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Children and armed conflict in Burkina Faso

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#) and subsequent resolutions on children and armed conflict, is the first report on the situation of children and armed conflict in Burkina Faso and covers the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024.

The report documents the effects of conflict on children in Burkina Faso, highlighting trends and patterns of the six grave violations against children, namely the recruitment and use of children, the killing and maiming of children, rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, attacks on schools, hospitals and protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals,^a the abduction of children and the denial of humanitarian access. Where available, the report contains information on perpetrators. It also outlines the progress made in addressing grave violations against children.

The report includes recommendations to parties to the conflict in Burkina Faso for ending and preventing grave violations against children and strengthening child protection.

^a For the purposes of the present report, the phrase “protected persons in relation to schools and/or hospitals”, used in Security Council resolutions [1998 \(2011\)](#), [2143 \(2014\)](#) and [2427 \(2018\)](#) as well as in the statements by the President of the Security Council of 17 June 2013 ([S/PRST/2013/8](#)) and 31 October 2017 ([S/PRST/2017/21](#)), refers to teachers, doctors, other educational personnel, students and patients.



I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Security Council resolution [1612 \(2005\)](#) and subsequent resolutions on children and armed conflict and is the first report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Burkina Faso to be submitted to the Security Council and its Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. The report covers the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2024 and contains a description of trends and patterns with respect to the six grave violations against children over the reporting period. The violations presented herein have been verified by the United Nations country task force on monitoring and reporting in Burkina Faso, which is co-chaired by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) representative in Burkina Faso. Where possible, perpetrators of verified grave violations are identified. The ability to verify information was at times hampered by insecurity or access restrictions to certain crisis-affected areas. Therefore, the information contained herein may not represent the full scale of violations committed in Burkina Faso during the reporting period.

2. The report is focused on trends of grave violations perpetrated by all parties to the conflict. In the annexes to the most recent report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict ([A/78/842-S/2024/384](#)), Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) was listed for the recruitment and use of children, the killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals and the abduction of children. Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS) was listed for the killing and maiming of children and the abduction of children.

3. The transitional government of Burkina Faso has made some progress towards the establishment of a consultative framework composed of focal points to report on the implementation of the handover protocol for the transfer and care of children associated with armed forces and armed groups. This progress reflects capacity-building with respect to the promotion and protection of children's rights within the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Civic Promotion.

II. Overview of the political, military and security situation

4. The reporting period witnessed increased political instability coupled with a deteriorating security situation, leading to a large-scale humanitarian crisis and an increase in allegations of human rights violations and abuses. In 2022, two military takeovers occurred in the country over a period of eight months.

5. Deadly armed attacks against civilians and security forces have intensified, with armed groups having taken control of parts of the country. At the time of writing, the transitional government claims to control 69 per cent of national territory. In response to escalating violence, and as part of a strategy to reclaim areas lost to armed groups, the transitional authorities issued a decree in April 2023 for the general mobilization of the Defence and Security Forces, while also extending the state of emergency. This decree granted the Defence and Security Forces expanded powers and enabled the administration to requisition individuals, services and goods.

6. The intensification of the violence has exacerbated the humanitarian situation, despite substantial response efforts by the transitional government and its partners. As at 31 March 2023, 2,062,534 internally displaced persons were registered, of whom 58 per cent were children. The United Nations continued to deliver humanitarian services, despite the volatile security context, by building on child-centred services at the community level. An estimated 6.3 million people, including 3.4 million children, were in need of humanitarian support, notably in such aspects as

nutrition, health, protection and education as at 31 March 2024.¹ The increase in armed attacks in many regions significantly impeded the capacity of humanitarian actors to assist thousands of persons living in hard-to-reach areas.

7. Access to education was particularly affected by the continued deterioration of the security situation and attacks and threats against schools. As at 31 March 2024, more than 818,149 children were deprived of their right to education due to the closure of 5,319 schools, which represents just over 20 per cent of the country's schools. This is a modest improvement from the 6,300 schools that remained closed in March 2023, affecting almost 1 million children. School closures have further exposed out-of-school children to child protection risks, including recruitment and use by armed groups, and child marriage, which affects girls disproportionately.

