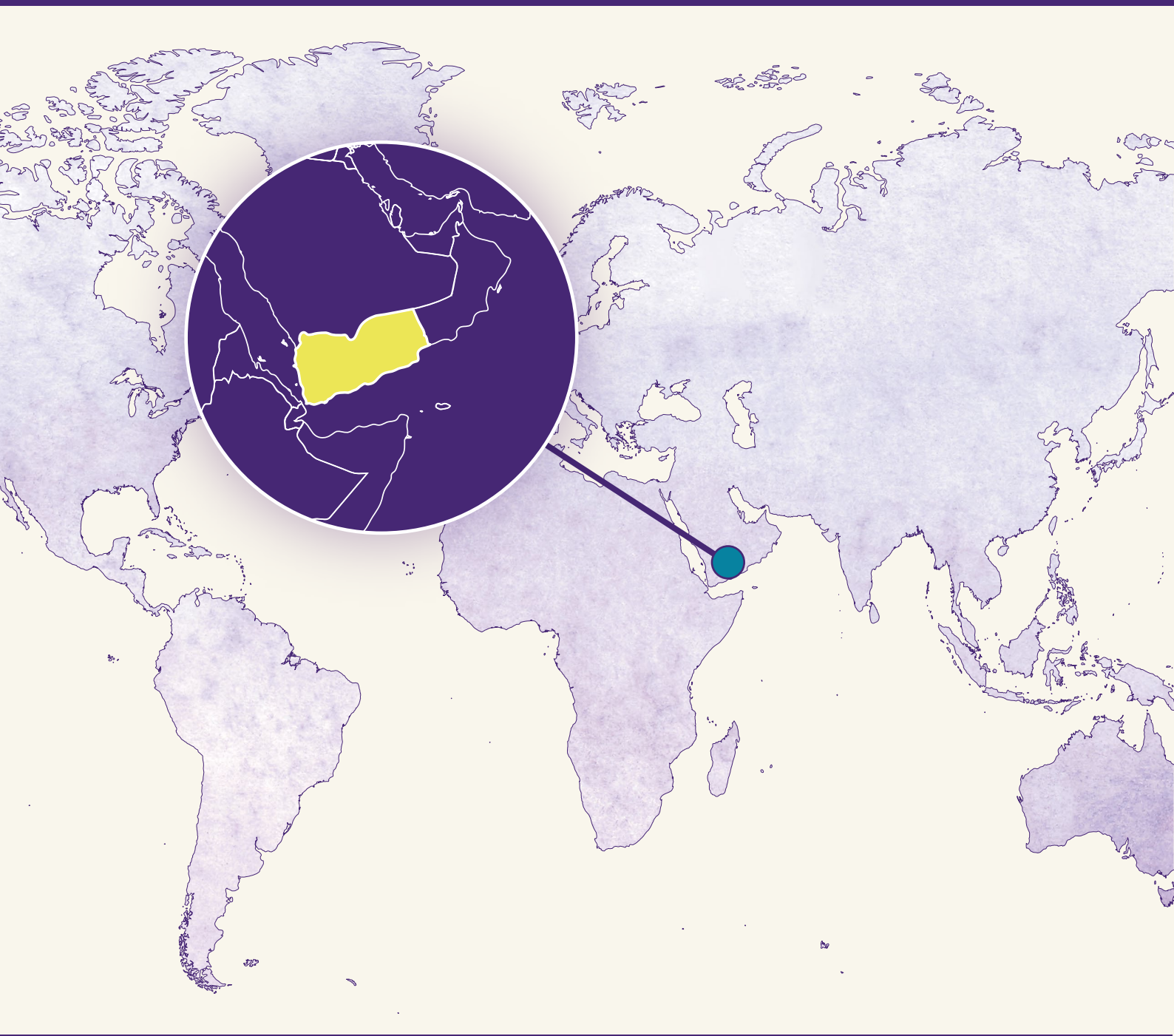


YEMEN

Violence Against Health Care in Conflict 2025



**SAFEGUARDING
HEALTH
IN CONFLICT**



**Insecurity
Insight**
Data on People in Danger



REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS

 REPORTED INCIDENTS	 HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED	 RAID/SEARCH INCIDENTS IN HEALTH FACILITIES WHEN CARE WAS DISRUPTED	 INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED/ DESTROYED
2025			
48	17	12	9
2024			
49	19	9	1
2023			
48	0	10	6

Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

OVERVIEW

Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 48 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Yemen in 2025, compared to 49 in 2024 and 48 in 2023.¹ Among incidents reported in 2025, 17 health workers were arrested, and health facilities were violently raided or searched 12 times and damaged on at least nine 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, 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 Yemen 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.



