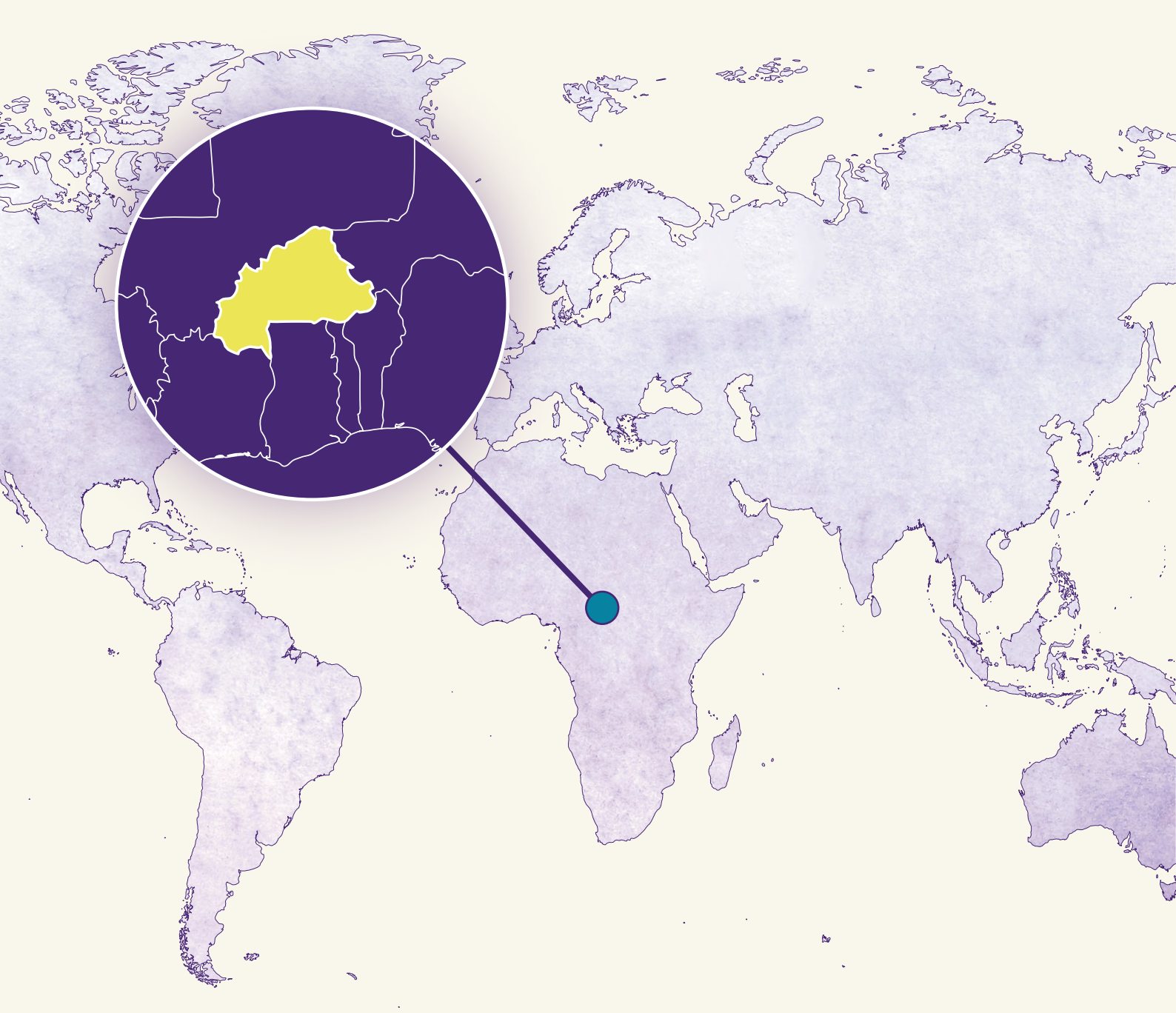
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Violence Against Health Care in Conflict

2025



SAFEGUARDING HEALTH IN CONFLICT

Insecurity Insight
Data on People in Danger

Central African Republic

REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS		
REPORTED INCIDENTS	INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH SUPPLIES WERE LOOTED	HEALTH WORKERS KIDNAPPED
2025		
23	6	6
2024		
16	8	0
2023		
41	4	4

Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

OVERVIEW

Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 23 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in 2025, compared to 16 in 2024 and 41 in 2023. Among incidents reported in 2025, at least six health workers were kidnapped and medical supplies were looted.

