

BEARING THE BRUNT OF CONFLICT IN AFGHANISTAN

4-year analysis of six grave violations against children in armed conflict (Sept 2010–Dec 2014)

MONITORING AND REPORTING MECHANISM (MRM)

In 2005, the UN Security Council established an unprecedented monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM) on grave violations against children in armed conflict under its resolution 1612 (SCR 1612). The purpose of the MRM is to provide for the systematic gathering of accurate, timely, objective, and reliable information on grave violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict. This mechanism was designed to ensure coordination and joint advocacy by a range of protection actors in any given country and foster accountability and compliance of parties to conflict with international child protection standards. The MRM is formally established and is mandatory when any party to a conflict in a country situation is listed in the annexes of the annual Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict.

The MRM is required to monitor, report, and respond to the **six grave violations against children in armed conflict as outlined in SCR 1612**: killing and maiming of children; recruitment or use of child soldiers by parties to the conflict; abduction of children; attacks against schools or hospitals; rape and other forms of sexual violence against children; denial of humanitarian access to children.



Map Sources: UNCS, ESRI, The Times Atlas of the World. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The United Nations is not responsible for the accuracy or completeness of the information contained on this map. The United Nations is not responsible for any damage or loss resulting from the use of the information contained on this map. Map created in Sept 2015.

AFGHANISTAN MRM:

In September 2008, the Afghanistan Country Task Force on Monitoring, Reporting and Response (CTFMR) was established, in line with SCR 1612, with the aim to:

- Prevent violations committed against children in the context of armed conflict, through information gathering, systematic monitoring and reporting and the provision of accurate, objective, reliable and timely information to the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict through the Office of the Special Representative on Children and Armed conflict.
- Promote the accountability of those responsible and provide appropriate responses in collaboration with other actors active in the area of child protection.
- Facilitate analysis, sharing of information and data to inform response towards prevention.
- Facilitate and trigger local, national, regional and international responses in cases where violations have been identified, investigated and reported.
- Mainstream systematic approaches to monitoring and reporting on the grave violations.
- Inform policy development and programme design or orientation to respond to grave violations against children.
- Facilitate coherence and coordination and identify clear outcomes and achievable targets for joint advocacy efforts.

Parties Listed: Afghan National Police, including Afghan Local Police for under age child recruitment and use; Haqqani Network and Hezb-e-Islami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar for child recruitment and use, and killing and maiming; Taliban forces, including Tora Bora Front, the Jamat Sunat al-Dawa Salafia and the Latif Mansur Network for child recruitment, killing and maiming, and attacks on education and health.

Six grave violations against children in armed conflict as outlined in SCR 1612:

- Killing and maiming of children
- Recruitment or use of child soldiers by parties to the conflict
- Abduction of children
- Attacks against schools or hospitals
- Rape and other forms of sexual violence against children
- Denial of humanitarian access to children.

560 children

observed recruitments for support and combat roles throughout Afghanistan between Sept 2010 and Dec 2014

166 verified cases



SIX GRAVE VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN

Monitoring and verification in most conflict-affected areas remains a challenge due to security constraints. The data presented is based on the Report of the Secretary General report on Children and Armed Conflict from September 2010 to December 2014. The data is assessed to underrepresent the severity of the conflict on children and the number of incidents by the parties to the conflict.

RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN BY ARMED FORCES AND ARMED GROUPS:

Parties to a conflict must not recruit children for combat or use in any other support roles and must prevent children from participating in hostilities

- 560 child (556 boys and four girls) recruitment and use both in support and combat roles was observed throughout Afghanistan; 75% were perpetrated by Armed Oppositions Groups (AOGs) (401 children).
- 20 boys were killed carrying out suicide attacks.
- At least 656 boys were held in Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers (JRCs) across Afghanistan for their alleged association with AOGs between September 2010 and February 2013.
- 44% of interviewed juvenile detainees (44 out of 105) reported ill treatment or torture (source: UNAMA Treatment of Conflict-Affected Detainees in Afghan custody report, February 2015)

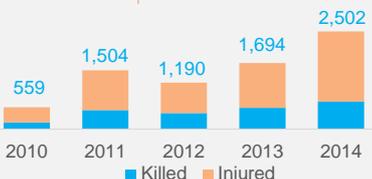
KILLING OR MAIMING OF CHILDREN:

Parties of the conflict must protect children from being killed or injured

- 2,302 children were killed and 5,047 children injured (4,003 boys, 1,501 girls and 1,845 gender undetermined) in 3,911 separate incidents between September 2010 and December 2014.
- 51% (3,814) were perpetrated by AOGs (including Taliban, Haqqani Network and Hizb-e-Islami); 17% (1,244) by ANSF and pro-government forces (including international military forces and pro-government armed groups/militias); and, 31% (2,291) by undetermined parties to the conflict (due to indirect fire, Explosive Remnant of War (ERWs) and cross-border shelling).
- 47% increase in child casualties (2,502 casualties) were recorded in 2014 compared to 2013 (1,694 casualties) and by 110% compared to 2012 (1,190 casualties).
- An estimated 521m² of land is contaminated with ERW. At least 1,275 children (887 boys, 154 girls and 234 sex undetermined) were killed or maimed in ERW incidents. Child casualties consistently increased during the four years, reaching 81% of all reported ERW casualties in 2014.