III. Grave violations against children

8. The country task force verified 2,483 grave violations against 2,255 children (1,310 boys, 750 girls, 195 sex unknown), including 223 children who were victims of multiple violations.

9. Most grave violations were attributed to armed groups (1,610 or 65 per cent). A total of 501 grave violations, or 20 per cent, were attributed to the Defence and Security Forces and *Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie*. The remaining 372 violations, or 15 per cent, were unattributed as it was not possible to attribute responsibility to a particular party to the conflict.

10. The last quarter of 2023 saw a sharp increase in the number of grave violations against children, notably child casualties. A total of 560 grave violations, representing 23 per cent of violations verified during the reporting period, were verified as having occurred during these three months. This rise can be explained by the increased intensity of attacks by armed groups and military operations, indiscriminate attacks affecting civilians and the enhanced capacity of the country task force to monitor and verify grave violations.

11. Overall, Sahel (837) and Centre-Nord (543) were the most affected regions, recording the highest number of grave violations, followed by Est (340), Nord (286), Boucle du Mouhoun (227), Centre-Est (133), Hauts-Bassins (81), Cascades (20), Centre-Ouest (14), Centre-Sud (1) and Sud-Ouest (1) Regions.

12. The killing and maiming of children was the most prominent grave violation, followed by abduction, and recruitment and use. Of particular concern was an increase in the number of verified attacks on schools within the reporting period. Rape and other forms of sexual violence remained underreported. The denial of humanitarian access, as well as the detention of children for their alleged associations with armed groups, were also issues of great concern in relation to child protection.

13. Access to information in certain insecure and hard-to-reach areas was a major challenge, due to prevailing insecurity, restricted access and mobility, the fear of reprisals against those tasked with monitoring child protection and restrictions on freedom of expression. Therefore, the information contained in the present report provides trends with respect to grave violations but does not represent the full scale of violations.

14. In addition, the country task force verified 47 grave violations against children that occurred before the reporting period: recruitment and use (8), killing and maiming (23), abduction (4), attacks on schools and hospitals (5) and denial of

¹ United Nations Children's Fund, "Humanitarian Situation Report No. 1", 12 April 2024.

humanitarian access (7). Violations occurred in the Est (33), Sahel (9), Centre-Nord (3) and Nord (2) Regions and were attributed to JNIM (26), the Defence and Security Forces (20) and crossfire between an unidentified armed group and the Defence and Security Forces (1).

A. Recruitment and use of children

15. The country task force verified the recruitment and use of 257 children (255 boys, 2 girls) between the ages of 10 and 17. Most verified cases were attributed to armed groups, notably 193 to JNIM and 44 to ISGS. Unidentified perpetrators were responsible for 20 violations. Violations occurred in the Sahel (160), Boucle du Mouhoun (47), Nord (25), Est (13), Centre-Nord (11) and Centre-Ouest (1) Regions. In most cases, children were used in combat (219) and were victims of other violations, including killing (122). Assessing the full extent of recruitment and use proved challenging due to difficulties in engaging with armed groups and identifying recruited children, as they often live within the community and do not wear uniforms.

16. The highest number of cases of recruitment and use occurred in the last quarter of 2023, with 128 of the violations – accounting for 50 per cent of the total – recorded during this period alone. This fact can be attributed to both the enhanced capacity of the country task force to verify recruitment cases and child recruitment propaganda tactics employed by armed groups. The factors leading to the recruitment and use of children were largely unknown. However, such factors included abduction, persuasion by local leaders, relatives or parents, enticement with promises of financial gain from armed groups, and revenge.

17. A total of 20 children (all boys) were released (19) or had escaped (1) from armed groups, while 122 were killed during fighting. At the time of reporting, the country task force was unable to verify whether the remaining 115 children were still being used.

Deprivation of liberty of children for their alleged association with armed forces or armed groups

18. During the reporting period, the country task force verified that 25 boys were being held in the high-security prison at Ouagadougou for their alleged association with armed groups, 6 of whom had been held for several years. All the children had been arrested during military operations. The advocacy of the country task force with the transitional government resulted in the release of 6 children from detention in 2023, including 3 who were handed over to their parents and 3 others who were transferred to a reintegration centre. The other 19 children remained in detention at the time of writing.