THE CONTEXT

In 2025, Yemen remained engulfed in a protracted non-international armed conflict, primarily between Ansar Allah (commonly known as the Houthis) and the internationally recognized government based in Aden. The government was supported militarily by a Saudi-led coalition and its affiliated forces, including the 7th Giants Brigade and the Islah-affiliated 4th Mountain Infantry Brigade, alongside the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC). Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) continued to operate independently in some areas, amid ongoing regional involvement. Although front lines were relatively stable, hostilities and air strikes persisted in multiple governorates, and reported civilian fatalities rose compared with 2024, with the highest casualties recorded in the cities of Amanat al-Asimah (Sana'a City), Sa'dah, and Al Hudaydah.

The regional escalation of the conflict following Hamas's attacks on southern Israel on October 7, 2023 continued to affect Yemen in 2025, with Israeli air strikes hitting Houthi-controlled areas at several points during the year, including Sana'a International Airport in May 2025 and multiple newspaper offices in Sana'a in September in which 31 journalists and media workers were reportedly killed. In May 2025, the United States under the Trump administration announced a ceasefire with Yemen's Houthi forces that effectively paused the March-May US air strikes on Houthi forces and Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping.

A cholera crisis persisted amid water and sanitation failures. Cholera continued to be a major health emergency in Yemen, amid disruptions to the water and sanitation services and failures in sewage management in some areas. Tens of thousands of suspected cholera cases were reported in 2025, with more than 200 associated deaths.

Funding cuts, including the 2025 freeze on USAID funding, constrained humanitarian health responses, including efforts to prevent and treat cholera and alleviate the malnutrition crisis that impacted over half of the population. In 2025, the Health Cluster reduced its target population from 10.5 million to seven million people, despite sustained high needs, with an estimated 19.5 million people requiring some form of assistance.

VIOLENCE AGAINST OR OBSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CARE IN 2025

In 2025, incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care were reported in 15 governorates – two more than in 2024 – with reported incidents doubling in Amanat al-Asimah from August onwards. Incidents were reported in Abyan and Hajjah in 2025, while the number of incidents declined in Aden, Ibb, and Ta'izz. Most incidents were linked to Houthi forces armed with guns.

Health worker arrests and detentions and health facility raids by Houthi forces increased from April onwards. Damage to and the destruction of health care facilities increased, and health worker killings and injuries continued.

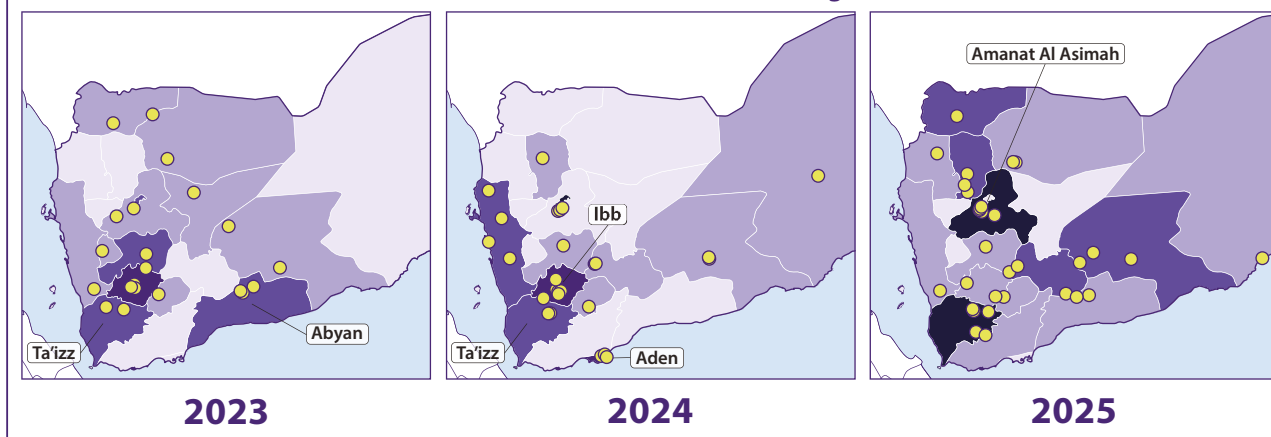
In 2025, conflict parties' use of explosive weapons that impacted health care surged, with aircraft and drone strikes accounting for 26% of all reported incidents. This ended a 20 month period since July 2023 during which no air strikes affecting health facilities had been reported. US air strikes during March and April damaged or destroyed health facilities on six occasions in Al Bayda, Al Jawf, Hajjah, and Sa'dah and killed two health workers. Israel Defense Forces (IDF) air strikes in August reportedly targeting an oil facility