The actual number of incidents and the severity of the problem are likely greater, because attacks on health care may not have been reported in some locations and conflict-related service closures may not have been reflected in the data, while cuts to United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funding further reduced the presence of health care providers and the operation of health facilities.

Methodology and sources
Information on incidents of violence against health care in the CAR is compiled from open sources, aid agency data-sharing mechanisms and information projects. Data is continuously updated and numbers may change if new information is made publicly available. For the latest available figures, see Insecurity Insight's global map on attacks on health care. See Methodology for further information.

Central African Republic

THE CONTEXT

The protracted non-international armed conflict continued in the CAR in 2025, with reported violence increasing compared with 2024, particularly outside urban areas. The Central African Armed Forces (FACA), supported by the Russian private military entity Africa Corps (formerly the Wagner Group), continued security operations against non-state armed groups, including Return, Reclamation and Rehabilitation (3R), Union for Peace in the Central African Republic (UPC), and Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC). Violence against civilians was reported in several prefectures, notably in the west, southeast and northeast, including Vakaga, where high levels of civilian killings were reported. Violence also increased in Haut-Mbomou following the breakdown of the alliance between the FACA, Wagner Group and Azande Ani Kpi Gbe militia, which led to increased clashes in the prefecture. A peace agreement signed on April 19, 2025 between the FACA, UPC and 3R affected conflict dynamics, although insecurity persisted in multiple areas.

Humanitarian needs remained at high levels: an estimated 2.4 million people required assistance in 2025, while fewer than half of those targeted were reached. In the health sector, just over half of the targeted population received assistance. Needs were further shaped by continued displacement, the arrival of refugees from Sudan in northeastern parts of the CAR such as Vakaga and Haute-Kotto prefectures, and recurrent flooding and difficult weather conditions, which compounded barriers to those in need accessing health care and other essential services.

Funding cuts reduced the humanitarian presence in the CAR in 2025. In January, USAID funding, which covered around 50% of the humanitarian response in the country in 2024, was suspended, resulting in a significant reduction in humanitarian capacity, including health care. The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) ended in late April 2025, and around 25 NGOs closed. These developments limited access to health care and likely affected the reporting of incidents involving health care services, particularly in remote and conflict-affected areas.

VIOLENCE AGAINST OR OBSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CARE IN 2025

In 2025, violence against or obstruction of health care in the CAR was reported in ten prefectures, four more than in 2024, with new cases reported in Basse-Kotto, Kémo and Nana-Mambéré prefectures. Incidents surged in Haut-Mbomou from two in 2023-2024 to seven in 2025, and increased in Ouham-Pendé from one incident in 2023-2024 to five in 2025.

Most incidents were attributed to unidentified men armed with guns. 3R, Africa Corps, Azande Ani Kpi Gbe, CPC, and UPC were also named, along with FACA and gendarmerie forces. On one documented occasion, 3R militia deliberately set a health center on fire.[1]

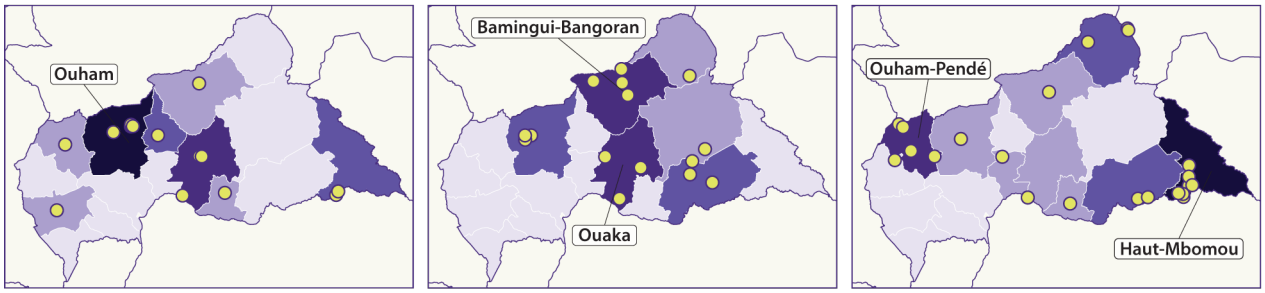
The majority of incidents affected health care providers working for national health structures, with one incident each affecting an NGO and Red Cross societies.[2]

Kidnappings of health workers rose in 2025, while the looting of health supplies persisted.

