



Evaluating Mechanisms to Investigate Attacks on Healthcare

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave
Violations against Children in Situations of Armed Conflict

MRM-CAAC

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ORIGINS AND SUMMARY

The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Violations against Children in Situations of Armed Conflict (MRM-CAAC) is a permanent monitoring and reporting mechanism established by the UN Security Council that systematically gathers information on grave violations committed against children in situations of armed conflict and other situations of concern that are on the council's formal agenda. The mechanism is automatically activated by the listing of a party to an armed conflict in the annexes to the UN secretary-general's annual report on children and armed conflict. It operates in-country through a Country Task Force for Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR), which serves as the UN organizational structure for implementation of the MRM-CAAC on the ground.

The purpose of the MRM-CAAC is to foster compliance with international law, change the behavior of parties to armed conflict to prevent violations, and inform programmatic responses to prevent further violations and ensure care for victims of violations of relevant national and international law. It does so by engaging with the parties to the conflict in developing action plans, the implementation of which is a condition for delisting from the secretary-general's annual report. The special representative of the secretary-general for children and armed conflict (SRSG-CAAC) submits the MRM-CAAC's findings and recommendations, as well as proposals for action by the Security Council to a formal Security Council working group (SCWG-CAAC).

The MRM-CAAC monitors and reports on six grave violations against children, including attacks on schools or hospitals and denial of humanitarian access, both of which are directly relevant to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 2286. The secretary-general's annual reports on children and armed conflict have indeed included information on attacks on healthcare in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, among others.

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LEGAL BASIS AND FRAMEWORK, RELEVANT GUIDELINES

Legal basis and framework

- The establishment of the MRM-CAAC is prescribed by Security Council [Resolution 1612](#) (2005). Its mandate is further developed by Security Council Resolutions [1882](#) (2009), [1998](#) (2011), and [2068](#) (2012) and is also informed by Resolutions [1261](#)

(1999), [1314](#) (2000), [1379](#) (2001), [1460](#) (2003), [1539](#) (2004), [2143](#) (2014), and [2225](#) (2015).

- o The MRM-CAAC assesses facts and the circumstances in which these facts occurred against relevant rules of international humanitarian law (IHL), international human rights law (IHRL), and relevant regional and national law related to the protection of children in armed conflict.

Relevant rules, guidelines, and methodology

- o Office of the SRSG-CAAC and UNICEF, [MRM-CAAC Guidelines](#), 2014
- o Office of the SRSG-CAAC, UNICEF, and Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), [MRM-CAAC Field Manual](#), 2014 and its [Annexes](#) (including CTFMR terms of reference, MRM-CAAC guiding principles, listing and delisting criteria, etc.)
- o UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, [Terms of Reference](#), 2008
- o UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, [Toolkit](#), 2006
- o Secretary-general's [report on children and armed conflict](#)

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SCOPE OF MANDATE AND INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES

Substantive scope: type of incidents within purview of Res 2286 the mechanism can investigate

<p>FULL <i>The mechanism can look into all incidents that Res 2286 seeks to address</i></p>		N/A
<p>PARTIAL <i>The mechanism can only look into some but not all incidents that Res 2286 seeks to address</i></p>	✓	<p>Where activated, the MRM-CAAC can and does investigate a variety of incidents of violence against healthcare. It investigates those that fall within its mandate violation on “attacks on schools and hospitals,” which is defined to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeting of medical facilities,¹ causing their total or partial destruction, and personnel; and • Other interferences to the normal operation of medical facilities, such as the occupation, shelling, targeting for propaganda of, or otherwise causing harm to medical facilities or their personnel. <p>It also investigates those that fall under its mandate violation on “denial of humanitarian access for children,” which is defined to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intentional deprivation of or impediment to children’s access to assistance indispensable to their survival or access of humanitarian

¹ “Medical facilities” are understood to be places where the sick and wounded are collected or provided with healthcare services. These are applied by the MRM-CAAC to include means of transportation exclusively used for such purposes, such as ambulances.

