

Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

08-21
February 2023

Attacks on Health Care in Ukraine

A total of **707** attacks on Ukraine's health care system have been documented since February 24, 2022

292 attacks damaged or destroyed hospitals and clinics

62 health workers have been killed

Destruction and Devastation: One Year of Russia's Assault on Ukraine's Health Care System

This [new report](#) documents how Russia appears to have both deliberately and indiscriminately targeted Ukraine's health system as part of a broader attack on Ukraine's civilian population and infrastructure.

The investigation draws on a new [dataset](#) and [interactive map](#) (available in English and Ukrainian) of attacks – developed from open-source and confidential information gathered over 2022 – supplemented by 10 detailed case studies based on research visits to hospitals across Ukraine to inspect attack sites, assess damage, take photographs, and conduct semi-structured interviews with survivors and witnesses.

Past News Brief editions: [25 January-07 February](#); [11-24 January](#); [28 December 2022-10 January 2023](#); [All](#).

Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link:
bit.ly/8-21Feb2023HealthBMNB

Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested in curated datasets, if you have made a public statement that you would like us to include in our Bi Monthly News Brief, to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on. Visit our [website](#), join our [mailing list](#), follow us on [Twitter](#).

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).

Africa

Burkina Faso

08 February 2023: Along the Dedougou-Toughan road, near Dedougou village, Sourou province, Boucle du Mouhoun region, a clearly marked MSF vehicle carrying a team of four people, including medical staff, was ambushed by armed men who shot at the passengers, killing the logistics supervisor and the driver, both male and from Burkina Faso. The other two staff escaped without injuries. Following the attack, MSF suspended activities in the region. **Sources:** [Agence](#)



Insecurity Insight – Monitoring incidents around the world affecting aid, health care, education, and protection.

[d'Information du Burkina](#), [Africanews](#), [All Africa](#), [HumAngle](#), [Lefaso](#), [Minute.bf](#) [MSF](#) and [MSF Western & Central Africa](#)

09 February 2023: In Sebedougou village, Tuy province, Hauts-Bassin region, a pharmacy was set on fire and looted of medicine by suspected JNIM militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

14 February 2023: In Kombedogo village, Bam province, Centre-Nord region, a health centre was looted by suspected JNIM militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Central African Republic

15 February 2023: In an undisclosed location, violence against health workers was reported. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)²

Democratic Republic of the Congo

09 February 2023: In Biambwe area, Lubero territory, Nord Kivu province, a nurse employed at Sebwe health centre was stabbed with a knife during clashes between an armed group and Union des Patriotes pour la Libération du Congo (UPLC). **Source:** [Radio Moto](#)

10 February 2023: In Kitchanga, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu province, medicine was looted from the CEPAC Health Centre by M23 fighters. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

10 February 2023: In Rutshuru town, North Kivu province, two vehicles belonging to Rutshuru Hospital and a Red Cross motorcycle ambulance were stolen by M23 rebels. **Source:** [WikiRumours](#)

13 February 2023: In Birambizo town, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu province, a hospital was looted of medicine, equipment and solar panels and a nurse was killed in an attack on the area by M23 fighters which also saw two elderly women raped and killed. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

13 February 2023: In Birambizo town, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu province, a health centre was vandalised in an attack on the area by M23 fighters. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

Ethiopia

14 February 2023: In Jilye Tumuga woreda, Oromia special zone, Amhara region, several health centres, civilian homes, and mosques were burned down by Amhara regional special forces and ethnic Amhara militia men. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Nigeria

As reported on 18 February 2023: Update: In Borno state, a principal medical officer — who was abducted by ISWAP fighters from Gubio LGA on 18 March 2022 — has been released. **Sources:** [The Cable](#) and [Zagazola](#)

Somalia

As reported on 07 February 2023: In Lasanod city and district, Sool region, the Lasanod Hospital was reportedly attacked, damaging the solar power system amid fighting between Somaliland troops and local forces. **Sources:** [Garowe Online](#) and [Twitter](#)

11 February 2023: In Lasanod city and district, Sool region, a volunteer was killed by a stray bullet amid fighting between Somaliland troops and local forces. **Sources:** [AA](#) and [Personal Communication](#)

