Attacks on Health Care

Monthly News Brief

This monthly digest comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care.

It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

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SHCC Attacks on Health Care

The section aligns with the definition of attacks on health care used by the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC).
Please also see WHO SSA table on the last page of this document

Africa

Burkina Faso

26 July 2019: In Konga, Gomboro district, Sourou province, suspected Katiba Macina militants reportedly kidnapped the manager of a pharmacy at an unnamed medical centre. **Source: ACLED**[1]

13 July 2019: In Noukeltouoga, Gourma province, Est region, suspected JNIM and/or ISGS militants reportedly kidnapped a vaccination volunteer. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Cameroon

17 July 2019: In Bamenda, Mezam district, Nord-Ouest province, two doctors were reportedly kidnapped by an unidentified armed group and released 24 hours later. **Sources: Maikemsdairy and Journal du Cameroun**

Central African Republic

05 July 2019: In Ouham prefecture, two national aid workers for an INGO were reportedly assaulted while transporting two patients on motorcycles in the Ouham prefecture. The aid workers were ambushed, robbed, and assaulted by armed men suspected to be MPC/FPRC. **Source: AWSD**[2]

Democratic Republic of the Congo

13-14 July 2019: In Mukulia village, North Kivu province, unidentified attackers killed two national Ebola health workers for unascertained reasons. The victims had been receiving threats since last December, and one had already been attacked on an unspecified date. **Sources: AWSD**[2]**, Reuters, The New Humanitarian and VOA News**

15 July 2019: Near Isale, Beni district, North Kivu province, unidentified armed men reportedly attacked the house of a health worker, severely injuring the man's wife with machete and threatening the health worker. **Source: ACLED**[1]

17 July 2019: In Bulengera, Butembo district, North-Kivu province, suspected Mayi-Mayi reportedly shot and killed a traditional healer, a woman who had also been accused of spreading Ebola in the neighbourhood. Source: **ACLED**[1]

17 July 2019: In Butembo North-Kivu province, unidentified gunmen reportedly killed one Ebola health worker in unspecified circumstances. **Source: ACLED**[1]

21 July 2019: In Vuhesi, unidentified perpetrators set ablaze an Ebola Treatment Centre for unspecified reasons. **Source: Africa News**

Somalia
18 July 2019: In Kennari, near Damasak town, Mobbar local government area, Borno state, suspected ISWAP insurgents attacked an Action Against Hunger convoy for unspecified reasons, killing one driver and kidnapping one female Action Against Hunger staffer, two other male drivers and three male health workers, all Nigerian. **Sources: Action Against Hunger, Aljazeera (a), Al Jazeera (b), BBC, Premium Times (a), Premium Times (b), Reuters (a), Reuters (b), Reuters (c), The Sunday Daily and Vanguard**

South Sudan
Throughout July 2019: In Duk Padiet county, Jonglei state, due to the ICRC pulling out from the area two and a half months ago, health facilities are left short of drug supplies. **Source: Radio Tamazuj**

Sudan
22 July 2019: In Khartoum state, the state Ministry of Health announced the start of a vaccination campaign to eradicate measles, delayed by four months due to political turmoil across the region. **Source: Dabanga Sudan**

23 July 2019: In Khartoum, unidentified perpetrators broke the main door of the office of the Sima Centre for Training and Protection of Women and Children's Rights, before raiding and ransacking the building. **Source: Dabanga Sudan**

Asia
Afghanistan
06 July 2019: In Alandar, Chaghcharan, Firozkoh city, Ghor province, a doctor was reportedly killed by unknown perpetrators. **Source: NYT**

06 – 09 July 2019: In unspecified locations, three separate attacks by unspecified perpetrators resulted in the death of at least five health workers employed by NGOs. **Source: Toby Lanzer**

08 – 09 July 2019: In Day Mirdad district, Wardak province, Afghan special forces raided a clinic run by the INGO Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, during which they killed a family caregiver, and detained staff and visiting family members, whom they questioned about the whereabouts of the Taliban. They then proceeded to shoot and kill a lab worker, a guard and a family caregiver. The director of the clinic remains missing. In response to the raid, the Taliban forced the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan to close 42 out of its 77 clinics in the region until the agency and the Swedish Government take immediate steps to protect the facilities and their staff, thereby affecting over 5,700 patients on a daily basis. The Taliban reversed their decision on 19 July. **Sources: ACBAR, Human Rights Watch, RFE RL, The New Humanitarian (a), The New Humaniatrian (b) and VOA**

Pakistan
09 July 2019: In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, cases of parents refusing to allow their children to receive the anti-polio vaccine prompted the Pakistani Government to launch an emergency vaccination campaign, as the number of children affected by the disease rose to 41 in 2019. **Source: RFE RL**

13 July 2019: In Washbood, Panjgur district, Balochistan province, armed men reportedly fatally shot a doctor from Karachi at his home. **Source: Dawn**

21 July 2019: In Dera Ismail Khan city, tehsil and district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan suicide bomber detonated herself outside a local civilian hospital, killing at least eight people and wounding 26 more. The blast also damaged the emergency ward of the hospital and forced some of the wounded to be transferred to other cities. **Sources: AP and Reuters**

