

Attacks on Health Care in Lebanon

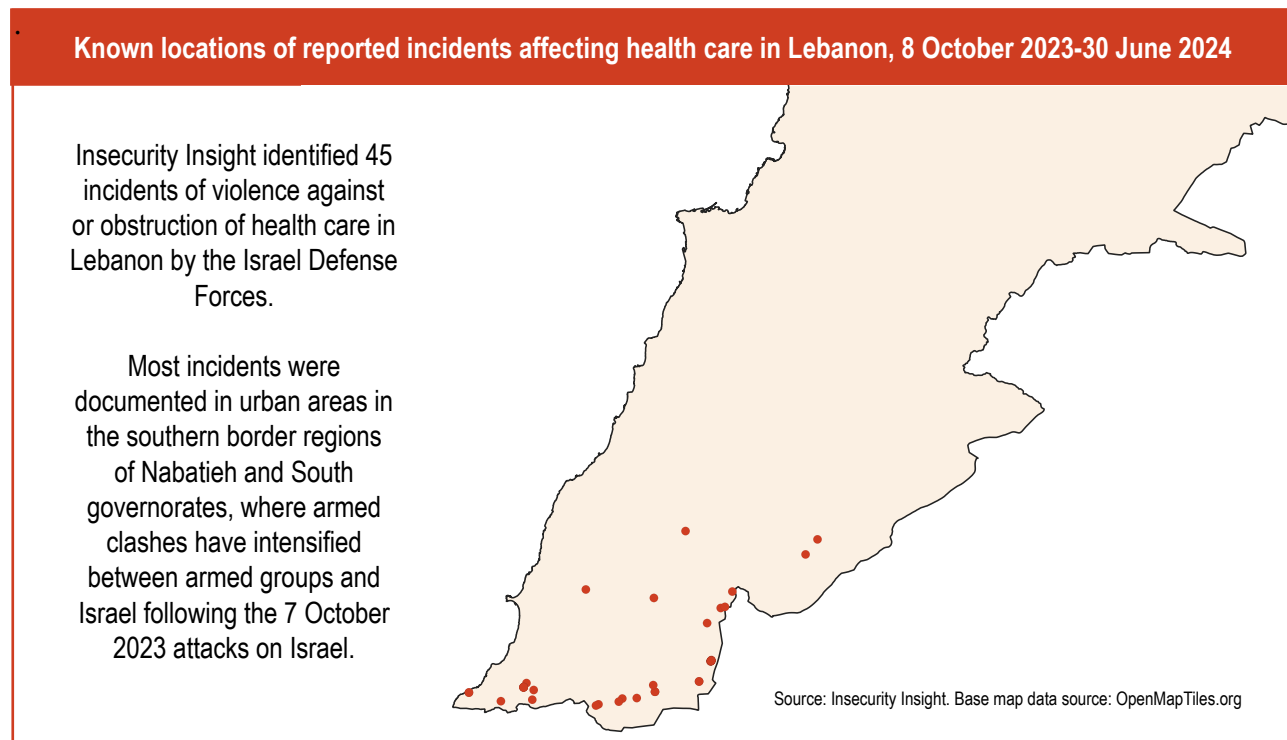
7 October 2023-30 June 2024



Reported incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Lebanon, 8 October 2023-30 June 2024			
45	39	14	12
Reported incidents	Health workers killed	Incidents where health facilities were damaged	Health transport damaged
Source: 2023-2024 LBN Attacks on Health Care Incident Data			

Since 8 October 2023 **armed clashes** have escalated between Hezbollah and Israel at the Lebanese southern border. This followed the 7 October 2023 attacks in Israel by Hamas fighters and other groups that resulted in Israel launching intense aerial bombing campaigns and ground operations in the Gaza Strip in response. The armed clashes in Lebanon have impacted health care, as has the violence in the **Gaza Strip** and **Israel**.