11 February 2023: In Lasanod city and district, Sool region, a doctor was killed amid fighting between Somaliland troops and local forces. **Source:** [The Guardian](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

As reported on 01 February 2023: The Taliban's Department of Vice and Virtue and the Ministry of Public Health told Afghan female doctors and health workers in 19 Taliban-run hospitals and clinics

they must abide by a decree forcing them to cover their faces and wear full Islamic hijab. **Source:** [AMU](#)

Indonesia

As reported on 15 February 2023: In Paro area, Nduga regency, Highland Papua province, 15 construction workers building a health centre were threatened to be killed by Egianus Kogoya gunmen. As a single-engine plane carrying five passengers landed to evacuate the workers, fighters from the West Papua Liberation Army stormed the aircraft, abducted the pilot and set the plane ablaze. The passengers were released. **Source:** [The Diplomat](#)

Myanmar

Attacks on Health Care in Myanmar

For details on reported incidents between 08-21 February 2023, please see this [document](#).

Past incident reports: [25 January-07 February](#); [11-24 January](#); [All](#).

Past analysis reports: [April-September 2022](#); [1 February 2021-10 January 2022](#); [1 January- March 2022](#).

Explore our [Attacked and Threatened: Health Care at Risk](#) interactive map to see documented incidents in Myanmar since 2016. Includes details on who the perpetrators were and the weapons used. Access the dataset on [HDX](#). Join our [Myanmar](#) mailing list for regular updates.

Europe

Ukraine

Attacks on Health Data in Ukraine

The 01 January 2016-20 February 2023 data on incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Ukraine is now available for download on [HDX](#) or to explore on our [interactive map](#). Our data includes available information on who the perpetrators were and what weapons were used.

Middle East North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

13 February 2023: In an undisclosed location, a hospital director suspected that a nurse who was taking pictures of a baby girl born under earthquake rubble was planning to kidnap the infant, and kicked the nurse out of hospital. The nurse returned hours later accompanied by gunmen who assaulted the director. Police began guarding the girl after several people showed up falsely claiming to be her relatives. **Sources:** [AP](#) and [Independent](#)

Yemen

06 February 2023: In Ibb - Jiblah Junction, Ibb governorate, the Al Jabali Private Hospital was stormed and taken over by Houthi forces. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

The Americas

Haiti

01 February 2023: In Port-au-Prince, a male driver of a health NGO who was kidnapped on January 23 by a gang was released. **Source:** [teleSUR](#)

06 February 2023: In the Lotin area, Kenscof commune, Port-au-Prince, a male doctor was kidnapped by armed individuals. **Source:** [La Question News](#)

09 February 2023: In Port-au-Prince, a female community health worker working for the Gheskio Centre was kidnapped. **Source:** [Prensa Latina](#)

14 February 2023: In Port-au-Prince, a male doctor and a female community health worker working for the Gheskio Centre were kidnapped by armed bandits. In response, the institution in charge of researching and treating infectious diseases, announced the suspension of its activities. It is the

second time in a month that the female health worker was kidnapped after armed individuals kidnapped her on 09 February. **Sources:** [Haiti Libre](#) and [Prensa Latina](#)

Global Health Insecurity

These events affect the provision of health care but are not directly conflict related. These include events perpetrated by patients, relatives of patients, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by health care personnel.

Asia

Bangladesh

11 February 2023: In Naya Miar Hat area, Borhanuddin upazila, Bhola district, Barisal division, supporters of the pro-Awami League Chairman of the Pakhiya Union Parishad attacked a pharmacy owned by the pro-Bangladesh Nationalist Party Joint General Secretary of the same union parishad. The perpetrators severely physically assaulted the owner and his son. **Source:** [New Age](#)

This Bi-Monthly News Brief comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care. It is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It is prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases. 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. This document is funded and supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK government through the RIAH project at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at the University of Manchester, the European Commission through the 'Ending violence against healthcare in conflict' project and through the project 'Ending violence against healthcare in conflict: documentation, tools, and data-informed advocacy to stop and prevent attacks' funded by the European Union. The contents are the responsibility of Insecurity Insight.

Insecurity Insight. 2023. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 08-21 February 2023. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/8-21Feb2023HealthBMNB

¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 21 February 2023.

² [WHOSSA](#) Accessed 21 February 2023

