Attacks on Health Care

News Brief

01-15 November 2026

The Missing Gender Dimension: Sex Is Unknown for Nearly 6 in 10 Health Workers Affected by Violence

Women accounted for 24% and men 76% of health workers affected by violence in cases where sex was reported. But sex was known in only 41% of 15,146 cases recorded by Insecurity Insight (2016-Sept 2026). These figures cannot tell us who faces greater risks. Better sex-disaggregated data is essential to understanding gendered impacts of violence against health workers.

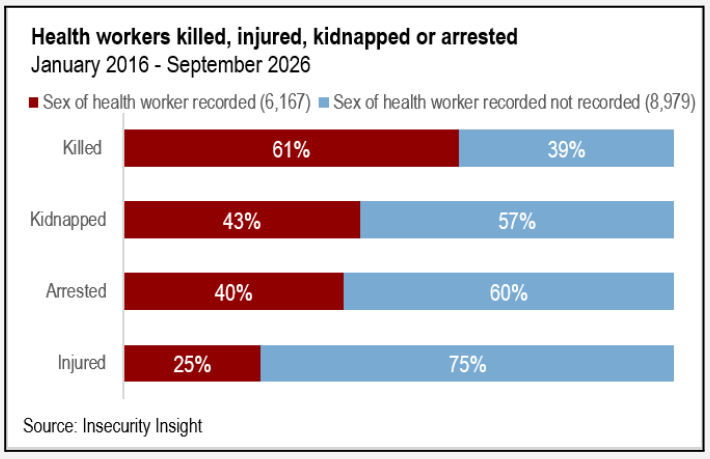
Understanding how armed conflict affects women and men differently requires reliable sex-disaggregated data. Without this information, the gendered impacts of violence against health workers remain largely invisible, limiting our ability to understand who is most affected, assess differences in exposure to violence and develop responses that address people centred needs. The importance of gender-sensitive evidence has long been recognised in the Women, Peace and Security agenda, beginning with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). Subsequent commitments, including Resolution 1889 (2009) and the Secretary-General's 2010 report, further emphasised the need for systematic monitoring and the collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data.

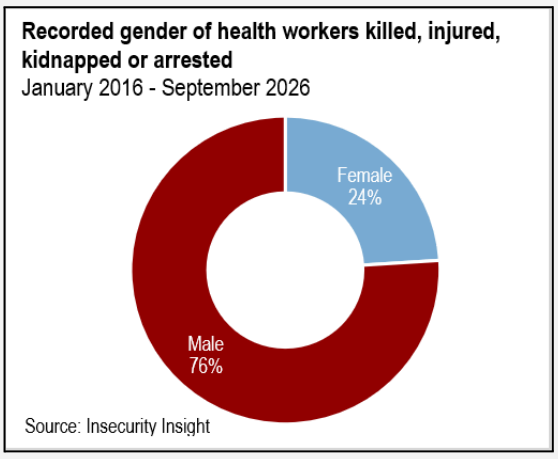
Sex is reported for only 41% of health workers affected by violence

Insecurity Insight's monitoring shows that of the 15,146 health workers recorded killed, injured, kidnapped and arrested between January 2016 and September 2026, sex was reported for 6,167 (41%). Reporting rates of sex also varied by incident type, reaching 61% for health workers who were killed, compared with 25% for those who were injured. One reason for these reporting gaps is that many organisations omit sex to protect the privacy and confidentiality of affected health workers and reduce the risk of their identification. While this is an important ethical and protection measure, it limits the availability of sex-disaggregated data and, consequently, the ability to understand gendered patterns of violence against health workers. This presents a challenge for efforts to improve monitoring while ensuring that the safety and privacy of affected individuals remain paramount.

Available data cannot establish whether women and men experience violence differently

Among the 6,167 health workers whose sex was reported, 1,410 (24%) were women and 4,419 (76%) were men. However, these figures should be interpreted with caution. As sex was reported for only 41% of recorded cases where health workers were killed, injured, kidnapped and arrested, the available data cannot establish whether this distribution reflects the actual gender composition of affected health workers or differences in reporting. Drawing conclusions about the relative exposure of women and men to violence based on these figures alone risks producing a misleading picture. It is also important to consider how many women and men work in healthcare overall. Without knowing the gender composition of the health workforce, it is impossible to determine whether women or men face a greater risk of violence. These findings highlight the need for more systematic and ethically responsible approaches to collecting sex-disaggregated data, so policymakers can better understand the gendered impacts of violence against health workers and develop evidence-based responses.





