

Attacks on Health Care

News Brief

18 February-03
March 2026

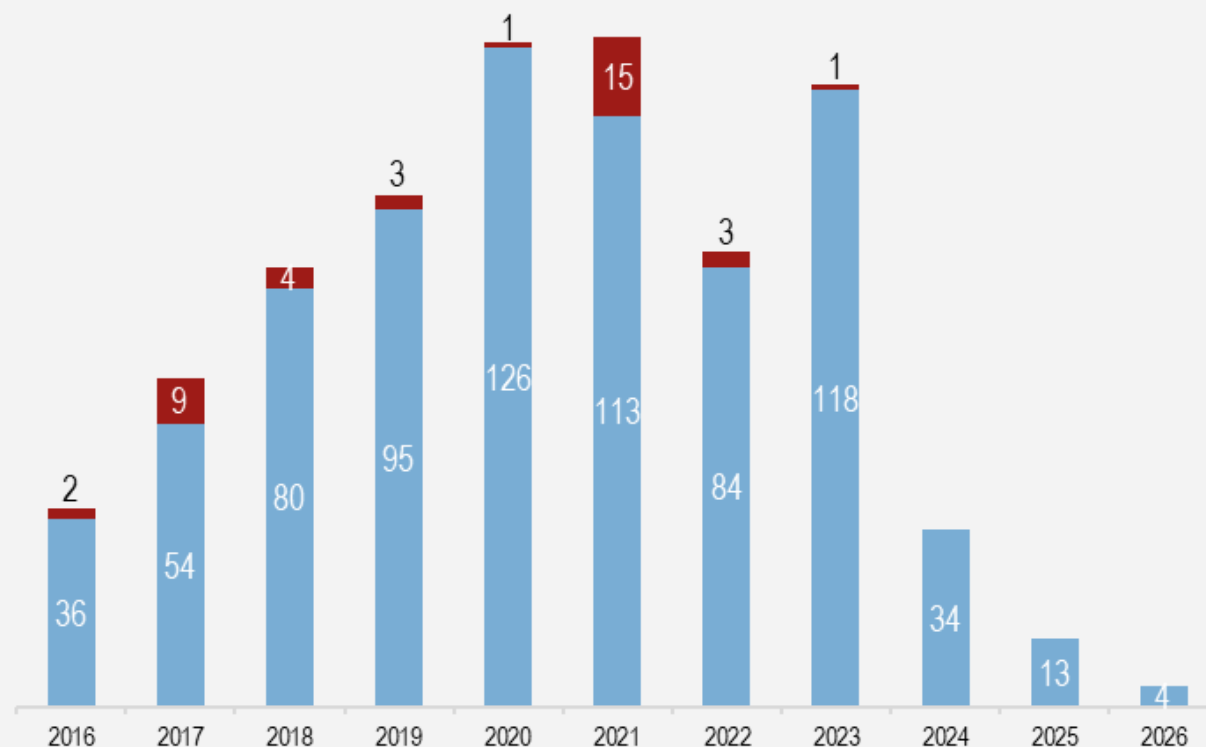
At approximately 21:00 on Monday, 16 March, an airstrike struck the Omid Addiction Treatment Hospital in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, a two-storey facility with 2,000 beds serving some of the country's most vulnerable patients. The attack destroyed large sections of the hospital, killing more than 400 people and injuring up to 250 others. The Taliban authorities have accused Pakistan of carrying out the airstrike, amid rapidly worsening tensions that risk spiralling into wider conflict. The Pakistani government has denied responsibility. This incident may be among the deadliest since hostilities intensified last year, when relations between Pakistan and Taliban authorities sharply deteriorated.

In October 2015, the MSF hospital in Kunduz was bombed by US forces killing 42 people providing the impetus for the UN Security Council to pass resolution 2286 in May 2016. Since 2016, Insecurity Insight has documented 795 incidents of violence or obstruction of health care in Afghanistan. 38 (or around 5 % of all reported incidents) involved the use of explosive weapons that damaged or destroyed health facilities, killing a total of 12 health workers and injuring 42 others.

View the incidents on our [interactive map](#). Download the [data](#) (updated every Monday). Numbers may change if or when further information is made available. Please [get in touch](#) for data enquiries.

