

Attacks on Health Care

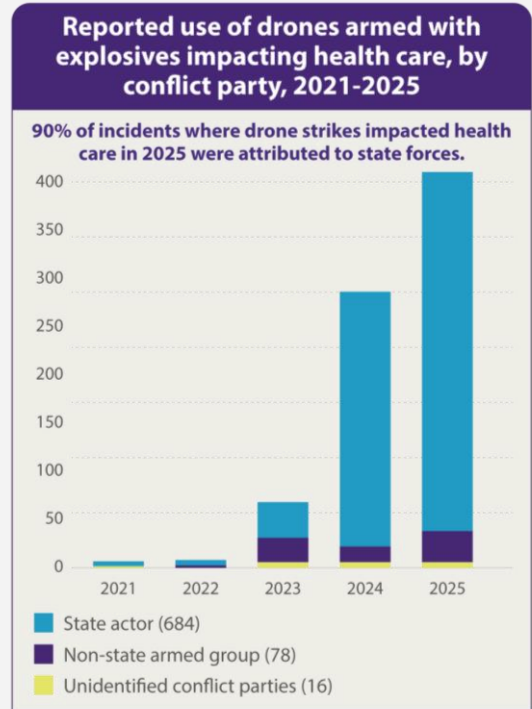
News Brief

19-31 August
2026

Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the **Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC)** recorded **2,546 incidents in 33 countries** in 2025.

Armed drone strikes affecting health care occurred in multiple contexts, including direct attacks on hospitals, as part of wider assaults on towns and during multiple strike attacks targeting health workers conducting search and rescue operations. In total, these drone strikes damaged or destroyed health care facilities on 246 occasions and killed 37 health workers while injuring 124 others. The strikes disrupted service delivery through program closures, reduced access and staff shortages, as well as the psychological impact on the health work force.

The use of drone-delivered explosives impacting health care surged by 43% in 2025, with 410 incidents recorded, compared to 286 in 2024. These incidents accounted for 34% of all incidents where explosive weapons affected health care in 2025, up from 16% in 2024. Incidents were reported in 12 countries in 2025 – one more than in 2024 – with new incidents of drone use impacting health care documented in the DRC, Iran, and Yemen, while no incidents were reported in Mali and Niger in 2025.



Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

Past editions: 05-18 August; 22 July-04 August; 08-21 July; 24 June-07 July; 10-23 June; 27 May-09 June; 13-26 May; 29 April-12 May; 15-28 April; 01-14 April; 18-31 March; 04-17 March; 18 February-03 March; 04-17 February; All

SHCC Reports: 2025; 2024; 2023; 2022; 2021; All

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SHCC Attacks on Health Care

The section aligns with the **definition** of attacks on health care used by the **Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition** (SHCC).

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

19 August 2026: In Birambizo locality, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu province, Birambizo General Referral Hospital was looted by unidentified armed perpetrators, who stole medicines, medical equipment and office supplies. The looting occurred on the same day that the hospital resumed activities following nearly four days of suspension, disrupting the provision of healthcare and access to care. **Source:** All Africa

Publicly reported incidents affecting Ebola response measures in the DRC

17 August 2026: In Kandoyi village, Aru territory, Ituri province, Kandoyi Health Centre was vandalised, and health workers were threatened by community members amid tensions related to the Ebola response, forcing almost all patients to leave the facility, including recently operated patients and pregnant women. Only a few health workers returned to provide minimal emergency services, while the medical director returned to the facility on 22 August under protection from the Congolese National Police (PNC). **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

18 August 2026: In Malikuti village, Rungu health zone, Haut-Uélé province, two Red Cross volunteers conducting an Ebola burial were attacked and injured by local community members and later were evacuated to Isiro for medical care. **Sources:** [All Africa](#), [Health Policy Watch](#) and [International Committee of the Red Cross](#)