		<p>agencies to deliver such humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations including children; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant impediments to the ability of humanitarian or other relevant actors to access and assist affected children (MRM-CAAC Field Manual, pp. 9–10, Annex 2). <p>Security Council Resolution 1998 (2011) expanded the triggers of the MRM-CAAC to (1) recurrent attacks on hospitals and (2) recurrent attacks or threats of attacks against protected persons in relation to hospitals. Trigger status of mandate violations means that parties to armed conflict can be listed in the annexes of the secretary-general's report on such violations. The listing then triggers the activation of the MRM-CAAC in-country (see also below). While any activated MRM-CAAC will investigate all MRM-CAAC mandate violations, including instances of denial of humanitarian assistance to children, the latter does not yet have "trigger status" and, as such, parties to armed conflicts cannot be listed for it.</p> <p>Attacks on healthcare that do not fall within the scope of the MRM-CAAC's mandate violations cannot be investigated or reported on by the MRM-CAAC.</p>
<p>CONDITIONAL <i>The mechanism can only look into incidents where a certain condition related to the mechanism's mandate is met</i></p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>For the MRM-CAAC to investigate specific incidents, they must be committed in relation to an armed conflict, and the victim must be a person under 18 years of age. However, the MRM-CAAC also covers impersonal violations (e.g., attacks on hospitals) that may not have physically impacted a specific child at that point in time but could in the future (MRM-CAAC Field Manual, p. 19).</p>
<p>SINGLE INCIDENTS <i>The mechanism can be activated/used to investigate single incidents within the purview of Res 2286</i></p>		<p>In order for parties to be listed and the MRM-CAAC to be activated in-country (see also below), there have to be clear trends or patterns of the violation in contravention of applicable international law (MRM-CAAC Field Manual, p. 35). The MRM-CAAC can therefore not be used to investigate a single incident.</p>

Geographic scope

<p>GLOBAL <i>The mechanism can be activated to look into incidents regardless of where these occurred</i></p>	✓	In theory, the MRM-CAAC can be activated to monitor and report on incidents regardless of where they occur. Activation of the MRM-CAAC does, however, require a listing in the annexes of the secretary-general's annual report on children and armed conflict (see also below). The annual listings are recommended by the Office of the SRSG-CAAC and accepted (or not) by the secretary-general.
<p>REGION-SPECIFIC <i>The mechanism can only be activated to look into incidents that have occurred in a specific region</i></p>		N/A
<p>COUNTRY-SPECIFIC <i>The mechanism can only be activated to look into incidents that have occurred in a specific country</i></p>		N/A

Type of investigative activities

<p>MONITORING AND REPORTING <i>Actively monitoring conflict to identify trends/patterns of violations of IHL/IHRL</i></p>		✓	Where and when activated, the MRM-CAAC monitors and reports on alleged violations by all parties to the conflict for the purpose of enhancing compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) and ending grave violations against children.
FACT-FINDING & INVESTIGATING	<p>Identifying possible violations of international law <i>Establish facts and circumstances of specific incidents or series of incidents and assess against relevant legal framework (IHL/IHRL)</i></p>	✓	The MRM-CAAC also investigates specific incidents of violations of IHL and IHRL (What happened and to whom?), as well as locations and period of the incidents (Where and when did the incidents take place?).
	<p>Identifying those responsible <i>Identify entities/persons responsible for or with influence over facts/circumstances</i></p>	✓	The MRM-CAAC identifies parties responsible for or with influence over those committing alleged violations.
	<p>Identifying perpetrators of crimes <i>Identify entities/persons allegedly responsible for war crimes or crimes against humanity</i></p>		N/A