Reported incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Afghanistan 01 January 2016-01 February 2026

- Incidents where explosive weapons damaged/destroyed health facilities (38)
- All other remaining incidents (757)



Source: Insecurity Insight

Past editions: [04-17 February](#); [21 January-03 February](#); [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](#); [All](#)

SHCC Reports: [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#); [All](#)

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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

Chad

21 February 2026: In El Tina town, Wadi Fira region, an MSF hospital was closed due to heavy fighting between RSF and SAF across the border in El Tina town, Sudan, and was relocated to a previously unused facility. **Source:** [Radio Dabanga](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

18 February 2026: In Kisangani city, Tshopo province, Catherine and Prosper Medical Centre was attacked by angry taxi drivers attempting to vandalise the facility after their colleague was attacked by an armed FARDC soldier in his hospital bed the previous day. **Source:** [Actualite](#) and [Kivu News](#)

18 February 2026: In Maiyamoto village, Busendo locality, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu province, an MSF ambulance transporting medicines to the Kibirizi health area, and a Norwegian Refugee Council vehicle travelling from Vitshumbi to Goma were intercepted and looted at around 1100hrs at roadblocks affiliated with M23 and RDF fighters. **Source:** [Kivu News](#) and [Radio Okapi](#)

18 February 2026: In Masisi town, Bahunde chiefdom, Masisi territory, North Kivu province, a nurse of Masisi General Referral Hospital was shot and killed by unidentified armed men who stormed his home at around 2300hrs. **Source:** [Actualite](#)

Ethiopia

As reported 19 February 2026: In the Eastern zone, Tigray region, Downhan Primary Hospital was looted and damaged during clashes. As of 19 February, it had been renovated by ICRC. **Source:** [ICRC Ethiopia](#)

22 February 2026: In Shindi town, Wemberima woreda, West Gojjam zone, a community clinic was burnt down by ENDF forces, destroying all medical supplies and equipment. **Source:** [Amhara Association of America](#)

Nigeria

18 February 2026: In Lagos city, a Nigerian Red Cross worker was arrested by Nigerian police without an arrest warrant or informing his family or lawyers of any offence. He was then flown to Abuja on what police officers described as orders from the top. **Source:** [Sahara Reporters](#)

South Sudan

18 February 2026: Across Panyijar county, Unity state, health programmes were temporarily suspended following a breakdown in administrative protocols and escalating security concerns. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

22 February 2026: Along Lotome-Bira road, Kampala corner, Ikos county, Eastern Equatoria state, a nutritionist was shot and killed by unidentified armed men while travelling from work at Nakoringole Primary Health Care Unit at around 1700hrs. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

Sudan

Insecurity Insight identified at least **706 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 03 February 2025. At least 182 health workers were killed and 107 arrested, while health facilities, including maternity and children's hospitals, as well as dialysis centres were reportedly damaged on 180 occasions. Pharmacies were looted and the delivery of life-saving medicines was obstructed from reaching people in need. Over two-thirds of these 706 incidents were attributed to the RSF.

At least 107 health workers were arrested or detained in 58 incidents across 13 states during the reporting period. In the first year of the conflict, most arrests or detentions occurred in Khartoum. Since then, cases have spread to other areas, with increases reported in the Darfur and Kordofan regions. Doctors, emergency medical workers, nurses, pharmacists, and surgeons were arrested or detained by the RSF and SAF, often on accusations of supporting opposing conflict parties. Staff were often beaten or threatened while in detention. Four health workers arrested by the RSF were reportedly killed while in detention, including a doctor who was arrested in late October at the Saudi Hospital in El Fasher and shot and killed the following day. Of the 107 health workers arrested, 26 were reportedly released. The status of the remaining detained health workers remains unclear.

Download the [data](#) (updated every Monday). Please [get in touch](#) for data enquiries.

