

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