B. Killing and maiming of children

19. A total of 1,386 children (794 boys, 415 girls, 177 sex unknown), some as young as 8 months, were killed (920) or maimed (466). Violations were attributed to JNIM (501), transitional government and pro-transitional government forces (464) (including the Defence and Security Forces and Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (462) and dozo traditional hunters (2)) and ISGS (159). The remaining child casualties (262) could not be attributed to a specific armed perpetrator; this figure includes casualties that occurred during crossfire between unidentified perpetrators (6).

20. Violations were verified in the Sahel (483), Centre-Nord (328), Est (186), Nord (137), Boucle du Mouhoun (97), Hauts-Bassins (73), Centre-Est (65), Cascades (15) and Centre-Ouest (2) Regions.

21. Most children (1,200) were killed or maimed during attacks against civilians and military operations, with children caught in hostilities, rocket attacks, air strikes and shelling by the Defence and Security Forces against armed groups, as well as crossfire. The remaining 186 children were killed or maimed as a result of improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war (163), being set on fire (20), other weapons (2) and rape (1).

22. The number of verified child casualties increased in 2023, with 716 violations verified from January to December 2023, or 51 per cent of the total. The trend observed in 2023 continued in the first two quarters of 2024, with the Sahel, Est and Nord Regions, which have been at the centre of incursions and military operations by armed groups, recording the highest number of child casualties.

23. The verified high numbers attributed to the Defence and Security Forces are correlated with their operations in response to armed groups, including frequent air strikes. Armed groups have increasingly targeted military barracks and civilian populations, particularly villages, often using children in frontline combat roles. As an example, an incident occurred on 26 November 2023 when 111 children, recruited and used in combat roles by JNIM in an attack against army barracks, were killed in air strikes carried out by the Defence and Security Forces as part of a counter-offensive against JNIM in the Sahel Region.

24. Explosive devices were the other leading cause of child casualties. For instance, on 17 January 2024, 3 girls aged 13 and 14 searching for firewood stepped on a mine, west of the town of Arbinda in the Sahel Region. The girls were injured and evacuated to Ouagadougou for treatment.

C. Rape and other forms of sexual violence

25. The country task force verified that 20 children, all girls between the ages of 12 and 17, were subjected to rape. Verified violations were attributed to JNIM (7), unidentified perpetrators (6), Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (4) and ISGS (3), and occurred in the Centre-Nord (10), Sahel (3), Centre-Ouest (2), Boucle du Mouhoun (1), Centre-Sud (1), Est (1), Hauts-Bassins (1) and Nord (1) Regions.

26. Of the 20 verified victims, 6 girls were raped and maimed, and 1 died following collective rape. The perpetrator was arrested in only one case, relating to a Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie element arrested by the Defence and Security Forces in September 2023 for the rape of a 13-year-old girl in the Nord Region.

27. In many cases, sexual violence was preceded by abduction, with girls being targeted while on the way to or from collecting firewood or fetching water. For example, in July 2023, in Sanmantenga Province, Centre-Nord Region, several girls were ambushed by JNIM while fetching water at a water point over five kilometres from their homes. Four of the girls aged 13 and 14 were caught, raped, beaten and severely bruised while attempting to escape. One of the survivors sustained serious spinal injuries. The four girls received psychological support and medical care.

28. Conflict-related sexual violence disproportionately affected girls. This violation continued to be vastly underreported owing to stigmatization, the fear of reprisals, harmful social norms, impunity and safety concerns, and the absence of, or lack of access to, services, including medical and psychosocial services.

D. Attacks on schools and hospitals

29. The country task force verified 132 attacks on schools (79) and hospitals (53). Continued armed conflict and overall insecurity had a severe impact on the education and health system, preventing hundreds of thousands of children from enjoying their fundamental rights to education and basic healthcare. As at 30 June 2024, 21 per cent of educational structures had been forced to close, affecting 844,203 children. A total of 426 health facilities were closed and 370 at risk of closure, which could affect 3.5 million people, including children.

