

Due to the volume of incidents related to COVID-19, this edition of the Attacks on Healthcare Monthly News Brief focuses on incidents of threats and violence that are unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please visit our special [COVID-19 website](#) or join our [mailing list](#) for the latest information on reported violent or potentially violent events impacting the COVID-19 response.

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).

April
2020

Africa

Burkina Faso

04 April 2020: Between Koualou and Nadiagou, Kompienga province, the chief nurse of Koualou was kidnapped by armed men while travelling to a medical evacuation in nearby Pama city. **Source:** [Gulmu Info](#) Read our latest report on [Burkina Faso](#).

Cameroon

07 April 2020: In Toufou village, Mayo-Tsnaga region, Extreme-Nord province, Boko Haram attacked the village, destroying a health centre and killing a civilian. **Source:** [ACLEDD](#)¹

Coming soon! New report on violent and threatening incidents affecting aid operations, health care, education, civilians, refugees and IDPs in Cameroon. Sign up to our [Sahel Monitoring](#) mailing list to get it straight to your inbox.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Public trust towards international respondents on social media deteriorated dramatically: by mid-April, negative sentiment reached around 75% of total monitored social media content related to the international response. Read our latest report on [Security Media Trends in the DRC](#) to find out more.

11 April 2020: In Butanuka area, Beu commune, North Kivu province, local residents attacked an Ebola response team and their vehicles. The medical team was in the area in order to disinfect the house of a new Ebola case reported on 10 April. Civil society groups have launched protests against what they describe as the continuation of the Ebola business. **Sources:** [Actualite I](#), [Actualitéll](#), [Radio Moto](#), [TNH](#) and [UNICEF](#)

13 April 2020: In Lubero territory, North Kivu province, the Masingi health centre which forms part of the Biena health zone was reportedly ransacked by unidentified armed men, who intimidated the health workers working there. **Source:** [Radio Moto](#)

16 April 2020: In Bungulu commune, Beni city, North Kivu province, youth from the group Veranda Mutsanga attacked and vandalised the Butsili Ebola Treatment Centre whilst protesting the resurgence of Ebola cases. The perpetrators destroyed a hand washing device, shattered windows, and broke plastic chairs. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

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.

Join our [Attacks on Healthcare](#) mailing list

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Get in [touch](#) to report an attack on health care or have additional information on an attack we have reported on.



The 2020 SHCC report is out soon! Join our [Attacks on Healthcare](#) mailing list to read it when it goes live.

16 April 2020: In Bungulu commune, Beni city, North Kivu province, youth from the group Veranda Mutsanga attacked and vandalised the Ngongolio Ebola Treatment Centre whilst protesting the resurgence of Ebola cases. The perpetrators also stole chairs from the facility. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

16 April 2020: In Kanzulili Nzuli commune, Beni city, North Kivu province, youth from the group Veranda Mutsanga attacked and vandalised the Kanzulili Nzuli Ebola Treatment Centre, whilst protesting the resurgence of Ebola cases. The perpetrators also stole chairs from the facility **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

16 April 2020: In Lubero territory, North Kivu province, the Masingi health centre which forms part of the Biena health zone was reportedly attacked and ransacked by a group of armed men. Patients were reportedly intimidated while nurses were tortured in an unspecified manner. **Source:** [Radio Moto](#)

16 April 2020: In Fizi territory, South Kivu province, four MSF Netherlands staff members were ambushed and kidnapped by unidentified armed perpetrators. They were released on 19 April. Two of the suspected kidnappers were later detained on 25 April. **Sources:** [Actualité I](#), [Actualité II](#), and [Actualité III](#)

Niger

29 April 2020: As the WHO cancels mass vaccination campaigns amid the Coronavirus outbreak, Niger has been struck by a new outbreak of polio. **Sources:** [AP](#) and [TNH](#)
Read our latest report on [Niger](#).

Nigeria

26 April 2020: In Esanma, Bomadi LGA, Delta state, a male staff member of the British missionary organisation the New Foundation Clinic was killed by unidentified gunmen. One suspect was reportedly arrested. **Source:** [Daily Post](#)

Somalia

07 April 2020: in Mogadishu-Yaqshid, Yaqshid district, Banadir region, a doctor was fatally shot at the Suuq Bacaad Market by unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle. The motive is believed to be related to conflict between subclans. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

South Sudan

02 April 2020: In Wau town, Western Bahr el Ghazal state, a patient's caregiver was violent towards every person present at the Wau Teaching Hospital and assaulted a doctor in the presence of nurses. In response, hospital staff have threatened to launch a strike, urging authorities to intervene immediately. **Source:** [Radio Tamazu](#)

