



Threats and violence against health care in Mozambique in 2020

In the early morning of 28 May 2020 between 120 and 150 jihadist militants raided the capital of Macomia district in Cabo Delgado province. They blocked all the roads in and out of the town, forcing civilians to flee into the bush. An INGO staff member describes their experience: “We were at least a thousand people – men, women, the elderly, children, the sick and their caregivers – all running away from the sounds of shooting. It was like the end of the world.” The insurgents destroyed many houses and public buildings, including the Macomia health centre, which was looted and burnt. During the attack government buildings were specifically targeted and the ISIS flag was hoisted in the town centre. An INGO decided to suspend its activities in the region due to the vandalism of the health centre.

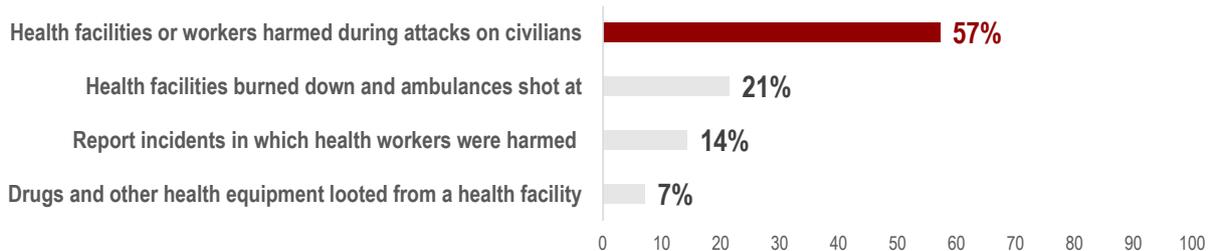
This document by Insecurity Insight focuses on violence against health care providers. The stories behind the numbers presented here highlight the security needs of local health care workers.

When violence erupts, international aid agencies often temporarily suspend activities. Local employers rarely evacuate health workers. Some doctors and nurses who originate from outside the area leave on their own account. Health assistants, nurses, community health workers, pharmacists and doctors are frequently among the many civilians severely harmed. This and the destruction of health facilities has devastating consequences for access to health care.

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REPORTED INCIDENTS	HEALTH FACILITIES DAMAGED/ DESTROYED	HEALTH WORKER KIK (KILLED, INJURED OR KIDNAPPED)
14	13	4
Dataset: 2020 Threats and violence against health care in Mozambique Data		

Context of attacks on health care in Mozambique in 2020. Shown in the proportion of incidents in that particular category.

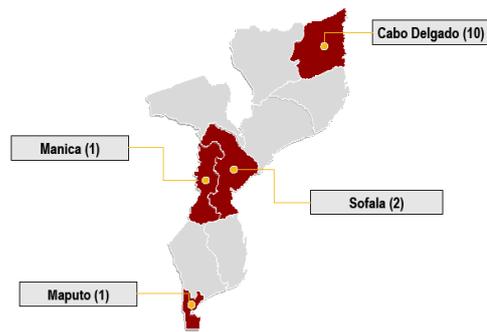


ACCESS THE DATA ON HDX

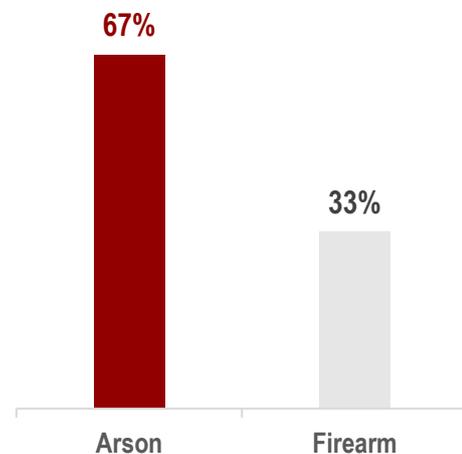
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- Documented attacks on health care in Mozambique rose in 2020, increasing from three in 2019 to 14 in 2020.
- Health facilities were set on fire, vandalised or otherwise damaged, and a health worker was killed and three others injured in these incidents.
- Incidents frequently took place in Cabo Delgado province, but were also reported in Sofala, Manica and Maputo provinces.
- The main perpetrators of this violence were non-state armed groups.
- A high number of incidents involved health facilities being set on fire during wider attacks and raids on villages and civilians in Cabo Delgado, where Islamist militant groups have increased their activities. Civilians were attacked, kidnapped, and killed, and houses, shops, and other public administrative buildings were burnt down during these raids.
- In two incidents more than one health centre was damaged. Both incidents occurred in Cabo Delgado.
- In some cases health infrastructure or health workers were the sole target. For example:
 - An NGO team working on HIV/AIDS relief was ambushed in Manica province by suspected RENAMO militants who had rejected the peace deal between the government and RENAMO that was signed in August 2019, and three staff members were injured.
 - A female health worker was sexually assaulted and killed in Maputo province, and her body was found near her residence showing signs of rape.
 - An ambulance travelling in Cabo Delgado was ambushed by armed men.
- On two occasions medicine, money, and mobile phones belonging to health care workers and patients were stolen from health centres by armed groups who stormed and burnt down health facilities.

Location of reported attacks on health care in Mozambique in 2020, by province



Reported weapons use in attacks on health care in Mozambique in 2020



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The incidents reported are neither a complete nor a representative list of all incidents, and have not been independently verified. All decisions made on the basis of or in light of such information remain the responsibility of the organisations making such decisions. Data collection is ongoing and data may change as more information is made available.

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