30. The attacks on schools (79) and hospitals (53) were attributed to JNIM (97), unidentified perpetrators (19), ISGS (12) and the Defence and Security Forces (4). Violations occurred in the Boucle du Mouhoun (30), Centre-Nord (26), Est (26), Nord (21), Sahel (14), Centre-Est (8), Centre-Ouest (4) and Hauts-Bassins (3) Regions.

31. Incidents involved the killing, abduction and detention of, as well as threats against, protected persons in relation to schools and hospitals, and the destruction, closure and looting of facilities and the destruction and looting of material. Incidents also involved parents being threatened and keeping their children out of school as a result. One incident involving attacks on schools occurred in November 2022, in Mouhoun Province, Boucle du Mouhoun Region, where an armed group affiliated with JNIM burst into an elementary school on motorcycles, threatened the teachers, confiscated their phones and forced them to immediately close the school and send the pupils home. Another incident occurred in August 2023, when schools in Fouli, Banga and Bana, in Mansila commune, Sahel Region, that were suspected of storing equipment belonging to armed groups, were hit by air strikes delivered by a helicopter belonging to the Defence and Security Forces, which destroyed school equipment. No children or pupils were injured or killed as the schools were not functional. Also in August 2023, JNIM entered a village and looted a pharmaceutical depot belonging to a health centre in the Boucle du Mouhoun Region, ordered health workers to stop working in the area and then set fire to the centre's premises.

32. The country task force verified the military use of 7 schools by the Defence and Security Forces (5) and ISGS (2) in the Boucle du Mouhoun (2), Centre-Nord (2), Est (2) and Sahel (1) Regions. In addition, the country task force verified the military use of a hospital by JNIM (1) in the Centre-Nord (1) Region. At the time of writing, the country task force could not verify whether the schools and the hospital were still in use.

E. Abduction of children

33. The country task force verified the abduction of 592 children (261 boys, 313 girls, 18 sex unknown). Violations were attributed to JNIM (357), ISGS (159), unidentified perpetrators (53) and Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie (23), mostly as a punishment for non-compliance with armed groups' rules or to gather intelligence on positions of the Defence and Security Forces or Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie.

34. Violations occurred in the Sahel (157), Est (126), Centre-Nord (104), Nord (86), Boucle du Mouhoun (41), Centre-Est (41), Centre-Nord (23), Centre-Ouest (5), Cascades (4), Hauts-Bassins (4) and Sud-Ouest (1) Regions.

35. Of the 592 abducted children, 223 were released or managed to escape, 14 were freed by the Defence and Security Forces during military operations against armed groups and 2 children were killed after being abducted, 1 of whom had also been

raped. The whereabouts of the other 353 children remained unknown at the time of writing.

36. While the purpose of abduction could not be verified in the majority of cases, 117 children were abducted for recruitment and use purposes, including as part of a strategy to gather information on the position of enemies, and 22 children were abducted by *Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie* because they had been accused of collaboration with armed groups. For example, in December 2022, in the Yagha Province, Sahel Region, 13 women and 9 children (2 boys, 7 girls) left their village to look for food. On their way, they were intercepted by an armed group affiliated with ISGS and were taken to an unknown destination. The women and children were interrogated about the presence of *Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie* in their village and surrounding areas and were released the next day.

37. Abduction led to other grave violations such as sexual violence and maiming. For example, on 8 June 2024, in Diapaga, Est Region, four girls were abducted, maimed and taken to an unknown destination by JNIM.

F. Denial of humanitarian access

38. Humanitarian access continued to be gravely hampered, particularly in the Centre-Nord, Sahel and Boucle du Mouhoun Regions, mostly due to armed groups' attacks on villages and military counter-insurgency operations.

39. The country task force verified 96 incidents of denial of humanitarian access attributed to JNIM (60), ISGS (18), unidentified perpetrators (12) and the Defence and Security Forces (6). Violations occurred in the Centre-Nord (47), Sahel (19), Boucle du Mouhoun (11), Est (8), Nord (8), Centre-Est (2) and Cascades (1) Regions. The majority of incidents occurred between June 2022 and March 2023. This can be attributed to the fact that, in addition to attacking humanitarian facilities and workers, armed groups increasingly targeted key bridges along main routes, destroying them and completely cutting off access to certain areas.

