

Attacks on Health Care

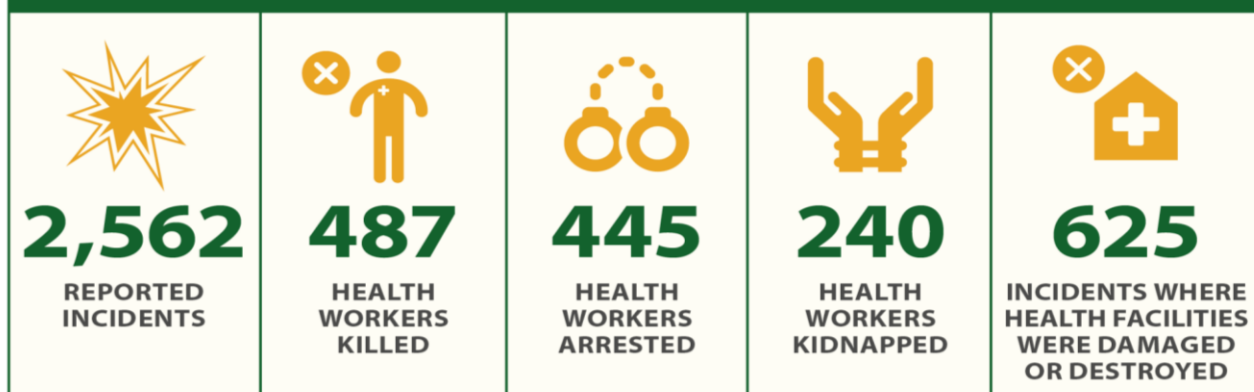
Bi-Monthly News Brief

01-14 May
2024

2023 Attacks on Health Care in War Zones Most Ever Documented

In a new report, the **Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition** identified **2562** incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in conflicts in 2023, a 25% increase from 2022, representing 500 more attacks than documented last year, and the highest ever since the Coalition began reporting. In its 11th annual report, *Critical Condition: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict*, the coalition documented arrests, kidnappings, and killings of health workers and damage to or destruction of health facilities in conflicts across 30 countries, or regions within countries, or territories. There was intense violence against health care in new conflicts in Gaza and Sudan and continuing violence in Myanmar, Ukraine and Haiti. Health facilities, transports, and patient access to care were also at high risk in the Sahel.

REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS



“The current use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and consequent harm to civilians that results from the destruction of the health system, is at alarmingly high levels. Transfers of weapons used to target health facilities remain unrestrained,” said Christina Wille, director of Insecurity Insight, a lead author of the report, whose organisation led data collection and analysis. “Destruction of the health system causes immediate and long-term harm not only to those injured by conflict but also expectant mothers, young children and the chronically ill, often with lifelong consequences.”

The report includes detailed profiles of 20 countries and territories where many acts of violence against health care took place. These include Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Haiti, Israel, Mali, India (Manipur state only), Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, the oPt, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen. Read [more](#)

Past editions: [17-30 April](#); [03-16 April](#); [20 March-02 April](#); [06-19 March](#); [21 February-05 March](#); [07-20 February](#); [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/01-14May2024Health



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

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

06 May 2024: In Kera village, Bondokui commune, Mouhoun province, Boucle du Mouhoun region, a female and male nurse were killed by JNIM militants while on their way to a training session in Dedougou. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [BurkinaWeb](#)

Central African Republic

As reported on 28 April 2024: In Yalinga town, Haute-Kotto prefecture, 14 mattresses were looted from a health centre by Wagner mercenaries. **Source:** [Corbeau News](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

09 May 2024: In Mantumbi town, Beni territory, North Kivu province, Saru Health Centre was attacked by ADF rebels. Two health workers were kidnapped and eight people killed. **Sources:** [Actualite](#) and [Radio Okapi](#)

Mali

01 May 2024: In Waki village, Niafunké Cercle, Tombouctou region, the president of the community health centre was reportedly kidnapped by JNIM militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Niger

01 May 2024: In Fonéko village, Tera department, Tillabéri region, a health centre was reportedly set on fire and medicine stolen by IS Sahel militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

06 May 2024: In Sola village, Diffa department and region, an ambulance belonging to Chetimari Integrated Health Centre was stolen by suspected ISWAP militants. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#) and [Zagazola](#)

Sudan

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified [257](#) incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Sudan in 2023, compared to 54 in 2022. In these incidents, 56 health workers were killed; vital medicines were looted; and health facilities were damaged, destroyed, and occupied. Hospitals, clinics, and medical warehouses were bombed, shelled, and taken over, and repurposed as military bases. In addition to patients, health workers, including an anaesthetist, dentist, pharmacist, and ophthalmology consultant, were killed, injured, kidnapped, and arrested. Drugs, medical supplies, and equipment were looted and repeatedly blocked from entering the country. Humanitarian actors were denied visas or faced delays in obtaining them. 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.

