

Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

29 May-
11 June
2024

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. Over 230 health workers were kidnapped in 2023, almost all of them in conflicts across Africa, except in Haiti, where gang violence caused insecurity. Health workers were kidnapped from health facilities, while traveling to or from work or to remote areas to provide health care services, and from their homes. Most kidnapped health workers were released within days or weeks of being kidnapped, sometimes after ransom demands were made, suggesting that health workers were targeted for their perceived wealth. In other cases, kidnappings occurred at the same time as health facilities were looted. Eight kidnapped health workers were killed by their captors. In some countries, among them Cameroon and the DRC, non-state armed groups abducted health workers accused of collaborating with other conflict parties, including for treating a wounded fighter, or based on allegations of failing to communicate their activities in the area. Across the Sahel, non-state armed groups, including ISSP, ISWAP, and JNIM, kidnapped health workers. In the DRC, armed groups like the ADF, PAREFOL/FI, and M23 were responsible for kidnappings, while Al-Shabaab in Somalia also kidnapped health workers. In Nigeria, most kidnappings were attributed to unidentified men with guns, while in Haiti various gangs kidnapped health workers.

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 editions: [15-28 May](#); [01-14 May](#); [17-30 April](#); [03-16 April](#); [20 March-02 April](#); [06-19 March](#); [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/29May-11Jun2024Health**

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

Democratic Republic of the Congo

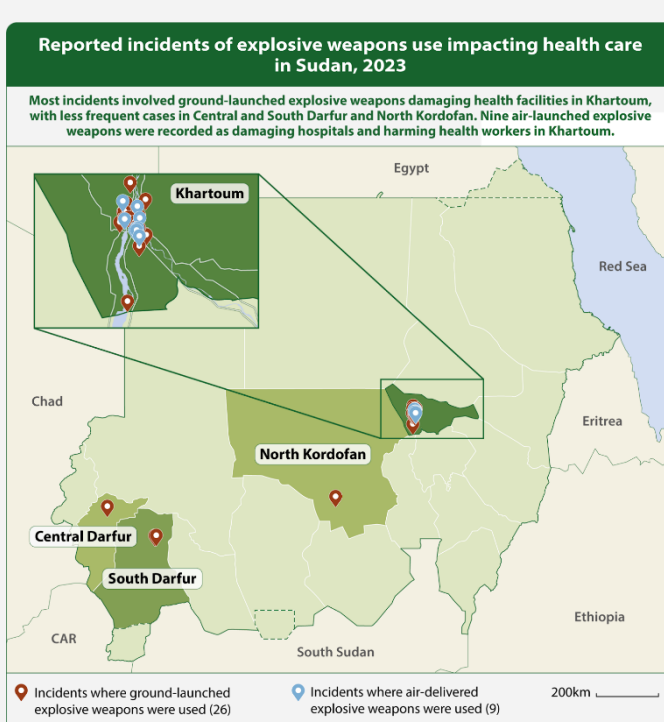
28 May 2024: In Masau village, Brno territory, North Kivu province, pharmacies were attacked, shops looted and civilians killed and kidnapped in an attack by ADF fighters on the wider area over a three day period. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

Nigeria

30 April 2024: In Orun LGA, Akwa Ibom state, a doctor was kidnapped by unidentified perpetrators. In response, the state's Nigerian Medical Association went on strike at public and private health facilities. **Source:** [Vanguard](#)

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. At least 54 of these incidents involved explosive weapons use. Most involved ground-launched explosive weapons use. Most involved ground-launched mortar shelling, missiles, and rockets damaging health facilities, including children's departments and maternity wards, teaching hospitals, pharmacies, and warehouses in Khartoum. Eleven health workers were killed by explosive weapons use in 2023. Six staff members were killed inside their homes, including two Egyptian doctors (an anaesthetist and her dentist sister), who were killed when their home in central Khartoum was hit by shelling during fighting between the RSF and SAF. When explosive weapons are used in populated areas, they often have wide-area effects and cause death and destruction beyond the intended target, resulting in reverberating adverse effects on the health sector. This was particularly true of Sudan in 2023.



Previous SHCC factsheets (EN): [2022](#); [2021](#). (AR): [2022](#); [2021](#)

Past incident briefs: [29 May-11 June](#); [15-28 May](#); [01-14 May](#); [17-30 April](#); [03-16 April](#); [All](#)