19 August 2026: In Beni city, North Kivu province, three Red Cross volunteers participating in Ebola response activities were attacked and injured by a group of individuals, disrupting the provision of emergency health and humanitarian services. Equipment used in the intervention was also destroyed. **Sources:** [All Africa](#), [Health Policy Watch](#) and [International Committee of the Red Cross](#)

19 August 2026: In Kasanga Tuha village, Bunji health zone, North Kivu province, an Ebola safe and dignified burial team was attacked by unidentified perpetrators, killing and injuring an unspecified number of people. **Source:** [Actualite](#)

19 August 2026: In Mungamba village, Komanda health zone, Irumu territory, Ituri province, a vehicle used by an Ebola safe and dignified burial team was stoned and damaged by unidentified perpetrators while the team was conducting response activities. The team was subsequently escorted by the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC). **Source:** [Actualite](#)

27 August 2026: In Vuromo-Kakuva locality, Mukuna area, Katwa Health zone, Beni territory, North Kivu province, Bethesda Dispensary was set on fire by unidentified perpetrators at around 0100hrs amid rumours linked to the Ebola virus disease. **Source:** [Actualite](#)

Data by Insecurity Insight shows that since the outbreak on 21 May and 31 August 2026, 47 attacks on Ebola response measures have been reported in the DRC. Ebola treatment centres have been attacked and damaged 14 times, including nine cases of facilities being deliberately set on fire. In addition, 16 response workers were injured and seven others kidnapped. Data is collected daily, with continuous backdating as new sources and incidents are identified or additional information becomes available. Therefore, the data may differ from the version retrieved on 04 September following subsequent updates.

Sudan

Incident briefs: [19-31 August](#); [05-18 August](#); [22 July-04 August](#); [08-21 July](#); [24 June-07 July](#); [10-23 June](#); [27 May-09 June](#); [13-26 May](#); [29 April-12 May](#); [15-28 April](#); [01-14 April](#); [18-31 March](#); [04-17 March](#); [All](#)

SHCC chapters (EN): [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#). (AR): [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#).

Asia

Myanmar

Incident briefs: [19-31 August](#); [05-18 August](#); [22 July-04 August](#); [08-21 July](#); [24 June-07 July](#); [10-23 June](#); [27 May-09 June](#); [13-26 May](#); [29 April-12 May](#); [15-28 April](#); [01-14 April](#); [18-31 March](#); [04-17 March](#); [All](#)

SHCC chapters: Burmese: [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#). English: [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#)

Europe

Ukraine

19-20 August 2026: In Boryspil city and raion, Kyiv oblast, Red Cross facilities were damaged by a nine-hour overnight Russian attack using dozens of missiles and jet-powered drones. **Sources:** [Censor](#) and [Prime Minister of Ukraine](#)

22 August 2026: In Snihurivka city and urban hromada, Bashtanka raion, Mykolaiv oblast, a health facility and a pharmacy were damaged by three Russian drones in the morning. **Sources:** [Korabelov.info](#) and [UA Varta](#)

23 August 2026: In Kherson city and oblast, a Ukrainian Red Cross Society warehouse caught fire following a Russian drone attack, damaging and destroying supplies worth more than 620,000 USD. No staff or volunteers were injured. **Sources:** [Ukrainian Red Cross](#) and [UN News](#)

24 August 2026: In Arkhanhelivka village, Izium raion and oblast, a medical facility was damaged by Russian shelling. **Sources:** [Magnolia TV](#) and [UA Varta](#)

31 August 2026: In Kherson city, raion and oblast, a health facility was struck by a Russian drone at around 0645hrs, injuring two health workers: 69-year-old woman and a 62-year-old man who suffered concussion, blast injuries and closed head injuries. **Sources:** [Antikor](#), [Intent](#), [Mezha](#) and [Pravda](#)

Insecurity Insight identified over **3,300 attacks** on Ukraine's health facilities, health workers and infrastructure since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022 to 31 July. Hospitals and clinics were damaged or destroyed 1750 times and 489 health workers killed. 115 attacks impacted services provided for women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period. A further 143 attacks impacted services that provide health care to children.

