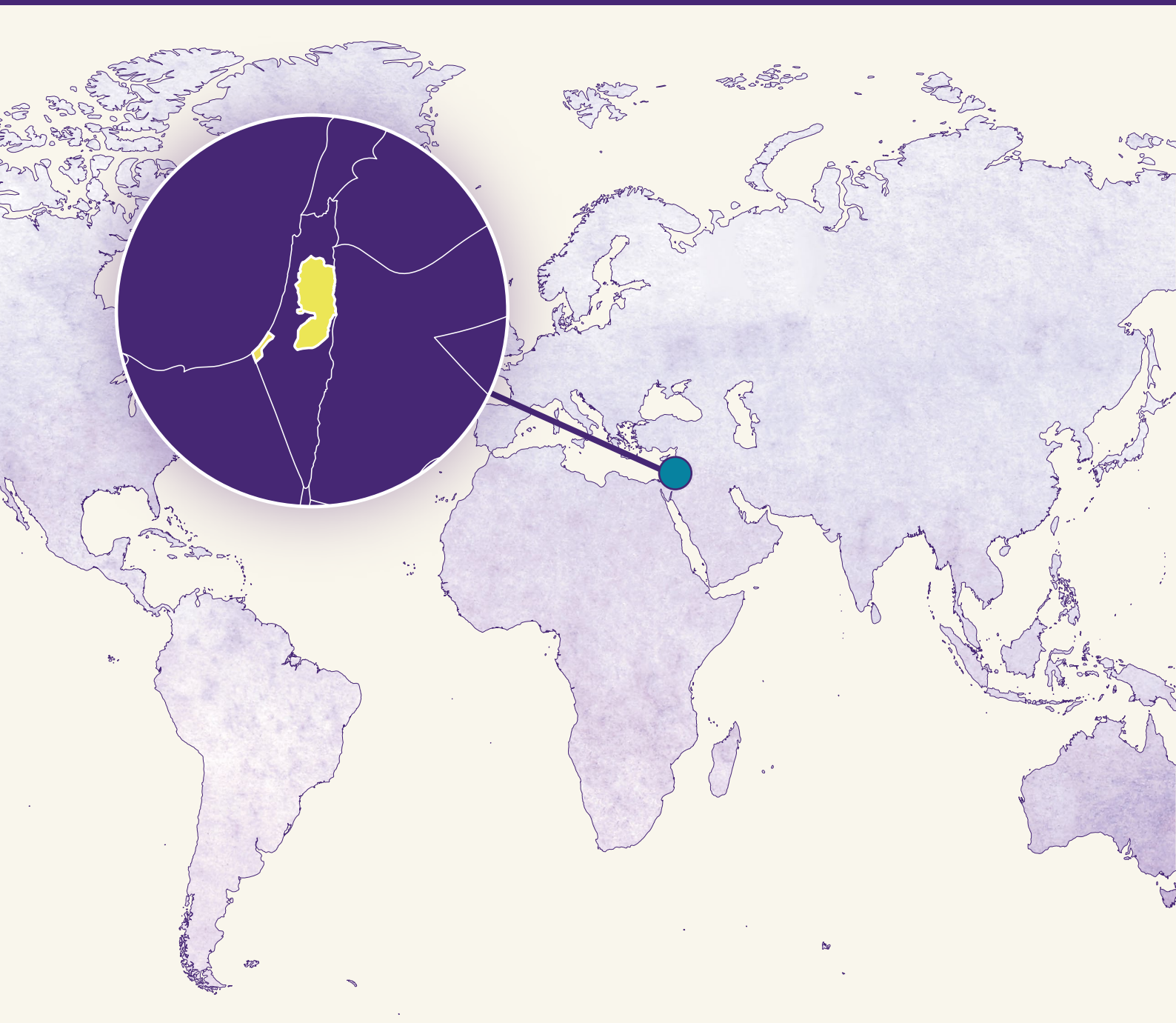
Occupied Palestinian Territory

Violence Against Health Care in Conflict

2025



SAFEGUARDING HEALTH IN CONFLICT

Insecurity Insight
Data on People in Danger

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REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS			
GAZA	**REPORTED INCIDENTS**	**HEALTH WORKERS KILLED**	**INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED/DESTROYED**
2025	**432**	**128**	**97**
2024	**1,038**	**220**	**193**
2023	**795**	**409**	**151**
WEST BANK	**REPORTED INCIDENTS**	**ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE OBSTRUCTED**	**INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE ATTACKED**
2025	**193**	**101**	**52**
2024	**422**	**272**	**66**
2023	**307**	**193**	**52**

Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

OVERVIEW

Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 625 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in 2025, compared to 1,463 in 2024 and 1,188 in 2023.[1]

In the Gaza Strip, where 432 incidents were recorded, at least 128 health workers were killed and health facilities were damaged or destroyed at least 97 times.[2] In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where 193 incidents were recorded, access to health care was blocked or delayed at least 101 times, leaving patients without access to medical treatment and proving fatal in some circumstances. Health facilities were attacked on 52 occasions.[3]

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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. The lack of information on the professions of civilians killed or arrested makes it likely that the total number of affected health workers is higher.

Methodology and sources
Information on incidents of violence against health care in the oPt is compiled from open sources, information projects and private sources. 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

Gaza

The hostilities in Gaza are an international armed conflict involving the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Hamas, and Palestinian armed groups, and are marked by large-scale military operations in civilian areas and severe harm to civilians, health care, and infrastructure. A ceasefire between Israel and Hamas came into effect on January 19, 2025, but collapsed in March when the IDF resumed bombings across Gaza, killing over 400 Palestinians, including 263 women and children. A second ceasefire entered into effect on October 10 following renewed negotiations. Both ceasefires failed to fully halt the violence.

Humanitarian access across Gaza remained severely restricted throughout 2025 due to ongoing hostilities, IDF military operations and evacuation orders, and restrictions on the entry and movement of aid. Damage to roads, border crossings, hospitals, and other civilian infrastructure, together with insecurity and delays in aid coordination, repeatedly disrupted the delivery of food, fuel, medicines, and medical supplies. Access constraints were particularly acute in northern Gaza and areas under IDF evacuation orders, where attacks, displacement, and siege-like conditions severely limited access to health care and other essential services.

Humanitarian assistance fell far short of the population's needs. Repeated incidents at the so-called "aid" distribution sites delivered by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, led to civilian deaths, further compounding the humanitarian crisis.

In 2025, almost 90% of the population in Gaza had been displaced (most people multiple times), and Gazans were living in makeshift shelters and facing barriers to accessing shelter, water, food, and medical care.

West Bank and East Jerusalem

Reported violence affecting Palestinians in the West Bank continued in 2025, including military operations carried out by Israeli forces and violence by Israeli settlers, particularly in and around refugee camps. In January 2025, coinciding with the ceasefire in Gaza, the IDF carried out a major security operation in Jenin, Nur Shams, and Tulkarm refugee camps, causing extensive damage to public and private infrastructure and the large-scale displacement of residents. In mid-December 2024, Palestinian Authority security forces carried out a security campaign targeting armed groups in Jenin camp and the surrounding area, during which armed searches were also conducted inside health facilities.

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Humanitarian access across the West Bank remained heavily constrained throughout 2025 due to Israeli movement restrictions, military operations, and administrative barriers. Checkpoints, road closures, insecurity during military raids, and bureaucratic restrictions affected humanitarian organizations. Access constraints were particularly severe in the northern West Bank, where military operations damaged infrastructure and disrupted health care and other critical services.

An Israeli ban on the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) came into effect in early 2025, restricting the agency's operations in areas under Israeli jurisdiction. By the end of the year, Israel had announced that 37 international NGOs would be banned from operating in Gaza from January 1, 2026 unless they complied with restrictive guidelines requiring detailed personal information on Palestinian staff, a move widely criticized as further endangering health care delivery and humanitarian access.

VIOLENCE AGAINST OR OBSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CARE IN 2025

Gaza

Despite the two ceasefires, incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care continued in Gaza throughout 2025, often increasing in conjunction with IDF military movements and ground operations. On average, 2.8 attacks were reported each week during the January 2025 ceasefire, and 1.9 attacks per week from the start of the October ceasefire through December 31, 2025. During both ceasefires, four health workers were killed and two others injured, and the IDF shelled an UNRWA clinic in Jabalia IDP camp, injuring multiple people, including a pregnant woman.[4] The IDF repeatedly fired at and bombed ambulances responding to emergencies.

In total, 95% of the reported incidents in Gaza were attributed to the IDF. Hamas fighters were identified as responsible for three incidents: Hamas launched mortar shells at IDF forces stationed near two health facilities in Gaza City, and in another incident Hamas imposed a curfew after local clashes, restricting access to Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis.[5] In other incidents, the conflict parties remained unidentified.

