys, 33 girls, 8 sex unknown) by Boko Haram-affiliated and splinter groups (39), including JAS (24) and ISWAP (2), and unidentified armed groups in the North-West and South-West (16). Violations occurred in Far North (39), North-West (12) and South-West (4) Regions. Children were abducted for ransom (16), recruitment and use (3) and for unknown purposes (36). Of the 55 who were abducted, 12 children were rescued or released, 7 remain in captivity, 3 were arrested by the Cameroon Armed Forces, while the status of 33 is unknown.

240. A total of 18 verified incidents of the denial of humanitarian access were attributed to unidentified armed groups in the North-West and South-West (14) Regions, the Cameroon Armed Forces (3) and unidentified perpetrators during crossfire between armed groups and the Cameroon Armed Forces (1). Incidents involved the abduction of, and threats and violence against, humanitarian personnel and assets, access restrictions and looting in North-West (10) and South-West (8) Regions.

Developments and concerns

241. I welcome the training of police officers on child protection, including in the North-West and South-West Regions, by the United Nations. I call upon the Government to extend the training to all defence and security forces. I also call upon the Government to ensure that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes consider the specific needs and rights of children formerly associated with armed groups and to allow child protection actors access to all disarmament, demobilization and reintegration centres. I further call upon the Government to pursue

its efforts to strengthen the protection of children, including by ensuring accountability for grave violations against children.

242. I am concerned about the detention of children for their alleged association with armed groups. I call upon the Government to treat these children primarily as victims, with detention as a measure of last resort, and to release all children in its custody. I urge the Government to adopt a handover protocol for children associated with armed groups to civilian child protection actors.

243. I am deeply concerned about the continued grave violations in the North-West and South-West Regions, particularly the denial of humanitarian access, including the detention of humanitarian personnel and attacks on schools, including the killing and abduction of teachers and students. I urge all parties to immediately cease all violations and protect schools and hospitals and prevent their military use.

244. I urge Boko Haram-affiliated and splinter groups in the Far North Region to put an end to violations and immediately release associated children.

India

245. The United Nations verified 54 grave violations against 49 children (45 boys, 4 girls).

246. The recruitment and use of 18 boys by armed groups in Jammu and Kashmir was verified.

247. A total of 33 boys were detained by Indian security forces in Jammu and Kashmir for their alleged association with armed groups or on national security grounds.

248. A total of 34 children (30 boys, 4 girls) were killed (5) and maimed (29) by Indian security forces, including by the use of pellets by the Central Reserve Police Force (19), unidentified perpetrators (4), crossfire between armed groups and unidentified perpetrators (7), and crossfire and shelling across the line of control (4).

249. The killing of two teachers by an armed group in Srinagar was verified.

Developments and concerns

250. I welcome the ongoing engagement of the Government with my Special Representative, including the interministerial meeting held in November 2021 and the appointment of a national focal point to identify priority national interventions so as to enhance the protection of children. I further welcome the agreement to a joint technical mission to hold interministerial, technical-level meetings with the United Nations during 2022 to identify areas of enhanced cooperation for child protection. This enhanced engagement may lead to the removal of India as a situation of concern from my next report on children and armed conflict, should all practical measures agreed to in such meetings be fully implemented by that date.

251. I welcome the legal and administrative framework for the protection of children and improved access to child protection services in Chhattisgarh, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha and Jammu and Kashmir, and progress in the creation of a Jammu and Kashmir commission for the protection of children's rights, but I remain concerned about the risk of child recruitment by armed groups in affected districts.

252. I am concerned by the increased number of violations against children verified in Jammu and Kashmir. I call upon the Government to strengthen child protection, including by ending the use of pellet guns against children and building the capacity of its forces. I am concerned by the detention of children, and I urge the Government to ensure that children are detained as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate

B. Situations not on the agenda of the Security Council or other situations

Burkina Faso

209. The United Nations verified 171 grave violations against 83 children (45 boys, 37 girls, 1 sex unknown). Most violations occurred in the East (62), Central North (52) and Sahel (36) regions.

210. Four children, all boys, were recruited and used by unidentified perpetrators in the Sahel region.

211. Ten boys, including nationals of Mali, the Niger and Nigeria (1 each), have been detained in Ouagadougou since 2018 for alleged association with armed groups. One boy associated with an armed group was released and placed in a transit centre.

