

# 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).

January  
2020

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

### Burkina Faso

**Reported on 07 January 2020:** In Kien village, Comoe province, Cascades region, a male nurse was kidnapped and subsequently released by suspected Katiba Macina militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**27 January 2020:** In Kelbo department, Soum province, Sahel region, unidentified motorcycle-borne perpetrators attacked a vehicle, killing a nurse on board. **Source:** [AP](#)

**27 January 2020:** In Nagraogo village, Sanmatenga province, Centre-Nord region, three female nurses and one male nurse were attacked by suspected ISGS militants. One was killed, and two others wounded. **Source:** [Infowakat](#)

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

**07 January 2020:** In Vulemai village, Beni territory, North Kivu province, Mayi-Mayi militiamen attacked an Ebola handwashing station. The attack led to the suspension of school activities in the area. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

### Recommendations for work in the DRC

*in the context of the Ebola emergency response 2019-20*

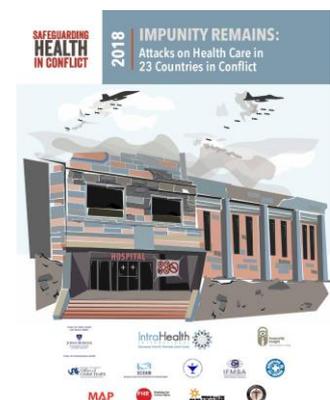
These recommendations focus on a strategy to gain the acceptance of community members and armed groups, as well as practical recommendations on ways to prevent and respond to:

1. insecurity due to ongoing conflict and the presence of [non-state armed groups](#);
2. [community resistance due to mistrust](#) of the response and response actors;
3. insecurity in the form of [arson attacks](#) on healthcare facilities;
4. the heightened risk of [abduction](#) facing national responders;
5. the risk of national responders becoming victims of [sexual violence and abuse](#).

Read [full report](#)

Source: Open-source, key informant interviews, and verified partner-agency submissions.

**13 January 2020:** In Bandibwane village, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, local community members, some with machetes, attacked a team of 18 Red Cross volunteers whilst they were performing a burial



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.

service of a suspected Ebola victim, injuring four of them. They were attacked after community members heard a rumour that the team had removed organs from the dead body. All staff members were taken to the Nyankunde Hospital, two of them seriously wounded. **Sources:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>, [IFRC](#) and [VOA](#)

### **Mozambique**

**20 January 2020:** In Macorococho village, Nhamatanda district, Sofala province, unidentified perpetrators attacked the Sofala Health Centre, and stole medicine before burning it down. The perpetrators also burnt down the official residence of the head of the administrative post before opening fire on civilians, killing three men and a woman. **Source:** [All Africa](#)

**29 January 2020:** In Bilibiza village, Quissange district, Cabo Delgado province, a health centre was damaged during an attack by an unspecified armed group. The village Agricultural Institute, Technical Secondary School, and other public buildings were also damaged in the attack. **Sources:** [Club of Mozambique I](#) and [Club of Mozambique II](#)

### **Nigeria**

**04 January 2020:** In Lakare Ward, Yola South local government area, Adamawa state, unidentified perpetrators abducted a doctor of the Federal Medical Centre from his private residence. A ransom of N10 million has been demanded for his release. **Source:** [Today.NG](#)

### **South Sudan**

**Around 07 January 2020:** In Mugwo county, Yei River state, South Sudanese Government and SPLA-IO forces who had for years occupied public institutions, including schools and hospitals, have reportedly vacated and moved back to their designated areas. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

**07 January 2020:** In Bor city, Jonglei state, police arrested four medical staff at African Clinic over the death of a girl patient who died after she was administered an injection by a nurse. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

