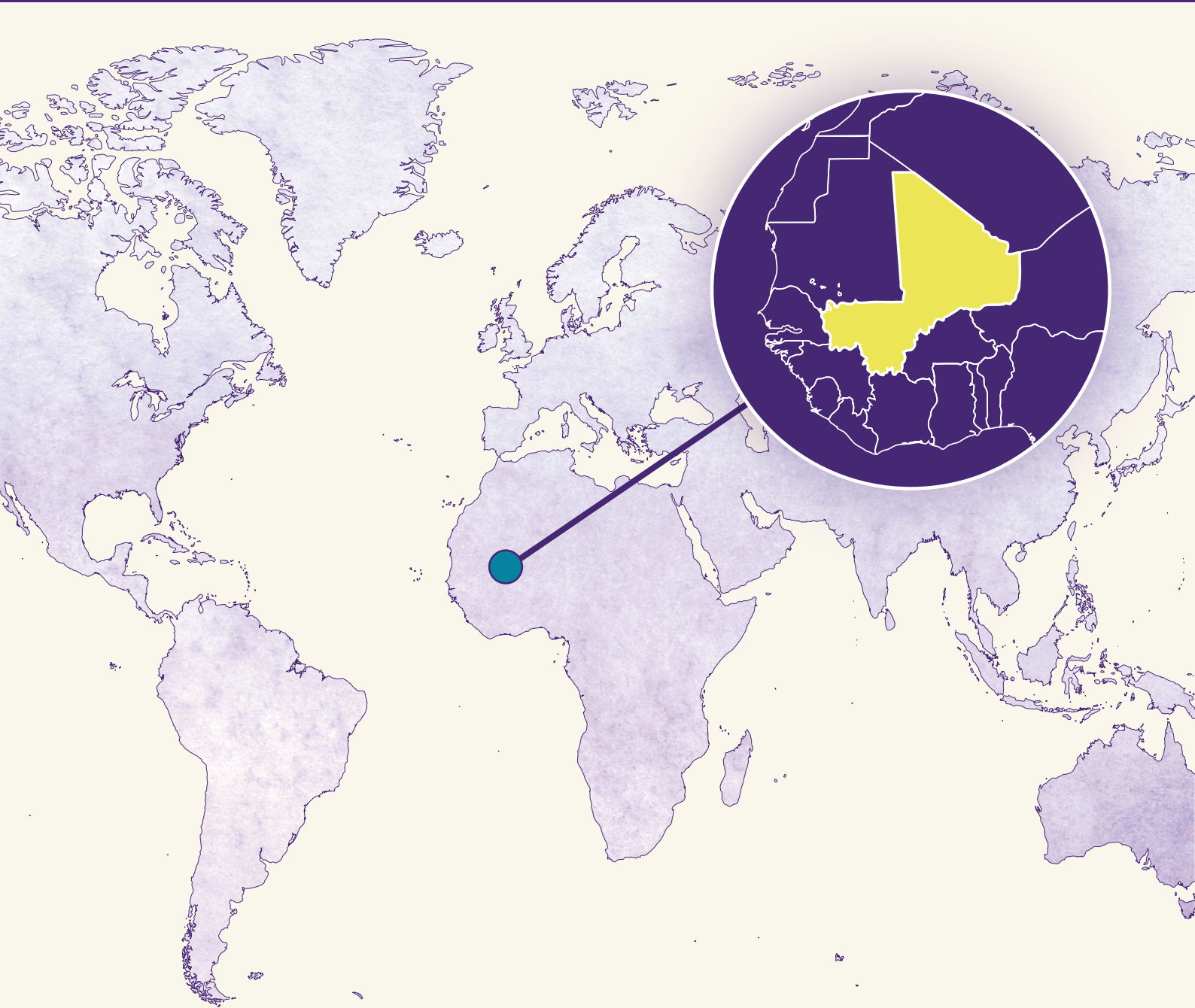


MALI

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 KIDNAPPED
2025	
22	19
2024	
37	9
2023	
48	31

Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

OVERVIEW

Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 22 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Mali in 2025, compared to 37 in 2024 and 48 in 2023.¹ Among incidents reported in 2025, at least 19 health workers were kidnapped.