Insecurity Insight identified 45 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Lebanon by the Israel Defense Forces between 8 October 2023 and 30 June 2024. In these incidents, at least 39 health workers were killed, 12 ambulances were damaged and health facilities were damaged on 14 occasions. Incidents were most often reported in and around urban areas in the southern Lebanese border regions of Nabatieh and South governorates, particularly Bint Jbeil, Marjayoun and Tyre districts.



Explosive weapons use

Explosive weapons use impacted health care in Lebanon at least 41 times between 8 October 2023 and 30 June 2024, resulting in 39 health care workers being killed and health centres and hospitals being damaged on 14 occasions. Nearly half of the recorded cases of explosive weapons use affecting health care involved Israel's use of aircraft-delivered explosives, with incidents increasing during February and March 2024. Israel's use of drones armed with explosives impacted health care on eight occasions, including damage to Salah Ghandour Hospital in Bint Jbeil town, while ambulances were hit in other Israeli armed drone strikes. On four occasions Israeli artillery and mortar shelling damaged health facilities in Nabatieh governorate, with two incidents taking place in or around Mays el Jabal town.

Israeli forces shot and injured two health workers in separate shootings in Marjayoun district and shot at and damaged an ambulance in Tyre district, South governorate. The weapon used in one incident which injured a paramedic in Kfar Kafr Dunin was not recorded.

Health workers killed

Since January 2024 at least 39 health workers were killed in 22 incidents, with all of these deaths resulting from Israeli forces' use of explosive weapons. Twenty health workers were killed and 11 injured while working in health facilities in Bint Jbeil, Hasbaya, Marjayoun and Tyre districts. Nine military medics were killed, mainly during armed clashes, while one military medic was killed together with his wife and their child in an Israeli air strike on their house in Mays el-Jabal town. Two health workers were killed while inside their homes, including the previously mentioned military medic and a LINGO paramedic killed by an Israeli air strike as she stood in the doorway of her home in Jnata town. One health worker was among four civilians killed when an Israeli air strike hit a café in Naqoura town. In other cases, health workers were killed while responding to victims of a previous bombing attack, and the ambulance they were travelling in frequently sustained damage.

On four occasions, multiple health workers were killed on the same day in different locations. For example, on 27 March 2024 ten health workers were killed in three incidents, including seven paramedics killed in an Israeli air strike that hit an emergency centre in Hasbaya town, Nabatieh governorate. Israel claimed that the staff members were militants; however, the victims were later identified as volunteers, and Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health condemned the strike. In response to the attack, Hezbollah launched around 30 rockets towards northern Israel.

Ambulances and health facilities damaged

At least 12 ambulances were damaged by Israeli forces, mostly by air-delivered explosive weapons use, with the exception of the previously mentioned firearm incident in Tyre district. Ambulances were damaged while staff were travelling to provide medical care to people in need and at or near health facilities. In five of the cases in which ambulances were damaged, health workers were also killed and injured.

Health centres and hospitals were damaged by explosive weapons use on 14 occasions. Most of the damaged health facilities were located in Nabatieh governorate, mainly in Bint Jbeil and Marjayoun districts, with one in near Tayr Harfa town in South governorate. In three-quarters of the cases where health facilities centres were damaged by explosive weapons use, health workers were killed and injured.

The impacts of attacks on health care

The demands on Lebanon's health services have increased as a result of the conflict. At least **97 civilians have been killed**, while the injured have needed emergency health care to prevent further deaths. As of 27 June 2024, **96,829 people** have been internally displaced and sought refuge across Lebanon, increasing the pressure on health services in the areas they have moved to. Providing support, including health care services, to communities in frontline areas is difficult because of the conflict, and is often limited due to many **challenges**, including funding, access, and security constraints. On 6 March the International Committee of the Red Cross warned that escalating fighting would **further strain hospitals** already struggling due to a lack of funds amid a national financial crisis.

Related content

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) 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. You can download the **data** on the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) and explore the incidents visually on these interactive **global** and **Ukraine** maps.

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