The proportion of incidents where explosive weapons impacted health care rose from 56% of all incidents in 2024 to 71% in 2025. IDF aircraft-delivered strikes in particular made up a large share of these incidents, increasing from 37% to 68%, although the number of cases remained at similar levels, with 215 incidents occurring in 2024 and 213 in 2025. Explosive weapons are indiscriminate weapons that often have wide-area effects, and can cause widespread loss of life and damage in populated areas.

The use of drones armed with explosives causing direct effects on health care decreased from over 90 incidents in 2024 to 41 in 2025, and incidents shifted location from predominantly Deir al-Balah, Khan Yunis, and North Gaza governorates in 2024 to mainly Gaza City and surrounding areas, which accounted for over 50% of reports in 2025.

Access to health care was affected by the IDF's use of explosives-laden robots – devices capable of causing extensive destruction – which were deployed near health facilities in Gaza City and Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza.[6]

The IDF also increased the use of gun drones (unmanned aerial vehicles specifically equipped with kinetic firearms) near health facilities and ambulances in 2025, from three cases between October 7, 2023 and December 2024 to 17 in 2025, with a notable concentration between June and September, particularly in

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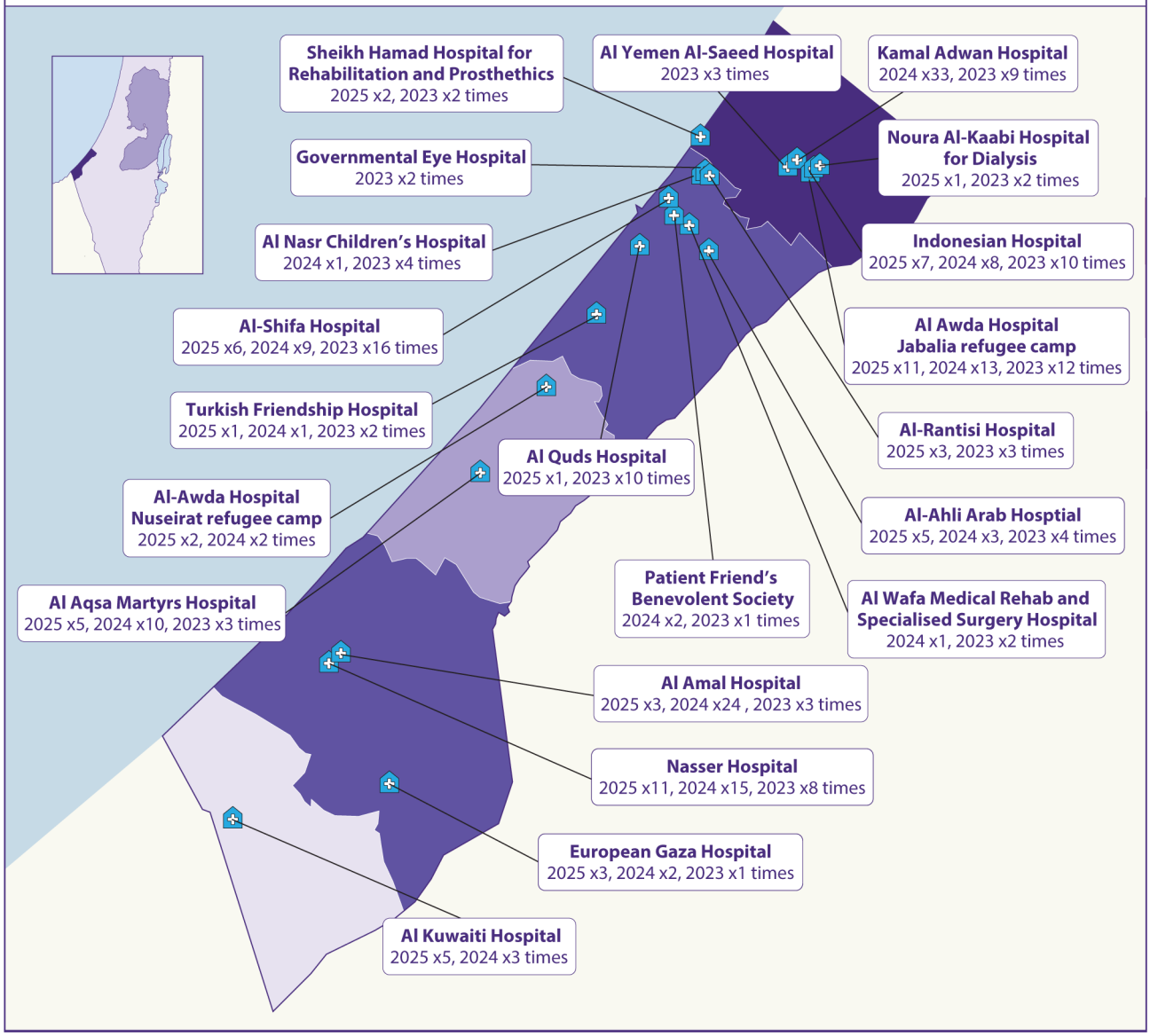
Gaza governorate. Health care workers and civilians, including children, were injured, and hospital patients – some in intensive or neonatal care – were evacuated.

