Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

21 January-03 February 2026

Past editions: **07-20 January**; **24 December-06 January**; **10-23 December**; **26 November-09 December**; **12-25 November**; **29 October-11 November**; **15-28 October**; **01-14 October**; **17-30 September**; **03-16 September**; **20 August-02 September**; **06-19 August**; **23 July-05 August**; **09-22 July**; **25 June-08 July**; **11-24 June**; **All**

SHCC Reports: **2024**; **2023**; **2022**; **2021**; **All**

Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: https://bit.ly/21Jan-03Feb2026Health

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

02 February 2026: In Mayo-Tsanaga department, Far North region, a hospital was attacked by Boko Haram fighters who killed a nurse and a hospital security guard. **Source: Xinhua**

Democratic Republic of the Congo

26 January 2026: In Musenge village, Baswagha chiefdom, Lubero territory, North Kivu province, a health centre, at least 14 houses, and part of a Catholic church were burned down by Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) fighters around 2000hrs. The facility closed as a result. **Sources: Fides, HumAngle and Radio Okapi**

As reported on 26 January 2026: In Baswagha chiefdom, Lubero territory, North Kivu province, five health centres - Mausa, Pombi, Mandelya, Musenge, and Masoya - and an unspecified number of health posts were closed for at least a week following persistent insecurity from ADF fighters, starting on 21 January. **Sources: Actualite and HumAngle**

Ethiopia

03 February 2026: In Kebele 14, Bahir Dar city, East Gojjam, Amhara region, a doctor was arrested on his way to work and killed by ENDF members after they searched his home. **Source: Personal Communication**

South Sudan

29 January 2026: In Pieri town, Jonglei state, MSF was forced to evacuate its facility, discharge patients and remove emergency kits due to intensified conflict. **Sources: MSF and New Age**

As reported on 30 January 2026: Update: In Jonglei state, access restrictions limited MSF's ability to deliver essential medical assistance, including for children, pregnant women, and people with chronic conditions, since humanitarian access in opposition-held areas was blocked by South Sudan's government in December 2025. **Sources: MSF and New Age**

02 February 2026: In Jonglei state, all humanitarian flights were suspended by the government, cutting off medical supplies affecting at least 23 critically ill patients, including children and pregnant women. **Source: The Associated Press**

03 February 2026: In Lankien town, Nyirol county, Jonglei state, an MSF hospital was struck and damaged by a government airstrike, injuring a staff member. The hospital's main warehouse was destroyed, along with most of the critical medical supplies. The facility had been evacuated hours before following increased tensions and after MSF received information about a possible attack against the town. An unspecified number of aid workers were reported missing after the strike. **Sources: Al Jazeera and MSF**

03 February 2026: In Pieri town, Urur county, Jonglei state, an MSF health facility was looted in the afternoon by unidentified perpetrators, rendering it unusable. **Sources: Al Jazeera and MSF**

As reported on 03 February 2026: In Jonglei state, 17 health facilities were closed due to ongoing conflict and access restrictions, and health and nutrition supplies were looted in 10 incidents by an unidentified armed group. **Source: UN News**

Sudan

Insecurity Insight identified at least 689 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Sudan since fighting started between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April 2023 and 30 December 2025. At least 175 health workers were killed and 96 arrested, while health facilities, including maternity and children's hospitals, as well as dialysis centres were reportedly damaged on 175 occasions. Pharmacies were looted and the delivery of life-saving medicines was obstructed from reaching people in need. Over two-thirds of these 689 incidents were attributed to the RSF.

North, South and West Kordofan have become increasingly affected by the conflict, with recent months marked by artillery shelling, air and drone strikes, and contested control over key towns and strategic assets. During the reporting period, 60 incidents affecting health care were reported across these three states. Overall, 55% of these incidents were recorded in North Kordofan, while cases in South Kordofan have increased in recent months. In these 60 incidents, 23 health workers were killed, and health facilities were hit and damaged by artillery shelling, air and drone strikes at least 15 times. These incidents degrade already limited access to essential medical services and increase risks for civilians and health workers.

Incident briefs: **21 January-03 February**; **07-20 January**; **24 December 2025-06 January**; **10-23 December**; **26 November-09 December**; **12-25 November**; **29 October-11 November**; **15-28 October**; **01-14 October**; **All**

SHCC factsheets (EN): **2023**; **2022**; **2021**. (AR): **2023**; **2022**; **2021**.

Asia

Myanmar

Insecurity Insight identified at least 1853 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Myanmar since the military coup on 01 February 2021 and 23 December 2025. Health facilities were reportedly damaged or destroyed 460 times, 163 health workers were killed and 906 arrested. These attacks on health care severely undermined the provision of medical services, forcing facilities to close or scale back operations and endangering patients' lives. Violence, aerial and drone strikes, and restrictions on medical supplies disrupted care delivery, causing long-term damage to health systems and the wellbeing of affected populations. 70% of these 1853 incidents were attributed to the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF).

