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Explosions and Airstrikes Devastate Lebanon's Health System, Killing Health Workers and Straining Services Amid Ongoing Conflict

On 17 and 18 September, communication devices, some used by the armed group Hezbollah, exploded across Lebanon, including in urban areas, with devastating consequences for civilians and their communities, including the health care system. According to Insecurity Insight's monitoring of reported information, at least two health workers were killed in these attacks, including a nurse who worked at Dar al-Amal Hospital and a hospital staff member who was injured while working at Rassoul al-Azzam Hospital and later died from his injuries.¹ On at least one occasion, an explosive detonated inside an ambulance.

Since 23 September, Israel's military has carried out extensive airstrikes in southern Lebanon and the Beqaa area, **exceeding** the bombing of Gaza during the opening days of its military offensive in October. Insecurity Insight identified 18 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care between 23 and 25 September. At least two health workers were killed and seven injured and six ambulances damaged by Israeli airstrikes. Ainata Medical Centre, Nabatieh Governmental Hospital, Tebnine Hospital, Bint Jbeil Governmental Hospital, and a pharmacy were also hit and damaged.

Prior to the escalation of violence, 51 health workers had already been killed, five hospitals damaged and other health facilities damaged four times in Lebanon since 8 October 2023 (data as of 25 September 2024). The data with details on location, reported conflict party, weapon used and brief description is available [here](#) for download. Data is updated on **HDX** every Monday. Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.

The strain on Lebanon's health services has intensified as a result of recent events. More than **1000 people** have been killed in the attacks, while many of the injured require urgent medical care to prevent further fatalities. On 23 September, the Ministry of Public Health requested all hospitals in Baalbek-Hermel, Nabiateh and South governorates, to suspend **surgeries** and make room for the treatment of the wounded amid Israeli attacks. Over **one million** people have fled from strikes amid invasion fears, relocating to other areas, adding more pressure on local health services. Delivering support, including health care, to frontline communities remains **challenging** due to the conflict and is often hindered by obstacles such as limited funding, restricted access, and security concerns.

Ends

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¹ Two is based on the number of health workers killed where location and date has been identified. Other sources have reported four health workers killed. Insecurity Insight carries out cross-checking of individual events and names and does not re-report aggregate figures. The work of collating a complete list of health workers killed based on information provided in different formats by different organisations is ongoing. This cross-checking process is complex to avoid double counting the same individuals in cases when sources report different victim information about the same individual. The lack of a consistent standard in transcribing Arab names into Latin script based languages complicates the matching process. The total number of health workers killed is believed to be higher than the current verified number and we continue to backdate information.