Attacks were reported across Gaza, with high numbers continuing in Gaza governorate as the IDF focused military operations there, with cases reducing in Deir al-Balah, Khan Yunis, and North Gaza governorates. Facilities were damaged, populations displaced or access severely restricted.

The majority of incidents affected health care providers working for national health structures, with a similar number affecting NGOs and Red Cross societies. UN agencies were also affected.

Known hospitals affected by violence in the Gaza Strip multiple times in 2025

Some hospitals had already been damaged by previous bombings or violent raids that occurred after October 7, 2023.



Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

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Health facilities damaged or destroyed

In 2025, health facilities in Gaza – including children's hospitals, field hospitals, health clinics, general hospitals, medical storage facilities, and a prosthetics and paralysis center – were damaged or destroyed at least 97 times by aircraft and drone strikes, artillery shelling, missiles, tank fire, or gunfire. Overall, between October 2023 and December 2025, at least 21 hospitals were damaged multiple times in IDF bombings and violent raids.

Five health facilities were reported to have been completely destroyed by the IDF in 2025, three of them in IDF air strikes. For example, Noura al Kaabi Dialysis Hospital in North Gaza, the only health facility providing kidney treatment to tens of thousands of people in the area, was demolished using bulldozers. The Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, Gaza's only cancer hospital, was destroyed using explosives (the IDF had previously violently raided, forcibly evacuated and repurposed it as a military base in July 2024).[7]

Health workers killed

In 2025, at least 128 health workers were reportedly killed in 95 incidents. Victims included doctors, dentists, endocrinologists, hospital staff, laboratory technicians, medical students, nurses, paramedics, pediatricians, pharmacists, psychologists, laboratory specialists, nutritionists, occupational therapists, surgeons, and volunteers from local humanitarian relief groups. Approximately 42% of killed health workers were killed in tents or homes after working hours. Eight health workers were killed when IDF air strikes hit the health facility in which they were working.

Nineteen health workers were killed during recovery and rescue efforts in sequential strikes on their rescue activities in response to a previous strike, such as when a clearly marked convoy of ambulances, a fire truck, and a UN vehicle in Rafah came under IDF fire while attempting to retrieve the bodies of paramedics killed in a prior IDF attack. Rescue teams were denied access to the site for days. When they were finally allowed to return, vehicles were found crushed and bulldozed, and eight responders were found buried in a mass grave, still in uniform. At least one person had his hands tied.[8]

Since October 2023, Insecurity Insight recorded 757 killings of health workers in the oPt. This figure was calculated by the cross-checking of individual events and names, excluding any aggregate figures. The work of collating a complete list of health workers killed based on information provided in different formats by different organizations is ongoing. This cross-checking process is complex, and aims to avoid double counting the same individuals in cases when sources report different victim information about the same individuals. The lack of a consistent standard in transcribing Arab names into Latin script-based languages complicates the matching process. Using different methods, other sources report far higher numbers of health workers killed. For example, according to Healthcare Workers Watch, 1,200 health workers have been killed in the oPt since October 2023.

In several cases, whole families with multiple generations working in health professions were killed in single Israeli air strikes, often while at home, reflecting how medical professions frequently run within families in Palestinian society. These incidents have resulted in the loss of multiple generations of health care workers from the same families, contributing to a broader depletion of the qualified health care workforce.