Incident briefs: [18 February-03 March](#); [04-17 February](#); [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](#); [All](#)



Asia

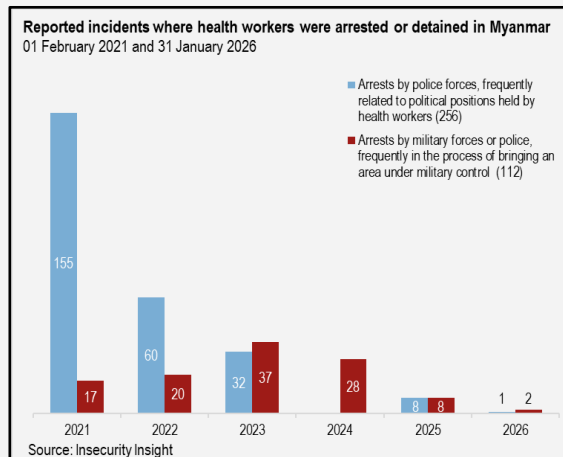
Afghanistan

28 February 2026: In Torkham town, Nangarhar Province, a 20-bed emergency hospital was struck by Pakistani forces airstrikes. Staff were relocated to a safe area and continued to provide medical services with all available resources. **Sources:** [UN](#) and [TOLONews](#)

Myanmar

Insecurity Insight identified at least **1873 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Myanmar** since the military coup on 01 February 2021 and 31 January 2026. Health facilities were reportedly damaged or destroyed 472 times and used for non-medical purposes 228 times. At least 170 health workers were killed and 909 arrested. 70% of these incidents were attributed to the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF).

At least 909 health workers were reportedly arrested or detained in 368 incidents across 17 regions and states during the reporting period. In the first year of the military coup, health workers were mostly arrested on allegations of Civil Disobedience Movement-affiliation, because of the care they provided to injured local defense forces (LDF) or their leadership roles as caregivers in communities, including rural communities and clandestine networks opposed to the military government. Over time, the reasons for arrests shifted from security forces' arresting health workers treating injured protesters to arresting them for allegedly assisting or being affiliated with LDFs or for political activism on social media.



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Pakistan

23 February 2026: In the Karak area, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, an ambulance transporting Pakistani soldiers who had been injured in an attack on a military checkpoint, was set on fire by armed militants, killing five people and injuring three others. **Source:** [Zawia News](#)

Europe

Ukraine

As reported 20 February 2026: In Kupiansk city, urban hromada and raion, Kharkiv oblast, around 30 Russian soldiers were stationed in residential buildings surrounding the city hospital, receiving supplies and logistical support via drones. **Sources:** [Mezha](#) and [UA Varta](#)

20 February 2026: In Stanislav rural settlement and rural hromada, Kherson raion and oblast, a mobile medical centre was attacked with a Russian drone, causing a fire. The generator was damaged and the air conditioner was destroyed. **Source:** [UNN](#)

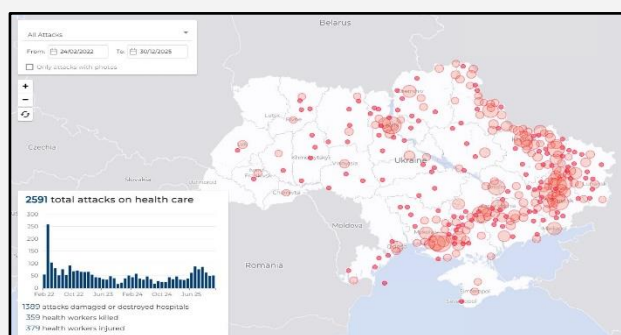
21 February 2026: Near Uralove village, Znob-Novhorodka settlement hromada, Shostka raion, Sumy oblast, an ambulance transporting two brothers injured by a Russian forces drone was fired at by another drone. A paramedic and her husband, a police officer assisting with the evacuation, were killed, along with the two brothers. **Sources:** [Blitz Info](#), [Channel 5 I](#), [Channel 5 II](#), [Dankor Online I](#), [Dankor Online II](#), [Interfax](#), [Kordon Media](#), [Mezha](#), [Obozrevatel](#), [Socportal Info](#), [Sumi Media](#), [Sumy Regional Centre for Emergency Medical Care and Disaster Medicine](#), [TSN](#), [UA Varta](#), [Ukrinform](#), [UNN](#), [Your Chance](#) and [ZN,UA](#)

27 February 2026: In Izmail city, urban hromada and raion, Odesa oblast, the outpatient department of the Danube branch of Odesa Regional Hospital was damaged by Russian drone strikes. **Sources:** [Izmail Vechernii](#), [News of Ukraine](#), [Pravda](#), [Teplodar](#) and [ZN,UA](#)

