A New Method for Estimating the Prevalence of Attacks on Education - Somalia and DRC

Lina Rojas and Neil Boothby
Program on Forced Migration and Health
Columbia University

Objectives

Understand the existing avenues for monitoring and reporting of Attacks on Education .

Determine what responsibilities the actors in the education and protection sector view as their own.

Determine how the MRM is implemented, and the success of these efforts in identifying instances of attacks of education.
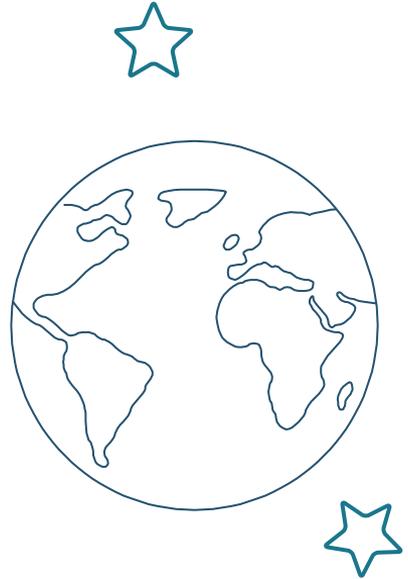
UN RESOLUTION 1612

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) established to "provide for the systematic gathering of accurate, timely and objective information on grave violations committed against children in armed conflict." (2005)

6 Grave Violations

- Killing or maiming of children
- Recruitment or use of children by armed forces and groups
- Sexual Violence against Children
- **Attacks against schools** or hospitals
- Abduction of children
- Denial of humanitarian access for children

South Kivu (2014), Somalia (2014), North Kivu (2015)

"Attacks on Education"

Intimidation, threats, theft, extortion, indoctrination, recruitment, abduction, kidnapping, arbitrary detainment, injury, abuse, torture, sexual- or gender-based violence, forced labor, forced marriage, and murder, whether in school or on the way to school, as well as military use of schools, forced closure of schools, and partial or total destruction of school buildings or other facilities, by an armed group.

Definition derived from:
Education Under Attack 2014
Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack

Methodology

- Interviews with key informants
- Creation of attacks database
- Mapping of attacks
- Verification in the field

Results

	South Kivu (12.2012 – 07.2014)	Somalia (07. 2013 – 01. 2015)	North Kivu (12.2013 – 06.2015)
Organizations Interviewed	54	26	35
Incidents Reported	238	52	113
Verified	28	32	23
Confirmed	22 (78 % confirmation rate)	32 (100 % confirmation rate)	19 (83% confirmation rate)

Example: North Kivu

For 2014, The UNSG's Report on Children and Armed Conflict found **35 attacks on education**, including military use of schools (occupations) **throughout the DRC.**

In one month, our exercise produced **142 reported attacks** (including the 19 verified and new additional 27)-- in **only one province** of the DRC, for approximately the same period.

The BIG Picture

Surveilling Attacks on Education falls between the purview of the **education** and **child protection** sectors.

Many, if not most, Attacks on Education likely go **undocumented** in both study settings.

This method can provide **timely, objective, accurate** and **reliable** information on Attacks on education in a **cost-effective** manner.

Key Informants in all settings reported that monitoring of Attacks on education is considered a low priority, and wanted to see **greater investment.**

Local organizations and education institutions have **great knowledge**, but lack coordination and systematized documentation.

Key Informants will be more inclined to monitor and report if they believer that doing so would produce a commensurate **response** and that they would be **safe.**