<p>COLLECTING EVIDENCE OF ALLEGED CRIMES <i>Collecting (and corroborating) evidence of alleged war crimes or crimes against humanity</i></p>		<p>The MRM-CAAC does not seek to establish whether any crimes have been committed or to identify alleged perpetrators of such crimes.</p>
<p>ASSESSING VICTIMS' GRIEVANCES <i>Identify direct/indirect consequences of attacks and assess need for reparations</i></p>		<p>The MRM-CAAC does not assess victims' grievances. However, provisions for reparations can be included in action plans.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">RECOMMENDATIONS TO</p>	<p>Prevent future incidents <i>Identify/propose corrective measures to prevent future incidents</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">✓</p> <p>The MRM-CAAC engages in dialogue with parties to the conflict aimed at restoring compliance with IHL and other child protection norms and standards. The MRM-CAAC makes specific recommendations to parties to armed conflicts to “foster accountability and compliance of parties to conflict with international child protection standards and norms..., contribute to influencing actions and changing the behavior of parties who commit grave violations and...inform programmatic response to prevent further violations and ensure care for victims of violations.” (MRM-CAAC Guidelines, p. 20). For example, MRM-CAAC reports have recommended legal reform (e.g., Central African Republic in 2011), training and capacity building of law enforcement and armed forces personnel (e.g., Central African Republic in 2011, Afghanistan in 2015), and compliance with international law (e.g., Syria in 2014).</p> <p>The MRM-CAAC engages with parties to conflict to develop concrete action plans to address grave violations against children. Such an action plan is a written, signed commitment between the United Nations and parties who are listed as having committed grave violations against children in the secretary-general's annual report on children and armed conflict. Each action plan is designed to address a specific party's situation and outlines concrete, time-bound steps that lead to compliance with international law, delisting, and a more protected future for children. These can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminalizing the recruitment and use of children by armed forces and issuing a military order to stop and prevent child recruitment; • Investigating and prosecuting those who recruit and use children;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointing child protection specialists in security forces; • Releasing all children identified in the ranks of security forces; • Providing regular, unimpeded access to military camps and bases so child protection actors can verify that no children are in the ranks; • Providing release and reintegration programs for children; • Strengthening birth registration systems and integrating age-verification mechanisms in recruitment procedures; and • Implementing national campaigns to raise awareness and prevent the recruitment of children. <p>In order to be delisted from the annexes of the secretary-general's report, the United Nations must verify that the party has successfully implemented all activities included in the action plan.</p> <p>In his or her annual report on children and armed conflict, the secretary-general also makes recommendations related to prevention. These can include encouraging member states to sign and implement action plans or encouraging the Security Council to request the deployment of child protection officers.</p>
	<p>Ensure accountability for violations of IHL/IHRL</p> <p><i>Identify appropriate avenues and concrete actions to ensure accountability</i></p>	✓	<p>MRM-CAAC reports have recommended measures to combat impunity (e.g., Afghanistan in 2015), and notably that grave violations against children are addressed through investigation and prosecution (e.g., Central African Republic in 2011). In principle, action plans should also have provisions to this effect, such as relevant reform of penal legislation or the actual prosecution of individuals accused of grave violations against children.</p> <p>In his or her annual report on children and armed conflict, the secretary-general also makes recommendations related to accountability, such as calling on member states to prosecute perpetrators of grave violations against children and encouraging the donor community to support national justice systems in order to do so (e.g., secretary-general's 2016 annual report on children and armed conflict, para. 221).</p>

		The SCWG-CAAC, which reviews the secretary-general's reports on children and armed conflict, can also, for example, recommend that the secretary-general request formal investigations by national, ad hoc, or international justice mechanisms.
	Ensure reparations and/or address victims' other grievances	MRM-CAAC reports do not make recommendations regarding reparations for victims. However, provisions for reparations, compensation, or the provision of other types of support (such as psychosocial support) to victims can be included in action plans developed with concerned countries.

4 INVESTIGATIVE TEAM MEMBERS AND IMPACT ON INDEPENDENCE AND IMPARTIALITY

Members	Election/appointment	Guarantee of independence & impartiality
<p>CTFMR teams are composed of heads of relevant UN agencies in-country² and co-chaired by the highest-ranking UN official (SRSG in contexts with peace operations or special political missions and the resident coordinator elsewhere) and the UNICEF representative in the country concerned.</p> <p>In some contexts, international NGOs that are operational in-country participate as full members of the CTFMR.</p>	<p>The co-chairs review and amend the composition of the CTFMR on a yearly basis to ensure the most appropriate representation.</p> <p>For non-UN members, invitations are extended by the co-chairs.</p>	<p>The MRM-CAAC Guidelines provide that monitors should be impartial and objective. They should be independent of parties to the conflict and should provide, without prejudice, information on violations committed by all parties to the conflict (MRM-CAAC Guidelines, para. B6).</p> <p>As UN staff members, they also enjoy privileges and immunities that allow them to carry out their functions independently.</p>

