

Safeguarding Healthcare Monthly News Brief

Insecurity affecting the delivery of healthcare

Healthcare

November
2017

Threats and violence affecting emergency care

Libya

28 November 2017: In Sirte city, Tripolitania region, gunmen seized an ambulance belonging to Ibn Sina Educational Hospital whilst it was transporting a doctor. The vehicle was recovered on 30 November. Source: [Alwasat](#)

South Africa

08 November 2017: In Cape Town, robbers threw stones at an ambulance on N2, near Borchard's Quarry, while it was transporting a severely injured boy to hospital. The criminals robbed the crew at gunpoint. The patient did not survive. Three suspects are believed to be behind this attack. Source: [News24](#)

16 November 2017: In Cape Town, unidentified perpetrators attempted to hijack an ambulance from the Mfuleni Day Hospital, but fled when members of the public approached the vehicle. A day later, Mfuleni area was declared a red zone, where ambulances are not allowed to enter without police escort. Source: [News24](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

06 November 2017: In Ma'r Shmarin village, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired a missile near a Syrian Civil Defense (SCD) team as they were responding to a previous bombing. An ambulance and two evacuation vehicles were heavily damaged, and rendered unusable. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

09 November 2017: In al Nashabiya town, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, Syrian regime artillery reportedly fired a shell near an ambulance belonging to SCD centre 114, damaging it. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

12 November 2017: In Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, food and medicine entered Douma city for the first time in three months. However, fierce fighting in the area on 15 November forced relief workers to stop the distribution. In addition, two rockets of unknown origin, struck the warehouse. Source: [Mail Online](#)

This monthly digest comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to healthcare.

It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

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15 November 2017: In Saqba city, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, a believed to be Syrian force rocket reportedly loaded with cluster submunition landed near an ambulance belonging to SCD. No damage was reported. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

15 November 2017: In Saqba city, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, a male national paramedic was reportedly killed by Syrian regime forces rocket launchers that shelled the area. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

17 November 2017: In East Ghouta, Damascus, Syrian forces warplanes reportedly fired a missile that killed three SCD volunteers as they were providing aid to civilian wounded in an earlier bombing. An unspecified number of other volunteers were also injured. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#) and [The New Arab](#)

18 November 2017: In Madyara village, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, Syrian regime forces warplanes reportedly fired a missile that landed near an ambulance belonging to SCD centre 90, wounding one volunteer and damaging the ambulance. The ambulance was put out of service. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

19 November 2017: In Hamouriya, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, a male national SCD volunteer was reportedly killed by Syrian regime forces rocket launchers as the he was providing aid to civilians wounded in an earlier bombing. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

26 November 2017: In Ma'aret Misreen town, Idlib governorate, an IED planted by gunmen exploded inside an ambulance belonging to Syria Relief and Development (SRD) in front of al Helal Hospital, damaging it. As a result, the ambulance was put out of service. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

Threats and violence affecting general healthcare

Africa

Brazil

28 November 2017: In Vista Legre neighbourhood, Belo Horizonte city, Minas Gerais state, suspected bandits forced a nurse at Ildefonso Cícero health centre to collect money and mobile phones from staff and patients. Subsequently, the Municipal Health Department suspended the operations at the health facility until 29 November. Source: [Globo](#)

Central African Republic

11 November 2017: In Bangui, the parents of a patient wounded by a grenade explosion in the countryside assaulted an MSF employee in unspecified circumstances. Source: [Médecins Sans Frontières \(MSF\)](#)

12 November 2017: In Zemio town, Haut-Mbomou prefecture, armed robbers targeted an MSF team. No further information available. Source: [MSF](#)

20 November 2017: In Bangassou town, Mbomou prefecture, unknown gunmen ransacked MSF's base, and stole 50 million CFA franc (approximately 419,000 EUR), and other unspecified items. Subsequently, MSF evacuated 58 national and international staff from the city, and suspended medical operations. Sources: [MSF](#), [RJDH](#) and [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#)

Colombia

02 November 2017: In Cartagena, Caribbean region, Bolivar department, local criminals broke into Arroyo Grande community health centre, five metres away from a police station, stealing four air-conditioners, and several construction elements that were in the place. Source: [RCN Radio](#)

08 November 2017: In Gómez Farías municipality, Chihuahua state, suspected gunmen from an organised criminal group fired shots at the office of a doctor and director of the Health Ministry's regional clinic. They also broke into his house, fired shots at doors and windows, and eventually kidnapped him. The motive behind this assault could be that the perpetrators wanted him to treat a wounded fellow, or because the doctor was attending to a member of the state police force, or because the father of the doctor owns a restaurant where members of the state police force eat. On 09 November, the hospital and 16 health centres across the municipality remained shut due to security reasons. Sources: [El Universal](#), [Milenio](#), [Notimerica](#), [Sin Embargo](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

