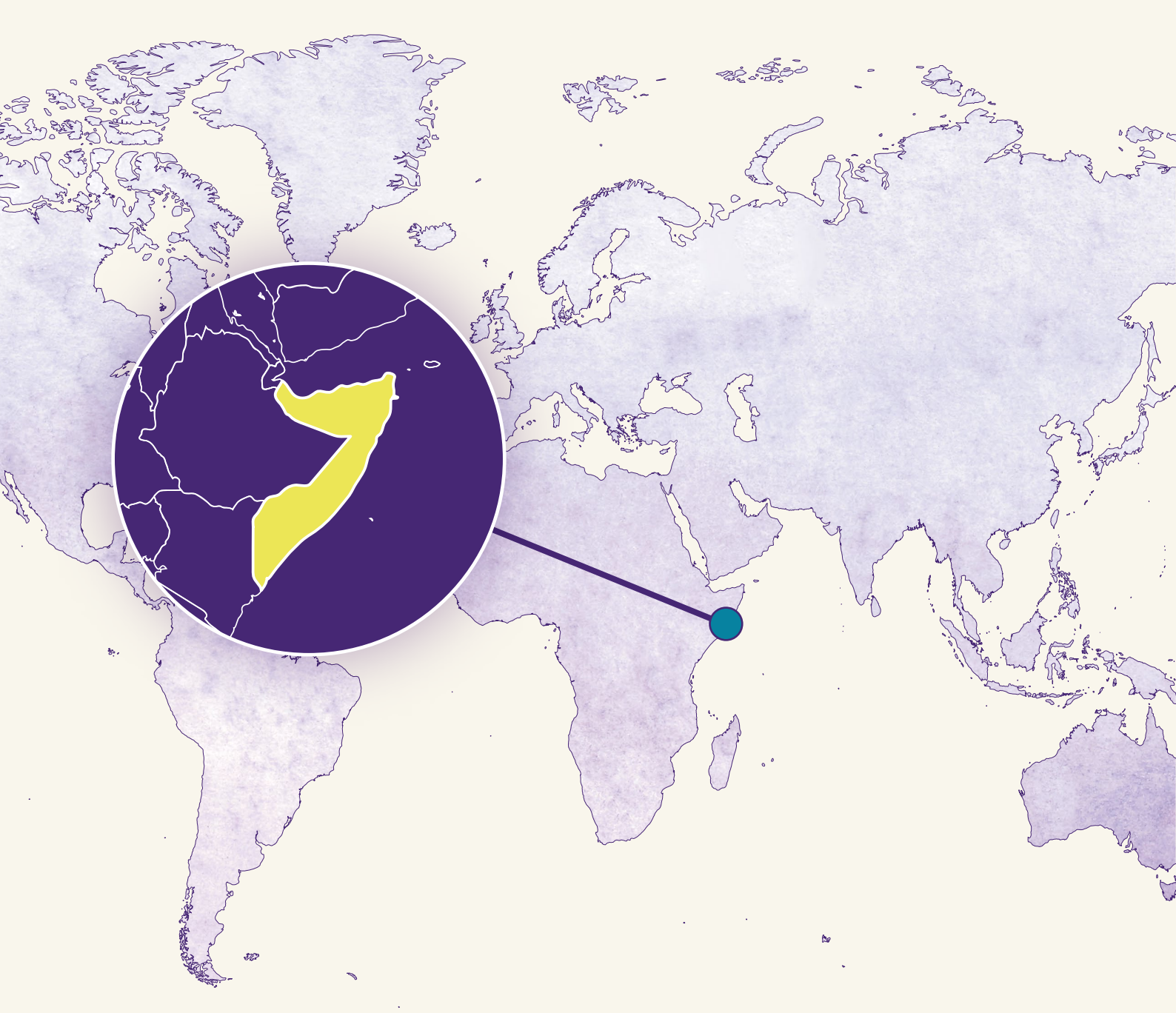
SOMALIA

Violence Against Health Care in Conflict

2025



SAFEGUARDING HEALTH IN CONFLICT

Insecurity Insight
Data on People in Danger

Somalia (including Puntland and Somaliland)

REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS	
REPORTED INCIDENTS	INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE ATTACKED
2025	
18	**12**
2024	
9	**6**
2023	
21	**10**

Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

OVERVIEW

Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 18 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Somalia (including Puntland and Somaliland) in 2025, compared to nine in 2024 and 21 in 2023. Among the incidents reported in 2025, health facilities were attacked on 12 occasions.