damaged a hospital in Amanat al-Asimah.² Houthi forces drone strikes damaged ambulances, killing and injuring first responders in Ad Dali' and Shabwah in April and October.³

Known locations of reported incidents affecting health care in Yemen, 2023-2025

Incidents doubled in Amanat al-Asimah governorate, where conflict persists in 2025, while the number of incidents declined in Aden, Ibb, and Ta'izz governorates.



Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) twice impacted health care in Yemen in 2025: AQAP fighters detonated an IED in Abyan in April, damaging an STC ambulance, and in October another device detonated near a hospital in Ta'izz during an attempted Houthi placement, killing and injuring an unspecified number of people.⁴ A hand grenade was used to threaten staff at an international NGO (INGO)-supported hospital in Amran governorate when an armed individual stormed the facility in April, prompting the INGO to suspend activities for 24 hours following this incident. In a prior attack in March, a staff member was threatened with a firearm.⁵

Fighters from the 7th Giants Brigade, the STC and the Islah-affiliated 4th Mountain Infantry Brigade were also linked to attacks on health care in Yemen in 2025. The conflict party responsible for some incidents remained unidentified.

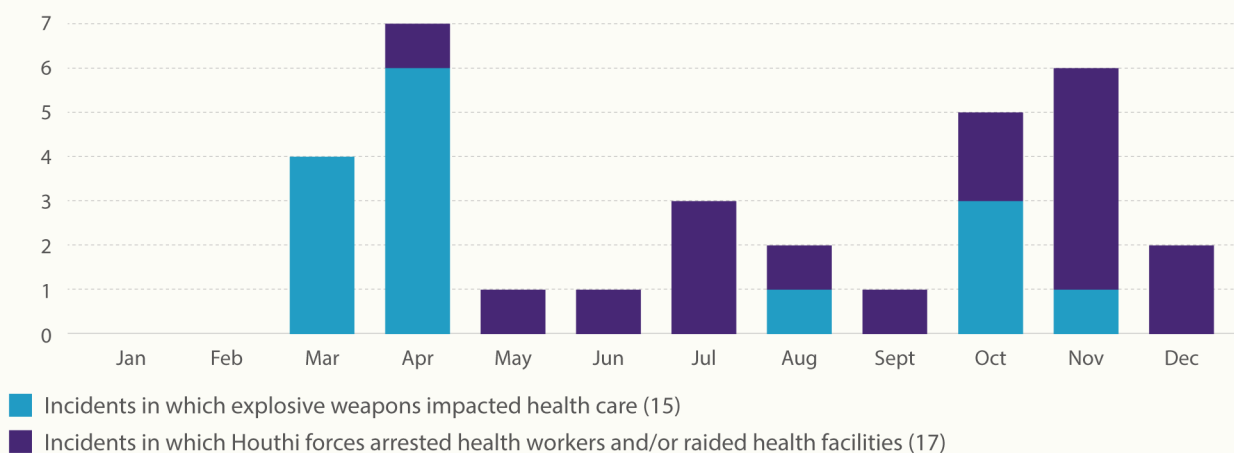
The majority of incidents affected health care providers working for national health structures, with six affecting INGOs, two UN agencies, and one each a private health organization and Red Cross Society.⁶