40. Incidents included attacks on humanitarian facilities and United Nations helicopters, abduction, killing, maiming and torture of humanitarian personnel, hijacking and burning of humanitarian vehicles transporting humanitarian aid and looting. For example, in October 2022, in Namentenga Province, Centre-Nord Region, the contents of a food storage warehouse belonging to a United Nations agency's implementing partner, which were intended for general distribution to internally displaced persons, were looted by JNIM. An estimated 2.2 tons of food aid was stolen.

41. Increased attacks by armed groups involving the destruction of boreholes and other water supply infrastructure, bridges and telecommunication facilities severely restricted humanitarian access and cut off thousands of people, including children, from basic necessities. In some cases, humanitarian efforts were hindered by restrictions imposed by the transitional government. As at 30 June 2024, 39 localities remained almost inaccessible due to security concerns, thereby impeding humanitarian assistance to over 1 million people, including children.

42. Furthermore, the widespread presence of explosive remnants of war across all conflict-affected provinces, combined with a sharp increase in explosions caused by improvised explosive devices along various domestic routes, has had a devastating impact on humanitarian access, further complicating the already dire humanitarian crisis.

IV. Progress in addressing grave violations against children

A. Legislative reform and combating impunity

43. Burkina Faso has a national legal framework in place for the protection of children. In addition to being a Party to international and regional conventions on child protection and their related protocols, the country has endorsed key instruments such as the handover protocol for the transfer of children associated with armed groups, the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles), and the Safe Schools Declaration. However, the implementation of these instruments remained challenging due to various factors, including structural challenges, funding constraints and the absence of comprehensive implementation strategies.

44. Limited progress was observed with regard to the fight against impunity through the investigation of allegations and the prosecution and conviction of those responsible for sexual violence against children and other grave violations. The perpetrator was arrested in only one case involving sexual violence against a girl. Child survivors of sexual violence faced difficulties in gaining access to justice, for reasons including the absence of courts in certain areas, the lack of medical services, the fear of reprisals and of stigmatization, the absence of protection for victims and witnesses, and being forced into amicable settlements.

B. Dialogue with parties to the conflict

45. The country task force engaged with the transitional national authorities to reinforce national systems to end and prevent grave violations against children. In September 2022, the transitional government of Burkina Faso, under the leadership and coordination of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Civic Promotion, endorsed a handover protocol between the transitional government and the United Nations in Burkina Faso to ensure that children allegedly associated with armed forces and armed groups, including those in detention, are transferred to civilian child protection services. Furthermore, the transitional government issued a ministerial order appointing focal points responsible for implementing the handover protocol. The designated focal points constitute a consultation framework whose role is to coordinate the transfer and care of children and to draw up action plans and annual reports on the implementation of the protocol in coordination with the United Nations.

C. Release of children and programmatic response

46. The country task force continued its advocacy with the transitional national authorities on the protection of children associated with armed groups. In 2023, six children associated with armed groups were released from Ouagadougou high security prison following this advocacy.

47. The transitional government, with the support of the United Nations and local and international humanitarian actors, provided reintegration services to children formerly associated with armed forces and groups and other vulnerable children at risk of recruitment and use. During the reporting period, a total of 397 children (183 boys, 214 girls) benefited from reintegration programmes, including reunification, education and socioeconomic support. In addition, 1,213 children (476 boys, 737 girls) benefited from services, including mental health and psychosocial support in child-friendly spaces.

48. One of the major challenges that hampered the reintegration of children was limited financial capacity; reintegration is a cross-sectoral and costly programme that can fully meet its objectives only when it is adequately funded. Another challenge was limited access to some conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas, particularly due to insecurity.

49. All the girl survivors of conflict-related sexual violence received integrated assistance, notably medical, mental and psychosocial support, food and shelter, from the United Nations through implementing partners in the Sahel, Nord, Centre-Nord, Est and Centre-Est Regions.

D. Advocacy and mainstreaming of child protection

50. A total of 767 officers from the Defence and Security Forces were trained as trainers by the United Nations – and have subsequently trained 11,500 elements of *Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie* – on the protection, promotion and respect of human rights with an emphasis on the protection of children during military operations. This training was part of the transitional government's commitment to raise awareness among the Defence and Security Forces and *Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie* so as to protect children and prevent grave violations during military operations against armed groups.