25 November 2017: In Manono town and territory, Tanganyika province, MSF Switzerland reportedly ended its activities in Gety, Boga and Bunia zones. Source: [Radio Okapi](#)

Libya

19 November 2017: In Sabha city, Fezzan region, unspecified perpetrators kidnapped a doctor from his car in front of Sabha Medical Centre. He was released in good health on 28 November. Source: [Alwasat](#) and [SabhaJournalist](#)

Mexico

02 November 2017: In Tamuín municipio, San Luis Potosí state, a doctor, who had been kidnapped by unspecified perpetrators since 02 October, was found dead, even though his family had reportedly paid 250 thousand pesos for a ransom that the perpetrators demanded for his release. Source: [Sin Embargo](#)

15 November 2017: In Michoacán, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Puebla, Tabasco, Veracruz, Sinaloa and Tamaulipas states, organised criminal groups have, so far in 2017, killed at least 40 doctors. Source: [Dossier Politico](#)

16 November 2017: In Chihuahua state, organised crime has forced the community hospital and more than a dozen other health centres to close, depriving at least eight communities across five municipalities from medical services. Source: [Milenio](#)

Morocco

30 November 2017: In Rabat, dozens of unemployed nurses and graduates of the higher institutes of nursing and health technologies held a demonstration at the Health Ministry to express their discontent at the lack of jobs in the country, which affects an estimated 7,000 nurses. Source: [Maghress](#)

Nigeria

15 November 2017: In Ajaokuta, Kogi state, gunmen attacked a vehicle carrying the chief medical doctor and the director of administration of the Federal Teaching Hospital Abakaliki (FETHA), and abducted them while they were on their way to Abuja. The driver managed to escape with gunshot wounds. The victims were released unharmed on 17 November. Source: [The News Nigeria](#)

Pakistan

07 November 2017: In Arif Kalay Khwar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a remote-controlled IED exploded near two anti-polio workers and their police guard, causing no injuries. Source: [Dawn](#)

23 November 2017: In Shabqadar town, Charsadda district, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, five alleged Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants, who had planned to launch an attack against anti-polio vaccination teams in the area, were arrested by the police. Source: [The Express Tribune](#)

Peru

07 November 2017: In Lima, three masked criminals attacked a team of four plastic surgeons, including the head of the NGO Qorito, as they were on their way to the airport for a charity mission elsewhere in the country, stealing their surgical instruments, money, clothing and luggage. Source: [Trome](#)

Syrian Arabian Republic

08 November 2017: In Saqba city, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, Syrian regime forces warplanes reportedly fired several missiles at Farha Center for Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation, partially destroying the building and damaging equipment. The facility was forced to temporarily close. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

13 November 2017: In al Atareb city, Aleppo governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired a missile that landed near a health centre supported by MSF, damaging the building and equipment. The facility was forced to temporarily close. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

20 November 2017: In Kafr Batna, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, Syrian regime forces rocket launchers reportedly fired at least nine surface-to-surface rockets that landed near al Kahf Hospital (also known as al Sel Hospital), partially destroying the building and damaging equipment. The facility was forced to close. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

30 November 2017: In Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, as fighting declined in large parts of the country, humanitarian workers remain unable to deliver food and medicine to the 400,000 civilians trapped there due to constant bombing by the Syrian Air Force and pro-government and rebel ground forces. Source: [The New York Times](#)

Thailand

05 November 2017: In Krathum Ban district, Bangkok, 11 young men stormed a hospital emergency room and attacked a patient and two of his friends before fleeing the scene, and firing 12 gunshots outside the building. On 07 November, police arrested eight of the 11 men. Source: [The Bangkok Post](#)

Yemen

06 November 2017: In Sana'a, the Saudi-led coalition imposed a blockade on all land, sea and air deliveries. On 18 November, the same coalition did not authorise MSF to fly from Djibouti to Sana'a to deliver aid to crisis-affected people. By 21 November, the coalition had stopped 32 scheduled humanitarian flights from flying to Yemen. On 22 November, the coalition announced the reopening of Al Hudaydah seaport, with effect from 23 November, to receive humanitarian aid, and Sana'a International Airport to UN aircrafts designated for relief efforts. On 24 November, major agencies claimed that aid was still being blocked. On 25 November, airplanes carrying medical supplies could land in Sana'a. On 26 November, a WFP ship carrying 5,500 tonnes of wheat arrived at the seaport of Saleef, 70 kilometres north of the Al Hudaydah port. Sources: [ABC News](#), [BBC \(a\)](#), [BBC \(b\)](#), [BBC \(c\)](#), [Daily Sabah](#), [IRIN \(a\)](#), [IRIN \(b\)](#), [Middle East Eye](#), [NPR](#), [Reuters \(a\)](#), [Reuters \(b\)](#), [Saudi Gazette](#), [The Guardian \(a\)](#), [The Guardian \(b\)](#), [The Start Tribune](#) and [UN News Centre](#)

