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2.14. Children

COMMON ANALYSIS

Last updated: February 2019

[\[Targeting, 3.14\]](#)

Nigerian children that may be at particular risk in situations, such as the following:

■ **Children involved in student cults:** The phenomenon of student cults nowadays may also affect young primary or secondary school pupils [\[Targeting, 2.3.4\]](#). See the profile [Individuals targeted by student cults](#).

■ **Children accused of being witches:** Children are one of the profiles at particular risk of being accused of witchcraft. See the profile [Individuals accused of witchcraft or threatened in relation to ritual killings](#).

■ **Violence against children, including domestic violence and sexual violence:** With regard to violence against girls, see the profile [Women and girls](#). Violence also affects boys. For example, in the North East, boys may be kidnapped and recruited as child soldiers by Boko Haram. The assessment of well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of a ground under Article 10 QD should take into account the individual circumstances of the child.

■ **FGM/C:** FGM/C affects girls in various parts of Nigeria. See the profile [Women and girls](#).

■ **Child marriage:** Despite the legal age of 18 years, child marriage occurs in Nigeria. See the profile [Women and girls](#).

■ **Trafficking in human beings:** Children are vulnerable to trafficking situations. They may be victims of trafficking themselves or be vulnerable as children of victims of trafficking. See the profile [Victims of human trafficking, including forced prostitution](#).

Under the above mentioned profiles, being a child may generally be considered as an important risk-enhancing circumstance.