Europe
Ukraine
01 July 2019: Near Vodyane village, Volnovakha district, Donetsk region, a guided missile from pro-Russian militants hit an ambulance which was part of a Joint Forces unit, killing one soldier and wounding two more. **Sources: 112 (a) and 112 (b)**

Middle East and North Africa
Libya
16 July 2019: In Abu Salim, Tripoli, unidentified gunmen reportedly shot, wounded and abducted the general director for the Centre of Food and Medicine Control. **Source: UNSMIL**

27 July 2019: In Tripoli, an airstrike launched by Khalifa Haftar forces hit an unnamed hospital packed with medical teams in what appears to be a deliberate attack, killing five doctors and wounding seven other people, including some rescuers. **Source: BBC**

Occupied Palestinian Territories
22 July 2019: In Al-Issawiya neighbourhood, East Jerusalem, a Palestinian Red Cross paramedic was reportedly shot in the stomach by Israeli forces after a raid on the neighbourhood. Reports suggest civilians and Red Cross staff were attacked with rubber bullets to prevent them from transporting civilian patients to the hospital. **Source: AWSD**[2]

Syrian Arab Republic
04 July 2019: North of Kafr Nabl city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes reportedly fired missiles on Kafra Nabl Surgical Hospital which operates in a fortified underground basement, severely damaging its equipment and furniture. **Source: SNHR**

04 July 2019: In Al-Hasakeh city, Al-Hasakeh province, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) reportedly arrested three staff from the Sarya Military Hospital on charges of stealing medical supplies and money. **Source: Syria HR**

08 July 2019: In Mhambel town, Idlib governorate, a male national doctor working for the Turkish Hospital died due to injuries sustained in an aerial attack by Syrian regime forces on 05 July. **Source: SNHR**

10 July 2019: In Kafrouma village, Idlib governorate Syrian regime forces helicopters reportedly dropped barrel bombs near a Syria Relief and Development (SRD)-supported dispensary, partially damaging its building and equipment. **Source: SNHR**

10 July 2019: In al Jam'iya neighbourhood, Jisr al Shoghour city, Idlib governorate, Syrian warplanes reportedly fired missiles in front of the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA)-supported Jisr al Shoghour Surgical Hospital (Kalwai Hospital), partially destroying its building, damaging its equipment and burning its electricity generators. As a result, the hospital went out of service, on July 10, 2019. **Source: SNHR**

10 July 2019: In Jisr ash-Shugur city and district, Idlib governorate, an airstrike of unspecified origin hit a UOSMM ambulance centre, causing material damage to the ambulances and facility, as well as the Al Kelawai Hospital, causing material damage. The attack killed six civilians, and wounded one anaesthesiologist, three cleaning staff and one warehouse assistant. **Source: TNH**

10 July 2019: In Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, Syrian warplanes fired reportedly missiles near SAMS-supported Ma'aret al Numan Central Hospital (National Hospital), partially damaging its building and equipment. Subsequently, medical personnel started to evacuate patients to other nearby hospitals, and further reduced functionality. **Sources: SNHR and The National**

10 July 2019: In Saraqeb city, Idlib governorate, Syrian warplanes reportedly fired missiles near a Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)-supported Dispensary, partially damaging its building, furniture and equipment. **Source: SNHR**

11 July 2019: In Khan Sheikhoun town, Maarrat al-Nu'man city, sub-district and district, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles on a SCD centre, severely destroying its building, damaging its equipment and four vehicles, namely an ambulance, a fire truck, and two service cars. A Sham Emergency System vehicle was also stopped in front of the centre, putting the facility out of service. **Source: SNHR**

12 July 2019: In al Jam'iya neighbourhood, Jisr al Shoghour city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces reportedly bombed the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA)-supported Jirs al Surgical Shoghour Hospital (Kalwai Hospital). The hospital was bombed two days previously and was not functioning at the time. **Source: SNHR**

13 July 2019: In Morek town, Suran sub-district, Hama district and governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles on a building used as a garage for vehicles belonging to the SCD, partially damaging a fire truck, a tractor and a backhoe loader. **Source: SNHR**

16 July 2019: In Al Hawash town and sub-district, Talkalakh district, Hama governorate, Syrian Government warplanes fired a missile near a SCD centre, as rescue workers were heading to the site of a previous bombing by the same perpetrators, partially damaging a service car of the team. **Source: SNHR**

18 July 2019: In Jisr al Shoghour city, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles near Women's centre of Civil Defence specialized in providing health and emergency services for women and children, partially destroying the building and damaging its furniture. **Source: SNHR**

18 July 2019: In Jisr al Shoghour city, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles near Jirs al Shoghour Dispensary, partially damaging the building and damaging its furniture. **Source: SNHR**

18 July 2019: In Jisr ash-Shugur city and district, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles near a medical point for women of the SCD, partially destroying its building and damaging its furniture. **Source: SNHR**

19 July 2019 (DOA): In Dara'a province, a doctor from Deir al-Adas reportedly died under torture in an unidentified regime detention centre. The doctor had been arrested five years earlier. **Source: SNHR**