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. Restrictions imposed on independent reporting following the country's 2021 military coup may also have been responsible for the decline in reported incidents.

Methodology and sources

Information on incidents of violence against health care in Mali is compiled from open sources, aid agency data-sharing mechanisms, 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

In 2025, Mali remained affected by a protracted non-international armed conflict that has persisted since 2012. Hostilities involved the Malian Armed Forces (FAMa) and Russia-linked mercenary forces in combat with organized armed groups that included Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) and Islamic State Sahel Province (ISSP), particularly across the central Sahel region.

Shifts in external military involvement added further uncertainty to the situation in the country. In June 2025, the Wagner Group announced its withdrawal from Mali, with reports indicating a transition to the involvement of the Russian-linked Africa Corps in support of government forces. In September 2025, Mali – together with Burkina Faso and Niger – announced its withdrawal from the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Armed violence remained concentrated in central and northern Mali. In the Tombouctou region, fighting intensified in November, marked by clashes involving JNIM and joint military operations conducted by FAMa and the Africa Corps. Violence against civilians continued to be reported, including killings and abductions attributed to armed groups, particularly in Gao.

Humanitarian needs in Mali remained at high levels in 2025, with an estimated 6.4 million people requiring assistance, even as compounding shocks continued to strain already fragile systems. While flooding persisted – albeit with less severe impacts than in 2024 – humanitarian access to affected populations became increasingly constrained. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) documented a sharp rise in humanitarian access incidents, reaching a total of 814 across key locations, including Bamako, Gao, Ségou, Niono, Sévaré, San and Ménaka regions, largely driven by the widespread presence of explosive devices. Seasonal flooding also continued in 2025, although the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that its impact was lower than in 2024.

The media space continued to shrink in Mali, limiting access to information on violence against health care.

The early 2025 freeze on USAID funding and broader US foreign aid cuts abruptly halted critical development and health programs, forcing abrupt cancellations of projects, layoffs, and budget shortfalls for organizations reliant on USAID support. This disruption jeopardized vital services – particularly in the areas of health, education, food security and primary care – as projects designed to expand access to health information, primary care and other essential services were suspended, with local partners having to reduce staff and scale back programming amid increased humanitarian needs.

VIOLENCE AGAINST OR OBSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CARE IN 2025

In 2025, publicly reported violence impacting health care was reported in nine regions (the same as in previous years), with cases continuing to be frequent in Gao and Ségou regions. Recorded cases decreased in Kidal and Mopti regions. Most incidents affected health care providers operating in national health structures, with two affecting NGOs and one a private health care organization.² Health worker kidnappings surged in 2025, while arrests and killings continued.