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.

Methodology and sources
Information on incidents of violence against health care in Somalia is compiled from open sources, information projects and aid agency data-sharing mechanisms. 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. Somalia was not included as a chapter in the SHCC's 2024 Annual Report. Chapters are only included in the report when the number of incidents in a country exceeds 15 during the reporting year. See Methodology for further information.

Somalia (including Puntland and Somaliland)

THE CONTEXT

In 2025, Somalia remained affected by protracted non-international armed conflict between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) supported by the Somali National Army (SNA); allied clan militias, including Ma'awisley, and international partners; and non-state actors al-Shabaab and Islamic State (ISIL-Somalia). In January, the African Union Transmission Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) transitioned to the African Union Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM), changing the security framework. However, conflict levels remained similar to previous years, with periods of escalation in parts of south-central Somalia, including the areas of Hiiran, Mogadishu, and Shabelle, and in Puntland, particularly in Bari, where clashes between Puntland forces and ISIL-Somalia were reported. Violence against civilians continued, including al-Shabaab-linked bombings and targeted killings. Civilian deaths and injuries were also reported in the context of government-aligned operations against ISIL-Somalia in Puntland, including air strikes and ground operations reportedly supported by the United States and United Arab Emirates.

Displacement rose sharply in 2025, with 680,000 newly internally displaced people (IDPs), bringing the total to 3.3 million. Evictions affected 150,000 people, while nearly 200,000 faced high risk due to insecurity.

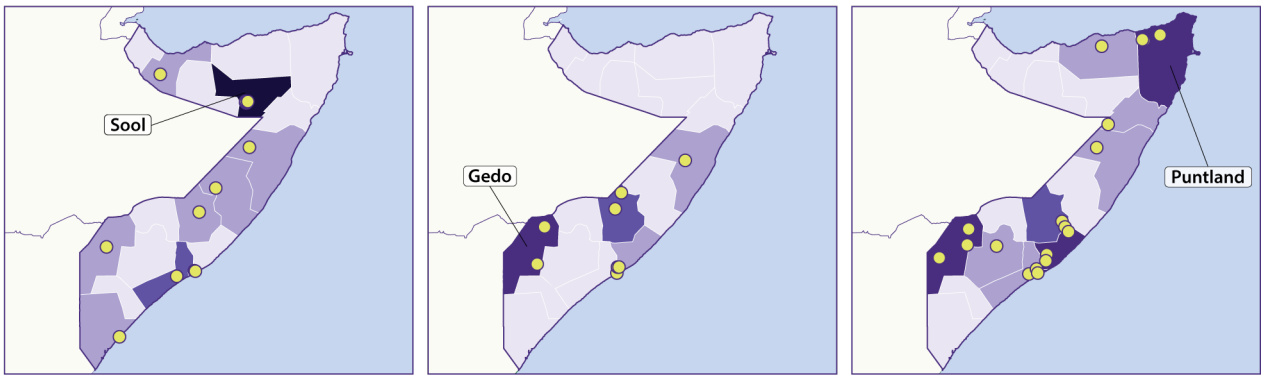
Humanitarian needs remained high in 2025. At least six million people were identified as needing humanitarian assistance, but the response prioritized 1.3 million people with the most severe, life-threatening needs. Funding cuts affected health care; nutrition; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and child protection. Shortfalls in funding forced vital health centers, particularly those serving women and children, to close, while drought left over 5.2 million people without safe water, fueling cholera, diarrhea, and measles outbreaks.

VIOLENCE AGAINST OR OBSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CARE IN 2025

Reported incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care doubled in Somalia in 2025 compared to 2024, spreading from five to ten regions. Incidents increased in Puntland's Bari region, from zero reported incidents in 2023-2024 to five in 2025. Incidents were also recorded in the Bay and Lower Shabelle regions (South West state) and Nugaal and Sanaag regions (Puntland).

