Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

29 November 12 December 2023

1999 Attacks on Health Care So Far in 2023

Monitoring by Insecurity Insight has identified at least 1999 attacks on health care between 01 January and 28 November 2023. In these incidents, health facilities have been damaged 636 times, 401 health workers have been killed, 221 kidnapped, 267 injured and 249 arrested. High incident numbers have been reported in the occupied Palestinian territories (609), Myanmar (370), Ukraine (368) and Sudan (238).

See where incidents happened on this **interactive map**. Download this data on **HDX**. Numbers may change if or when further information is made available. The map and the dataset does not yet include incidents reported in this News Brief.

Conflict related incidents reported globally: **1999**

01/01/2023 – 12/12/2023

636 Health facilities damaged

401 Health workers killed

221 Health workers kidnapped

267 Health workers injured

Past News Brief editions: **15-28 November**; **01-14 November**; **18-31 October**: **04-17 October**; **All**

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. Join our **mailing list**. Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: bit.ly/29Nov-12Dec2023Health

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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

Ethiopia

30 November 2023: In Wegeltena town, Delenta woreda, Amhara region, a Delenta Primary Hospital ambulance was hit in an artillery shell and drone strike of unspecified origin while transporting medicine from Dessie to Delenta. The driver and laboratory technician were killed, the head of the hospital was injured and the ambulance destroyed. **Source: All Africa**

Mali

28 November 2023: Between Ke-Macina, Segou region and Tenenkou, Mopti region, a LNGO aid worker was reportedly kidnapped and two vehicles taken, including one vehicle belonging to the Tenenkou Medical Centre, by JNIM militants. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Between 27 - 28 November 2023: Between Kokonto and Soumpi, Niafunke, Tombouctou region, three civilians including the health centre technical director (DTC) of Kokonto were reportedly killed by suspected Wagner mercenaries. **Source: ACLED**[1]

23 November 2023: In Teherdje village, Tombouctou region, a health centre was reportedly vandalised and at least 20 civilians arrested by FAMa and Wagner forces. **Source: ACLED**[1]

03 December 2023: In Ain Rahma village, Tombouctou region, a health centre, shops and houses were reportedly vandalised FAMa and Wagner forces. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Mozambique
27 November 2023: In Namojelia locality, Chiure district, a local health centre was destroyed during a riot sparked by cholera misinformation. **Source: Cabo Ligado**

South Sudan-Sudan, Abyei Special Administrative Area
03 December 2023: In Wau-achein, Abyei special administrative area, youths from Twic county reportedly ambushed an ambulance carrying wounded people. **Source: Eye Radio**

Sudan

📢 Insecurity Insight has identified at least 239 attacks on Sudan's health care system between 01 January-28 November 2023. In these incidents, 50 health workers have been killed and health facilities have been damaged 55 times. 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. Numbers may change if or when further information is made available. Explore this **interactive map** to see where incidents happened. Access the data on **HDX**. Please **get in touch** if you are interested in curated datasets.
Past incident reports: **29 November-12 December**; **15-28 November**; **01-14 November**; **18-31 October**; **All**
2022 Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) Factsheets: **Arabic** and **English**

Asia

Afghanistan
As reported on 25 November 202: In the Sarak-e Char area, Taloqan city, Takhar province, Taliban forces apprehended a human rights activist and UNDP-affiliated health educator. She was reported to be mistreated during her arrest. **Source: Hasht-e-Subh**

Myanmar

📢 Insecurity Insight has identified at least 354 attacks on Myanmar's health care system between 01 January-14 November 2023. In these incidents, 30 health workers have been killed and health facilities have been damaged 130 times. 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. Access the data on **HDX**. See where incidents happened on this **interactive map**. Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.
Past incident reports: **29 November-12 December**; **15-28 November**; **01-13 November**; **18-31 October**; **All**
Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) Factsheets: **2022**; **2021**; **2020**