51. Training on the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations against children was delivered to 416 members of child protection partners and community-based structures in the Sahel, Est, Centre-Nord, and Boucle du Mouhoun Regions.

52. In May 2024, seven community-based dialogues on the impact of recruitment and use of children were held by a UNICEF implementing partner, reaching 747 people, including 440 children (258 girls, 182 boys).

V. Observations and recommendations

53. I am deeply concerned by the high number of verified grave violations committed against children in Burkina Faso, in particular the recruitment and use of children, the killing and maiming of children, the abduction of children, attacks on schools and hospitals and the denial of humanitarian access. I urge all parties to conflict in Burkina Faso to immediately end grave violations, release all children in their ranks and abide by international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

54. I am seriously concerned about the high number of grave violations committed against children by JNIM and ISGS, in particular the recruitment and use of children, the killing and maiming of children and the abduction of children. I urge JNIM and ISGS to immediately end and prevent all violations against children and release all children associated with them.

55. I am alarmed by the elevated number of children killed and maimed. I strongly urge all parties to conflict not to target civilians, including children, to take all necessary measures to avoid harm to children in the conduct of their operations and to adhere strictly to their obligations under international humanitarian law, notably the principles of distinction, proportionality and precautions in attack.

56. I am seriously concerned about the abduction of children, the majority of whom were girls, by JNIM, ISGS and *Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie*, including for the purpose of recruitment and use and sexual violence. I urge these groups to immediately release all abducted children. I call upon the transitional government to

ensure that the *Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie* take concrete measures to end this violation.

57. I am gravely concerned about attacks on schools, hospitals and protected persons in relation to schools and hospitals. I call upon all parties to conflict to respect and protect the civilian character of schools and hospitals and to allow safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian actors to conflict-affected populations.

58. I welcome the fact that the transitional national authorities organized training for the Defence and Security Forces and *Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie* on the protection of children's rights during military operations. However, I am deeply concerned by the levels of killing and maiming of children by the Defence and Security Forces and *Volontaires pour la défense de la patrie*. I urge them to engage with the United Nations to take concrete prevention measures to protect children during military operations, including when attacking armed groups' camps, where children associated with armed groups may be present.

59. I welcome the signing on 12 September 2022 of a handover protocol between the transitional government and the United Nations for the transfer of children encountered during military operations to civilian child protection services. I also welcome the establishment by the transitional national authorities of a joint technical working group to implement the protocol and the issuance of a ministerial order appointing focal points responsible for implementing the protocol. I call upon the transitional national authorities to swiftly implement the protocol, to treat children associated with armed groups primarily as victims and to release all children who remain in detention for alleged association with armed groups.

60. I welcome the efforts of the transitional government of Burkina Faso, with the support of the United Nations and partners, leading to the reintegration of children affected by armed conflict. I encourage the transitional authorities to continue to ensure the effective and gender-sensitive reintegration of all children released, as well as the provision of educational, health, mental health and psychosocial programmes to all children affected by conflict.

61. I appeal to the transitional government to pursue its efforts to promote accountability by investigating, prosecuting and sanctioning anyone found to be responsible for grave violations, including sexual violence, against children, and to ensure that all victims have access to justice and are provided with comprehensive, age-appropriate and gender-sensitive protection services.

62. Improvised explosive devices remain one of the leading causes of death and injury among children. I call upon the transitional national authorities and their international partners to mobilize resources to support mine action efforts, including demining, explosive ordnance risk education and assistance to victims.

63. Sexual violence against children must end. In addition to prioritizing accountability, I call upon the transitional government to ensure that survivors have access to the required services and assistance, as well as to justice. I further urge the transitional authorities to mobilize financial resources to support community-based reintegration programmes for child survivors or children at risk of sexual violence.

64. I welcome the contributions of donors to the United Nations, civil society organizations and the transitional government of Burkina Faso to support humanitarian and development programmes, especially those that help children affected by conflict and that facilitate access to education and health services. I urge donors to enhance their financial support for these programmes, in particular for the interim care, long-term psychosocial recovery and community-based reintegration of children who have been abducted, recruited and used, and of children who are survivors of sexual violence.