² At a minimum, and as relevant to the country context, the CTFMR should include representatives of the peacekeeping mission, special political mission, office of the resident coordinator, UNICEF, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, and International Labour Organization (ILO). Independent, impartial, and neutral international NGOs or national human rights bodies may also be invited (by the co-chairs) to form part of the CTFMR where relevant and appropriate.

Activator/Creator	Authorization/Enabler	Average duration to activate/create/function
<p>The MRM-CAAC is a permanent monitoring and reporting mechanism. Activation of the MRM-CAAC at country-level is automatically triggered upon a listing in Annex 1 to secretary-general's annual report on children and armed conflict (i.e., for countries formally on the Security Council agenda).</p> <p>It requires consultations with the concerned state if the listing occurs in Annex 2 of the secretary-general's report (i.e., for countries not formally on the Security Council agenda).</p>	<p>As monitoring and reporting on human rights violations is a core mandate of the UN, the conduct of such activities does not require prior agreement of concerned governments.</p> <p>In theory, the decision to list or delist a party to a conflict in the annexes to the secretary-general's annual report on children and armed conflict is that of the secretary-general alone.</p> <p>When a party is listed, the relevant UN country team is notified by official correspondence from the SRSG-CAAC to launch the CTFMR and start formal reporting.</p>	<p>As soon as the secretary-general's annual report on children and armed conflict is published, formal monitoring and reporting on new parties or situations listed can start.</p> <p>The actual commencement of activities depends on the speed with which UN resources can be mobilized in the given context (see also below). The completion of the work depends on whether listed parties have signed and implemented MRM-CAAC action plans that allow for delisting. The annexes to the secretary-general's report include what are known as "persistent perpetrators," which are parties that have been listed for more than five years. The MRM-CAAC is not deactivated in a country until all parties have been delisted.</p>

	Pre-existing	To be established when activated/created
<p>Human resources</p>	<p>The MRM-CAAC in-country is co-chaired by the highest UN representative in the country (SRSG or resident coordinator) and the in-country UN representative.</p> <p>The work of the CTFMR is supported by:</p>	<p>Contributions from the relevant UN agencies are almost exclusively made with existing in-country human resources, in particular program staff working on child protection. For example, DPA and DPKO make significant contributions to the</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office of the SRSG-CAAC, which is the primary interface of the MRM-CAAC with the Security Council, is in charge of the preparation of the secretary-general's reports, and provides guidance and support to the CTFMRs through ten staff members; • UNICEF Headquarters, which provides technical guidance and support through one fixed-term, fully dedicated staff member, who is also support by child protection and emergency operations staff; and • DPKO and the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), which provide technical guidance and support through one fixed-term, fully dedicated staff member with a team of two child protection staff at DPKO headquarters and one focal point at DPA headquarters. 	<p>collection and verification of information on violations through child protection advisers. They act as a secretariat for the preparation of reports required by the Security Council under the MRM-CAAC. UNICEF has dedicated child protection staff on the ground, including MRM-CAAC specialists. Other UN agencies and departments play a role depending on their presence and mandate in the country.</p> <p>The CTFMR is responsible for providing guidance and training on methodology, as well as in ethical and security matters, to monitors. In practice this function is assumed by UNICEF (MRM-CAAC Field Manual, Annex 5, para. 83).</p> <p>UNICEF has dedicated child protection staff on the ground, including MRM-CAAC specialists, who train implementing partners on monitoring and collection of information.</p>
<p>Financial resources</p>	<p>The Office of the SRSG-CAAC, based in UN headquarters, had a biannual budget of \$4.41 million for 2014–2015 and of \$4.61 million for 2016–2017 (December 2016 audit of the Office of the SRSG-CAAC).</p>	<p>There is no preexisting budget to finance in-country CTFMRs. Members of the CTFMR are responsible for generating their own funding to ensure appropriate capacity to implement their MRM-CAAC activities. The chairs can support fundraising efforts for MRM-CAAC activities of members (MRM-CAAC Field Manual, Annex 5, para. 20). For example, they can ensure that MRM-CAAC activities are included in the country office operations budget.</p>