SHCC factsheets (EN): [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#). SHCC factsheets (AR): 2023 coming soon; [2022](#); [2021](#)

Past incident briefs: [17-30 April](#); [03-16 April](#); [20 March-02 April](#); [06-19 March](#); [21 February-05 March](#); [All](#)

Asia

Pakistan

20 April 2024: In Mir Ali town, North Waziristan district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a polio worker was kidnapped by armed militants. He was released the same day after the intervention of tribal elders. **Source:** [The Khorasan Diary](#)

25 April 2024: In Miryan town, Bannu district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a polio monitoring team was attacked by armed militants on four motorbikes. **Source:** [The Khorasan Diary](#)

Myanmar

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) **418 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Myanmar in 2023, compared to 280 in 2022**. In these incidents, 37 health workers were killed; health facilities were damaged or destroyed, and occupied. In addition, 102 health workers were arrested and 37 were killed. Health worker kidnappings quadrupled, while a similar number of health workers were arrested and killed between 2022 and 2023. Health workers were threatened and harassed by conflict parties, including being warned by resistance fighters that they must join the CDM, while facing the risk of being targeted with violence or arrested by the Myanmar armed forces for doing so. Cases of health facilities being occupied by the Myanmar military, militia, and other allies more than tripled in 2023 compared to 2022. Most involved the Myanmar armed forces using health facilities as bunkers or bases for military operations. These occupations were most frequent in Sagaing region, but were dispersed across 12 other areas. Opposition forces increasingly used drones armed with explosives to attack Myanmar armed forces occupying health facilities. 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.

Incident reports: [01-14 May](#); [17-30 April](#); [03-16 April](#); [20 March-02 April](#); [06-19 March](#); [All](#)
Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) factsheets: [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#); [2020](#)

Europe

Ukraine

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified **394 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Ukraine in 2023, compared to 885 in 2022**. In these incidents, health facilities were damaged or destroyed on at least 192 occasions and occupied by Russian military forces 36 times. Almost two-thirds of incidents took place at health facilities, with at least 13 facilities affected by threats and violence on multiple occasions. Beryslav Central District Hospital in Khersonska was damaged on six occasions. In addition, 109 health workers were killed - 80 were military medics, with nearly two-thirds killed on the front lines in Donetsk and Zaporizka oblasts. Attacks by drones armed with explosives increasingly impacted health care. Explore this [interactive map](#) (available in English and Ukrainian) to see where incidents took place. Access the data on [HDX](#). Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested in curated datasets.

Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) factsheets: [2023](#); [2022](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

10 May 2024: In Teir Harfa village, Tyre district, South governorate, an Israeli strike killed a technician contracted by a telecoms company to fix a phone tower, and a medic from the Risala Scout Association affiliated with the Amal Movement. **Sources:** [New Age](#), [The Daily Intake](#) and [The Times of Israel](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territory

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified **761 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in 2023**. Hospitals and field hospitals were shelled by Israeli artillery and tank fire and subjected to Israeli air and missile strikes. The vicinity of hospitals and health facilities were hit multiple times by airstrikes destroying main roads and surrounding buildings and hindering medical crews ability to reach casualties and wounded Palestinians. Ambulance drivers, doctors, dentists, gynaecologists, hospital staff, janitors, laboratory technicians, medical students, nurses, opticians, orthopedists, paramedics, pharmacists, psychologists, physiotherapists, surgeons, and volunteers from local humanitarian relief groups were killed, injured, and arrested. In several cases, entire families that had multiple members who were medical professionals were killed in single attacks, usually while they were at home. Access the data on [HDX](#). Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested in curated datasets.

Incident reports: [07-20 May](#); [23 April-06 May](#); [09-22 April](#); [02-08 April](#); [26 March-01 April](#); [All](#)
2022 SHCC factsheets: [Arabic](#) and [English](#)

Yemen

06 May 2024: In Rada city, Al Bayda governorate, An Nukhbah Hospital was damaged when a hand grenade targeting a nearby military vehicle exploded near the facility. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

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 part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It 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, by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and by the Tides Foundation. The opinions expressed 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. 2024. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 01-14 May 2024 Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/01-14May2024Health

¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 16 May April 2024.