Central African Republic

Known locations of reported incidents affecting health care in Central African Republic, 2023-2025

Incidents increased in Haut-Mbomou prefecture following the breakdown of the alliance between the FACA, Wagner Group and Azande Ani Kpi Gbe militia. Incidents also rose in Ouham-Pendé prefecture in 2025.



Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

Health workers kidnapped

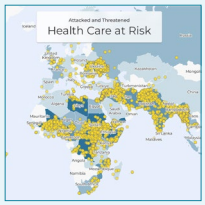
Six health workers were kidnapped in five incidents between June and December 2025, compared to zero reported incidents in 2024 and four kidnappings in two incidents in 2023. Three health workers were kidnapped while traveling to provide medical care, including two vaccinators kidnapped by Azande Ani Kpi Gbe fighters in Haut-Mbomou.[3]

While the fates of most kidnapped health workers remained unclear, a doctor traveling to work in Basse-Kotto was ambushed and kidnapped by armed men, taken into the bush, and shot dead.[4] Another hospital doctor abducted during a medical mission in Nana-Mambéré was robbed by 3R fighters before being released.[5] Robberies and assaults were common among health workers, who were often ambushed while they were traveling to provide health care in remote areas.

Medical supplies looted

The looting of vital medical supplies from health centers and vehicles was reported on six occasions in 2025. Medicine stocks, medical equipment, solar panels and batteries, refrigerators, maternity mattresses, and other essentials were stolen. On three occasions, Africa Corps mercenaries, acting alone or alongside FACA and gendarmerie forces or former UPC militia, were implicated in looting medical supplies from health centers in Haut-Mbomou.[6] 3R rebels armed with guns ransacked a health center, taking away medicines during a broader assault on the area in Ouham-Pendé.[7]

On one occasion, a vehicle belonging to an international health care NGO was attacked by armed men from Sudan while heading towards Birao city in the CAR's northern Vakaga prefecture. Money, computer equipment and materials essential to humanitarian work were taken.[8]



This chapter is based on 2023-2025 CAF SHCC Health Care Data. Download this data on the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX).

Insecurity Insight updates data continuously and numbers may change if new information is made publicly available. For the latest available figures, see Insecurity Insight's global map on attacks on health care.

Central African Republic

THE IMPACT OF ATTACKS ON HEALTH CARE

The CAR remained among the world's poorest countries in 2025, with a GDP per capita reported at around USD 1,330 at purchasing power parity (PPP). Limited and underdeveloped infrastructure continued to constrain the delivery of basic services, including health care. The country's protracted health crisis continued to undermine service availability, with only 39.8% of its 1,014 health facilities fully operational in 2025. With limited facility-based care, access to health services increasingly relied on outreach and mobile activities, particularly in insecure and hard-to-reach areas.

Vaccination services were particularly affected, because many communities needing vaccinations relied on outreach teams traveling long distances under difficult conditions to obtain them. Poverty, weak infrastructure and recurring conflict have left only around one in seven children fully vaccinated. Where outreach operated safely and consistently, it helped close immunization gaps; where insecurity or access constraints interrupted campaigns, children were more likely to miss doses, raising the risk of preventable illnesses and disease outbreaks.

> *The country's protracted health crisis continued to undermine service availability, with only 39.8% of its 1,014 health facilities fully operational in 2025.*

1 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 CAF SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 109126; 122971.
2 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 CAF SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 122476; 122971.
3 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 CAF SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 123609.
4 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 CAF SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 111616.
5 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 CAF SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 123608.
6 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 CAF SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 99661; 105052; 116639.
7 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 CAF SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 122282.
8 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 CAF SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 117410.

SAFEGUARDING HEALTH IN CONFLICT

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition is a group of more than 40 organizations working to protect health workers and services threatened by war or civil unrest. We have raised awareness of global attacks on health and pressed United Nations agencies for greater global action to protect the security of health care. We monitor attacks, strengthen universal norms of respect for the right to health, and demand accountability for perpetrators. Suggested citation: Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalititon (SHCC) 2026. Care in the Crosshairs: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict, May 2026. https://shcc.pub/SHCCAnnualReport2025
https://safeguarding-health.com

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