

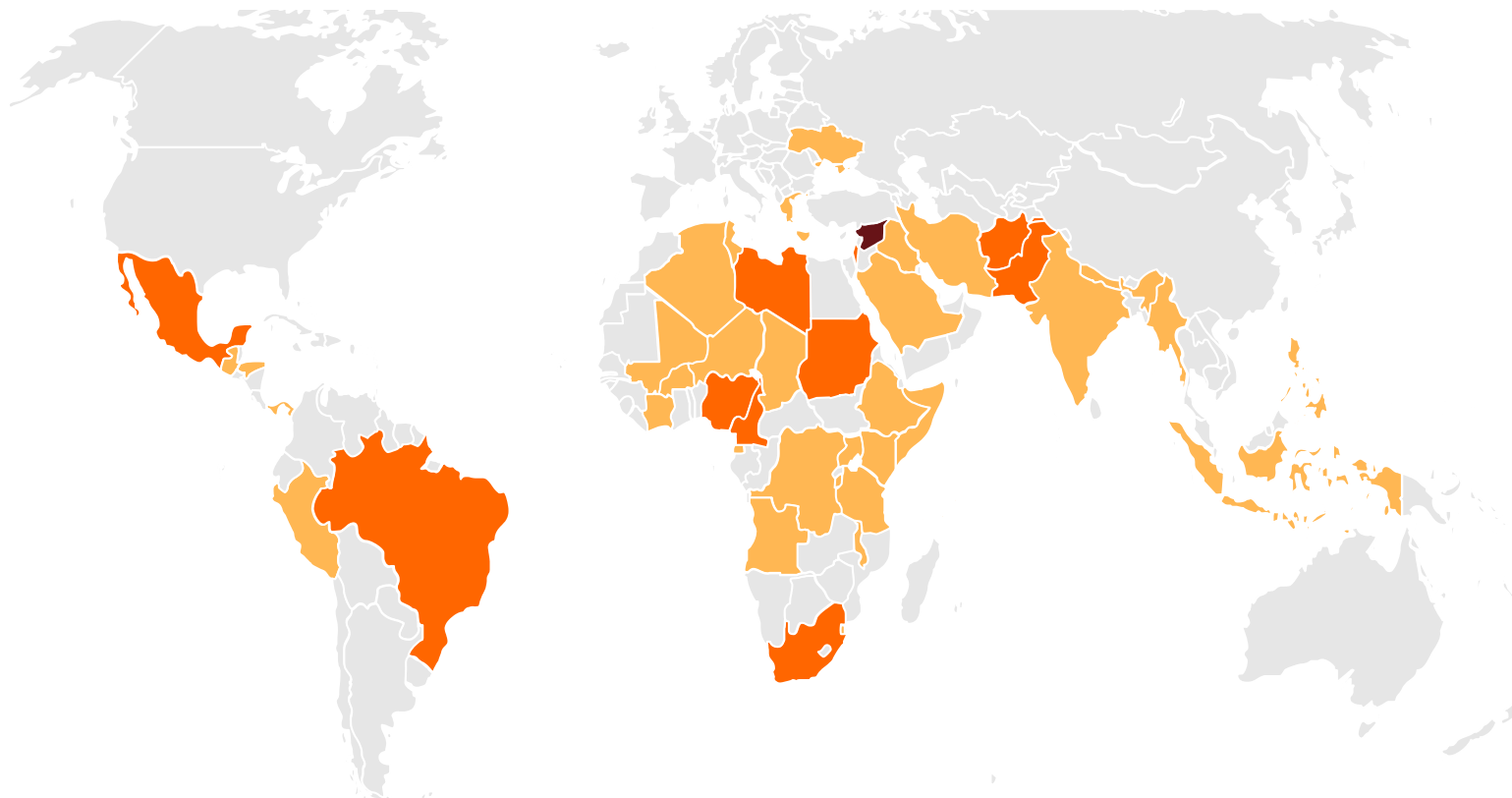
This overview documents presents incidents affecting the provision of education in 2017. The report is based on incidents identified in open sources and reported by Aid in Danger partner agencies using the Security in Numbers Database (SiND).

