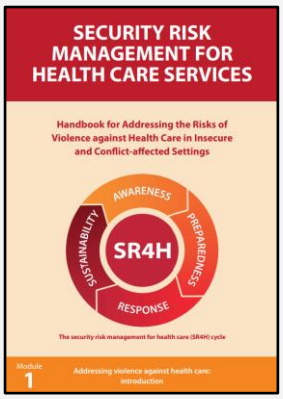
West bank

Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

13-26 November 2024

Security Risk Management for Health Care (SR4H) Handbook

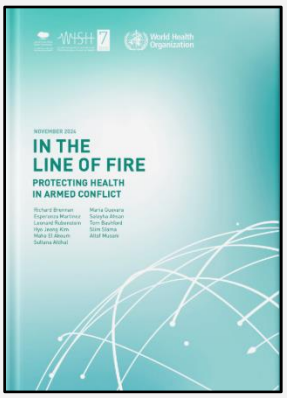


Insecurity Insight has developed a comprehensive handbook on security risk management tailored specifically for the health sector. Health care provision has unique characteristics that shape its specific exposure to security risks in conflict zones. The Security Risk Management for Health Care (SR4H) Handbook – available in **Arabic**, **English** and **French** – provides guidance on how to implement a range of actions intended to promote respectful and violence-free environments and prepare individuals or organisations to face and respond appropriately to violent incidents, also dealing with the aftermath of such events.

While this handbook is primarily aimed at health programme managers providing frontline services, it is also highly relevant for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working with partners who implement healthcare services. The handbook helps to identify practical activities that local health partners can implement and that NGO partners can include in partnership agreements and budget for.

The SR4H Handbook brings together some of the best practices on security risk management and proposes a framework adapted for health care providers working with limited resources. The objective is to promote an approach that considers the safety and security of health professionals while ensuring patients' access to care.

In the Line of Fire: Protecting Health in Armed Conflict



The imperative to protect healthcare in conflict settings is enshrined in international humanitarian law, enacted through humanitarian principles such as the distinction between civilians and combatants, the concept of necessity, the proportionality of harm to civilians in relation to military advantage, impartiality and humanity. These principles ensure that medical personnel, facilities and transports are safeguarded, and provide care without discrimination.

Despite these legal protections, there has been an alarming rise in attacks against healthcare, representing grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Hospitals, clinics and ambulances are frequently bombed, looted or significantly hampered from the delivery of essential medical services. Healthcare workers have been assaulted, blocked from administering care and sometimes killed. These assaults severely disrupt vital health services, leaving vulnerable populations without essential care, with catastrophic effects on public health, health workers and healthcare facilities.

The central question this report seeks to address is how do we reset the balance and reaffirm the way forward to uphold the fundamental tenets of IHL, press for greater action to end impunity and foster greater political support to create structures that will ensure the protection of health systems and civilians during war.

Past editions: **30 October-12 November**; **16-29 October**; **02-15 October**; **18 September-01 October**; **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/13-26Nov2024Health

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).

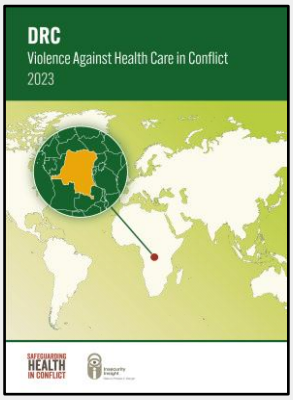
Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

As reported on 20 November 2024: In the Mukuyi mining square, Manono territory, Tanganyika province, four vaccinators were injured by Mayi Mayi Bakata Katanga who also destroyed several vaccine doses. They demanded other forms of humanitarian aid for the local population. **Source: ACLED**[1]

At least 115 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care were reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2023, according to the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition. Incidents were at their highest during the first four months of 2023, led by increasing incidents attributed to M23 in Rutshuru territory in North Kivu province. Cases were documented in eight of the DRC's 26 provinces and, as in previous years, were most frequent in North Kivu. Reports increased in Haut-Katanga and decreased in Ituri and South Kivu in 2023. A similar number of cases were recorded in Maniema and Tanganyika as in previous years.

Almost half of the incidents took place at health centres. As in previous years, most incidents affected health care providers working in national health structures. NGOs were directly affected in nine incidents and Red Cross societies in one. Available in **English** and **French**.