212. The United Nations verified the killing (24) and maiming (30) of 54 children (27 boys, 26 girls, 1 sex unknown) attributed to JNIM (29), unidentified perpetrators (17), ISGS (5), the Defence and Security Forces (2) and Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (1). Child casualties resulted from gunshots (33), including 22 during crossfire between the Defence and Security Forces and armed groups, and improvised explosive devices (15).

213. Rape and other forms of sexual violence affecting three girls were verified and attributed to JNIM (2) and unidentified perpetrators (1).

214. A total of 80 attacks on schools (70) and hospitals (10) were verified and attributed to unidentified perpetrators (30), ISGS (44) and JNIM (6).

215. A total of 22 children (14 boys, 8 girls) were abducted for unknown purposes by unidentified perpetrators (16), JNIM and ISGS (3 each). Twenty of the children were released.

216. The United Nations verified eight incidents of denial of humanitarian access attributed to unidentified perpetrators (4), JNIM (3) and ISGS (1).

Developments and concerns

217. I welcome the development of a handover protocol between the Government and the United Nations for the transfer of children allegedly associated with armed groups to civilian child protection actors, and I call upon the Government to endorse and implement it, in cooperation with the United Nations, and to release all children from detention. I also call upon the national authorities to treat these children primarily as victims and to uphold international juvenile justice standards.

218. I am alarmed at the elevated number of attacks and threats of attacks against schools and hospitals and protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals by armed groups. I call upon the parties to conflict to end such attacks.

219. I am concerned by the killing and maiming of children. I urge all parties not to target children and to minimize the effect of their operations on children. I call upon all parties to engage with the United Nations to end and prevent violations. I urge the Government to ensure that perpetrators of grave violations against children are held accountable.

Cameroon

220. The United Nations verified 285 grave violations against 232 children (118 boys, 92 girls, 22 sex unknown), in the Far North (161), North-West (83) and South-West (41) Regions.

221. The United Nations verified the recruitment and use of 15 children (10 boys, 5 girls) in the Far North by Boko Haram-affiliated or splinter groups (15), including Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad (JAS) (3) and unidentified affiliated or splinter groups (12). Eight boys were used in hostilities and seven children as carriers of improvised explosive devices.

222. A total of 16 boys were detained by security forces on national security-related charges in the South-West (11), North-West (3), West (1) and Far North (1) Regions. The United Nations could not establish their status as at December 2020.

223. A total of 165 children (87 boys, 66 girls, 12 sex unknown) were killed (77) and maimed (88) by Boko Haram-affiliated or splinter groups (97), including JAS (37) and unidentified affiliated or splinter groups (60); unidentified armed groups in the North-West (3); unidentified perpetrators (50) (including 5 during crossfire between armed groups and the Cameroon Armed Forces); and the Cameroon Armed Forces (15). Casualties occurred in the Far North (97), South-West (35) and North-West (33) Regions and resulted from gunshots, suicide attacks and explosive remnants of war.

224. The attempted rape of one girl by unidentified perpetrators was verified in the North-West Region.

225. A total of 26 attacks on schools (20) and hospitals (6) were verified in the North-West (18), South-West (4) and Far North (4) Regions and were attributed to unidentified perpetrators (22) (including 1 that occurred during crossfire between armed groups and the Cameroon Armed Forces) and to Boko Haram-affiliated or splinter groups (4), including JAS (2) and unidentified affiliated or splinter groups (2).

226. The United Nations verified 19 incidents of military use of schools attributed to the Cameroon Armed Forces in the Far North. Schools continued to be used as at December 2020.

227. The United Nations verified the abduction of 68 children (32 boys, 26 girls, 10 sex unknown) attributed to Boko Haram-affiliated or splinter groups (45), including JAS (37) and unidentified affiliated or splinter groups (8), and to unidentified perpetrators (23), occurring in the Far North (45) and North-West (23) Regions. Of those, 32 children were released or escaped, while the status of 36 children is unknown.

228. Ten incidents of denial of humanitarian access were verified and attributed to unidentified perpetrators (8) (including 1 during crossfire between armed groups and the Cameroon Armed Forces) and to the Cameroon Armed Forces (2).

Developments and concerns

229. I welcome the creation of a commission of inquiry following the attack in Ngarbuh, North-West Region, on 14 February 2020, which resulted in 14 children killed. In June 2020, the Government announced the arrest of two Cameroon Armed Forces soldiers and a gendarme, whose trial began in December. I also welcome the conviction of members of a vigilante committee for the killing in April 2015 of two children allegedly associated with Boko Haram in the Far-North Region. I call upon the Government to pursue its efforts towards accountability for all grave violations against children.