During 2025, incidents increased in Yangon region compared to previous years, following an initial spike observed in the early post-coup period. Health workers, particularly those linked to the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) or expressing political criticism, were arrested, including for social media activity. Private and NGO health facilities were repeatedly impacted through temporary shutdowns, sealing orders, and looting, often on accusations of CDM affiliation, support to PDFs, or regulatory violations. February 2025 marked a peak in forced closures of private health

facilities, while incidents of vandalism, medicines seizures, and damage to ambulances highlighted growing insecurity. By late 2025, these incidents intensified further constricting space for health care provision in Yangon region.

Incident briefs: **21 January-03 February**; **07-20 January**; **24 December 2025-06 January**; **10-23 December**; **26 November-09 December**; **12-25 November**; **29 October-11 November**; **15-28 October**; **01-14 October**; **All**

SHCC Factsheets: Burmese: **2024**; **2023**. English: **2024**; **2023**: **2022**; **2021**; **2020**

Pakistan

23 January 2026: In Quetta city, Balochistan province, a student was arrested at the Children's Hospital by Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Department. **Source: IANS LIVE**

24 January 2026: In Ganj Chowk area, Quetta city, Balochistan province, a doctor was arrested by Pakistan's Counter Terrorism Department. **Source: IANS LIVE**

Europe

Russian Federation

26 January 2026: In Churovichi human settlement, Klimovskiy district, Bryansk oblast, an ambulance was struck and damaged by Ukrainian kamikaze drones. **Source: ACLED**[1]

29 January 2026: In Grayvoron town, Belgorod oblast, a hospital building was struck by a Russian drone strike, killing a health worker and injuring three people. A hospital service vehicle was damaged. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Ukraine

24 January 2026: In Industrial district, Kharkiv city, urban hromada, raion and oblast, a hospital, a maternity hospital and a medical college dormitory housing IDPs, were damaged by a Russian Shahed drone attack overnight. 14 people were injured, including a pregnant woman and a child. At the medical college dormitory, at least 120 windows and structures were damaged, and 40 people were evacuated to another temporary residence within Kharkiv. **Sources: Gvara Media**, **Inkorr I**, **Inkorr II**, **Inkorr III**, **Inkorr IV**, **Mayor of Kharkiv I**, **Mayor of Kharkiv II**, **The Ukrainian News Agency I**, **The Ukrainian News Agency II** and **UA NEWS**

As reported on 26 January 2026: In Troieshchyna district, Kyiv city, local authorities were forced to make alternative medical provision due to the destruction of the energy system in the region. Tent camps with beds were set up at two locations for people who needed pre-medical care or had medical indications. Patients could wait for the arrival of medical personnel at the State Emergency Service warming centres. **Source: New Voice** and **UA Varta**

28 January 2026: In Oleksandrivka rural settlement, Kramatorsk raion, Donetsk oblast, a hospital and other civilian infrastructure including a boiler house were damaged by Russian "Geran-2" UAV strike. **Source: National Police of Ukraine** and **UA Varta**

01 February 2026: In Zaporizhzhia city, urban hromada, raion and oblast, the gynaecological department of a hospital was hit by a Russian missile strike, injuring six people including a doctor, a nurse, a patient at a private dental clinic, and two women who were undergoing medical examinations. **Sources: 24tv**, **Fakty**, **Hromadske**, **Interfax**, **Informator**, **Kurazh**, **Obozrevatel**, **NV**, **Podrobnosti**, **RBC**, **RIA-M**, **Ukrinform I**, **Ukrinform II**, **Ukrainian Reporter**, **UA Varta** and **Unian**

Middle East and North Africa

Iran

19 January 2026: In Tehran city, county and province, a 45-year-old physiotherapist was arrested at her home by Iranian security forces and transferred to an undisclosed location. **Source: Hengaw Organization for Human Rights**

Around 23 January 2026: In Lahijan city and county, Gilan province, a 36-year-old dentist was detained and tortured by Iranian government forces. As of 01 February, his physical and psychological condition was reported to be critical, and his place of detention remains undisclosed. **Source: Hengaw Organization for Human Rights**

As reported on 25 January 2026: In Ardabil city, county and province, a specialist dermatologist was arrested by Iranian government forces after treating people injured during protests in the city. **Sources: Iran International and Hengaw Organization for Human Rights V**

25 January 2026: In Isfahan province, a health worker and his two brothers were arrested by government forces and were later transferred to Dastgerd Central Prison in Isfahan, where they were held for 11 days without clarification of their legal status. **Source: Hengaw Organization for Human Rights**

As reported on 26 January 2026: In Qazvin city, county and province, a general surgeon was arrested and beaten during a raid on his home by Iranian government forces. He faced charges of 'waging war against God' - a capital offense under Iranian law that carries the risk of execution - for providing medical care and support to injured protesters. He was falsely accused of espionage and labelled a traitor. **Sources: Change and Hengaw Organization for Human Rights**

