

# MAPPING SCHOOL INSECURITY IN NIGERIA:

## Addressing Educational Inequity and Enhancing Opportunities for Girls.



### Presenter:

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### Keywords:

School insecurity, Girls' education, Educational inequity, Abductions, Safe School Initiative, Educational access, Out-of-school children.

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### Background:

In the last decade, Nigeria has faced escalating insecurity, particularly in Northern regions, where school children, especially girls, have become frequent targets of abductions. As of 2024, more than 600 schools remain closed due to security threats, significantly disrupting the education system and exacerbating the already high rates of out-of-school children in the region, which stands at over 13 million, with 8 million in Northern Nigeria.

The study explored the complex dynamics of school insecurity in Nigeria, focusing on its impact on female students and highlighting specific Northern Nigerian states where over 2,000 children have been abducted. The objective is to analyze vulnerabilities, evaluate existing interventions, and propose strategies to enhance educational opportunities for girls through strategic partnerships.

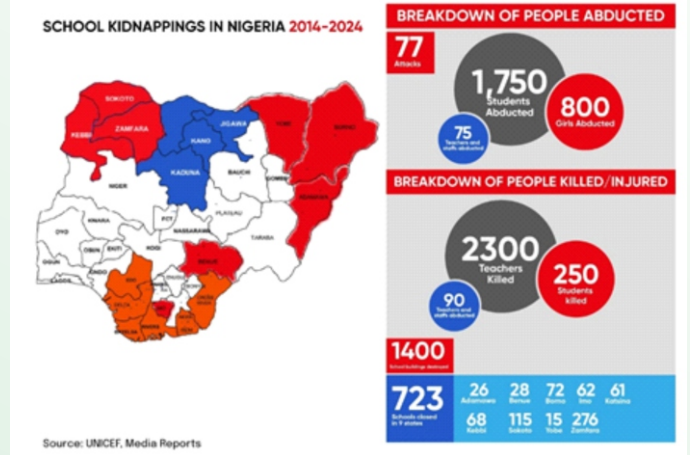
### Methodology:

A mixed-methods approach was adopted to explore the complexities of school insecurity:

- Media Monitoring:** Analyzing newspaper reports from 2014 to 2024 to capture the scope and impact of school abductions and related security challenges.
- Review of Existing Research:** Examining reports and studies from international organizations such as UN Women, World Bank, UNICEF, and UNESCO to understand the broader context and evaluate interventions.
- Data Analysis:** Assessing types of educational vulnerabilities, security challenges, and the effects on educational access and quality.
- Evaluation of Initiatives:** Reviewing government and international NGO responses, including the Safe School Initiative, National Policy on Safety, Security and Violence-Free Schools, and the World Bank's AGILE project.

### Results:

Since 2014, over 1,730 children, including 800 girls, have been abducted in Northern Nigeria, leading to the closure of 723 schools across nine states. This crisis has significantly worsened educational disparities, with the region already accounting for over 8 million out-of-school children. The lack of adequate infrastructure and security measures has made schools easy targets for attacks. Moreover, socio-economic instability further exacerbates these vulnerabilities, forcing many families to withdraw their daughters from school due to safety concerns.



Government and international efforts, such as the Safe School Initiative and the World Bank's AGILE project, have attempted to address these challenges. However, implementation issues persist, particularly in protecting female students and ensuring their continued access to education. While some progress has been made, significant gaps remain in addressing the root causes of school insecurity and ensuring the safety of students.

### Recommendations:

- Enhance Multi-Sectoral Coordination:** Strengthen collaboration among government bodies, international organizations, and local communities to create a unified approach to improving school security and educational access.
- Implement School-Based Risk Identification:** Develop and implement comprehensive risk assessment tools within schools to proactively address security threats.
- Ensure Continuity of Learning:** Leverage innovative educational platforms and technology to maintain learning continuity in insecure areas.
- Expand Gender-Responsive Measures:** Develop strategies specifically aimed at ensuring the safety of female students and increasing their participation in education.
- Foster Strategic Partnerships:** Encourage partnerships between government, international bodies, and local communities to support sustainable improvements in school security and educational opportunities.

### Conclusion:

School insecurity continues to undermine educational equity in Northern Nigeria, particularly for girls. Despite various interventions, significant gaps remain, necessitating more robust and coordinated efforts to create safer learning environments. Addressing these challenges can help ensure that girls in Northern Nigeria have equal access to education, thereby contributing to a more equitable and prosperous future for the country.

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