Known locations of reported incidents affecting health care in Somalia, including Puntland and Somaliland, 2023- 2025

Reported incidents doubled in 2025 and spread from five to ten regions. Incidents increased in Puntland's Bari region.



Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

Somalia (including Puntland and Somaliland)

Attacks on health facilities doubled in 2025 compared to 2024, and health worker killings and kidnappings continued. The majority of incidents affected health care providers working for national health structures, with six incidents affecting an NGO.[1]

Most incidents were attributed to al-Shabaab fighters with firearms. In one case, al-Shabaab fighters threw a hand grenade at a pharmacy in Lower Shabelle, accusing staff of selling illegal drugs, and caused damage to the facility.[2] ISIL-Somalia fighters planted improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that damaged two ambulances in Bari.[3]

Joint US Africa Command and National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) forces carried out air strikes against al-Shabaab military vehicles and destroyed a health facility in Hiiraan in June.[4] In some incidents, the responsible conflict party remained unidentified.

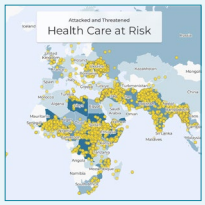
Health facilities attacked

Health facilities were reported attacked on at least 12 occasions in 2025, compared to six incidents in 2024 and ten in 2023. These incidents occurred across multiple regions. Al-Shabaab fighters, clan militias, and other armed actors repeatedly targeted hospitals, health care centers, and pharmacies in 2025. These attacks involved the looting of health supplies, forced facility closures and disruptions to medical services. Medicines, equipment, solar panels and nutritional supplies were some of the medical supplies looted from health care centers. Clan militias disrupted health care operations, entering facilities to block access or threaten staff, sometimes in connection with local disputes over recruitment or governance.[5]

Pharmacies were also the locations of reported violence in 2025. Along with the pharmacy grenade attack previously referred to, a doctor was shot and killed inside his pharmacy in Middle Shabelle, and a civilian was shot and injured by al-Shabaab fighters while inside a pharmacy in Banaadir after the owners had recently installed CCTV cameras.[6]

Kidnapping of vaccinators

Al-Shabaab reportedly kidnapped three polio vaccinators in the Bay region, with community leaders reportedly intervening to negotiate their release.[7]



This chapter is based on 2023-2025 SOM 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.

THE IMPACT OF ATTACKS ON HEALTH CARE

In 2025, insecurity and protracted conflict in Somalia continued to limit where health care providers could operate and whether patients could safely access care, particularly in parts of south-central Somalia. Insecurity, displacement, and weak infrastructure remained major barriers to the provision of essential health care, including maternal and reproductive health care services, while restrictions on female health workers' movement further reduced service availability in some areas.

Somalia (including Puntland and Somaliland)

These challenges occurred amid high health care needs. Extremely high maternal mortality rates were caused by low access to skilled care, with many births taking place without trained attendants, and gaps in antenatal care. Facility-level mental health services were rarely available. Large numbers of pregnant and lactating women were expected to need treatment for acute malnutrition in 2025 amid worsening food insecurity, further straining already limited services.

Vaccination coverage in 2025 showed both progress and vulnerability linked to access. While 70% of children were fully vaccinated, immunization remained heavily dependent on secure access and functioning primary care, both of which were not always available. Major inoculation campaigns were conducted, including a nationwide polio campaign in February targeting 2.5 million children across Banaadir administrative region and Hirshabelle, Jubaland, Galmudug, South West, and other states. Security-related movement constraints, displacement, and service disruptions continued to pose risks to routine coverage and follow-up doses, especially in hard-to-reach districts.

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1 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 SOM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 122322; 122324; 122326; 122329; 123623; 123624.
2 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 SOM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 122320.
3 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 SOM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 105049; 122319.
4 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 SOM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 122330.
5 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 SOM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 122318; 123623; 123624.
6 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 SOM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 122325; 122320; 122327.
7 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 SOM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 91173.

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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