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Health workers arrested

In 2025, the IDF arrested eight health workers in seven incidents during violent hospital raids and while responding to victims of IDF bombings. Arrested staff were sometimes beaten, handcuffed and forced to strip during their arrests. A Palestinian paramedic died while being held captive in Ktzi'ot (Negev) prison amid reports of torture and medical negligence.[9]



This chapter is based on 2023-2025 PSE 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.

West Bank and East Jerusalem

At least 190 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care were recorded across the West Bank and East Jerusalem in 2025. Health workers were killed, arrested, threatened, or injured; health facilities were damaged, violently raided, or surrounded; and ambulances and emergency medical teams were repeatedly delayed, blocked, or searched amid Israeli military incursions and increasingly restrictive movement and access constraints imposed across the West Bank.

Most incidents were attributed to IDF troops armed with guns. Some incidents also involved the use of explosive weapons, including drone-fired missiles and controlled demolitions, which in several cases killed health workers and damaged nearby health facilities, including a hospital in Jenin.[10]

Attacks on health care linked to Israeli settlers, typically armed with guns or rocks, more than doubled in 2025, compared to 2024, rising from around 2% to 9% of total reported attacks. Most Israeli settler attacks targeted ambulances and first responders, including blocking their access to those needing care. In one case, paramedics in Tubas governorate were reported assaulted by Israeli settlers under the protection of the IDF.[11] Settler violence also impacted a health facility when around 17 Israeli settlers attacked and destroyed a clinic in Hebron governorate.[12]

Palestinian Authority security forces violently raided al-Razi Hospital in Jenin city and arrested a wounded patient on accusations of his being a Jenin Battalion/Jenin Brigade member.[13]

