

Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

07-20 August
2024

The Effects on Health Care of the Use of Explosive Weapons in 2023

The years 2022 and 2023 saw an increase in the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA), which has impacted access to health care for conflict-affected populations. Health care is directly affected when explosive weapons damage or destroy hospitals and health centres, damage or destroy ambulances, and kill or severely injure health workers. The health care system is also indirectly affected by the cumulative and reverberating effects on civilian infrastructure of the use of explosive weapons. Access to health care requires unhindered road access to health facilities for wounded and sick people, for health workers to come to and leave their places of work, and for medical supplies to reach hospitals and pharmacies. Hospitals are also dependent on electricity, water, fuel and sewage systems, which, if damaged or destroyed, adversely affect the functioning of the health care system. The sustained use of explosive weapons will almost certainly have reverberating consequences for a health care system that will continue long after ceasefires are agreed, depriving communities of access to health care for long periods of time.

Despite the normative framework of international humanitarian law (IHL), which protects health care during conflict, and international human rights law, which enshrines people's right to the highest attainable standards of mental and physical health, health care during conflict is under attack. **This document discusses the impact of explosive weapons use on the global health care system in 2023. It provides more details and updates to the statistics reported in the [Explosive Weapons Monitor's](#) 2023 annual report.**

The Effects on Health Care of the Use of Explosive Weapons in 2023

July 2024



Past editions: [24 July-06 August](#); [10-23 July](#); [26 June-09 July](#); [12-25 June](#); [29 May-11 June](#); [15-28 May](#); [01-14 May](#); [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/07-20Aug2024Health**

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

Cameroon

11 August 2024: In Bamessing village, Ndop commune, Ngo-Ketunija department, North-West region, a doctor and another health worker were threatened by Ambazonia separatists who invaded a health centre. They kidnapped a Reverend Sister and stole a number of items. The health centre, which was one of the few facilities providing medical services, has been forced to shut down following this incident. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

Ethiopia

13 August 2024: Between Guto Gida woreda and Sibu Sire woreda, East Wellega zone, Oromia region, two health workers were shot and killed by suspected Fano militia members. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Mali

12 August 2024: In Kidal town, cercle and region, an INGO health worker was kidnapped by the Wagner group. He was released on 14 August 2024. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

Nigeria

12 August 2024: In Kwassam village, Kauru LGA, Kaduna state, a doctor was shot and killed and eight other people kidnapped in an early morning attack on the village by a Kaduna militia. **Sources:** [All News](#), [The Guardian](#) and [Tori](#)

15 August 2024: Along the 9th Mile - Nsuka road, Egede town, Udi LGA, Enugu state, an on-duty doctor was kidnapped by an armed group. He was released the next day. **Source:** [Sahara Reporters](#)

15 August 2024: In the Otukpo area, Benue state, 19 medical and dental students, and a medical doctor were kidnapped on their way to the Federation of Catholic Medical and Dental Students (FECAMDS) annual convention in Enugu city by unidentified gunmen at around 17:30. The students were from the University of Maiduguri and the University of Jos. The next day, the perpetrators demanded 50 million naira from their families for their release. **Sources:** [HumAngle](#), [Punch](#) and [Voice of America](#)

South Sudan

15 August 2024: In Ulang county, Upper Nile state, a health INGO evacuated its international staff due to serious threats from recently terminated local staff members. The individuals claimed that their termination was based on false claims and upon entering the INGO compound threatened to kill staff there. Consequently, the INGO temporarily suspended non-emergency care at the Secondary Healthcare Hospital. On 20 August, they resumed their full service in the area. **Sources:** [Eye Radio I](#) and [Eye Radio II](#)

Sudan

Insecurity Insight identified 117 attacks on Sudan's health care system between 01 January-01 August 2024.

A third of recorded incidents took place in North Darfur state where hospitals and clinics were damaged 21 times, mostly by explosive weapons used by the RSF. In addition, at least 38 health workers were killed while working inside hospitals, clinics, or their homes, with RSF forces most commonly identified as the perpetrators. Explore this [interactive map](#) to see where incidents happened. Download the data [here](#). Numbers may change if or when further information is made available. Data is updated on [HDX](#) every Monday..

Incident briefs: [07-20 August](#); [24 July-06 August](#); [10-23 July](#); [26 June-09 July](#); [12-25 June](#); [29 May-11 June](#); [All SHCC factsheets \(EN\): 2023; 2022; 2021](#). (AR): [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

10 July 2024: In Nangarhar province, a specialist doctor was arrested at his private clinic by Taliban intelligence forces and taken to an undisclosed location. **Source:** [RASC News](#)

Myanmar

Insecurity Insight identified 202 attacks on Myanmar's health care system between 01 January-25 July 2024.

High incident numbers [continue](#) to be recorded in Rakhine state and Sagaing region. In total, hospitals and clinics were damaged 87 times, mostly by explosive weapons used by the Myanmar military. In addition, hospitals and clinics were used for non-medical purposes by conflict parties at least 33 times. Explore this [interactive map](#) to see where incidents happened. Download the data [here](#). Numbers may change if or when further information is made available. Data is updated on [HDX](#) every Monday.

