Explosive Weapons Monitor Data dataset
Data Explainer

This document provides information on the data used in the Explosive Weapons Monitor Annual report. Insecurity Insight collates data on the use of explosive weapons and their impact on aid access and critical civilian services, including education, healthcare and food and water systems.

About Insecurity Insight

Insecurity Insight aims to enable a world in which civilians are protected from violence in armed conflict, and in which local, national, and international civilian organisations are empowered to mitigate the consequences of violence by effectively delivering assistance, healthcare, educational opportunities, and protection to people affected by armed conflict.

As an H2H (humanitarian to humanitarian) association, Insecurity Insight supports the work of aid agencies, providers of healthcare, education, and protection services, and other civil society organisations by providing publicly available information for evidence-based policies. It collects and analyses data about violence against civilians and damage and destruction of vital civilian infrastructure in order to strengthen civilian protection, the delivery of aid in armed conflict and the protection of international humanitarian law. Insecurity Insight tracks social media sentiment to reveal how the aid sector is perceived and to detect early shifts in public opinion and emerging trends.

Insecurity Insight develops and implements innovative approaches in event-based data collection and analysis in order to provide actionable and publicly-accessible information about the underlying patterns of violence to support policy responses.

Data Outputs

Insecurity Insight produces the Explosive Weapons Monitor Data dataset, which is updated weekly. This dataset compiles reported incidents where aid access, education, food and water systems, health care services and refugee or IDP camps were impacted by explosive weapons, across all conflict-affected countries and other situations of violence by organised armed groups globally. The dataset contains the full set of incidents identified through Insecurity Insight's event-based, open-source monitoring methodology, including backdated entries.

Insecurity Insight data is used to produce the Explosive Weapons Monitor annual report and 'Fragments', the Explosive Weapons Monitor quarterly series.

Insecurity Insight has also created multiple reports on the use of explosive weapons and their impact on key civilian infrastructure, including on healthcare, markets, agricultural land and water systems. Insecurity Insight has also produced guidance documents on the protection of aid workers and aid operations.

Data collection methodologies

Insecurity Insight uses an event-based approach to document incidents affecting humanitarian operations, healthcare, education, food and water systems, and civilian protection. For its news briefs, Insecurity Insight collects open-source information (publicly available material from edited

media, organisations, and private sources) using tailored, AI-supported search functions. These tools continuously scan open-source content using advanced deep-learning techniques to identify potential events. Retrieved information is then processed through natural language processing classifiers and categorisation tools in English, French, and Arabic, trained on more than 15 years of event data on attacks affecting humanitarian access and essential civilian services in conflict settings. The resulting data is automatically fed into a central platform and tagged with suggested relevance levels and thematic categories to support the efficiency of human data processing. This system was short-listed for an award at the AI for Good Global Summit in 2025.[1]

Insecurity Insight's team of human researchers reviews the suggested content and selects the information that meets the inclusion criteria and that contain sufficient information to ensure that events are verifiable. Key criteria include information on when and where an incident occurred, what or who was affected, and how they were affected as well as information on the conflict actor an incident was attributed to, the type of weapon used and how it was launched or delivered.

Insecurity Insight's data responsibility policy supports safe, ethical and effective data management through a comprehensive data quality assurance process developed to maintain the accuracy, credibility, reliability and ethical integrity of its datasets. Quality assurance is embedded throughout all stages of the six-step data processing procedure, with additional checks conducted whenever information on incidents is updated or backdated. The process covers three steps of credibility and data purpose checks designed to protect privacy and security to prevent harm, and ensure transparency, accountability and understandability. These steps are applied through three interconnected components: internal mechanisms, collaboration efforts and source verification.

Data utilisation and impact

Insecurity Insight produces data tailored to enable it to be used for action that supports humanitarian operations, and the provision of health care and education. Insecurity Insight providers the evidence-base for advocacy for the protection of civilians and Insecurity Insight makes available data that supports aid organisations in their security risk assessments to safeguard their staff and ensure continued operations.

Insecurity Insight also makes available selected datapoints for policy documents, such as submissions to UN Special Rapporteurs. Insecurity Insight's data is also used in key global reports, including the Explosive Weapons Monitor quarterly brief and annual report, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Report (SHCC) and the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict's 'Credible List' annual report.

The Explosive Weapons datasets

The data used in the Explosive Weapons Monitor annual report is collated and documented by Insecurity Insight from a range of different sources. It includes incidents where explosive weapons impacted key civilian infrastructure, including aid operations, education, healthcare, IDP or refugee camps and food and water systems.

[1]Lamba, Hemank et. Al. 2024. HUMVI:AMultilingual Dataset for Detecting Violent Incidents Impacting Humanitarian Aid; https://arxiv.org/pdf/2410.06370

These incidents are publicly available on Insecurity Insight's *Explosive Weapons Incident Data* dataset. This data is based on open-source incidents published in Insecurity Insights bi-weekly or monthly news briefs, additional information, including backdated information not available at the time of publication of the news brief, and some confidentially shared information. This dataset excludes incidents reported by partners who have requested that individual incidents not be shared.

This event-based data can be combined with first-hand accounts and other on-the-ground sources to build a rich, contextualised understanding of how ongoing conflict and the use of explosive weapons in populated areas (EWIPA) affect civilians, civilian infrastructure and the provision of critical services. It allows us to understand the context of a given situation and helps us analyse trends and patterns of attacks to support practical security risk management, continued provision of healthcare and compliance analysis of the respect of international humanitarian law. The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all incidents of explosives that affected the areas monitored by Insecurity Insight and have not been independently verified.

The *Explosive Weapons Overview data* presents aggregate figures on incidents in which aid access, education, healthcare, food and water systems were impacted by explosive weapons.

Risk Management Guidance Documents

Since 2022, drones are an escalating threat to aid operations, education and health care programmes. To support humanitarian operations and healthcare programmes in these settings, Insecurity Insight developed a practical guide for local aid agencies and their international partners, including those involved in the provision of education and health care in conflict environments.

Humanitarian Data Exchange

Publicly available datasets containing data on the impact of explosive weapons on aid access, education, health care, IDP and refugee camp and food and water systems can be accessed through Insecurity Insight's Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) platform. Data is updated on a weekly basis.

Use and Citation

Any use of Insecurity Insight's data, including in reports, documents, and visuals, should cite the source, the data selection and the data period.

Suggested Citation Formats:

Citation: Insecurity Insight. 2026. 2020 - 2026 Explosive Weapons Incident Data. Data retrieved on DD MM YYYY.

Insecurity Insight is continuously updating and backdating the *Explosive Weapons Incident Data* dataset and numbers continuously change.