Europe

Ukraine

📢 A **new case study** co-published by **Insecurity Insight**, **eyeWitness to Atrocities**, **Media Initiative for Human Rights** and **Physicians for Human Rights** reveals the dire consequences for health care from policies and practices carried out by Russia during its occupation of Ukrainian territories. Among others, these include detaining health workers, requiring forced changes of nationality as a precondition for gaining access to health care and repurposing health facilities for nonmedical purposes. With outside access remaining limited, the study provides a rare window into how civilians, health care providers and Ukraine's health care system more broadly have suffered in occupied regions of Ukraine. *"Our research sheds new light on the grim realities that patients and providers alike are forced to endure in order to access and provide basic health services," said Christina Wille, the Director of Insecurity Insight. "For years, our organisation has* ***monitored attacks on health care*** *amid armed conflict across the world, and these coercive measures are part of a disturbing pattern of lack of protection of health care in conflict."*
Explore this **interactive map** (available in English and Ukrainian) to see incidents between 24 February 2022 and 01 October 2023.

Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

07 December 2023: In Tyr governorate, an Israeli drone reportedly struck a team of health workers. There were no casualties reported. **Source: ACLED**[1]

08 December 2023: On the outskirts of Ain Ebel town, Bint Jbeil governorate, a Lebanese army health centre was reportedly hit by Israeli artillery. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Occupied Palestinian Territories

Insecurity Insight has identified 510 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories between 07 October and 11 December 2023. Fourteen incidents were reported in Israel including nine health workers killed in attacks carried out by Hamas militants. In the oPt where 496 incidents were recorded, 362 took place in the Gaza Strip and 83 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Access the data on **HDX**. See where incidents happened on this **interactive map**. Numbers may change if or when further information is made available. Past incident reports: **12-18 December**; **01-11 December**; **24-30 November**; **12-23 November**; **All**

Press release by Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)

The reported number of healthcare workers killed in ten weeks of Israel's assault on Gaza has exceeded the total number killed in all countries in conflict globally in any single year since 2016, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) said earlier this week. Since Israel's military assault began on 7 October, at least **300 health workers have been reported killed**, according to the UN. This is more than the total number of health worker deaths recorded **across all countries in conflict last year, and in any single year since 2016**. Israel's relentless attacks on healthcare personnel and facilities, and total siege, are systematically dismantling Gaza's health system. Less than a quarter of hospitals are functioning due to insecurity, damage and lack of fuel, and the average bed occupancy of those that remain operational is more than 200%. Melanie Ward, MAP's CEO, said: *"We are witnessing a whole new scale of attacks on healthcare in Gaza. There is a real danger that, when world leaders return from their Christmas holidays, there will be no health system left in Gaza to serve the 2.2 million people who are in desperate need."* **Read more**

The Americas

Haiti

08 December 2023: In L'Estère commune, Artibonite department, a nurse was kidnapped by "Kokorat San Ras" armed group gangs. An unspecified ransom was demanded for her release. **Source: AmeriqueInfo7**

12 December 2023: In Turgeau, Port-au-Prince town, Ouest department, a MSF ambulance was intercepted by armed individuals outside the Emergency Center. The critically ill patient was forcibly removed and executed with multiple gunshots before the assailants fled. MSF is forced to suspend its activities at the Turgeau Emergency Center, which will remain closed for an indefinite period. **Source: MSF**

Mexico

28 November 2023: In Leon de los Aldama, Guanajuato state, a woman who worked in the Leon Psychiatric Hospital was shot and killed by armed men aboard a motorcycle while she was on her way to work. **Source: ACLED**[1]

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 verified through ground investigations.

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in it do not reflect in any way the position of the UK government, USAID, the U.S. Government or the Tides Foundation who are not responsible for the content expressed in this document.

Insecurity Insight. 2023. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 29 November-12 December. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/29Nov-12Dec2023Health

[1] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) **database attribution policy**. Accessed 14 2023