Incident briefs: [07-20 August](#); [24 July-06 August](#); [10-23 July](#); [26 June-09 July](#); [12-25 May](#); [All SHCC factsheets: 2023; 2022; 2021; 2020](#)

Europe

Russia

07 August 2024: Near Sudzha town, Sudzhanskiy district, Kursk oblast, an ambulance car was reportedly hit by a Ukrainian drone, killing a health worker and a driver and injuring another health worker. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

15 August 2024: In Shebekino town, Shebekinskiy district, Belgorod oblast, five civilians, including two health workers from an ambulance crew, were injured by Ukrainian drone strikes. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Ukraine

Since the onset of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, there have been [1519 attacks](#) on the country's health care facilities, workers, and medical infrastructure:

- Hospitals and clinics have been damaged or destroyed 773 times
- 232 health workers have been killed
- 103 attacks that impacted a hospital's access to energy or water supply systems
- 86 attacks on services that provide health care to children
- 63 attacks on services provided for women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period

Explore this [interactive map](#) (available in English and Ukrainian) to see where incidents took place between 24 February 2022 and 16 July 2024.

Russian Forces Continued its Attack on Ukraine's Health System in 2023

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) report (available in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#)) documents 394 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Ukraine in 2023. The ongoing conflict, initiated by Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, has left nearly a fifth of Ukraine's territory under occupation and has caused extensive damage to civilian and energy infrastructure. Over 12 million Ukrainians have faced energy disruptions, and severe flooding in June 2023 further exacerbated the humanitarian crisis, affecting over sixty thousand people. About 40% of the Ukrainian population is estimated to require humanitarian assistance in 2024.



SHCC factsheets: [2023](#) (English); 2023 ([Ukrainian](#)): [2022](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

09 August 2024: In Mays al-Jabal village, Marjeyoun district, Nabatieh governorate, two Islamic Risala Association paramedics were injured by Israeli artillery shelling. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

As reported on 19 August 2024: 21 paramedics whose duties were to save others have been killed. **Source:** [New Age](#)

20 August 2024: In Dhayra village, South governorate, three emergency personnel from the Hezbollah-affiliated Islamic Health Committee were hurt when Israeli forces targeted them, causing significant damage to the ambulance they were travelling in. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Insecurity Insight identified 1378 attacks on health care in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) between 07 October 2023 and 06 August 2024. Health facilities were damaged at least 240 times, 257 health workers killed and 338 arrested. Download the [data](#). Explore this [interactive map](#) to see where incidents happened. Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested in curated datasets.

Incident briefs: [13-20 August](#); [30 July-12 August](#); [16-29 July](#); [02-15 July](#); [18 June-01 July](#); [04-17 June](#); [All SHCC Factsheets \(EN\): 2023; 2022; 2021. \(AR\): 2023; 2022; 2021](#)

Recorded Violence Against Health Care in Israel and the oPt, 07 October 2023-06 August 2024				
	 REPORTED INCIDENTS	 HEALTH WORKERS KILLED	 INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED	 HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED
Israel	48	23	4	0
oPt	1378	257 ¹	240	338
Download data . Contact us for curated datasets. Explore the incidents on our interactive map ² and on this data visualisation by Soha Elghany.				

Syrian Arab Republic

04 August 2024: In Ar-Raqqa city, health workers at the National Hospital were assaulted by SDF members following the death of one of their members at the hospital whilst after being wounded from clashes with IS. The SDF also destroyed several pieces of medical equipment. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

08 August 2024: In Deir-ez-Zor city and governorate, people continue to experience severe water and fuel shortages and very limited access to food insecurity and healthcare facilities. **Source:** [OCHA](#)

12 August 2024: In Al-Shaheel village, Deir ez Zor governorate, the house of a pharmacist was hit with a grenade thrown by IS members. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

16 August 2024: In Sarmin town, Idlib governorate, Syrian Civil Defense members were reportedly targeted by Syrian regime artillery after they came to help victims of an earlier shelling of a mosque. **Sources:** [Syrian Civil Defence I](#) and [Syrian Civil Defence II](#)

Yemen

Around 11 August 2024: In Sanhan district, Sanaa city and governorate, a doctor, who is a member of the Khawlan tribe, was killed by gunmen. **Source:** [Al Mashhad](#)

Global Health Insecurity

These events go beyond the definition used by the SHCC to cover a wider range of events that affect the provision of health care including events perpetrated by patients or relatives of patients, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by health care personnel.

Asia

India

09 August 2024: In Kolkata city, West Bengal state, a 31-year-old female trainee doctor was raped and killed inside the R. G. Kar Medical College. A police volunteer was subsequently arrested in

connection with the crime. Thousands of health workers across the country went on an 11-day strike, which led to the suspension of non-emergency care in an unspecified number of hospitals. During protests by the general public, a mob of unidentified men stormed the medical college and vandalised property. The mob was dispersed by police. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera I](#), [Al Jazeera II](#), [Reuters](#), [The Hindu](#) and [Times of India](#)

16 August 2024: The Indian Medical Association (IMA) launched a nationwide 24-hour strike, suspending elective surgeries and outpatient appointments, as part of a protest to condemn the rape and murder of a female doctor on 09 August. **Source:** [New Age](#)

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 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 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, 07-20 August 2024 Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/07-20Aug2024Health

¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 21 August 2024