Asia

Myanmar

20 April 2020: In Minbya Township, Mrauk-U District, Rakhine State, a marked WHO vehicle transporting COVID-19 testing samples came under gunfire, resulting in the death of the driver. A healthcare worker was also injured in the accident. Both Myanmar's army and the non-state armed actor group United League of Arakan Army denied responsibility for the attack and accused each other. **Sources:** [BBC](#), [Ministry of Information](#), [Development Media Group](#), [New Age](#), [Oxfam](#), [Reuters](#), [RFA](#), [TNH](#) and [WHO](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Libya

03 April 2020: In Tripoli city and district, Tripolitania region, Libyan National Army artillery shells reportedly landed near Tripoli University Hospital, resulting in the injury of two civilians. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

06 April 2020: In Tripoli city and district, Tripolitania region, artillery shells reportedly fired by Libyan National Army troops hit the Al Khadra General Hospital, injuring at least one health worker and damaging the facility. As a result of the attack, a pregnant woman miscarried and a foreign worker in the vicinity of the hospital was injured. **Sources:** [Airwars](#), [IOM](#), [OCHA](#) and [WHO](#)

07 April 2020: In Tripoli city and district, Tripolitania region, rockets allegedly fired by the Libyan National Army hit Khadra Hospital, resulting in the injury of one civilian. **Source:** [Airwars](#) and [WHO](#)

11 or 12 April 2020: Near Tininai town, Misrata district, Tripolitania region, an alleged Turkish or Government of National Accord drone strike hit an ambulance, killing at least one paramedic, with some sources reporting two deaths. The ambulance was also destroyed. **Source:** [Airwars](#) and [WHO](#)

13 April 2020: In the Shurfat Al Malaha neighbourhood, Tripoli city and district, Tripolitania region, unidentified airstrikes reportedly hit a medical dispensary, resulting in casualties. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

13 April 2020: In Sabratha city, Zawiya district, Tripolitania region, heavy clashes between warring parties forced the Sabratha Teaching Hospital and 25 other primary health centres to suspend their services. Meanwhile, unidentified perpetrators seized three ambulances from the same hospital. **Source:** [WHO](#)

13 April 2020: In Sorman town, Zawiya district, Tripolitania region, heavy clashes between warring parties forced the Sorman Hospital and 14 other primary health centres to suspend their services. **Source:** [WHO](#)

13 April 2020: In Al-Aylat town, Zawiya district, Tripolitania region, heavy clashes between warring parties forced the Al-Aylat Hospital and 12 other primary health centres to suspend their services. **Source:** [WHO](#)

13 April 2020: In an unspecified location, Zawiya district, Tripolitania region, heavy clashes between warring parties forced the Oncology Hospital to suspend its services. **Source:** [WHO](#)

16 April 2020: In Ain Zara town, Tripoli district, Tripolitania region, suspected Libyan National Army artillery shells reportedly landed on the home of a male neurosurgeon, resulting in his death. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

17 April 2020: In Ain Zara town, Tripoli district, Tripolitania region, the Royal Private Hospital was severely damaged by shelling during continuous military activities around Tripoli city. No injuries were reported. As a result of the damage, the hospital is now non-functional. **Source:** [WHO](#)

20-21 April 2020: In Wadi al Rabie settlement, Tripoli district, Tripolitania region, Libyan National Army Grad rockets reportedly struck two field hospitals operated by Field Medicine and Support Center (FMSC), causing damage to both facilities and injuring five paramedics. **Source:** [Airwars](#) and [WHO](#)

23 April 2020: In Sirte city and district, Tripolitania region, four health workers (two doctors, one nurse and one hospital staff) working for Ibn Sina Public Hospital were reported missing over a two-week period. There are reports that all of them were arrested by one of the armed groups in the area. **Source:** [WHO](#)

28 April 2020: In Tripoli city and district, Tripolitania region, Libyan National Army artillery reportedly targeted the Royal Clinic, apparently resulting in the destruction of the medical facility. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

29 April 2020: In Abu Al Ghurab area, Jabal al Gharbi district, Tripolitania region, Government of National Accord or Turkish airstrikes allegedly destroyed two ambulances, resulting in the death of two people. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

29 April 2020: At Mitiga Airport, Tripoli city and district, Tripolitania region, Libyan National Army airstrikes allegedly struck the Military Medical Authority headquarters, resulting in casualties. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

29 April 2020: In Tajoura municipality, Tripoli district, Tripolitania region, the Weryemma Polyclinic was hit by shelling from an unidentified source. The facility was fully functional and was providing Essential Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health services to an average of 60 beneficiaries per day. All services have been suspended until the facility can be repaired. **Source:** [WHO](#)

Yemen

04 April 2020: In Dhale city and governorate, a hand grenade of unidentified origin was thrown at the An Nasr Hospital, injuring two civilians, and forcing its management to close it in protest over the attack. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