<p>Confidential reporting to and dialogue with parties to armed conflict</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The information gathered by the MRM-CAAC and its interventions also serves to inform concerted and effective advocacy and program responses for children affected by armed conflict. MRM-CAAC's information is therefore used, first and foremost, for local-level advocacy and response interventions with the parties to the conflict by the MRM-CAAC teams on the ground.</p> <p>The CTFMR engages directly, and on a confidential basis, with all persons or entities whose actions have a significant impact on children, without restrictions and preconditions and without any prejudice as to their political or legal status, including for the preparation and implementation of action plans signed between the UN and relevant parties to the conflict (MRM-CAAC Field Manual, Annex 5, para. 15). The CTFMR is encouraged to periodically and systematically update parties on the situation and progress for children affected by conflict within the country (for accountability, response and feedback purposes; MRM-CAAC Field Manual, p. 42). Action plans are also confidential unless the concerned party to the conflict wishes to make the plan publicly available.</p> <p>The MRM-CAAC is one of the only UN mechanisms where there is no obstacle for the UN to enter into dialogue with all parties to the conflict, including non-state armed groups.</p> <p>The information collected and provided by the MRM-CAAC also feeds into the quarterly global horizontal note on children and armed conflict, a confidential document that provides updates on the situation of children and armed conflict across several conflicts, which enables the SWSG-CAAC to be informed of important trends and developments, and into quarterly or periodic mission reports from the secretary-general to the Security Council (prepared by UN peacekeeping or political missions).</p>
<p>Public reporting to UN and other international organizations</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The findings and recommendations of the MRM-CAAC, as well as proposals for action by the Security Council, are submitted by the Office of the SRSG-CAAC, on behalf of the secretary-general, to the Security Council. These reports are reviewed on behalf of the Security Council by the SCWG-CAAC.</p>

		<p>Information provided by the MRM-CAAC also feeds into the secretary-general's annual report on children and armed conflict (presented to the General Assembly and Security Council) and into the secretary-general's country-specific reports on children and armed conflict.</p> <p>The SCWG-CAAC issues formal recommendations known as "conclusions" in response to and on the basis of the secretary-general's annual reports.</p>
<p>Transmissibility to judicial mechanisms</p>	<p>(✓)</p>	<p>The detailed information on specific cases collected and processed by the MRM-CAAC remains in a confidential database that can only be accessed by CTFMR members. MRM-CAAC staff are not involved if a formal investigation into a reported incident is launched by a competent national or international institution or mechanism, and the competent mechanism is responsible for approaching victims and witnesses to inquire whether they would be willing to provide information or otherwise cooperate with these authorities.</p> <p>The MRM-CAAC is not a justice mechanism and does not proactively share its data with national or international authorities carrying out criminal investigations. However, the latter can and do use the public documents emanating from the MRM-CAAC. Individual CTFMRs can also proactively disseminate certain information drawn from MRM-CAAC data (but not the data itself) through amicus briefs or briefings on trends and patterns of violations to relevant courts and tribunals.</p> <p>Furthermore, any specific information collected under UN auspices can be used in domestic, regional, or international proceedings, under the requisite conditions of consent from the secretary-general (MRM-CAAC Field Manual, p. 48).</p>
<p>Possible follow-up mechanisms</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The CTFMR monitors and reports on progress and compliance with the action Plan to the SCWG-CAAC. The CTFMR also follows up on recommendations included in the secretary-general's reports and on the conclusions of the SCWG-CAAC with the parties to the conflict on the ground.</p> <p>A party is delisted when the action plan is finalized and there is UN-verified information that the party has ceased the grave violations it had been listed for. The MRM-CAAC is terminated in-country when all parties</p>