The available open-source and confidentially shared information is an indication of the number of incidents that affected the provision of education in 2017. However, no claim is made that the total number of incidents affecting education has been documented or is known.

The list of specific events on which this report is based can be viewed on the Humanitarian Data Exchange at [HDX Insecurity Insight](#).

In 2017, 236 incidents affecting education were reported in 48 countries.

Over 20 reported incidents 5-19 reported incidents Under five reported incidents



Countries where five or more incidents were reported	Reported incidents
Syria	93
Nigeria	14
Pakistan	11
Cameroon	9
OPT	9
South Africa	8
Afghanistan	7
Mexico	6
Sudan	6
Brazil	5
Libya	5

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Killed

- 72 educators¹ were reportedly killed in 14 countries.
- A high number were reportedly killed by **organised criminal groups** in Mexico (52).
- Nearly 90% were killed by firearms. In addition, two staff members were fatally **stabbed** in Brazil and Pakistan, one staff member was killed in an **arson attack** in Brazil and at least one was **lynched** in Ivory Coast.



Injured²

- 16 educators¹ were reportedly injured in six countries.
- Six teachers were reportedly shot and injured in Chad by a **soldier** during diploma registration.
- Four educators were injured by **SVIEDs** in Nigeria and one by a VBIED in Somalia.



Physically assaulted²

- Five educators¹ were reportedly assaulted in the Seychelles and Tunisia (2 each) and Pakistan (1).
- Both incidents in the Seychelles were reported in November 2017 and attributed to **students** or relatives of students.



Sexual violence

- Two incidents of sexual violence were reported against three educators¹ in Greece and Sudan.
- In Sudan, three **armed herders** allegedly stormed a school dormitory in West Darfur, seized two teachers, dragged them outside and repeatedly raped them.

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Kidnapped

- 38 educators¹ were reportedly kidnapped in five countries.
- A high number were reportedly kidnapped in Afghanistan (15) and Nigeria (13).
- In Afghanistan, **ISIS militants** reportedly kidnapped 14 staff members and the **Haqqani network** one.



Arrested

- 91 educators¹ were reportedly arrested or detained in 12 countries.
- A high number were reportedly issued with arrest warrants in Turkey (72).
- 93% of detained staff were arrested over allegations of links to **opposition parties** (75) and **terrorist groups** (3), or **accusations of treason** or subversive activities (3).
- Four teachers were arrested by the Afghan and Pakistani authorities over allegations that the schools were part of **banned organisations** in Turkey.



Access constraints

- State or non-state actors in six countries **forced the closure** of 70 educational facilities.
- 93% of educational facility closures were reported in **OPT** (65). Five were closed in Angola, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Uganda and Syria (1 each).
- 17 measures were taken by educational providers to protect staff, assets or programmes due to violence, resulting in **reduced services**.
- In South Sudan, one NGO **closed** all the schools it was supporting, due to violence and insecurity.
- Seven measures were taken in the Americas following shootings or threats of violence by **gang members** on or outside facilities.

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Educational facilities destroyed or damaged

- 12 educational facilities were reportedly destroyed: eight were destroyed in Syria by **aerial bombing** attributed to Syrian or international coalition forces (5 and 3, respectively), and four in **arson attacks** in Cameroon.
- 125 educational facilities were reportedly damaged in 24 countries.
- 19 educational facilities were destroyed or damaged in **arson attacks** in Cameroon, Chad, Kenya, Indonesia, Mali, Nepal, South Africa and Sudan. Nearly half of these incidents were reported in Cameroon (8).
- On seven occasions **explosives weapons**, including aerial bombs, SVIEDs and RCIEDs, were used at or near educational facilities, but did not cause damage in Syria (4), Nepal, Nigeria and Pakistan (1 each).