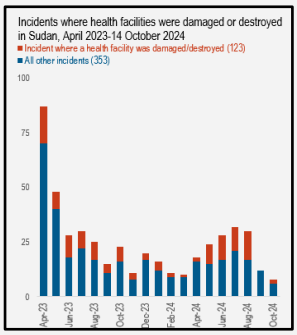
Kenya

14 November 2024: Between Kutulo and Mandera county, an ambulance driver was injured when an ambulance was hit by an IED of unknown origin. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Sudan

Insecurity Insight identified 476 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Sudan since fighting started between Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April 2023 and 14 October 2024. In these incidents, health facilities, including children and maternity hospitals, were damaged or destroyed on 123 occasions. From May to August 2024, incidents increased in El Fasher city in North Darfur state with explosive weapons used by the RSF damaging or destroying health facilities 24 times.

Explore this **interactive map** to see where incidents happened. Access the data on **HDX**. The dataset no longer includes event descriptions or geo-coordinates due to **HDX policy**. Data is updated every Monday. **Follow us** for the latest updates. Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.



Incident briefs: **13-26 November**; **30 October-12 November**; **16-29 October**; **02-15 October**; **All**
SHCC factsheets (EN): **2023**; **2022**; **2021**. (AR): **2023**; **2022**; **2021**

Asia

Afghanistan

15 November 2024: In Shor tapa Latehband village, Taloqan city, Takhar province, a doctor was killed by unidentified gunmen. **Source: ACLED**[1]

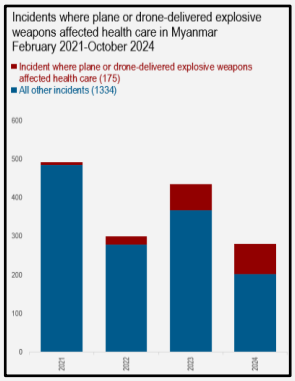
The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 109 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Afghanistan in 2023, compared to 87 in 2022. Contrary to the overall decrease in reported violence in 2023 compared to past years, incidents of threats and violence against health care increased in 2023, primarily driven by Afghan government repression. More than 80% of cases of violence against health care were attributed to the Afghan government, police, and intelligence forces, all of which are under the effective control of the Taliban. Often these perpetrators were armed with guns that they used to beat health workers.

The number of health workers arrested by Taliban government forces nearly doubled in 2023, while kidnappings decreased by 75% and killings more than halved. The vast majority of incidents involved health workers and providers being threatened, harassed, arrested, and otherwise restricted from performing their work.

Myanmar

Insecurity Insight identified 1509 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Myanmar since the military coup on 01 February 2021. In these incidents, 809 health workers were arrested, 131 killed, 39 kidnapped and health facilities damaged 332 times.

From April 2023, incidents involving plane or drone-delivered explosive weapons affecting health care increased with high numbers recorded in Sagaing region. Since January 2024, these incidents have increased in Rakhine state, particularly in Mrauk-U, Sittwe and Thandwe district's. Over three-quarters of incidents involving plane or drone-delivered explosive weapons affecting health care were attributed to the Myanmar military junta. The Karen National Liberation Army and local resistance forces were named but less often.



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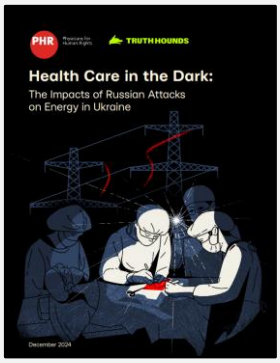
SHCC factsheets: **2023**: **2022**; **2021**; **2020**

Europe

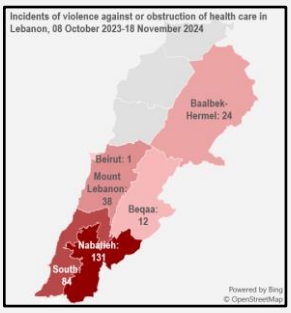
Ukraine

Health Care in the Dark: The Impacts of Russian Attacks on Energy in Ukraine
This new **report** from PHR and Truth Hounds documents how Russian attacks on the power grid have caused reverberating impacts on health care, including suffering and disruptions to the Ukrainian health system. The report uses an **incident dataset** developed by partner organizations including Insecurity Insight, eyeWitness to Atrocities, MIHR, PHR, and the UHC. The report is the first comprehensive study to show the links between attacks on energy infrastructure and health care in Ukraine. It is informed by case studies of attacks on Okhmatdyt National Specialized Children's Hospital and Mariupol Regional Intensive Care Hospital, a detailed analysis of attacks on energy infrastructure, in-depth interviews with health workers, an open-source analysis, and a survey of health workers conducted from July to September 2024.



Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon



Insecurity Insight identified 305 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Lebanon between 08 October 2023 and 18 November 2024. In these incidents, at least 241 health workers were killed, 200 injured and health facilities damaged 158 times. All of these reported 305 incidents were attributed to the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). Incidents were recorded in six of Lebanon's nine governorates with high numbers documented in Nabatieh governorate, particularly in Bint Jbeil, Marjayoun and Nabatieh districts and South governorate's Tyre district.

Explore the incidents on our **interactive map**. Access this data on **HDX**. The dataset no longer includes event descriptions or geo-coordinates due to **HDX policy**. Data is updated every Monday. Follow **us** for the latest updates. Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.

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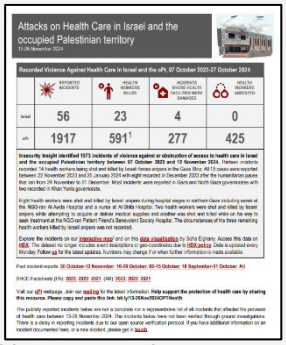
Occupied Palestinian Territory



Insecurity Insight identified 1973 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory between 07 October 2023 and 12 November 2024. Thirteen incidents recorded 14 health workers being shot and killed by Israeli forces snipers in the Gaza Strip. All 13 cases were reported between 22 November 2023 and 25 January 2024 with eight recorded in December 2023 after the humanitarian pause that ran from 24 November to 01 December. Most incidents were reported in Gaza and North Gaza governorates with two recorded in Khan Yunis governorate. Eight health workers were shot and killed by Israeli snipers during hospital sieges in northern Gaza including seven at the NGO-ran Al-Awda Hospital and a nurse at Al-Shifa Hospital. Two health workers were shot and killed by Israeli snipers while attempting to acquire or deliver medical supplies and another was shot and killed while on his way to seek treatment at the NGO-ran Patient Friend's Benevolent Society Hospital. The circumstances of the three remaining health workers killed by Israeli snipers was not recorded.

SHCC Factsheets (EN): **2023**; **2022**; **2021** (AR): **2023**; **2022**; **2021**
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The Americas

Haiti

15 November 2024: In Nazon neighbourhood, Port-au-Prince arrondissement, West department, the Ephata medical complex is forced to temporarily close after receiving threats from armed Viv Ansanm members. **Source: Radio Tele Galaxy**

15 October 2024: In Lycée Marie-Jeanne camp, Bois-Verna, Port-au-Prince city, an IDP was killed by unidentified armed men during a hygiene kits distribution. **Source: Radio Télé Galaxie**

16 November 2024: In Delmas 33, Delmas commune, an MSF driver was verbally assaulted by plainclothes police officers who warned MSF staff of future attacks on their ambulances. **Source: MSF**

18 November 2024: In Carrefour Rita, Tabarre commune, Port-au-Prince, a Haitian National Police vehicle driven by a plainclothes policeman armed with a pistol stopped an MSF vehicle taking staff to the workplace. He threatened the MSF staff members onboard, saying that next week police forces would start executing and burning their staff, patients, and ambulances. **Source: MSF**

19 November 2024: In the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, West department, MSF suspended their activities until further notice following violence and threats from police. **Sources: MSF and Radio Télé Métronome**

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition identified 40 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Haiti in 2023 At least 33 health workers were kidnapped and health facilities were forcibly entered on eight separate occasions. Incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care more than quadrupled in Haiti from 2022 to 2023, reflecting the wider deterioration in security in the country over this period. More than three-quarters of incidents took place in Ouest department, particularly Port-au-Prince arrondissement, following a pattern that reflects the geographic concentration of incidents in previous years. New cases were recorded in Artibonite, Centre, and Nord departments in 2023. Most incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care were attributed to gang members or unidentified men with guns. Available in **English** and **French**.

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 and by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The opinions expressed in it do not reflect in any way the position of the UK government, USAID, or the U.S. government who are not responsible for the content expressed in this document.

Insecurity Insight. 2024. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 13-26 November 2024. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/13-26Nov2024Health

[1] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) **database attribution policy**. Accessed 27 November 2024