05 April 2020: In Al Hawak district, Al Hudaydah governorate, artillery shells of unidentified origin hit an unnamed medical centre. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

08 April 2020: In Al Malagim district, Al Bayda governorate, airstrikes from an unidentified source hit two medical quarantine centres. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

11 April 2020: In Al Qahirah area, Taiz governorate, unidentified perpetrators fired light weapons towards Ar Rawdah Hospital, killing one civilian and injuring another. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

15 April 2020: In Taizz city and governorate, a medical clinic was reportedly stormed by pro-Hadi security forces affiliated with Islah. The perpetrators looted the clinic and attacked the owner of the facility as well as some female patients. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

21 April 2020: In Majzar district, Ma'rib governorate, artillery shells of unidentified origin hit an unnamed hospital. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

28 April 2020: In Al Fajir area, Qaatabah town, Ad Dali governorate, a male pharmacist from Ibb governorate who was distributing medicines in Ad Dali was reportedly killed by Houthi forces at a checkpoint after refusing to pay taxes. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

The Americas

Mexico

06 - 11 April 2020: In an unspecified location, Nuevo Leon state, unidentified perpetrators threw flammable liquid on the doors of a new hospital under construction. **Source:** [EI Universal](#)

08 April 2020: In Poza Rica Hidalgo, Veracruz State, a hospital was stormed by two armed men who attacked and killed two patients, a man, and his uncle. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

16 April 2020: In Guaymas, Sonora state, the General Hospital was stormed by two armed men who shot dead a female patient who had been hospitalised due to gunshot wounds. **Sources:** [EI Imparcial](#), [ANEWS](#) and [Opinion Sonora](#)

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.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

16 April 2020: In Butembo city, North Kivu province, over 70 staff members of the communications committee for Ebola response launched a five-day sit-in to protest unpaid salaries of three months. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

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Asia

Japan

Around 20 April 2020: In Kobe city, Hyogo prefecture, Kansai region, six nurses were arrested by police on allegations of sexual and physical abuse of mentally ill patients at the Kande Hospital. **Source:** [Sankaku Complex](#)

Malaysia

23 April 2020: In Gurney Park Condominium, Gurney Drive promenade, George Town city, Penang state, police arrested a doctor on suspicion of at least 22 burglaries at a residential block where he lives. **Source:** [Free Malaysia Today](#)

Republic of Korea

10 April 2020: In Seoul, the Seoul Central District Court sentenced an obstetrician to three-and-a-half years in prison for drowning a baby who was born alive during an abortion procedure. His medical license was suspended for three years. **Source:** [Korea Times](#)

Europe

Czech Republic

18 April 2020: In Karlovy Vary town, district and region, a cyber-attack of unidentified origin targeted the IT networks of an unnamed regional hospital. The attack was successfully blocked. **Source:** [The Hindu](#)

Ireland

11 April 2020: In Sligo town and county, Connacht province, a woman was remanded in custody for biting a health worker at the Sligo University Hospital. **Sources:** [The Irish Times](#), [The Journal](#)

The Americas

Canada

18 April 2020: In Masstown and Portapique rural communities, Colchester county, Nova Scotia province, a domestic dispute between a gunman and his girlfriend led to a mass shooting that killed 22, including two female members of the Victorian Order of Nurses. **Sources:** [CBC I](#), [CBC II](#), [CBC III](#) and [Mirror](#)

18 April 2020: In British Columbia province, a laser strike of unidentified origin targeted a British Columbia air ambulance flying over Vancouver Island, whilst on a night flight toward Victoria General Hospital. **Source:** [The Star](#)

Mexico

27 April 2020: In Guadalajara, Jalisco state, a male nurse wearing uniform suffered first and second degree burns when a man threw boiling water on him. **Sources:** [Infobae](#), [Diario de Yucatan](#) and [Uno TV](#)

Notes

This document is part of the Attacks on Health Care project. It is published by Insecurity Insight and funded and supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK government through the RIAH project at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at Manchester University, UK.

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.

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 5 May 2020



WHO SSA reported incidents: April 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	Setting fire	Sexual assault	Unknown	Violence with heavy weapons	Violence with individual weapons
Afghanistan	1								1					
Burkina Faso														
Cameroon														
CAR														
DRC														
Ethiopia														
Indonesia														
Iraq														
Libya	8	1							1				6	1
Mali														
Myanmar	1													1
Nigeria														
oPt														
Pakistan														
Somalia														
South Sudan														
Sudan														
Syria	1						1							
The Philippines														
Turkey														
Ukraine														
Yemen														
Total	11	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	6	2

Source: [WHO SSA](#)

Date period: April 2020

Data accessed: 14 May 2020

See [SHCC Methodology](#) for information on how the SHCC uses this data. This information may change as the WHO SSA is updated.