### **Sudan**

**01 January 2020:** In Omdurman city, Khartoum state, doctors at an unnamed hospital were attacked by unidentified men armed with bladed weapons, leaving one doctor wounded. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**29 – 31 December 2019:** In Geneina city, West Darfur state, Rezaigat herdsman attacked the Krinding IDP camp to avenge the death of their relative, who was shot dead earlier by Masalit tribesmen at a market. Four people were killed during an exchange of gunfire between the two groups. The following morning, more than 30 Rezaigat herdsman burned down the Rorkero Market and shot indiscriminately at IDPs, killing several people. Houses belonging to IDPs were looted and burned down. The perpetrators threatened hospital staff and destroyed a blood bank. The following day, more Rezaigat herdsmen attacked the camp again. At least 54 died and 60 were injured in these attacks, and more than 48,000 IDPs have been re-displaced to Geneina, where they reside in temporary accommodation centers, and lack access to food and other basic necessities. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [FIDH](#), [Independent](#), [TNH](#) and [UN News](#)

## **Asia**

### **Afghanistan**

**15 January 2020:** In Kaga, Khogyani district, Nangarhar, a Red Crescent staff member was arrested and two civilians killed during a raid by Afghan and US forces. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

## **India**

**19 January 2020:** In the districts of Kasargod, Malappuram and Palakkad, Kerala state, in the midst of a countrywide anti-polio campaign, a large number of parents did not take their children to vaccination camps. **Source:** [Swarajya](#)

## **Kazakhstan**

**30 January 2020:** In Qapshaghai city, Almaty region, police detained two ambulance drivers on suspicion of spreading false information via WhatsApp about a coronavirus infection in Kazakhstan. **Source:** [RFE RL](#)

## **Pakistan**

**20 January 2020:** In Mastung city and district, Balochistan province, a truck hit a vehicle carrying two polio workers on the Quetta-Karachi Highway, wounding them. The victims succumbed to their wounds before they received medical care. The incident is believed to have been an accident. **Source:** [Dawn](#)

**29 January 2020:** In Parmolo village, Swabi district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, unidentified motorcycle-borne perpetrators fatally shot two female polio workers. **Sources:** [RFE RL](#) and [The Telegraph](#)

## **Middle East and North Africa**

### **Iraq**

**17 January 2020:** In Al-Muqdadiya city, Diyala province, a pharmacist was kidnapped by an unidentified armed actor group. **Source:** [Nina News](#)

**21 January 2020:** In Basra city and governorate, in the midst of anti-government protests, unidentified perpetrators fatally shot a female paramedic and activist who was demonstrating. **Source:** [MSN](#)

### **Libya**

**03 January 2020:** In Tripoli, a hospital was stormed and fired at by unidentified gunmen. No casualties were reported. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**09 January 2019:** In Al-Wushka, Sirte district, the Libyan National Army shelled an ambulance, killing two paramedics. **Sources:** [Anadolu Agency](#), [Field Medicine and Support Center](#) and [Airwars](#)

**25 January 2020:** In Tripoli, Libyan National Army shells hit Al-Safwa Clinic, wounding several civilians nearby. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

### **Syrian Arab Republic**

**01 January 2020:** In Al Kasrah town, Deir-ez-Zour district and governorate, SDF-affiliated gunmen stormed an unnamed hospital and physically assaulted doctors, nurses and administration staff. **Source:** [SOHR](#) and [The New Arab](#)

**06 January 2020:** On the Shahba bridge, Shahbaa city and district, Al-Suwaidaa governorate, two paramedics from Al-Manara International Hospital were kidnapped by unidentified gunmen while on their way to as-Suwayda city. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

**08 January 2020:** In Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, a Syrian regime missile launcher fired missiles near Ma'aret al Numan Central Hospital, damaging its equipment and partially destroying its building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**10 January 2020:** Russia used its veto threat to force the UNSC to adopt a resolution that significantly reduces the delivery of cross-border aid to over one million Syrians in northeast Syria. This resolution saw the elimination of the al Ramtha crossing into Jordan and the Al Yarubiyah crossing into Iraq, and a reduction to the duration of the agreement, from 12 to six months. Consequently, by January 29, some 400,000 medical items planned for delivery remained stuck on trucks in Iraq, and unable to cross. **Sources:** [AP](#), [Devox](#), [Reuters](#), [The Washington Post](#), [UN News](#) and [VOA](#)