19 July 2019: In Khan Sheikhoun city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces helicopters reportedly dropped a barrel bomb near a SCD ambulance, partially damaging it. **Source: SNHR**

22 July 2019: In al Sharqi neighbourhood, Maaret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles near the SAMS-supported al Salam Hospital, partially damaging the hospital's equipment and furniture. **Source: SNHR**

22 July 2019: In Maarrat Al-Numan district, Idlib governorate, a male national SCD volunteer was reportedly killed by Russian-Syrian military airstrikes, while providing care to victims of a previous attack by the same perpetrators. **Source: SNHR**

22 July 2019: In Maarrat al-Nu'man city, sub-district and district, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles near the Women Now for Development Centre, damaging its building and furniture. **Source: SNHR**

25 July 2019: In Afrin city, Aleppo governorate, Islamist faction fighters that used to operate as part of Operation Olive Branch reportedly kidnapped a doctor from the Al-Ashrafiyeh neighbourhood of the city of Afrin. They then contacted the doctor's wife who lives in Europe and demanded $3,000 for his release. **Source: ACLED**[1]

27 July 2019: On the road between Kafr Zita city and al Latamena town, Hama governorate, two national paramedics and one national ambulance driver were reportedly killed in an airstrike of an unknown origin. The INGO supported ambulance was travelling to Kafr Zita to assist victims of an airstrike that hit the town earlier. The ambulance was destroyed. **Sources: AWSD**[2] **and SNHR**

28 July 2019: In Ariha town, Idlib governorate, Syrian Government warplanes fired missiles near the Ehsan Organisation's Child's Friend Centre in al Gharbi neighbourhood, damaging its building. **Source: SNHR**

29 July 2019: In Kafr Zita town and sub-district, Mahardah district, Hama governorate, Russian forces killed a SCD member under unspecified circumstances. **Sources: Liveuamap and SNHR**

Yemen
07 July 2019: The failure of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to pay their share of a funding pledge of 500 million USD is causing Yemenis to die from cholera, hunger and other ills. **Sources: Al Jazeera and The New Humanitarian**

Global Health Insecurity

These events go beyond the definition used by the SHCC to cover a wider range of events that affect the provision of health care including events perpetrated by patients or relatives of patients, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by health care personnel.

Aid in Danger

Africa

Mozambique
21 July 2019: Between Macomia and Mucoyo, Cabo Delgado province, a convoy of Ministry of Health vehicles was reportedly attacked by ASWJ. No fatalities reported. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Sudan

12 July 2019: In Geneina city, West Darfur state, medical workers staged a protest in front of the state Ministry of Health against the appointment of the new director-general, who they consider to be a symbol of the former government, and the non-payment of July salaries. **Sources: Dabanga Sudan (a) and Dabanga Sudan (b)**

25 July 2019: In West Darfur state, the state Ministry of Health has terminated the services of 14 doctors who participated in ongoing protests against the appointment of the new director-general and the non-payment of July salaries. **Source: Dabanga Sudan**

Asia

Nepal

10 July 2019: In Amargadhi Municipality, Dadeldhura district, Mahakali province, a group led by the ward chairman assaulted a health worker at Dadeldhura Hospital. Following the incident, the health workers of the hospital halted services in retaliation. **Sources: Aawaaj News and English Khabarhub**

The Americas

Mexico

22 July 2019: In Zihuatanejo, Guerrero state, a male national member of the Red Cross board of directors was reportedly shot and killed by two motorcycle-borne criminals while travelling through Zihuatanejo. The staff member was travelling in a vehicle with his wife who was taken to the hospital in critical condition. **Source: AWSD**[2]

[1] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) **database attribution policy**.

[2] The AWSD database does not include the names of individual victims or the agencies affected by an incident. This is done in consideration of the victims and their families who may not wish to have the names publicised in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available.

WHO SSA reported incidents: July 2019

This table shows the number of incidents reported by the WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA) in countries monitored by the Safeguarding Health Care in Conflict Coalition (SHCC). Incidents are broken down by attack type.

	# of reported incidents	Abduction, arrest, detention of health personnel or patients	Armed or violent search of health care personnel, facility or	Assault (without weapon)	Chemical agent	Militarization of civilian health facility	Obstruction to health care delivery	Psychological violence/of violence/intimidation	Removal of health care assets (e.g. transport, supplies, materials)	Setting fire	Sexual assault	Unknown	Violence with heavy weapons	Violence with individual weapons
Afghanistan														
Burkina Faso														
Cameroon														
CAR														
DRC														
Egypt														
Ethiopia														
Indonesia														
Iraq														
Libya	7		3					2					3	
Mali														
Myanmar														
Nigeria	1										1			1
oPt	16							1					7	12
Pakistan														
Somalia														
South Sudan														
Sudan														
Syria	11												11	
The Philippines														
Turkey														
Ukraine														
Yemen														
Totals	35		3					3		1			21	13

Source: WHO SSA
Date period: July 2019
Data accessed: 10 July 2019.
Note: See **SHCC Methodology** for information on how the SHCC uses this data.
Caveats and comments: This information may change as the WHO SSA is updated.