Between March and November, health facilities were reportedly damaged or destroyed nine times, compared to one incident in 2024 and six in 2023. The majority of these incidents involved air strikes (mostly by US forces, but also one linked to the IDF), with a further incident linked to Houthi shelling damaging a health facility in Shabwah.⁷ Damaged or destroyed health care facilities included health centers, hospitals, medical centers and storage warehouses, maternity departments, and a newly built oncology hospital. In one such air strike, a rural clinic supported by an INGO was reportedly destroyed in US air strikes.⁸ The facility provided basic primary care, including cholera-related treatment, to approximately 14,000 people. A temporary clinic was subsequently established, although service provision in the area was disrupted. In a separate incident, US air strikes damaged a hospital in Al Bayda where humanitarian partners ran an emergency obstetric and newborn care program. The hospital's solar panels were also destroyed.⁹



Reported incidents affecting health care in Yemen, 2025

Conflict parties' use of explosive weapons peaked during US air strikes in March and April, while Houthi forces' arrests of health workers and raids on health facilities increased from late May onwards.



Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

Health workers arrested

Between May and December 2025, 17 health workers were reportedly arrested or detained in 14 incidents, compared to 19 in 15 incidents in 2024 and no incidents in 2023. The arrested health workers included doctors, nurses, and hospital managers, who were mostly detained by Houthi forces during violent raids on hospitals, clinics, organizational headquarters, and homes and in wider campaigns of arrests. Health workers were often interrogated on accusations of treating Islamic State members, sharing videos or political expression.

Health facilities violently raided

Between April and December 2025, health facilities were reported violently raided or searched at least 12 times, compared to 19 times in 2024 and ten in 2023. Multiple conflict parties were linked to these incidents, with most attributed to Houthi forces storming health facilities, arresting health workers, and confiscating devices, equipment, and supplies in Amanat al-Asimah during October and November. Houthi forces also raided a clinic in Al Bayda in July, forcibly taking away a doctor after accusing him of treating Islamic State members.¹⁰

Fighters from the 7th Giants Brigade stormed a specialist clinic and detained an aid worker in Al Hudaydah in June.¹¹ Islah-affiliated 4th Mountain Infantry Brigade forces raided a hospital in Ta'izz in November and abducted a doctor while he was with his wife in the ICU, where she was recovering from an amputation.¹² STC forces raided hospitals in Hadhramaut in December, forcibly removing wounded Popular Resistance and Hadhramaut Protection Forces soldiers receiving treatment.¹³



This chapter is based on 2023-2025 YEM 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

Yemen's health care system, already fragile before the escalation of the conflict, was under severe strain by 2025, with around 40% of health facilities partially functioning or not functioning due to shortages of staff, funding, electricity, medicines and equipment, while only one in five functioning facilities were able to provide maternal and child health care services, limiting access to essential and preventive care.

These pressures coincided with the ongoing cholera emergency, as funding shortfalls reported at the end of 2024 led to the closure of several diarrhea treatment and oral rehydration centers, reducing treatment capacity.

The movement restrictions imposed on female Yemeni aid workers, which prevents them from traveling without male guardians, also continued to impede humanitarian delivery and limited the ability of vulnerable women and girls to access humanitarian services.

Conflict-related violence affecting infrastructure further constrained service delivery when Israeli air strikes in January 2025 reportedly hit Ras Issa and Al Hudaydah ports and energy infrastructure in Sana'a. These strikes, which adversely affected the availability and movement of essential goods and health-related commodities, had a disproportionate effect on a country that was heavily reliant on maritime imports for fuel, food, and medical supplies.

Water infrastructure was also affected: in April 2025, a US air strike reportedly struck a water management facility and tank in Al Hudaydah, disrupting safe water access for an estimated 50,000 people and, amid ongoing cholera transmission, increasing public health risks and pressure on health care services.





- 1 The SHCC's [2024 Annual Report](#) cited 52 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Yemen in 2024 and 47 in 2023. Data is continuously updated and numbers can change if new information is made publicly available.
- 2 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 116907.
- 3 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 98515; 119942; 120014.
- 4 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 104384; 119943.
- 5 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 96377.
- 6 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 96377; 99623; 120895; 120896; 122408; 122498; 119737; 123071; 119940; 120897.
- 7 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 120900.
- 8 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 131112.
- 9 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 98511.
- 10 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 28254.
- 11 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 109215.
- 12 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 120894.
- 13 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 YEM SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 124785.

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 Coalition (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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