7,349 children

killed or injured in 3,911 separate incidents between Sept 2010 and Dec 2014



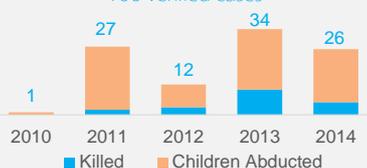
81% of ERW casualties in 2014 were children

40 reports

of sexual violence involving
27 boys and 24 girls

242 children

reportedly abducted between
Sept 2010 and Dec 2014
100 verified cases



883 incidents

recorded affecting children's access to
education



111 educational personnel
killed/injured and 36 abducted
between Sept 2010 and Dec 2014



214 incidents

reported of attacks against health care
facilities and medical personnel
138 verified incidents

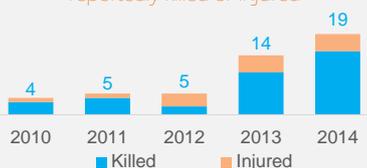


223 incidents

of denial of humanitarian access



47 humanitarian workers
reportedly killed or injured



RAPE AND OTHER FORMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN:

Rape or other forms of sexual violence are prohibited

- 40 reports of sexual violence involving 27 boys and 24 girls were documented: 5% (two) were attributed to the Taliban; 5% (two) to other AOGs; 75% (30) to the ANSF and pro-government forces (PGF); and, the remaining 15% (six) to undetermined parties to the conflict.

ABDUCTION OF CHILDREN:

Parties to a conflict must not abduct children

- 111 incidents of abduction, involving 242 children (235 boys and seven girls) were reported; of which, 53 incidents (93 boys and seven girls) were verified.
- 44 out of the 53 verified abduction incidents (80 boys and five girls) were attributed to the Taliban and other AOGs. ANSF and PGF were involved in seven incidents of abduction (13 boys and two girls).

ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS:

Parties to a conflict must not attack schools or hospitals, or other education or medical facilities ordinarily used by children

EDUCATION

- 883 incidents affecting children's access to education were recorded: 197 in 2010, 132 in 2013, and 208 incidents in 2014 (mainly attributed to attacks by AOGs on schools used as polling stations during the presidential elections, representing 57% of all attacks on schools in 2014).
- 89% of all documented attacks against schools were attributed to AOGs, including the Taliban. Attacks included the use of IEDs, burning of school buildings and property, forced closure of schools and the killing, injuring, intimidation and abduction of education personnel.
- More than 90 incidents of burning of school buildings and property were documented; the majority attributed to the Taliban and local elements opposed to girls' education.
- 51 verified cases of military use of schools (26 by AOGs; nine by ANA, seven by ANP, six by pro-government armed groups, and three by international military forces).
- 469 schools continued to be closed throughout the country due to insecurity, including 360 in the southern region.

HEALTH

- 214 incidents of attacks or threats of attacks against health care facilities and medical personnel and other incidents affecting access to healthcare, including interference with polio vaccination campaigns or military use of facilities were recorded.
- Of the 214 documented incidents: 8% (18) was attributed to the Taliban; 48% (102) to other AOGs; 14% (29) to ANSF and PGF; and, the remaining 30% (65) of incidents could not be attributed to any parties to the conflict.
- 155 health personnel were targeted or affected by indiscriminate attacks: 34 incidents of killing and maiming, and 40 cases of abduction by AOGs.

DENIAL OF HUMANITARIAN ACCESS:

Parties to a conflict must ensure humanitarian access to assist children and communities.

- There has been a steady increase in the number of humanitarian workers killed or injured, with the highest number of incidents taking place in 2014.
- 362 incidents of denial of humanitarian access were documented: 15% (55) were attributed to the Taliban; 51% (183) to other AOG; 6% (22) to the ANSF and pro-government armed groups; and, the remaining 28% (102) incidents could not be attributed to any parties to the conflict.
- Incidents of abduction of humanitarian personnel peaked in 2014 – when at least 99 de-miners, 22 health personnel and four humanitarian staff were abducted.

More Information:

Children and Armed Conflict in Afghanistan: <https://goo.gl/ISdRXE>

Report of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict in Afghanistan (1 Sep 2010 to 31 Dec 2014): <http://goo.gl/YsHuYg>