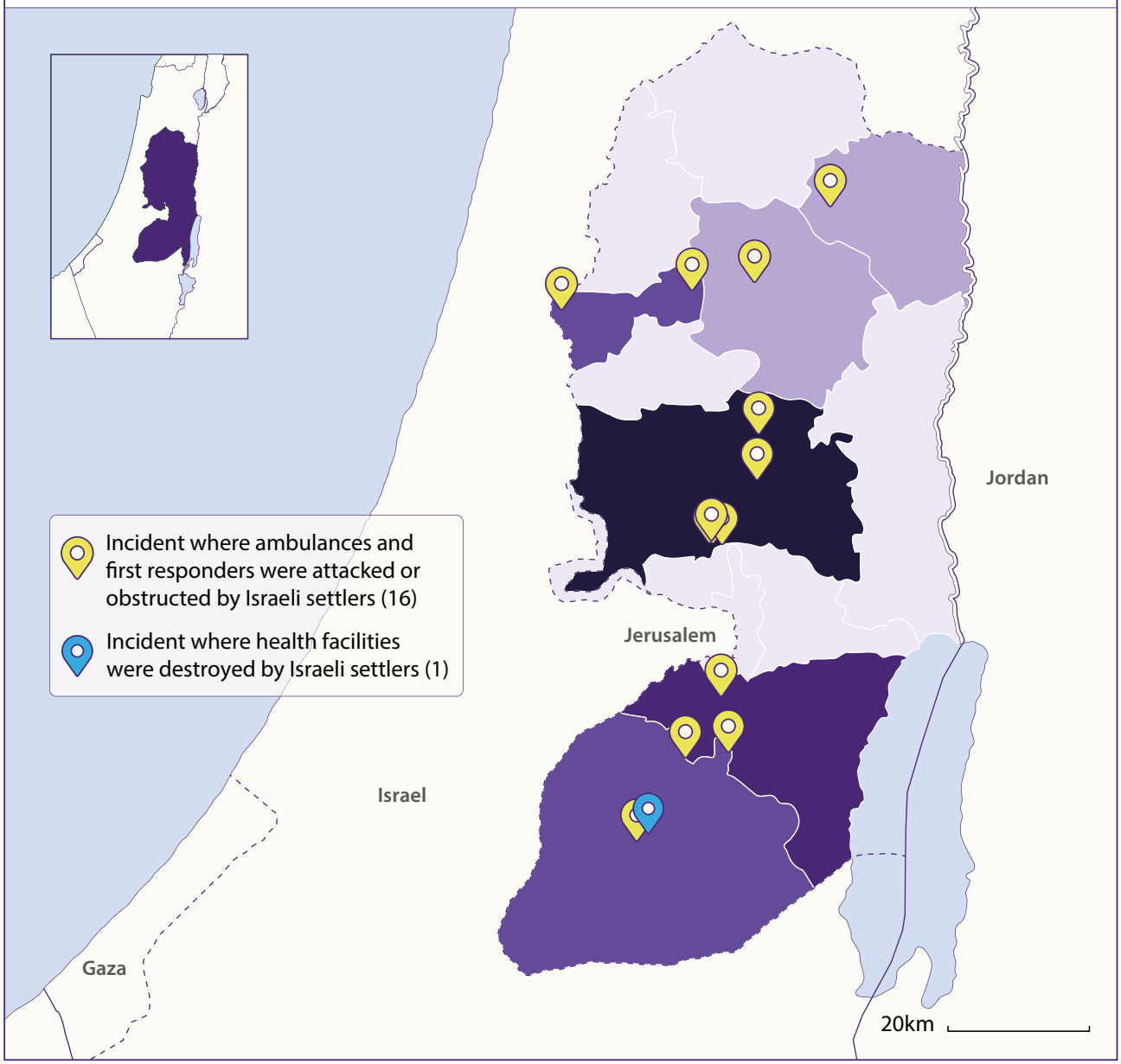
Obstruction of access to health care

In 2025, at least 101 incidents of obstruction to health care were reported in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Ambulance teams and health workers were repeatedly obstructed from reaching people in need, with access to patients, medical facilities, and emergency sites repeatedly blocked by Israeli forces and/or Israeli settlers. Ambulance crews were delayed; prevented from entering homes, schools and hospitals; or fired upon while attempting to provide care. First responders were assaulted, detained, or denied entry to certain areas, and entrances to health facilities were barricaded for weeks, leaving patients trapped and emergency services paralyzed. In some cases, civilians were shot or killed while health care teams were blocked from reaching them, and critical infrastructure – including roads leading to medical centers, water supply infrastructure and sewage systems – was destroyed, further hindering access to care.

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Known locations of reported incidents affecting health care in the West Bank and East Jerusalem attributed to Israeli settlers, 2025

In 2025, Israeli settlers frequently fired or threw rocks at ambulances and first responders, blocking access to medical emergencies across the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Around 17 settlers also attacked and destroyed a clinic in Hebron governorate.



Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

Health facilities attacked

Throughout 2025, health facilities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem faced repeated violent IDF raids, searches, and military occupations while patients and staff were present. Health facilities were stormed, besieged, or surrounded, with emergency and registration departments forcibly entered, gates damaged, and stun grenades or tear gas used in the vicinity. Health workers, patients and accompanying civilians

were often detained, interrogated or assaulted. IDF sniper fire and live ammunition struck hospitals and nearby areas, causing injuries and structural damage.

In January, the IDF took over Jenin Hospital in Jenin refugee camp and turned it into a military barracks, arresting nurses treating injured people in the camp.[14]

Health workers arrested and detained

Throughout 2025, health workers, ambulances, and medical teams in the West Bank faced obstruction, harassment, and attacks by Israeli forces and settlers. Medical staff were detained, interrogated, assaulted or denied entry to the West Bank, including volunteer doctors with prior authorization. Health workers were injured while attempting to treat patients, often under sniper fire, live ammunition fire or drone strikes near hospitals and camps.

The IDF arrested or detained at least 21 health workers in 17 incidents in 2025. Nurses, paramedics, Red Cross staff, volunteer doctors, and other medical personnel were detained, interrogated, and in some cases assaulted while on duty at or near health facilities, or while responding to emergencies such as childbirth, patient transfers, or evacuations.



THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH CARE

Gaza

By the end of 2025, only around half of Gaza's hospitals (18 out of 36) were partially functioning, while the remainder were not functioning, with no hospitals fully operational and the entire system severely degraded under sustained damage and shortages. This included the complete absence of functioning hospitals in North Gaza or Rafah governorates. Field hospitals established by international organizations

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and foreign governments attempted to fill gaps in the collapsing health system, but were overwhelmed by severe shortages of medical supplies, equipment, and fuel, and in some cases were forced to relocate due to nearby fighting or evacuation orders. Patients discharged from hospital often returned to overcrowded makeshift shelters with poor sanitation, waste management, and climate control systems, increasing the risk of infection and worsening health outcomes.

The devastating destruction of health care infrastructure in Gaza, combined with shortages of medical supplies, food, and clean water and mass displacement, created a severe public health emergency. The collapse of water supply and sanitation systems – driven by widespread damage, repeated displacement, and restricted access to militarized areas – left many people in southern Gaza sheltering in overcrowded tents and damaged school buildings amid garbage, animal waste, and overflowing sewage, increasing the spread of diseases such as acute respiratory infections, hepatitis A, skin conditions, and mental health disorders. Widespread malnutrition increased the likelihood of contracting diseases.

