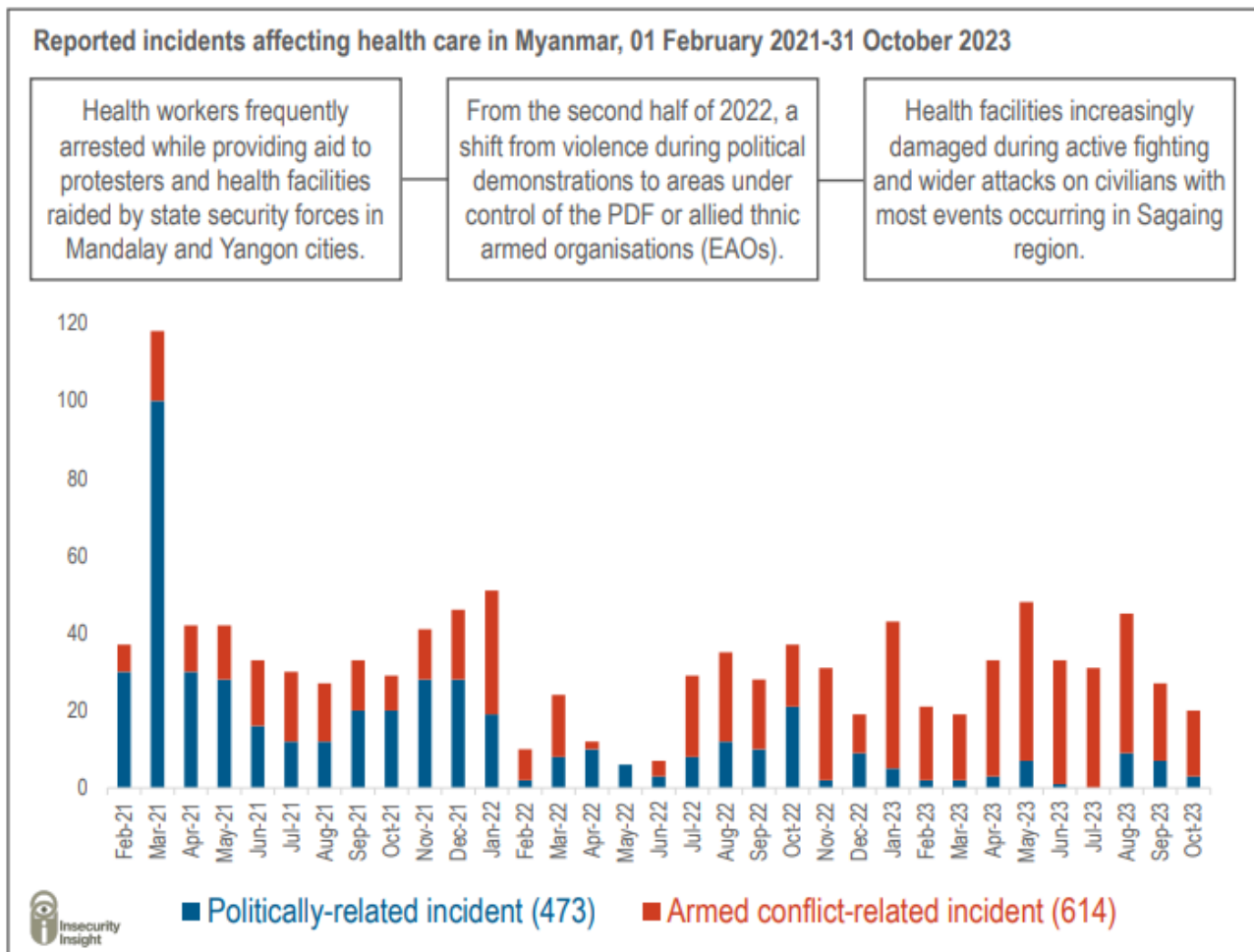


## A Tragic Milestone: More Than 1,000 Attacks on Health Care in Myanmar Since the February 2021 Military Coup

15 November 2023

Insecurity Insight has identified at least 1,087 attacks on Myanmar's health care system since the 01 February 2021 military coup. At least 880 health workers have been arrested, 97 killed and 117 injured undermining health care providers' ability to maintain safe staffing levels to effectively meet patient needs. Health facilities have been damaged over 180 times impacting the population's access to health care. Insecurity Insight calls upon all conflict parties to uphold international humanitarian law. Health workers and facilities are protected. Perpetrators must be held accountable.

*"I have been in regular communication with frontline health workers in Myanmar since the military coup. I wholeheartedly agree with Dr Ko Htoo of Spring Health Hospital in Karenni, who recently told me that everyone must have the right to get the health care they need safely. Health care must not be a military target,"* said Dr Thinn Hlaing, Myanmar Country Director at the Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET).



During the initial post-coup period, health workers were frequently arrested while providing aid to protesters and hospitals and clinics raided by state security forces, often in search of pro-democracy health workers or injured protesters. Most of these incidents were recorded in Mandalay and Yangon cities. During 2022, there was a shift from violence affecting health care

during political demonstrations to areas in Rakhine state and Sagaing region under the control of the PDF or allied ethnic armed organisations (EAOs) where there is strong resistance to military rule.

Between 01 January and 31 October this year, 320 attacks have been reported, an increase from 271 reported by the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) in all of [2022](#). High incident numbers continue to be recorded in Sagaing. Cases have increased in Magway and Tanintharyi regions and decreased in Rakhine reflecting the overall spread of conflict-related violence. Incidents where health facilities were damaged have doubled from 47 in 2022 to over 100 in 2023. Damages were mostly caused by Myanmar military airstrikes or shelling or local resistance force (LDF) drones fitted with homemade explosives. The State Administrative Council's (SAC) ongoing blockades in opposition controlled areas continues to deprive displaced civilians of medical and humanitarian aid. Areas with persistent blockades of medical aid include Chin and Kayah states and Sagaing region.

*“Behind each incident are the lives and aspirations of health workers and individuals who depend upon them. The milestone in Myanmar is tragic. It occurs amidst large scale ongoing attacks on health care in conflict at a global level in contexts from [Sudan](#) to [Ukraine](#) and the [occupied Palestinian territories](#). We should use this milestone as an inflection point to help galvanise action to end these devastating attacks and to support communities to mitigate the impact of this violence on access to health care,”* commented Insecurity Insight Director Christina Wille.

This data is available on [HDX](#). See where incidents happened on this [interactive map](#).

### Media contact

For more information, interviews or curated datasets, please contact Tim Bishop - [tim.bishop@insecurityinsight.org](mailto:tim.bishop@insecurityinsight.org)

As an H2H (humanitarian to humanitarian) association, [Insecurity Insight](#) supports the work of aid agencies, providers of healthcare, education, and protection services, and other civil society organisations by providing publicly available information for evidence-based policies. We collect and analyse data about violence against civilians and damage and destruction of vital civilian infrastructure in order to strengthen civilian protection and the delivery of aid in armed conflict.

