

# Attacks on Health Care

Monthly News Brief

## 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).

December  
2019

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.

Access [data](#) from the Attacks on Health Care Monthly News Brief on HDX Insecurity Insight.

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## Africa

### Central African Republic

**14 December 2019:** In Bangui, security forces raided an MSF-run surgical trauma centre and detained four staffers until at least December 20. In response, MSF suspended non-emergency activities at the facility. **Source:** [National Post](#)

**24 December 2019:** In Bangui, a national Red Cross staff member was killed during exchange of fire between criminal gangs and traders. The clashes reportedly began on December 24 when a gang member was killed in an exchange of fire with a trader. Media reports indicate that as of December 27 over 30 individuals have been killed in the violent clashes. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

### Chad

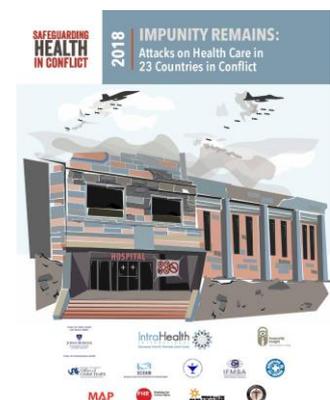
**Around 03 December 2019:** Between Ngouboua and Bagassoula villages, Lake Chad Basin, Boko Haram insurgents kidnapped a doctor, nurse and a driver. **Source:** [AA](#)

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

**General:** In Ituri and North Kivu provinces, attacks by armed groups continued to pose a major threat to ending the Ebola outbreak. Health workers remained unable to reach vulnerable communities, resulting in a substantial increase in new Ebola cases. **Sources:** [Reuters](#), [The Guardian](#), [VOA I](#) and [VOA II](#)

**02 – 03 December 2019:** Near Biakato, Ituri province, unidentified perpetrators attacked the office of the WHO, causing unspecified material damage. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

**03 December 2019:** In Biakato, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, a group armed with sticks and machetes, suspected to be Mai-Mai militia attacked the MSF-supported Biakato Health Centre during the night/early morning. The Ebola Treatment centre was not affected. No one was injured but goods were destroyed. MSF decided to suspend its activities in the locality of Biakato and temporarily withdraw staff. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#), [MSF](#), [Radio Okapi](#), [TNH](#) and [VOA](#)



The 2019 SHCC report focuses on 973 attacks on health care in 2018. Available in [Arabic](#), [English](#) and [French](#). Access [data](#) from the SHCC 2018 report on HDX Insecurity Insight.

**02 – 03 December 2019:** In Biakato Mines, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, during the night/early morning a group of people armed with sticks and machetes attempted to break into an MSF compound, throwing rocks at the building. In response, MSF decided to withdraw its staff until further notice. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [MSF](#), [Radio Okapi](#), [TNH](#) and [VOA](#)

**05 December 2019:** In Cantine locality, North Kivu province, gunmen from the Mai-Mai Kyandenga torched two structures where Ebola affected patients were being treated and monitored. **Source:** [Kivu Security Tracker](#)

**09 December 2019:** In Butembo city, North Kivu province, knife-carrying men stormed the Wayene Health Centre, wherein they destroyed Ebola prevention handwashing stations and stole money, a microscope, and telephones. **Source:** [Kivu Security Trackers](#)

**15 December 2019:** In Butembo city, North Kivu province, gunmen from the Mai-Mai Kyandenga attacked FARDC soldiers guarding the Ebola Response base of the WHO. **Source:** [Kivu Security Tracker](#)

### **Attacks on health care in the context of the Ebola emergency response in the DRC**

At least 424 attacks on health care occurred in the DRC between January and November 2019. Numbers of reported incidents increased following the Ebola outbreak in August 2018. While the majority of attacks on health care in 2019 have occurred in the context of the Ebola response and in Ebola-affected areas, many occur in the context of the on-going violence and insecurity that affect civilian populations in the DRC. **These attacks affect both the Ebola response as well as the wider provision of vital health services in the area.**

**Report:** [Overview Attacks on Health Care in the DRC Jan-Nov 2019](#)

**Data:** [2019 Attacks on Health Care in the DRC during Ebola Response](#)

**Source:** Open source and verified partner reports

### **Kenya**

**06 December 2019:** Between Kotulo and Waragud, Tarbaj settlements, Wajir county, North Eastern province, two teachers, a doctor (all Christians) and eight policemen, were all killed after the bus they were travelling in was intercepted by Al-Shabaab militia who separated out non-local ethnic Somalia Muslims and executed them. The militants fled to neighbouring Somalia as Kenyan forces were deployed to the area. The bus driver and a passenger were arrested for suspected involvement. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. **Sources:** [The Morning Star News](#)

### **Nigeria**

**12 December 2019:** On Damaturu road, Maiduguri, Borno State, two national Red Cross staff members were kidnapped by Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA) members who had set up an illegal checkpoint. Their whereabouts are currently unknown. Six off-duty soldiers and eight civilians were also kidnapped. The group reportedly claimed responsibility for the incident on social media. **Source:** [AWS<sup>1</sup>](#)

### **Sudan**

**Around 01 December 2019:** On the road between Kendede and Bir Daqiq, El Geneina city, West Darfur state, armed pastoralists fired upon a vehicle carrying immunisation workers wounding one health worker. **Source:** [Radio Dabanga](#)

**01 December 2019:** In Khartoum, two on-duty doctors at Bashayer hospital were assaulted by police. Hospital staff went on strike following the incident. **Source:** [Radio Dabanga](#)

