

Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

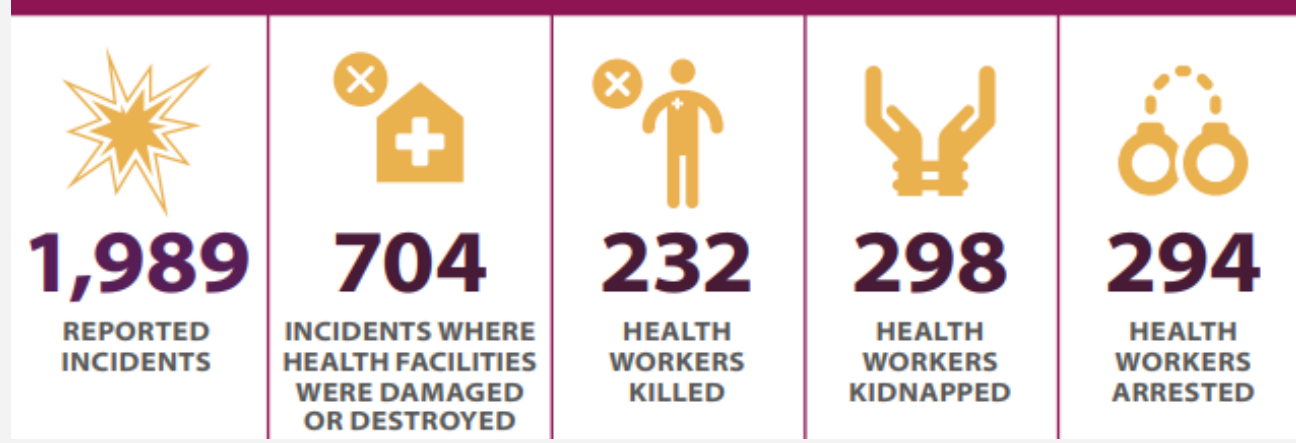
09-22
August 2023

2022 Marked Most Violent Year Against Health Workers and Facilities in Conflicts in the Last Decade

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition's (SHCC) [annual](#) report documented 1,989 attacks and threats against health care facilities and personnel across 32 countries and territories in armed conflict and situations of political violence in 2022. The reported figure represents the most severe year of attacks against health care in the last decade globally. Over half of all attacks were reported in just two countries, Ukraine and Myanmar.

"Over the last year, we identified a 45% increase in reported incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in conflict zones as compared to 2021". Christina Wille, director of Insecurity Insight, which led the data collection and analysis for the report.

REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS



Past News Brief editions: [26 July-08 August](#); [12-25 July](#); [28 June-11 July](#); [14-27 June](#); [31 May-13 June](#); [All](#).

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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

Cameroon

11 August 2023: Between Amchide and Mora towns, Mayo-Sava department, Far North region, staff from the Amchide Health Centre narrowly escaped an ambush by Boko Haram. **Source:** [Humanity Purpose](#)



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

12 August 2023: In Goldavi village, Mayo-Tsanaga department, Far North region, Boko Haram militants looted a health centre and houses, and shot dead two civilians, including an IDP. **Source:** [Humanity Purpose](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

05 August 2023: On Mount Ruvuza, Kabunambo town, Ruzizi health zone, Uvira territory, South Kivu province, unidentified armed bandits seized a taxi, and killed a female nurse of the Nazareno Sange Hospital. **Source:** [La Prunelle](#)

Sudan

At least **160 attacks** on Sudan's health care system have been documented by Insecurity Insight between 01 January-08 August. In these incidents, 25 health workers have been killed and health facilities have been damaged in shelling and arson attacks at least 49 times. Vital medical supplies have been looted, and patients deliberately obstructed from accessing health care. These attacks undermine health care providers' ability to effectively meet patient needs, maintain safe staffing levels and impact the population's access to health care. Explore the incidents on this [interactive map](#). Access the data on [HDX](#). Past incident reports: [26 July-08 August](#); [28 June-11 July](#); [28 June-11 July](#); [14-27 June](#); [All](#)

Asia

Myanmar

At least **231 attacks** on Myanmar's health care system have been documented by Insecurity Insight between 01 January-08 August 2023. In these incidents, 24 health workers have been killed undermining health care providers' ability to effectively meet patient needs and maintain safe staffing levels. Health facilities have been set on fire, occupied and damaged by air bombing, drone strikes, and shelling on 73 times, impacting the population's access to health care. Explore this [interactive map](#) to see where incidents happened. Access the data on [HDX](#). Past incident reports: [26 July-08 August](#); [12-25 July](#); [28 June-11 July](#); [14-27 June](#); [All](#).

Pakistan

09 August 2023: In Bannu district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, gunmen attacked police officers guarding polio vaccination workers during a door-to-door campaign, killing one of them, before fleeing the scene. **Source:** [AP](#)

In 2022, the SHCC identified **16 incidents** of violence against or obstruction of health care in Pakistan in 2022. **Nearly 90% of these incidents involved threats and violence against polio vaccination workers.** Violence and insecurity along the Afghan-Pakistan border hindered polio vaccination campaigns.

Europe

Ukraine

At least 1029 attacks on Ukraine's health care system have been documented between 24 February 2022 and 29 July 2023. Explore this [interactive map](#) (available in English and Ukrainian) to see incidents where health facilities were damaged or destroyed in Ukraine since February 2022.

Türkiye

Social Media's Role in the Spread of the Turkish Red Crescent Tent Sale Story in Türkiye. Between March and April 2022, 72% of the over 323 sampled social media users expressed negative sentiments in response to reports that the Turkish Red Crescent had sold tents to a charity organisation in the aftermath of the earthquake. This [report](#) presents data on how the tent sale story emerged and spread online.

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.

Africa

Mozambique

08 August 2023: At Zimpeto village, Maputo province, doctors of the Medical Association of Mozambique (AMM) were prevented by the Police of the Republic of Mozambique (PRM) from holding a health fair at the Zimpeto Municipal Field. **Sources:** [Club of Mozambique I](#) and [Club of Mozambique II](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

14 August 2023: In Khulna city, district and division, intern doctors of the Khulna Medical College Hospital called a work abstention, demanding the safety of doctors and students, in protest against a clash between medicine traders and medical students earlier on the same day. On 18 August, police arrested two medicine traders in connection with the attack on students, prompting the work abstention to be called off. **Source:** [New Age](#)

21 August 2023: In Sylhet city, district and division, angry relatives of a patient who died earlier at the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital locked in an altercation with attending interns and nurses, accusing them of negligence. The perpetrators began to vandalise the ward, and tried to assault the health workers, forcing them to take shelter in a nearby ward. This incident prompted interns at the hospital to launch an indefinite strike, demanding justice and adequate security at the hospital. Four people got arrested for their involvement in the vandalism. The strike was called off on 23 August. **Sources:** [New Age I](#) and [New Age II](#)

Cambodia

17 August 2023: In Siem Reap city, municipality and province, five masked armed men freed a Taiwanese drug lord, after invading a dental clinic where he was at, and pointing guns fitted with silencers at guards accompanying him. **Sources:** [Radio Free Asia I](#), [Radio Free Asia II](#) and [Radio Free Asia III](#)

China

11 August 2023: In Hong Kong, a female paramedic was shot in the eye amid a demonstration. **Source:** [Radio Free Asia](#)

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.

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