230. According to the Government, 72 children (34 boys, 38 girls) formerly associated with Boko Haram, including unidentified affiliated or splinter groups, were released in 2020 and transited through a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration centre in Méri, Far North Region. I welcome this development and call upon the Government to transfer the children to civilian child protection actors and to ensure that children have access to child- and gender-specific disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and that their rights are protected.

231. I am concerned about the detention of children for their alleged association with armed groups and on national security-related charges. I call upon the Government to treat all children formerly associated with armed groups as victims, in line with international juvenile justice standards, including the use of detention as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, and to release all detained children. I urge authorities to adopt a protocol for the handover of children allegedly associated with armed groups to civilian child protection actors.

232. The brutality of grave violations perpetrated by JAS and other Boko Haram-affiliated or splinter groups remains a grave concern, notably the use of children, particularly girls, as carriers of improvised explosive devices. I am deeply concerned by the grave violations in the North-West and South-West Regions, including denial of humanitarian access and attacks on schools and protected persons in relation to schools, resulting in the killing and maiming of children. I urge all parties in Cameroon to immediately cease all violations against children.

India

233. The United Nations verified the recruitment and use of two boys by unidentified perpetrators. The United Nations is reviewing reports of the use of three boys by Indian security forces for less than 24 hours.

234. Four children were detained by Indian security forces in Jammu and Kashmir for alleged association with armed groups.

235. A total of 39 children (33 boys, 6 girls) were killed (9) and maimed (30) by pellet guns (11) and torture (2) by unidentified perpetrators (13) (including resulting from explosive remnants of war (7), crossfire between unidentified armed groups and Indian security forces (3), crossfire between unidentified armed groups, and grenade attacks (3)), Indian security forces (13), and crossfire and shelling across the line of control (13).

236. The United Nations verified the use of seven schools by Indian security forces for four months. Schools were vacated by the end of 2020.

237. The United Nations did not verify grave violations in the context of the Naxalite insurgency.

Developments and concerns

238. I welcome the positive engagement of the Government with my Special Representative to put in place national preventive and accountability measures for all grave violations.

239. I remain concerned by grave violations against children in Jammu and Kashmir and call upon the Government to take preventive measures to protect children, including by ending the use of pellets against children, ensuring that children are not associated in any way to security forces, and endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration and the Vancouver Principles. I am alarmed at the detention and torture of children and concerned by the military use of schools. I urge the Government to ensure that children are detained as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, and to prevent all forms of ill-treatment in detention. I also urge the Government to ensure the implementation of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, to address the use of children for illegal activities and the situation of detained children.

particular in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand States. I am concerned by attacks on schools, yet I am encouraged that the Government has commenced legal proceedings against the perpetrators.

205. I reiterate my encouragement to the Government to put in place national preventive and accountability measures for all grave violations, as soon as possible.

Nigeria

206. The United Nations verified 788 grave violations against 733 children (596 boys, 131 girls, 6 sex unknown).

207. Responsibility for the recruitment and use of 46 children (28 boys, 18 girls), between the ages of 13 and 17, was attributed to Boko Haram (33) and the Nigerian Security Forces (13). The Nigerian Security Forces used children for menial jobs at military checkpoints. In addition, 516 children (458 boys, 58 girls) were verified at a later date as having been recruited and used by the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) between 2013 and 2017. No new recruitment and use by CJTF has verified beyond 2017, when the action plan was signed with the United Nations. Furthermore, Boko Haram recruited and used 71 children in the Far North Region of Cameroon, 36 in the Niger and 8 in Chad.

208. The Nigerian authorities released 160 children (158 boys, 2 girls) from military detention following their arrest for alleged association with Boko Haram. The United Nations was unable to verify the number of children still in detention, as access to detention facilities was denied.

209. A total of 120 children (95 boys, 25 girls), between the ages of 11 and 17, were killed (56) and maimed (64) by Boko Haram (105), unidentified perpetrators (7), the Islamic State West Africa Province and the Nigerian Security Forces (3 each) and CJTF (1). One casualty occurred during crossfire between the Nigerian Security Forces and Boko Haram. Of the total child casualties attributed to Boko Haram, 41 were due to explosions of improvised explosive devices borne by civilians, including 9 children who were used as carriers. In addition, 103 child casualties in the Far North Region of Cameroon, 13 in the Niger and 3 in Chad were attributed to Boko Haram (109), government forces (9) and unidentified armed elements (1).