## Asia

### *Afghanistan*

**04 December 2019:** In Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province, unidentified perpetrators opened fire at a car carrying a Japanese physician and head of the INGO Peace Japan Medical Services, severely wounding him, and killing the driver, two bodyguards and another passenger. The physician succumbed to his wounds later at a local hospital. No group has currently taken responsibility. **Sources:** [Aljazeera](#), [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>, [BBC](#), [Ministry of Foreign Affairs Afghanistan](#), [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#), [RFE RL](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Japan Times](#), [The New York Times](#) and [TNH](#)

**11 December 2019:** Near the Bagram Air Base, outside Bagram city and district, Parwan province, a Taliban suicide bomb targeted a medical facility that was under construction. Taliban insurgents then barricaded themselves inside the facility. Afghan and US forces responded by launching airstrikes against them. **Source:** [Military Times](#)

### *Pakistan*

**09 December 2019:** In Nazeem Bazaar, Bannu city, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a health worker was shot dead by unidentified armed men while on her way to a polio vaccination campaign. The driver of the rickshaw she was travelling in was also killed in the attack. **Source:** [Tribal News Network](#)

**18 December 2019:** Around Lal Qila town, Lower Dir district, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, two motorcycle-borne perpetrators killed at least two policemen in an attack on a polio vaccination team. The vaccinators were unhurt. **Source:** [France 24](#)

## Middle East and North Africa

### *Iraq*

**02 December 2019:** In Najaf city, Najaf governorate, doctors and patients were injured by a group of armed men who entered an unspecified hospital and attacked them with knives and swords. **Source:** [Liveuamap](#)

### *Syrian Arab Republic*

**05 December 2019:** In Sukkarieh town, Levant Front fighters kidnapped a pharmacist after he refused to sell them the analgesic drug Tramadol without a prescription. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

**13 December 2019:** In Qastoun, Al-Suqaylabiyah district, Hama governorate, Damascus, three male national LNGO aid workers were killed when a landmine exploded. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**15 December 2019:** Near al Hol town, Hasaka district and governorate, a girl died in al Hol IDP Camp due to a lack of access to health care. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**17 December 2019:** In Al Ghadfah village, Maarrat Al-Nu'man district, Idlib governorate, a barrel bomb hit Myassar Al Hamdou Hospital, partially destroying the building. No casualties were reported as the facility was evacuated. **Source:** [SNHR](#) and [Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations](#)

**18 December 2019:** In Ma'aret al Numan city and district, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces artillery fired shells near a Syrian Civil Defense (SCD) headquarters, partially destroying the building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**18 December 2019:** In Ma'aret al Numan city and district, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces artillery fired shells on Ma'aret al Numan Emergency Centre affiliated with the LNGO Violet Organization, partially destroying the building. **Source:** [SNHR](#) and [Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations](#)

**18 December 2019:** In Maarat al-Numan city and district, Idlib governorate, an explosion 300 metres away caused damage to an unnamed medical centre. **Source:** [Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations](#)

**22 December 2019:** In Salkhad city, Salkhad district, Suwayda governorate, a doctor at al Basel Public Hospital was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen and taken to an undisclosed location. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**30 December 2019:** In Ma'aret al Numan city and district, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs, killing a SCD volunteer and an IDP child. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

## **Yemen**

**09 December 2019:** In Al Qahirah district, Taiz city and governorate, gunfire in the vicinity of the As Safwah Hospital killed one civilian. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

**19 December 2019:** In Dhale town and governorate, a rocket-propelled grenade of unidentified origin exploded in the office of the International Rescue Committee and a women's centre, wounding a security guard. Two other grenades landed on the office of Oxfam but did not cause casualties. **Source:** [AP](#)

## **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**

### **Zimbabwe**

**General:** Continued striking by doctors over low salaries and poor working conditions caused patients to seek medical attention from church-run mission hospitals. **Source:** [VOA](#)

## **Asia**

### **Pakistan**

**11 December 2019:** In Lahore city, Punjab province, over 200 lawyers armed with sticks stormed the Punjab Institute of Cardiology amid a dispute with doctors. They ransacked wards, beat up staff and smashed equipment. As panic spread, doctors and paramedics hid, leaving patients unattended, three of whom died as a result. To disperse the perpetrators, riot police fired tear gas and arrested 20. **Source:** [BBC](#)

## **Europe**

### **Czech Republic**

**Around 10 December 2019:** In Ostrava city and district, Moravian-Silesian region, an unidentified perpetrator fired gunshots at a hospital, killing four people and wounding two. **Source:** [WGTA](#)

### **France**

**17 December 2019:** Teachers and health workers participated in nationwide, unlimited strikes and protests over fresh government plans to raise retirement age to 64. **Sources:** [Daily Hampshire Gazette](#) and [Time](#)

## The Americas

### Mexico

**02 December 2019:** In Villa Union city and municipality, Coahuila state, drug cartel members fired bullets at an ambulance and spray-painted the letters 'CDN' (Cartel Del Noreste cartel) on a school bus, amid a gun battle against state security forces. **Source:** [AP](#)

## WHO SSA reported incidents: December 2019

As of 08 January 2020, there has been one incident reported on the World Health Organization's (WHO) [Surveillance System of Attacks](#) on Healthcare (SSA)<sup>1</sup>. The attack was reported on 17 December in Syria and detailed the use of violence with heavy weapons impacting health care facilities, supplies/assets, warehouse/storage. The current available information makes it likely that the open source report on a barrel bomb attack on Myassar Al Hamdou Hospital may have been reported by the SSA; however, without having access to the further details this cannot be confirmed.

**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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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. Accessed 05 January 2020.

