# Aid in Danger Incident Trends

**Insecurity Insight's monitoring of open sources identified 309 events in 21 countries that affected health workers, health facilities and ambulances in 2016.**

The actual number of events affecting healthcare is undoubtedly higher. These 309 events only include incidents reported in open sources and do not reflect actual incident numbers, highlighting the limitations of open-source data. For example, open sources frequently reported the number of health workers killed, less so injuries. If health worker injuries were reported, the number of staff affected was not always given.

The highest number of reported events were identified in Syria (268 out of 309). If the Syrian events are not included, the number of open-source-identified events affecting healthcare in 2016 slightly increased compared to 2015 (32 in 2015 to 49 in 2016).

## Events affecting health workers, facilities and ambulances in all countries excluding Syria, as reported in open sources, 2016

In all countries excluding Syria, **15 health workers were reportedly killed and 19 were kidnapped in 30 events in 15 countries.** A high number of deaths were reported in Pakistan (6 out of 15). Five kidnapped health workers were released in South Sudan, Burkina Faso and Nigeria (3, 1, 1). In Burkina Faso and Nigeria, two health workers were released, but not their two colleagues. The status of the other events remains unclear (14). In addition, open-source reports recorded **21 health facilities** damaged or destroyed in 20 events in nine countries, mostly in South Sudan and Yemen (5 each), while **three ambulances** were reportedly destroyed or seized in three events in two countries.

**11 health workers were reportedly killed in actions perpetrated by non-state actors (NSAs),** mostly by firearms (64%). One event reported the use of an explosive weapon in an al-Shabaab hotel attack in Somalia that killed a Somalian Concern doctor and three anti-polio campaigners were found dead after going missing two weeks earlier.

**Seven health facilities were damaged or destroyed by NSAs.** Four health facilities were reportedly damaged by explosive weapons used by NSAs in Pakistan (2), Afghanistan and Libya (1 each). In addition, a health centre was reportedly ransacked in South Sudan and King Khalid Hospital was reportedly fired on in Saudi Arabia. In addition to health facilities, one ambulance was reportedly seized during an attack on an IDP camp in Niger and one ambulance was reportedly destroyed in an arson attack by Ninjas Nsi Loulous militia in the Republic of Congo.

**One health worker was reportedly killed by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes on an MSF-supported hospital in Yemen.** The actual number of fatalities in this event is unclear from the available open-source data and it is likely to be higher than the one reported. Afghan forces arrested and assaulted an unspecified number of health workers during a raid on a health facility, and Pakistani police assaulted eight health workers protesting the lack of facilities at state-run hospitals.

**Nine health facilities were damaged or destroyed by state actors (SAs).** Airstrikes by SAs reportedly destroyed four health facilities in Yemen and Iraq/KRI (3 and 1) and reportedly damaged four health facilities in Yemen, Iraq/KRI and Libya (2, 1 and 1). An MSF-run clinic was reportedly engulfed in tear gas in violent clashes between police and refugees in Greece.

## Events affecting health workers, facilities and ambulances in Syria, as reported in open sources in 2016 (269 events)



**108 health workers were reportedly killed and 31 were injured in 60 events.** No reports of kidnapped health workers were identified in open sources.

**Most reported health worker deaths and injuries were attributed to Syrian and Russian forces (60%, 89 out of 139),** mostly by aerial bombing and missile and mortar attacks on hospitals (72%, 64 out of 89). In addition, four health workers reportedly died in detention when being held by Syrian forces and three paramedics were reportedly killed by mortar shelling and barrel bombings by Syrian and Russian forces when responding to victims of a previous attack. A SAMS surgeon was reportedly fatally shot by a government sniper and one health worker was reportedly killed by Syrian forces who opened fire after having granted safe passage.

**19 health workers were killed and four injured in six events attributed to NSAs.** A high number were reportedly killed in three ISIS bombings in Al Hasakah and Latakia governorates (79%). One attack in Latakia reportedly killed 11 health workers and damaged a health facility.

**163 health facilities and 132 ambulances were reportedly damaged, destroyed or seized in 244 events.** Most reported damage to or destruction of health facilities and ambulances was attributed to airstrikes, missile attacks, and shelling by Russian and Syrian forces (94%, 277 out of 295).

**Eight health facilities and four ambulances were reportedly damaged, destroyed or seized in 11 events attributed to NSAs.** Six health facilities were reportedly raided and looted by ISIS, Al Islam Army, Al-Nusra and Jund al-Aqsa militants. In addition, a health facility was reportedly damaged in an ISIS suicide attack (see above). Al Islam Army militants reportedly seized two ambulances, while one Red Crescent ambulance was reportedly destroyed by an Al-Fateh Army-planted IED and another damaged by rockets fired by Der' Al Furat forces. There is limited information on the perpetrator(s) in one event involving damage to a children's and maternity hospital.