SHCC Chapters: EN: [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#). UK: [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

24 August 2026: In Doha–Kafr Mann area, Nabatieh district and governorate, an Al-Risala Health Association ambulance was struck by a stun grenade launched by an Israeli drone while its medics were conducting a survey of the area, in an attempt to force them to leave the scene following a previous Israeli strike. **Source:** [Im Lebanon](#)

Occupied Palestinian territory

Incident briefs: [19-31 August](#); [05-18 August](#); [22 July-04 August](#); [08-21 July](#); [24 June-07 July](#); [10-23 June](#); [27 May-09 June](#); [13-26 May](#); [29 April-12 May](#); [15-28 April](#); [01-14 April](#); [18-31 March](#); [04-17 March](#); [18 February-03 March](#); [04-17 February](#); [All](#)

SHCC Chapters (EN): [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#). (AR): [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#)

Yemen

25 August 2026: In Sana'a city, Amanat Al-Asimah governorate, Al-Ahli Modern Hospital was surrounded and stormed by Houthi forces and established an armed camp near its entrance. A doctor was assaulted. **Sources:** [Al Montasaf](#) and [Khabar Agency](#)

29 August 2026: In Houthi-controlled areas, Houthi forces refused to allow the entry of a shipment of children's vaccines unless the UN reopened offices and resumed activities in areas under their control. The shipment was intended to be distributed free of charge to children amid shortages of vaccines and increased risks of diseases including measles and polio. The UN has demanded the release of detained staff, the return of seized assets and the lifting of restrictions on humanitarian organisations' activities. **Source:** [Al Montasaf](#) and [News Yemen](#)

The Americas

Mexico

21 August 2026: In Atlitenco de Altamira neighbourhood, Chilpancingo city, Guerrero state, a doctor was shot and killed in her home by armed men who opened fire at her. **Sources:** [Infobae](#) and [Reforma](#)

25 August 2026: In Arenillas city, Chihuahua state, a man purchasing medication at the pharmacy of Arenillas Basic Hospital was killed by an unidentified armed perpetrator in front of the facility. National Police officers consequently cordoned off the area. **Source:** [Jubones Public Radio](#)

As reported on 27 August 2026: In Tijuana city, Baja California state, a patient who was being treated for an earlier gunshot wound was killed in the emergency room of Tijuana General Hospital by a man disguised as a health worker in the daytime. **Source:** [Complaints IMSS Mexico](#)

This Bi-Monthly News Brief comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care. It is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It is prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases. The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of health care and have not been independently verified. All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations. This document is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested in curated datasets, if you have made a public statement that you would like us to include in our News Brief, to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on. Join our [mailing list](#).

Insecurity Insight. 2026. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 19-31 August 2026. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. <https://bit.ly/19-31Aug2026Health>



Other resources

Drawing on ten years of systematically collected data, [Still Under Attack: A Decade of Monitoring Attacks on Health Care after the Adoption of UNSCR 2286](#) by Insecurity Insight documents the scale, patterns, and consequences of attacks on health care in conflict-affected settings worldwide. Among the report's key findings:

- Over 17,500 attacks on health care were recorded between 2016 and 2025
- Over 3,860 health workers were killed and over 2,500 were arrested or detained
- Local health workers remain particularly vulnerable, accounting for more than 65% of documented health worker killings
- The growing use of armed drones and explosive weapons is contributing to increasing damage to health facilities and health worker killings and injuries

Based exclusively on Insecurity Insight's data collection, it highlights how violence against health care is becoming normalised, with serious consequences for civilians, disease response and health systems. The report provides detailed analysis of perpetrators, methods of attack and emerging risks, including the growing role of new technologies in conflict environments. It also offers recommendations for governments, international organisations, humanitarian actors and the diplomatic community aimed at strengthening the protection of health care and improving accountability for violations.

Full Report: [Executive Summary](#)