The Israeli blockade on Gaza, which began in 2007 and has been strengthened since then, has led to severe restrictions on the entry of medicines and medical supplies, with essential treatments for chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and epilepsy becoming increasingly unavailable. Together with the destruction of agricultural land and food production systems, and continued restrictions on aid, this contributed to widespread food insecurity and famine conditions, with severe malnutrition affecting both adults and children. In some cases, maternal malnutrition led to reduced breast milk production, while limited access to infant formula further undermined the ability to feed newborns. In this context, a report by Physicians for Human Rights documented how Israeli restrictions on medical supplies entering Gaza contributed to preventable suffering and deaths amid the collapse of the health care system. Based on testimonies from Palestinian and international medical workers, the report described severe shortages of anesthetics, surgical equipment, medicines, and basic consumables caused by aid blockades, delays, and restrictions on so-called "dual-use" items, leaving health workers unable to provide even basic lifesaving care.

A subsequent report published in January 2026 by Physicians for Human Rights and the Global Human Rights Clinic at the University of Chicago Law School examined the impact of Israel's military operations and restrictions on food and medical supplies on pregnant, postpartum, and lactating women and newborns during 2025. The report concluded that attacks on reproductive health facilities, combined with severe restrictions on medical supplies and widespread malnutrition, contributed to increased miscarriages, maternal and neonatal deaths, infertility, and long-term reproductive health harms, while the destruction of health care infrastructure and aid blockades severely undermined access to basic maternal and neonatal care.

West Bank and East Jerusalem

Continued violence, and the obstruction of and attacks on health care in the West Bank and East Jerusalem continued to put the health care system under intense pressure. Access to health care continued to be obstructed by both physical barriers and restrictions on movement, making it difficult to access specialized care in East Jerusalem. According to the WHO, 25% of scheduled appointments in the West Bank were missed because of movement restrictions, and the approval of permits for medical referrals to East Jerusalem or abroad were reduced. Multiple checkpoints manned by Israeli forces across the West Bank not only delay access to health care, but prevented people from seeking care due to fears of violence or detention while attempting to pass through these checkpoints, making people less likely to seek medical care.

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In conflict-affected areas, particularly in the north of the West Bank, hospitals and health centers were forced to close or suspend their operations, further restricting access to health care and disrupting continuity of care. Armed searches in hospitals placed both health workers and patients at risk and caused widespread panic in these facilities. Access to health care facilities was also hindered as a result of blockades imposed around hospitals during Israeli military operations, and the widespread destruction of surrounding infrastructure, particularly roads, by military bulldozers, making it increasingly difficult, particularly for immobile patients, to reach these facilities.

Following Israel's ban on UNRWA, its operations in areas under Israeli jurisdiction were prohibited or severely restricted, including activities in East Jerusalem and limitations affecting services such as health care, education, and humanitarian assistance. Similarly, following the IDF's security operation in Jenin camp, several health clinics were forced to temporarily suspend services or faced significant operational challenges, further constraining people's access to health care.

1 The SHCC's 2024 Annual Report cited 1,361 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the oPt in 2024 and 1,170 in 2023. After the report's publication, three incidents from 2024 were identified as lacking sufficient information on their location and are not included in the numbers given in the initial tables in this report. In 2023, 86 such incidents were reported that are not included in the numbers in the tables. Data is continuously updated and numbers can change if new information is made publicly available.

2 The SHCC's 2024 Annual Report cited 940 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Gaza in 2024 and 780 in 2023. As described in the preceding footnote, the figures given in the initial tables reflect the adjustment of previously published data resulting from the continuous vetting and updating of information on attacks.

3 The SHCC's 2024 Annual Report cited 418 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the West Bank in 2024 and 304 in 2023. As described in the preceding footnotes, the figures given in the initial tables reflect the adjustment of previously published data resulting from the continuous vetting and updating of information on attacks.

4 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 88228; 93332; 94360; 95346; 99214; 123283; 125214.

5 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 119725; 119730; 120769.

6 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 115153; 99605; 119732.

7 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 60670.

8 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 93624.

9 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 125515.

10 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 88803.

11 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 120779.

12 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 120779.

13 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 89354.

14 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 87756.

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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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