Nearly two-thirds were reportedly damaged in Syria

- 95% were reportedly damaged by **explosive weapons**, including aerial bombs, mortar shells, IEDs and ISIS-planted landmines (77/81). Four were damaged during **raids**, while two incidents were attributed to **Fateh al Sham Front fighters** in Idlib governorate.
- 27 educational facilities were temporarily or permanently **closed due to the high level of damage or destruction** sustained from airstrikes conducted by Syrian and international coalition forces.

State forces activity at educational facilities

- On three occasions state actors carried out security activities in the DRC and Burundi (2 and 1, respectively).
- In the DRC, suspected **Republican Guard members** entered Kinshasa University looking for a suspected criminal, while security forces reportedly **occupied** an unspecified number of schools.
- In Burundi, police carried out **anti-terrorism activities** in a school playground.

Criminal activity at educational facilities

- Robberies and burglaries of educational facilities were reported in **Cameroon, Mexico, Peru** and **South Africa** (1 each).
- In Mexico, four gunmen entered a school, threatened staff, **locked up** teachers and 35 students in the auditorium, and robbed them.

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Known perpetrators

- More incidents were attributed to state actors than non-state actors (NSAs) (104 and 92, respectively).
- In four cases, fighting or violence between state forces and NSAs affected the provision of education in India, Mexico, Nigeria and Ukraine. In Ukraine, at least five schools and two kindergartens were damaged in fighting.



Non-state actors

- Incidents attributed to NSAs were frequently reported in **Nigeria** (14), **Pakistan** (9), **Cameroon** and **Syria** (8 each).
- Named NSAs include Abu Sayyaf, al-Shabaab, Houthis, Boko Haram, the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist), ISIS, the Haqqani network, Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen.



State forces

- Incidents involving actions taken by the authorities were mostly reported in **Syria** (83), followed by **OPT** (8).
- These actions mostly involved the destruction of or damage to educational facilities (70), but also included arrests and detentions, deaths, injuries to and assaults of educators, forced closures, and security activities within educational facilities' grounds.

Other parties

- 14 incidents were attributed to students or relatives of students. In one incident in South Africa, students threw a **petrol bomb** at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) Cape Town campus, causing damage.
- Five incidents were attributed to civilians. In one incident in Kenya, locals **whipped** two teachers for participating in a meeting over a proposed hydropower project.
- Four incidents were attributed to **security guards** working at educational facilities. In one incident in Brazil, a nursery school guard sprayed a **flammable liquid** over several people, including himself, before starting a **fire** that killed a teacher and six children.

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Nearly 50% of reported incidents involved explosive weapon use

- Over 75% of these incidents were reported in Syria (88/112): most reported aerial bombing by **Syrian, Russian** or **international coalition forces** (64).
- **Missiles, mortar shells** and **rockets** damaged schools in Ukraine (7), Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Somalia (1 each).
- Hand grenades damaged three schools in Ethiopia, Pakistan and Tanzania.
- **SVIEDs** attacks killed two educational workers,¹ injured four and damaged two schools in Nigeria.
- **VBIED** attacks killed one educational worker¹ and injured another in Somalia.
- **RCIED** attacks were reported in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **Petrol bombs** damaged two schools in South Africa.
- Other **IEDs** exploded at or near schools being used as polling stations in Nepal.

The Safe Schools Declaration was opened for endorsement at an international conference in Oslo on 29 May 2015. See the list of endorsing states [here](#).



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Source: Insecurity Insight. 2018. Attacks on Education in 2017, v. May 2018. Vevey, Switzerland: Insecurity Insight, Aid in Danger Project.

¹ Educators: All international and national staff working for local education providers.

² In our coding, assaults describe violence against staff where no specific injuries are reported. Many assaults are carried out with body parts (fists, feet) or objects. Injuries count the number of aid workers explicitly described as having sustained injuries. Most injuries are inflicted with either firearms or explosive weapons.