30 January 2026: In Qazvin city, county and province, two doctors - the head of Pasteur Hospital and an ophthalmologist at the Social Security Hospital - were detained by Iranian authorities after treating individuals injured during the protests. **Source: Hengaw Organization for Human Rights**

As reported 30 January 2026: In Shirvan city and county, North Khorasan province, a pharmacy student at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences was arrested by Iranian government forces during protests and prosecuted by Iranian authorities on the serious charge of "moharebeh", placing him at risk of a death sentence. **Source: Hengaw Organization for Human Rights**

Lebanon

23 January 2026: In Baalbeck city, Baalbek-Hermel Governorate, Beqaa Valley, the vicinity of Al-Amal Hospital was struck by Israeli drones. **Source: Quds News Network**

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Insecurity Insight identified at least 3057 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in the occupied Palestinian territory between 07 October 2023 and 30 December 2025. Over 95% of these incidents were attributed to Israeli forces. In Gaza, where 2231 incidents were recorded, health facilities, including children's hospitals, dental clinics, field hospitals, health clinics, hospitals, medical storage facilities, pharmacies, and rehabilitation clinics were struck were damaged 435 times, 746 health workers were killed and 361 arrested. In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, where 847 attacks on health care were recorded, health facilities were damaged 28 times, 12 health workers were killed and 171 arrested. Emergency medical services were obstructed from providing vital medical care to people in need over 400 times.

Incident briefs: **21 January-03 February**; **07-20 January**; **24 December 2025-06 January**; **10-23 December**; **26 November-09 December**; **12-25 November**; **29 October-11 November**; **15-28 October**; **01-14 October**; **All**

SHCC Factsheets (EN): **2024; 2023**; **2022**; **2021**. (AR): **2024**; **2023**; **2022**; **2021**.

Syrian Arab Republic

21 January 2026: In Qamishli city and district, Al-Hasakah governorate, the Prosthetics Centre was struck by a Turkish forces drone at 0030hrs. **Sources: A Kurdish Red Crescent and North Press Agency**

Yemen

As reported 14 January 2026: In Sana'a city, Amanat Al-Asemah governorate, Al-Thawra General Hospital was reportedly turned into a security control centre by Houthi forces, who brought female members of the "Zainabiyat Brigades" into the hospital to carry out monitoring duties. **Source: Yemen News Now**

23 January 2026: In Al-Asila district, Nakhla region, a doctor was shot multiple times and killed in her home by suspected Houthi gunmen. **Sources: Al-Sahwa and Khabar Agency**

30 January 2026: In Sana'a city, Amanat Al-Asemah governorate, the MSF headquarters was raided by Houthi forces, who seized communications equipment. The organisation was informed by the perpetrators that they had the intention to return assets taken three months earlier, however instead confiscated more equipment. **Source: Khabar Agency**

The Americas

Colombia

28 January 2026: In Ricaurte village, Ricaurte district, Norte de Santander department, a doctor on his way to work was abducted by unidentified armed perpetrators. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Mexico

26 January 2026: In Acatepec city, La Montaña region, Guerrero state, a patient in a parked ambulance was attacked and injured by armed men in two vehicles; the same men who had initially injured him. He was taken to hospital. **Source: ACLED**[1]

26 January 2026: On Avenida del Peñón, Chimalhuacán state, a 30-year-old dentist was killed in her office around 1300hrs by unidentified perpetrators. **Sources: Pagina Central and Quinto Poder**

29 January 2026: On Juan Pablo II Avenue, Chihuahua city and state, Ave Fénix Rehabilitation Centre was entered by a gunman who opened fire with a 9mm handgun on a patient undergoing treatment. A security guard at the facility beat and apprehended the gunman before handing him to police. The patient was treated by paramedics and the state opened an investigation **Sources: Juarez Bravo and Notigram**

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

21 January 2026: In Ghatagacha town, Nadia district, West Bengal state, a bus carrying female health workers on their way to a protest was stopped by police, who dragged them out, barricaded the bus, and injured two health workers. **Source: ACLED**[1]

The Americas

United States of America

24 January 2026: On Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis city, Minnesota state, a 37-year-old intensive care nurse of Department of Veterans Affairs hospital was shot 10 times and killed while restrained on the ground by a group of eight Federal agents during protests. The agents were carrying out Operation Metro Surge, a large-scale immigration enforcement initiative that launched in December 2025. At least two members of Customs and Border Protection were identified to have been involved and reportedly placed on leave as a result. **Sources: ABC News, Global News, The Guardian and The New York Times**

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 the Tides Foundation. The opinions expressed in it do not reflect in any way the position of the UK government or the Tides Foundation who are not responsible for the content expressed in this document.

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**.

Insecurity Insight. 2025. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 21 January-03 February 2026. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. https://bit.ly/21Jan-03Feb2026Health

[1] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) **database attribution policy**. Accessed 05 February 2026.