

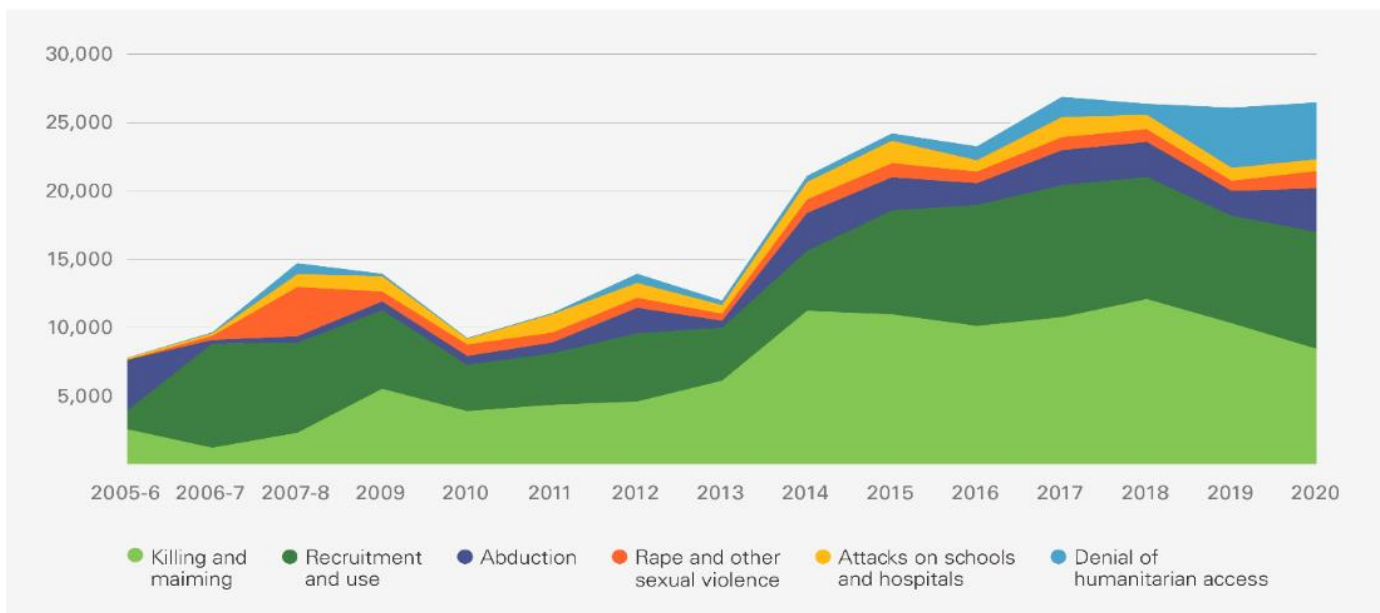


Progress and Challenges for Children Since the 1996 Publication of Graça Machel’s Report on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Children

The six grave violations against children identified by the UN Security Council are: recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming of children, rape or other forms of sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, abduction, and denial of humanitarian access for children.

266,000 grave violations have been verified by the United Nations as committed by parties to conflict in more than **30 conflict situations** across Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Number of grave violations against children over time



Engagement with Parties to Conflict

Over the 25 years of the mandate, parties to conflict, supported by the United Nations, have signed Action Plans to end and prevent grave violations against children, which resulted in the adoption of practical and concrete measures to further the protection of children including the issuance of command orders, age assessment and screenings for the identification of children to be released from armed forces and groups, development and implementation of protocols for the handover and release of children, training and capacity building of armed forces, etc.

In the last two years, at least 60 such measures have been taken, reflecting the efforts made to protect children in situations of armed conflict and armed conflict and the importance of the children and armed conflict mandate.