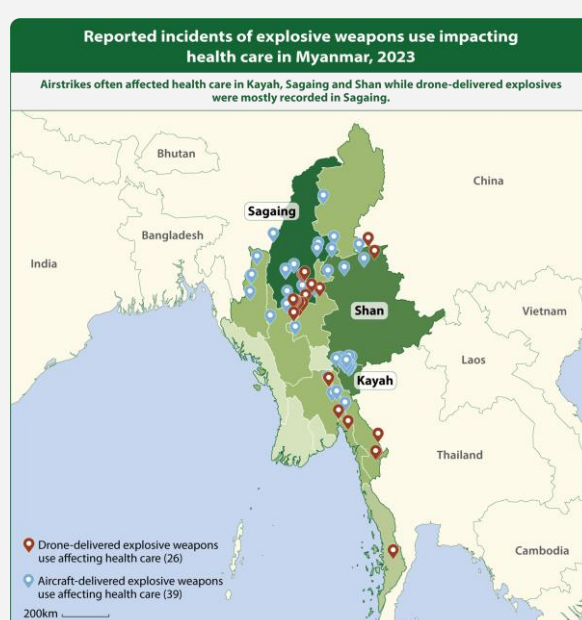
Asia

Myanmar

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified **418** incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Myanmar in 2023. The damaging or destruction of health facilities more than tripled in 2023 compared to the previous year. More than half of the attacks occurred in Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay, but were spread across 13 other areas. Damage was most frequently caused by aircraft delivered explosive weapons launched by the Myanmar armed forces. In a smaller proportion of incidents, health facilities were damaged by artillery launched explosive weapons and destroyed during Myanmar armed forces arson attacks.

Previous SHCC factsheets: [2022](#); [2021](#); [2020](#)

Past incident reports: [29 May-11 June](#); [15-28 June](#); [01-14 May](#); [17-30 April](#); [03-16 April](#); [All](#)

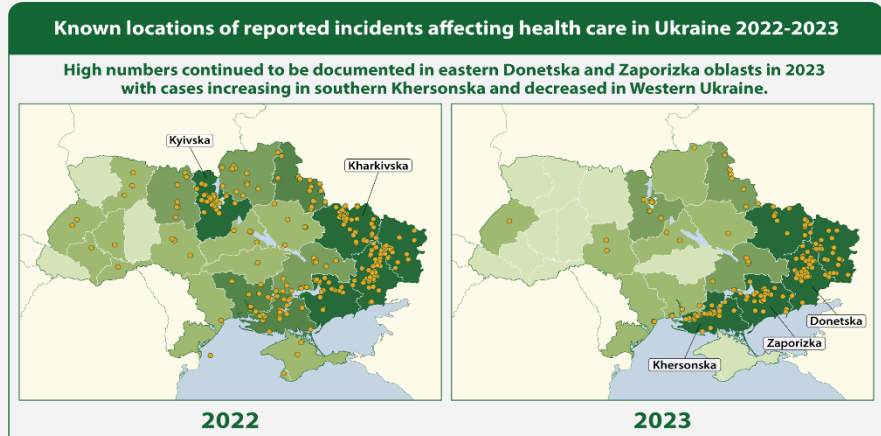


Europe

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. Incidents were recorded in 16 of Ukraine's 24 oblasts (regions) and Crimea, with high numbers continuing to be recorded in Donetsk and Zaporizka oblasts. Cases increased in southern Khersonska and notably decreased in Chernihivska, Kharkivska, Kyivska, Luhanska, Mykolaivska, Sumska, and Zhytomyrska oblasts. 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. Previous SHCC factsheets: [2022](#).

Explore this [interactive map](#) (available in English and Ukrainian) to see where incidents took place between 24 February 2022 and 13 April 2024.



Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

31 May 2024: In Al-Naqoura city, Tyre district, South governorate, an ambulance belonging to the Islamic Health Authority was hit by Israeli drones, killing a paramedic and injuring his assistant.

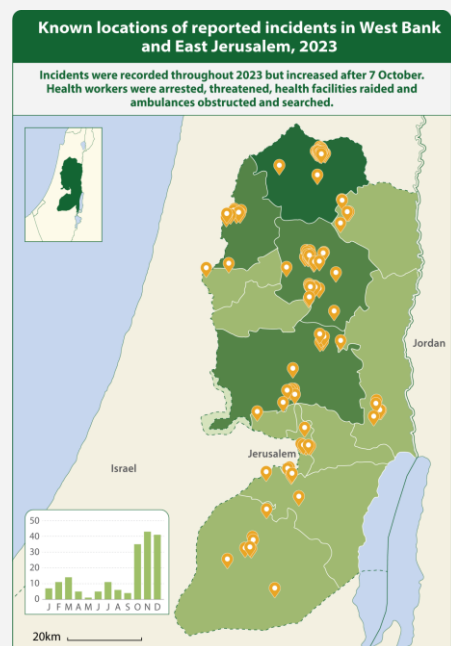
Source: [Quds News Network](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territory

At least **183** incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care were identified by the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) in the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 2023. Health workers were arrested and threatened, health facilities raided, and ambulances obstructed and searched. Incidents were recorded throughout 2023, with 64 occurring before October 7, which is similar to the number recorded for the whole of 2022. Ambulances and health workers were prevented from providing vital medical care to people in need at least 91 times in 2023. Most obstructions occurred during road travel or at checkpoints where staff were forced to transfer patients to another ambulance under the long-existing "back-to-back" (B2B) method of transferring a patient to a different ambulance when crossing from the West Bank to Jerusalem. The process often involved ambulances being searched, while staff were harassed and prevented from providing care to patients.

Previous SHCC Factsheets (EN): [2022](#); [2021](#). (AR) [2022](#); [2021](#)

Incident reports: [04-17 June](#); [21 May-03 June](#); [07-20 May](#); [23 April-06 May](#); [09-22 April](#); [02-08 April](#); [All](#)



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.

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