		<p>have been delisted for one cycle of the secretary-general's global annual report. If a party is delisted and the formal MRM-CAAC ends in the relevant country, Security Council Resolution 1612 recommends that monitoring continue informally for at least one cycle of the global annual report.</p> <p>While the MRM-CAAC is ongoing, the SCWG-CAAC can (SCWG-CAAC Toolkit):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make recommendations for additional technical assistance to the country concerned; • Make recommendations to donors for greater funding; • Forward to the Security Council's Sanctions Committees relevant information on children and armed conflict and its conclusions thereon; • Review the reports of the MRM-CAAC; • Review progress in the development and implementation of action plans; • Make recommendations to the Security Council on possible measures to promote the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including through recommendations on appropriate mandates for peacekeeping missions and recommendations with respect to parties to the conflict; • Address requests, as appropriate, to other bodies within the UN system for action; and • Inform relevant justice mechanisms. <p>A critical added value of the SCWG-CAAC is that it provides a means to seize the attention of the Security Council on an as-needed basis.</p>
<p>Available enforcement measures</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>While not technically an enforcement measure, the pressure of remaining on the list is generally considered an important incentive for parties to comply with IHL to end grave violations against children. Indeed, the listing is generally considered the backbone of the mechanism.</p> <p>The Security Council can also take further actions to ensure compliance, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the basis of the listing, taking targeted measures against perpetrators, including sanctions; • Referring information to other UN entities for action; • Establishing or referring the situation to justice and reconciliation mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court (ICC); and • Strengthening the children and armed conflict dimension of peacekeeping or political missions.

As of 2017, the MRM-CAAC is deployed in [fourteen countries](#). In five of these, it has specifically looked into attacks on healthcare. However, attacks on hospitals are not the mandate violation on which the mechanism reports the most, and the information is generally weaker. Moreover, so far, none of the action plans signed with parties to armed conflicts include specific actions to prevent and address attacks on healthcare or impediments to medical assistance. This is mainly due to the fact that attacks on hospitals and schools have only recently obtained trigger status for the MRM-CAAC. Impediments to humanitarian assistance do not have trigger status and, as such, are not mandatory for inclusion in action plans.

Year/country	Investigated alleged violations of IHL		Investigate alleged attacks on healthcare?	
Central African Republic (2011)	✓	Mandated to report on the “ongoing protection crisis in the country, including grave violations such as “attacks on health centers and the denial of humanitarian access.”	✓	<p>The secretary-general reported on the looting of several health centers and the denial of humanitarian access by armed groups hampering “the ability of international agencies to document and report on grave violations committed against children” (p. 9).</p> <p>The SCWG-CAAC issued a public statement “expressing its condemnation in the strongest terms of the continued violations and abuses committed against children by [the Lord’s Resistance Army]... and attacks on schools and hospitals as such and denial of humanitarian access” (p. 2).</p> <p>It further recommended that the Security Council transmit letters addressed to the governments of the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Uganda in which it “expressed grave concern about the threat the LRA poses to affected States by its continued violations and abuses committed against children, and condemning its...attacks on schools and hospitals as such and denial of humanitarian access” (p. 3).</p>

<p>Yemen (2013)</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Mandated to report on grave child rights violations in Yemen.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The secretary-general reported on attacks on hospitals by shelling and aerial bombardments, physical attacks, intimidation of health personnel, military use of hospitals, and attacks on military personnel. He also identifies the parties responsible (pp. 12–13).</p> <p>In his recommendations, the secretary-general called on “all parties to the conflict to comply with international law and to respect and uphold the neutrality and safety of schools and hospitals as zones of peace, including the safety of their personnel” (p. 17).</p>
<p>South Sudan (2014)</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Mandated to report on grave child rights violations in South Sudan and, more broadly, on the situation of children affected by armed conflict from 2011 to 2014.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The secretary-general reported on attacks on hospitals, damage to clinics and health centers, looting of medical supplies and equipment, and the killing of medical staff and patients (pp. 10–11). His report also mentioned that both sides signed a recommitment to the action plan agreement to stop and prevent attacks on hospitals (p. 14).</p> <p>In his recommendations, the secretary-general urged all parties to stop attacks on hospitals (p. 17).</p>
<p>Syria (2014)</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Mandated to report on the “alarming impact of the ongoing conflict on children in the Syrian Arab Republic,” including the obstruction of children’s access to health services.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>The secretary-general highlighted that attacks on hospitals have “severely disrupted children’s right to access to health care” (p. 10) and reported on the “impediment of humanitarian access to civilians, including children” (p. 13) and the “intimidation, arrest, detention, injury or killing of humanitarian workers” (p. 14).</p> <p>The secretary-general made the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To all parties: “Allow and facilitate full unimpeded humanitarian access to all affected populations, including to besieged communities..., implement humanitarian corridors and pauses to allow for the delivery of essential supplies to besieged communities..., and allow the delivery of medical supplies to all people requiring medical assistance” and “to cease the military use of schools and