27 February 2026: In Kupiansk city, urban hromada and raion, Kharkiv oblast, an ambulance travelling to a call was attacked twice by a Russian drone. **Sources:** [Sloboda Region I](#), [Sloboda Region II](#) and [UA Varta](#)

02 March 2026: In Kharkiv city, urban hromada, raion and oblast, gas supply to a hospital was cut off after Russian shelling damaged a gas pipeline that supplied one of the city's districts. **Source:** [Kharkiv Times](#)

At least [2,591](#) attacks on health care in Ukraine have been documented by Insecurity Insight since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, making it one of the most dangerous conflicts for patients' accessing health care. In these incidents, 359 health workers were killed and 379 injured. Health facilities have been damaged over 1389 times. At least 127 attacks affected services that provide [health care for children](#). Explore this [interactive map](#) (available in English and Ukrainian) to see where incidents took place between 24 February 2022 and 30 December 2025.



SHCC factsheets: English: [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#). Ukrainian: [2024](#); [2023](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Iran

Due to the very high number of reported events in Iran during the reporting period, the corresponding data is available on [request](#).

Iraq

03 March 2026: In Koy Sanjaq town and district, Erbil governorate, Kurdistan region, a hospital in the Azadi camp - hosting Iranian Kurdish fighters and family members - was hit by a drone, wounding one person. Iran was blamed for the attack. **Sources:** [964media](#), [Arab News](#), [Kurdistan24](#), [Kurdistan Press Agency](#), [Middle East Broadcasting Networks](#), [Rudaw](#), [The New Arab](#) and [The New Region](#)

Lebanon

03 March 2026: In Siddiqin town, Tyre district, South governorate, three paramedics were killed and another six injured while recovering people injured by Israeli airstrikes. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [Vocal Politics](#) and [WHO](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Insecurity Insight identified at least 3207 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in the occupied Palestinian territory between 07 October 2023 and 16 February 2026. Over 95% of these incidents were attributed to Israeli forces. In Gaza, where 2267 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 439 times, 752 health workers were killed and 375 arrested. In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, where 880 attacks on health care were recorded, health facilities were damaged 28 times, 12 health workers were killed and 184 arrested. Emergency medical services were obstructed from providing vital medical care to people in need over 540 times.

At least 184 health workers were arrested or detained in 131 incidents in the West Bank and East Jerusalem during the reporting period. Health workers were arrested in their homes, hospitals and clinics, while trying to reach patients, inside refugee camps, and at Israeli checkpoints. Some staff were beaten or threatened while in detention. While the fates of most arrested health workers were not recorded, an orthopaedic surgeon was killed after he was detained by Israeli forces at Al-Zaim checkpoint during an IDF security operation in February 2024.

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The Americas

Mexico

20 February 2026: In Querétaro city, a doctor and his assistant were arrested during a raid at San José Hospital by security personnel and ministerial staff as part of an investigation into alleged drug-related offenses. The operation was carried out after obtaining a court order to conduct the search. **Source:** [Mega Noticias](#)

22 February 2026: In Jalisco state, a vaccination campaign at all scheduled off-site and mobile locations was temporarily suspended by the Jalisco Health Secretariat as a precaution following the killing of the leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. **Source:** [Mega Noticias](#)

22 February 2026: In Guadalajara city, Jalisco state, the Civil Hospital was reportedly entered by an armed group, suspected to be the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. **Sources:** [America's Voice News](#), [Informador](#), [Personal Communication](#) and [Security Cabinet Mexico](#)

As reported 23 February 2026: Across Jalisco, Michoacán and Guanajuato states, health workers were recommended to avoid wearing uniforms in public as a self-protection measure as security reports warned of possible kidnappings targeting health workers. The measure follows the killing of the leader of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel. **Source:** [ICNDiario](#)

24 February 2025: On Calzada Fray Juan de San Miguel, Uruapan city, Michoacán state, Uruapan Civil Hospital was entered by at least two individuals armed with a pistol. They threatened the cashier and stole money before escaping on a motorcycle. Police and National Guard officers arrived and deployed a large operation. **Sources:** [Atiempo](#), [La Voz de Michoacán](#) and [Quadratin Michoacán](#)

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**.

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