Engagement through International Commitments

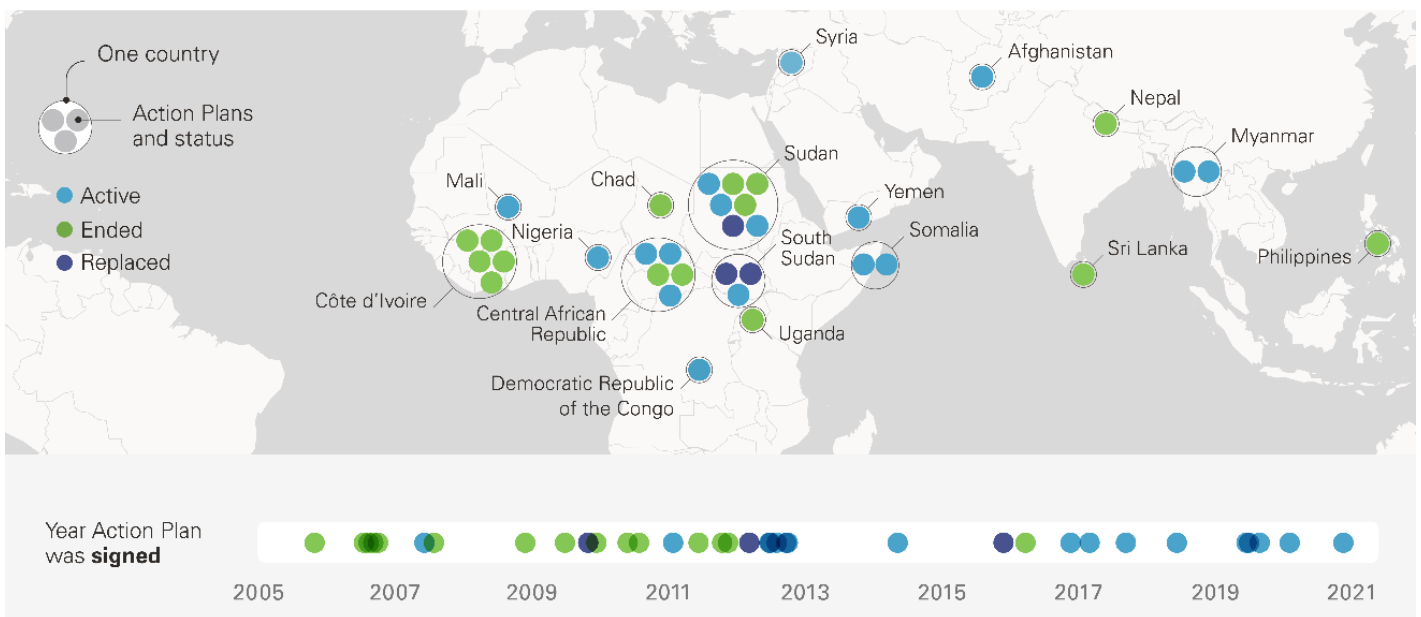
171 States Parties have ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC)

111 Countries have committed to protecting education and signed the Safe Schools Declaration

111 States have endorsed the Paris Principles and Commitments

103 Countries have endorsed the Vancouver Principles

35 Action Plans signed with parties to conflict to end and prevent grave violations against children



35 joint Action Plans have been signed by parties to conflict. 18 parties currently listed are implementing joint Action Plans or similar commitments. Action Plans are written commitments signed between the UN and a party to conflict listed in the annexes of the Secretary-General Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict, which commits to take specific, concrete, and time-bound actions to protect children from the impact of conflict. Action Plans are developed at the request of the UN Security Council to bolster accountability. Other engagements such as Memorandums of Understanding and unilateral command directives have also been adopted and implemented by parties to conflict to protect children.

More than 12,643 children were released by armed groups & forces following UN advocacy in 2020

Grave Violations Committed Against Children in Conflict 2020



Recruitment and Use

8,521 children recruited and used

Situations with the highest numbers of children recruited and used: DRC, Somalia, Syria, and Myanmar



Killing and Maiming

8,422 children killed or maimed

Situations with the highest numbers of children killed and maimed: Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and Somalia



Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence

1,268 children victims of sexual violence

Situations with the highest numbers of children raped and sexually abused: DRC, Somalia, Central African Republic (CAR), and Sudan



Abductions

3,202 children abducted

Situations with the highest numbers of children abducted: Somalia, DRC, Syria, and the Lake Chad Basin region



Attacks on Schools and Hospitals

856 incidents

Most affected situations: DRC, Afghanistan, Syria, and Burkina Faso



Denial of Humanitarian Access*

4,156 incidents

Most affected situations: Yemen, Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory, Mali, and CAR

Numbers include violations committed prior to 2020 and verified at a later date in 2020.

** Not a listable violation*

Notes

266,000 is the number of violations verified since the establishment of the UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism. This is only a fraction of the violations believed to have occurred, as access and security constraints, among others, and the shame, pain, and fear that child and family survivors suffer often hamper the reporting, documentation and verification of grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict.

The publication of a study to mark the 25th anniversary of the children and armed conflict mandate is planned for early 2022. The proposed study will analyze the evolution of the mandate and how it has been implemented since its establishment in 1996.