210. Sexual violence perpetrated by Boko Haram affected 30 girls, between the ages of 12 and 16, including 23 who were abducted and subsequently raped or forcibly married to Boko Haram elements. Furthermore, five girls were subjected to sexual violence in Chad and the Niger, two of whom were attacked by Boko Haram.

211. A total of 15 attacks on schools (4) and hospitals (11) were attributed to Boko Haram in Nigeria. Furthermore, Boko Haram attacked one school and seven hospitals in the Diffa Region of the Niger, and one school and one hospital in the Far North Region of Cameroon. Unidentified armed elements attacked one hospital in the Niger.

212. Responsibility for the abduction of 44 children (15 boys, 23 girls, 6 sex unknown), between the ages of 11 and 17, was attributed to Boko Haram. In addition, children were abducted in the Niger (67), Cameroon (49) and Chad (5) by Boko Haram (104) and unidentified perpetrators (17).

213. There were 17 incidents of the denial of humanitarian access attributed to Boko Haram (12), Islamic State West Africa Province (3) and the Nigerian Security Forces (2). Incidents included the killing and abduction of humanitarians by Boko Haram. Separately, two unattributed incidents were verified in the Niger.

some areas of the country. I encourage the Government to put in place prevention and accountability measures to hold perpetrators of grave violations to account in view of ending and preventing grave violations against children.

Nigeria

206. The Boko Haram crisis was marked by attacks across the Lake Chad Basin and by increased attacks on hospitals in north-east Nigeria. The abduction of children, in particular girls, often for the purpose of sexual abuse, forced marriage or used to bear improvised explosive devices continued at elevated levels. In 2018, the United Nations faced significant access restrictions to conflict-affected areas, impeding its ability to verify grave violations and to deliver life-saving aid to children.

Grave violations

207. A total of 1,947 children (1,596 boys, 351 girls) were verified as having been recruited and used in Nigeria, 1,646 by the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and 301 by Boko Haram. No new recruitment and use by CJTF was verified in 2018 and all cases verified occurred in previous years. 833 children (694 boys, 139 girls) were formally separated from the group during 2018 as a result of the action plan. Boko Haram continued to recruit children and used 48 (38 girls) for the purpose of bearing and detonating improvised explosive devices in north-east Nigeria, 30 in Cameroon, 24 in Chad and 10 in the Niger.

208. In 2018, 418 children were deprived of liberty in Nigeria for their or their parents' alleged association with Boko Haram (304 boys, 86 girls, 28 unknown sex). The majority (52 per cent) of the children had been in detention for over two years. In 2018, the Nigerian authorities released 241 children from detention. In addition, 125 children were held in detention for alleged association with Boko Haram in the Niger, Cameroon (57) and Chad (18).

209. The United Nations verified 432 children killed (175) and maimed (257), attributed to Boko Haram (405), Nigerian Security Forces (NSF) (16), CJTF (1) and unattributed incidents of unexploded ordnance (10). Of the total child casualties attributed to Boko Haram, 58 per cent (234) were due to explosions of improvised explosive devices borne by civilians, including 48 children directly used as carriers of improvised explosive devices. Cases attributed to NSF occurred during the course of their response to Boko Haram offensives.

210. A total of 43 girls were subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence by Boko Haram (40) and NSF (3). Cases attributed to Boko Haram involved subjecting girls to sexual abuse and forced marriage while in captivity.

211. Attacks on schools (5) and hospitals (10) were verified in north-east Nigeria and attributed to Boko Haram (14) and NSF (1). Furthermore, one hospital in the Far North Region of Cameroon and two schools in the Diffa region of the Niger were attacked by Boko Haram. In addition, NSF used four schools in north-east Nigeria for military purposes.

212. Boko Haram abducted 180 children (45 boys, 135 girls), often for the purpose of recruitment, sexual abuse, forced marriage or for use as carriers of improvised explosive devices. In February 2018, Boko Haram abducted 111 children (110 girls) from a girls' school in Dapchi, Yobe State. Five of the girls died during the abduction, 104 girls were eventually released, and one girl remains in captivity. More than 100 of the Chibok girls abducted in 2014 remain in captivity or missing. In addition, Boko Haram abducted 28 children in Cameroon, 23 in the Niger and 9 in Chad.

213. The number of denials of humanitarian access increased, from 5 in 2017 to 33 in 2018, in an environment where humanitarians face restrictions on movement