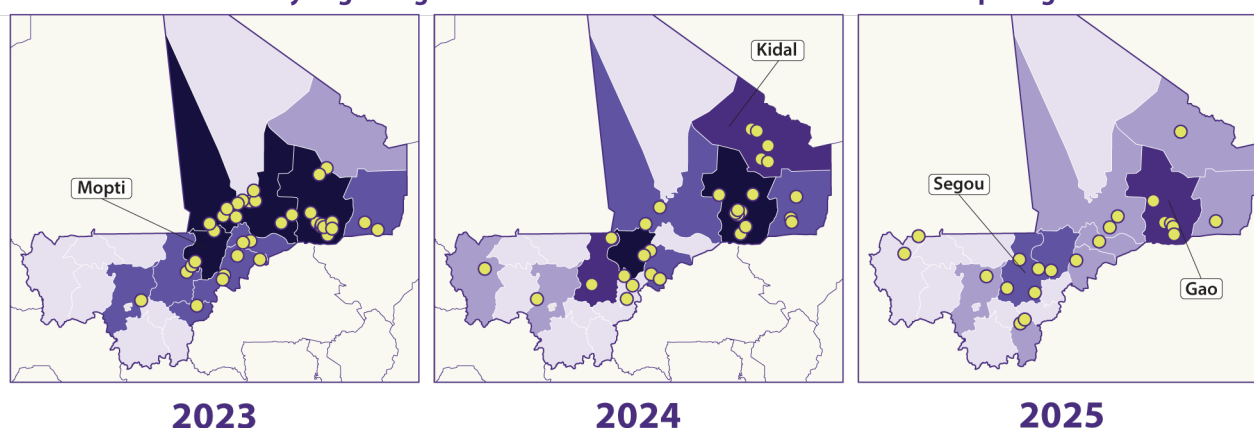
JNIM fighters armed with guns were implicated in nearly half of reported incidents, while a third were attributed to unidentified armed men. ISSP fighters also looted a health facility in Gao.³ FAMa troops reportedly violently searched medical centers, arrested health workers on accusations of providing



care to conflict parties and seized medical supplies. In a joint operation, FAMa troops and Africa Corps mercenaries raided a village in Tombouctou, killing a health worker, looting and destroying infrastructure, and setting vehicles on fire.⁴

Known locations of reported incidents affecting health care in Mali, 2022-2025

In 2025, most incidents were reported in Gao region where violence remains persistent, followed by Ségou region. Recorded cases decreased in Kidal and Mopti regions.

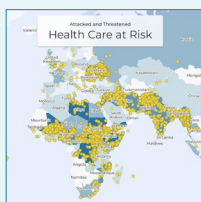


Note: The boundaries in these maps reflect 2023 districts.

Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

Health workers kidnapped

In 2025, 19 health workers were kidnapped in ten incidents, compared to nine in six incidents in 2024 and 31 in 21 incidents in 2023. Reported victims included community health workers, doctors, and emergency medical workers who were kidnapped from clinics, their homes, and while traveling to remote areas to provide care. JNIM militants and unidentified attackers were reported as perpetrators. At least 14 abducted health workers were released, while a vaccinator was kidnapped and killed by armed men while he was in his rice fields in Ségou.⁵ The fates of the remaining kidnapped health workers are unclear.



This chapter is based on 2023-2025 MLI 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

Mali's health care system, already operating with limited capacity, was placed under additional strain in 2025. Ongoing conflict continued to erode health service delivery in affected areas, leading to clinic closures and reduced access for those needing care. Fewer than a quarter of health facilities in the hardest-hit areas that the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) supports remained operational. A Health Cluster update reported that around 4% of health facilities were non-functional and 10% were only partially accessible,



while the UNFPA reported that less than 25% of facilities in the most affected regions were able to provide comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care or support for gender-based violence survivors, limiting access to essential and preventive services.

In 2025, worsening operating conditions for health care and humanitarian actors compounded existing pressures, with OCHA recording 814 incidents in which humanitarian access was restricted. Explosive devices on major roads frequently blocked travel, limiting patient referrals, outreach, and the delivery of medicines and essential health supplies.

Service continuity was further undermined by disruptions to critical support systems. UNICEF reported that power and fuel shortages threatened vaccine storage systems and essential medicines, impacting 59 referral centers and 682 front-line facilities across 67 of Mali's 75 health districts, leaving 1.94 million people in at-risk areas without reliable access to care.

- 1 The SHCC's 2024 Annual Report cited 36 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Mali in 2024, compared to 48 in 2023 and 57 in 2022. 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 MLI SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 95796; 119093; 122314.
- 3 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 MLI SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 95381.
- 4 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 MLI SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 111621.
- 5 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2025 Report Dataset: 2023-2025 MLI SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 105058.

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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