Medical education

Africa

Brazil

15 November 2017: In Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais state, unidentified perpetrators stabbed a professor at the Federal University of Minas Gerais School of Medicine for no specified reason. The victim later succumbed to his wounds. Source: [Diário do Nordeste](#)

Cameroon

07 November 2017: In Tiko town, Fako department, Southwest region, suspected criminals torched the Maflekumen Higher Institute of Health and Science at Lagos Street, destroying the building. No further information available. Source: [Cameroon-Info](#)

Mexico

11 November 2017: In Juárez, Chihuahua state, dozens of medical students held a demonstration in front of the Faculty of Medicine of the Autonomous University of Chihuahua to protest against violence across the region that is preventing them from performing their duties in villages of the regional highlands. Source: [Televisa](#)

Sudan

17 November 2017: In West Darfur state, interns at hospitals started an indefinite strike to protest about the low pay. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

13 November 2017: In al Atareb city, Aleppo governorate, a male national medical laboratory scientist was reportedly killed by missiles fired at the local market by suspected Russian warplanes. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

Strikes and supply concerns

Africa

Algeria

14 November 2017: Throughout Algeria, resident doctors led by the Autonomous Collective of Algerian Resident Doctors (CAMRA) started a two-day, national strike to protest against the lack of security in hospitals, and poor working conditions. Sources: [Liberte Algerie](#), [News Algeria](#)

28 November 2017: In Tébéssa city and province, Shawi region, more than 1,000 resident doctors from various hospitals started a strike that would end on 29 November, and held a march inside Mustafa Basha University Hospital, demanding, inter alia, improved working conditions. Source: [El Khabar](#)

Angola

09 November 2017: In Luanda, a union of nurses announced the suspension of certain consultations and additional physical examinations performed by nurses with effect from 13 November in protest against the non-payment of a specific allowance. Source: [VOA](#)

10 November 2017: In Luanda, the Central Hospital of Luanda authorities have not paid about 80 employees, including doctors, nurses, secretaries, and cooks, for almost two years. Source: [Novo Journal](#)

13 November 2017: In Benguela province, employees of the Haemodialysis Centre of the Municipal Hospital of Benguela and Lobito municipalities went on a strike in protest the non-payment of their salaries, putting the lives of at least 220 patients in the Benguela facility at risk. Source: [Agencia Angola Press](#)

30 November 2017: In Luanda, nurses at all hospital units led by the Union of Nursing Technicians stopped carrying out activities that are the legal competence of doctors, such as consultations and prescriptions of medicine, pending the payment of subsidy grants by the provincial government. Source: [Journal de Angola, O Pais](#)

Benin

12 November 2017: A strike that has been going on in health facilities for two months has resulted in the death of an unspecified number of people in need of medical care. Meanwhile, the Beninese government and health sector unions group reached a draft agreement. Source: [aCotonou](#)

Bolivia

23 November 2017: Doctors led by the Medical Association of Bolivia started an unlimited countrywide strike, suspending medical activities in public health facilities. Source: [La Razon](#)

Libya

19 November 2017: In Sabha city, Fezzan region, doctors started a 10-day strike to protest the abduction of a doctor by unspecified perpetrators on 19 November. Source: [SabhaJournalist](#)

Mozambique

02 November 2017: In Nampula province, hundreds of refugees, mostly women, demonstrated in front of the administration building of the Maratane Centre protested, demanding an explanation from the Mozambique authorities, UNHCR and WFP concerning humanitarian supplies that have not been distributed for several months. Source: [DW](#)

Niger

Update: 17 October 2017: In Niamey, the Nigerien government closed 14 private clinics for failing to respect laws, regulations and procedures pertaining to, inter alia, conditions and drug pricing. Source: [Niamey et les 2 Jours](#)

Pakistan

23 November 2017: In Sindh province, female health workers staged a protest during an anti-polio drive in Sukkur town and district, and Badin city and district, to protest non-payment of salaries. The strike was ended after the district health officer held talks with them. Source: [Dawn](#)

Togo

06 November 2017: In Lomé, health workers protested the non-payment of eight months' salary, poor working conditions, lack of resources, and unfair dismissals. Source: [Togo Tribune](#)

Uganda

06 November 2017: Doctors led by the Uganda Medical Association (UMA) held a strike to demand a salary increase and duty allowances of health professionals, paralysing health services in all hospitals countrywide. Source: [New Vision](#)

16 November 2017: The Ugandan President reportedly threatened to sack striking doctors. Source: [Red Pepper](#)

28 November 2017: Nurses led by the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Union (UNMU) threatened to hold a strike, if their request for a 400 percent salary increase is not met by the Ugandan government within seven days. Source: [Observer](#)

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Aid in Danger



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