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FACTSHEETS ON SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY IN NIGERIA

DEVELOPED BY SAFE SCHOOL CLUSTER

ATTACKS ON SCHOOLS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN:



Violence against Schools: Over the past decade, more than 2,295 teachers have been killed and over 1,400 schools destroyed, mainly due to Boko Haram insurgency and armed bandits (UNICEF, 2017; Vanguard, 2021; GCPEA, 2018).



School Closures: Security threats have led to the closure of many schools, depriving 3.5 million children of education (UNICEF, 2022).



Kidnappings: Since December 2020, more than 1,000 children have been abducted from schools, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced safety measures.

Approximately half of female and males experienced physical violence with over 80% experiencing multiple incidents of violence. Of those that experienced physical violence, over half had their first experience between the ages of 6 and 11. Approximately 1 in 10 children's first experience was under the age of 5.

Parents and adult relatives are the most common perpetrators of physical violence on children;

Among adults, male teachers are the most frequent perpetrators of the first incident of physical violence against children; Less than half of all victims of physical violence tell someone about it.

IMPACT ON EDUCATION



Out-of-School Children: Nigeria has one of the highest rates of out-of-school children in the world, with about 10.5 million children aged 5 to 14 not attending school (UNICEF, n.d).



Primary School Attendance: Approximately 61% of children aged 6 to 11 attend primary school regularly, while only 35.6% of children aged 3 to 5 have access to early childhood education (UNICEF, n.d).



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

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

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



Wastage of Resources:

Violence and disasters that causes destruction of school infrastructures leads to wastage of resources of Governments that could have been used to provide other education quality enhancement initiatives.

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



Psychological Trauma:

Exposure to violence causes psychological trauma, impacting children's cognitive and emotional development and reducing educational attainment.

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

\$3.4 billion lifetime economic loss.



Prospects: The violence and insecurity in schools significantly affect children's prospects by limiting their access to quality education and development opportunities

ALL STAKEHOLDERS ARE AFFECTED, ALL STAKEHOLDERS HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY



Children: Children are directly impacted by violence and insecurity, experiencing trauma, disrupted education, and reduced future opportunities.

threatened, leading to a shortage of educators and reduced quality of education.



Parents: Parents are often hesitant to send their children to school due to safety concerns, contributing to lower enrollment rates.



Parents/Teachers Association (PTA): PTAs play a crucial role in advocating for school safety, supporting policy implementation, and ensuring that schools are secure environments for learning.



Teachers: Teachers face significant risks, with many being killed or

SAFE SCHOOL POLICY PATHWAYS

2014: Federal Ministry of Education conducted a national survey on violence in Schools that revealed that there was a high prevalence of violence against children (VAC) in schools.

September 2015: Year of Action: The former President of Nigeria, Muhammadu Buhari, pledged to end violence against children in all settings and initiated a Year of Action.

May 2015: Nigeria endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration

March 2019: The Federal Ministry of Education approved the development of the National Policy to guide the

implementation of the SSD.

2020: National Policy for Safety, Security and Violence Free Schools was developed.

OTHER POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK SUPPORTING SCHOOL SAFETY



Constitutional Provisions: The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria mandates the government to prioritize the security and welfare of the people, including school safety.

Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act of 2004: This act ensures the right to equal and adequate education in a secure environment.

Safe School Common Approach: This approach includes five components addressing violence, natural hazards, conflicts, everyday hazards, and the safety of school facilities.

Safe Schools Initiative: Introduced in 2014, this initiative aims to safeguard education through measures such as relocating at-risk students and implementing safe school models.

KEY POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Prioritize School Safety: Federal and state governments should prioritize the safety of schools in their policies and budget allocations. Adopt and implement the National Policy for Safety, Security and Violence Free Schools in States.



Allocate Adequate Funding: Sufficient budgetary resources must be allocated for safety measures, infrastructure improvements, and emergency preparedness programs.



Enhance Community Engagement: Foster partnerships with local communities and civil society organizations.

implementation of the National Policy on Safety, Security, and Violence-Free Schools by state governments is essential to protect students and teachers, restore confidence in the education system, and achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4, which aims to provide inclusive and equitable quality education for all.






Integrate Safety in Curriculum: Ensure the full integration of safety and security measures in the educational curriculum at all levels.



Capacity Building: Invest in training programs for educators, administrators, and students on disaster risk reduction and emergency response. Ensuring the safety and security of schools in Nigeria is crucial for addressing the educational crisis caused by violence and insecurity. The

For more information

 Young Leaders Network
 Youngleadersn
 www.youngleadersnet.org



Regular Hazard Assessments: Conduct bi-annual assessments of hazards in schools.

References

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