**11 January 2020:** In Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime military helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a Syrian Civil Defence (SCD) centre, destroying the building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**14 January 2020:** In al Atareb city, Aleppo governorate, an IED exploded near a dispensary, severely damaging the building and equipment. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**15 January 2020:** In Idlib city and governorate, a male national SCD volunteer was killed by missiles fired by Syrian regime warplanes. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**15 January 2020:** In Bazabour village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles on a SCD centre, damaging equipment, including an ambulance, as well as the building itself. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**15 January 2020:** In Shnan village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near a Syrian Civil Defence centre, damaging the building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**15 January 2020:** In Al Bara town, Idlib governorate, alleged Russian or Syrian regime warplanes wounded a national SCD volunteer. **Source:** [Shaam](#) and [Justice Organization](#)

**19 January 2020:** In Busr al Harir town, Daraa governorate, a doctor was killed in an IED explosion of unknown origin. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**23 January 2020:** In Ariha city, Idlib governorate, unidentified warplanes bombed a SCD ambulance. The ambulance was rendered out of service. **Source:** [SNHR](#) and [Airwars](#)

**25 January 2020:** In al Ruwaiha village, Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes fired missiles on an SCD centre, injuring at least three SCD volunteers, destroying the building, and damaging a rescue vehicle. **Source:** [SNHR](#) and [Airwars](#)

**26 January 2020:** In Sarja village, Jabal al Zaweya area, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles on Al Iman Hospital, severely damaging its building and its equipment. As a result, the hospital went out of service. **Source:** [SNHR](#) and [Airwars](#)

**27 January 2020:** In Al-Zorba, Aleppo governorate, a national SCD volunteer was wounded by missiles fired by Russian or Syrian regime warplanes. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

**27 January 2020:** In Jabal al-Zawiya, Idlib governorate, a national SCD volunteer and four civilians were killed in bombing by Russian warplanes. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

**27-28 January 2020:** In Mantaf, Idlib governorate, a national SCD volunteer was killed by alleged Syrian or Russian rockets. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

**27-28 January 2020:** In Sarja village, Idlib governorate, a national SCD volunteer was killed by missiles fired by Syrian regime warplanes. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

**29 January 2020:** In Ariha town and district, Idlib governorate, multiple airstrikes by Russian warplanes hit the Islamic Relief-supported Al Shami Surgical Hospital (also known as Ariha Hospital), killing a female aid worker from an unnamed local NGO, and injuring four nurses, the director of the facility and an administrator. The facility director died on 01 February of injuries he sustained in the attack. At least six people were killed as they waited outside the hospital. The hospital was heavily damaged and put out of service, affecting more than 30,000 people. **Sources:** [ABC](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Islamic Relief](#) and [Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations](#)

## **Yemen**

**January 2020:** In Sanaa, Houthi rebels have reportedly been depriving civilians of primary and secondary healthcare, and fellow fighters and loyalists of healthcare privileges. **Source:** [Asharq Al-Awsat](#)

**01 January 2020:** In Al Tuhayat district, Al Hudaydah governorate, artillery shells of unidentified origin hit a field hospital. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

**13 January 2020:** In Taizz city and governorate,, Al-Thawra Hospital was reportedly stormed by pro-Hadi Islah-affiliated soldiers of the 170th Air Defence Brigade. They killed a gunman that they had wounded in previous clashes. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**24 January 2020:** In Al Hali district, Al Hudaydah governorate, artillery shells of unidentified origin hit the 22 May Hospital. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

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The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of health care and have not been independently verified. All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

<sup>1</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 5 February 2020.

<sup>2</sup> The AWSO 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 5 February 2020



## WHO SSA reported incidents: January 2020

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 transport	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	6	1	1				2							1
Burkina Faso	1													1
Cameroon														
CAR														
DRC	12		1	4			1	10		1			3	3
Ethiopia														
Indonesia														
Iraq														
Libya	2												1	1
Mali														
Myanmar														
Nigeria	3	1												2
oPt														
Pakistan														
Somalia														
South Sudan														
Sudan														
Syria	2												2	
The Philippines														
Turkey														
Ukraine														
Yemen														
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>

**Source:** [WHO SSA](#)

**Date period:** January 2020

**Data accessed:** 12 February 2020

**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.