				<p>hospitals and protect their civilian character" (pp. 16–18).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To the government of Syria: "Make hospitals neutral spaces by ensuring equal access for all patients to hospitals and other medical facilities, and refrain from posting troops inside and in the vicinity of hospitals" (p. 17). • To all armed opposition groups: "Refrain from carrying out attacks on humanitarian convoys and ensure their unimpeded access to and through areas under their control" (p. 18). <p>The SCWG-CAAC issued a public statement in which it "strongly condemned the targeting of schools and hospitals in violation of IHL..., stressing that the arbitrarily denial of humanitarian aid, including willfully impeding humanitarian access, can constitute a breach of IHL and can have a serious impact on children" (pp. 3–4).</p>
Afghanistan (2015)	✓	Mandated to report on violations committed against children in armed conflict, including deprivation of their right to healthcare.	✓	<p>The secretary-general reported on attacks on healthcare facilities and health personnel, the military use of health facilities, and denial of humanitarian access (p. 13). He made no recommendations regarding these attacks on healthcare.</p> <p>The SCWG-CAAC issued a public statement "condemning the targeting of schools and hospitals in violation of international humanitarian law" and "attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities" and urging all parties to cease these attacks (p. 3).</p> <p>It also recommended that the president of the Security Council address a letter to the government of Afghanistan urging it, among other measures, to "take appropriate measures to protect schools and hospitals and enhance safe access to education and health care" (p. 6).</p>
Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (2016)	✓	Mandated to highlight recent global trends regarding the impact of armed	✓	<p>The secretary-general reported on attacks on healthcare as a serious challenge for the protection of children affected by armed conflict in the following countries: Afghanistan (p. 6), the Central African Republic (p. 8), Iraq (p. 12), Israel and the Palestinian Territories (p.</p>

		conflict on children and provides information on grave violations committed against children in 2015.		14), South Sudan (p. 26), Syria (p. 27), Yemen (p. 32), and Pakistan (p. 32). In its recommendations, the secretary-general urged member states to “consider, where necessary, changes in policies, military procedures, and legislation to protect schools and hospitals” (p. 2).
Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (2017)	✓	Mandated by the General Assembly to raise awareness and promote the collection of information about the plight of children affected by armed conflict and foster international cooperation to ensure respect for children’s rights in these situations	✓	The special representative included in the report a whole section on attacks on school and protected personnel (pp. 4-6) which contains information on attacks against hospitals. It also highlights the denial of humanitarian access as an increasing trend (pp. 6-7), including the use of siege tactics in Syria which deprived civilians of life-saving and life-sustaining medical items. It also highlights the challenge of reaching health-care facilities in conflict-affected areas with poor infrastructure, limited transportation and restrictions of movement (p. 7).
Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (2017)	✓	Mandated to highlight recent global trends regarding the impact of armed conflict on children and provides information on grave violations committed against children in 2016.	✓	The secretary-general reported on attacks on healthcare as a serious challenge for the protection of children affected by armed conflict in the following countries: Afghanistan (pp. 5-6), the Central African Republic (p. 7), The Democratic Republic of Congo (pp. 10-11), Iraq (p. 13), Israel and the Palestinian territories (p. 15), Lebanon (p. 16), Libya (p. 16), Somalia (pp. 21-22), South Sudan (p. 22), Sudan (p. 23), Syria, (p. 26), Yemen (p. 28), Nigeria (p. 31), Pakistan (p. 32)