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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

Chad

14 November 2026: In Deki Refugee Camp, Chokoyane sub-prefecture, Ouara department, Ouaddaï province, a health worker was abducted by unidentified perpetrators at approximately 0800hrs and forcibly taken to an unidentified location. **Source: Radio Dabanga**

Democratic Republic of the Congo

03 November 2026: In Maikengu village, Bapakombe group, Bapere sector, Lubero territory, North Kivu province, an unspecified number of pharmacies were looted and burned by suspected ADF fighters during an attack on the village in the morning. **Sources: Actualite and Radio Okapi**

03 November 2026: In Mongbwalu town, Djugu Territory, Ituri province, community health outreach teams distributing insecticide-treated mosquito nets and antimalarial medication were attacked and looted by unidentified armed men. The assailants reportedly seized weapons belonging to the outreach agents and burned mosquito nets, medical supplies and service mobile phones. The incident led to the suspension of distribution activities, leaving over 70% of residents in Shune 2 neighbourhood without mosquito nets and antimalarial medication. **Source: Actualite**

As reported on 07 November 2026: In South Kivu province, the polio vaccination campaign across 34 health zones was postponed from 12–14 November until 19–21 November due to insecurity and difficulties transporting vaccines. Clashes in several territories reportedly impeded the movement of medical personnel, disrupting vaccination activities. **Source: Actualite**

08 November 2026: In Loashi village, Osso-Banyungu sector, Masisi territory, North Kivu province, a community liaison and hygiene worker at Loashi Health Centre was killed when armed men opened fire on people carrying out their daily activities. **Sources: All Africa and Radio Okapi**

Publicly-reported incidents affecting Ebola response measures in the DRC

06 November 2026: In Byautu neighbourhood, Beu commune, North Kivu province, an Ebola Treatment Centre managed by MSF treating 36 patients was attacked by armed men who attempted to set the facility on fire at around 2200hrs. Gunshots were fired, and security forces intervened and prevented the facility from being burned down. Bottles filled with petrol were recovered at the scene. The incident followed the death of a woman who had tested positive for Ebola, whose husband was reportedly affiliated with a Wazalendo group. Earlier that day, his associates had attempted to retrieve her body from the centre by force. **Sources: Actualite, Actualite I and Actualite II**

05 November 2026: In Cantine-Aloya locality, Beni territory, North Kivu province, three health facilities, including Kelekele Health Centre treating Ebola patients, were looted and burned down by ADF fighters during an attack on the area at around 2100hrs. An unspecified number of pharmacies and health posts were also burned down during the attack. The wider attack killed 66 people, including three health workers, 17 children and patients, who were killed with machetes or burned alive. At least 180 patients at Kelekele Health Centre, including people suspected of having Ebola, fled into the surrounding area, disrupting patient care, contact tracing and disease surveillance. More than 1,000 contacts were subsequently lost to follow-up, and three confirmed Ebola cases could no longer be located, raising concerns about further Ebola transmission. The attack also involved the burning of 17 homes and 15 shops. **Sources: Actualite, Actualite I, Media Congo, Radio Okapi and UN OCHA DRC**

Data by Insecurity Insight shows that since the Ebola outbreak on 21 May and 15 October 2026, 87 incidents affecting Ebola response measures have been reported in the DRC. Ebola treatment centres have been attacked and damaged 120 times, five response workers have been killed and nine 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 23 November following subsequent updates

South Sudan

05 November 2026: In Cueibet town and county, Lakes state, Cueibet County Hospital was attacked by armed youths who opened fire at around 1700hrs. A doctor working for the NGO ILpara Health International was shot in the chest and evacuated to Rumbek State Hospital for treatment. The attack was reportedly a revenge attack following the death of a patient who had been brought to the hospital after being shot in Malou-Pech payam. **Sources: Radio Tamazuj, Sudan Post and The City Review Digital**

Asia

Afghanistan

11 November 2026: In Jadeh-e Naw neighborhood, Kandahar city and province, five medicine sellers were injured after Taliban forces, accompanied by inspectors from the group's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, opened fire. This happened after the Taliban delegation attempted to confiscate medicines imported from Pakistan through legal channels. **Source: 8AM Media**

11 November 2026: In Jadeh-e Naw neighborhood, Kandahar city, Kandahar province, 21 medicine sellers were arrested, three of whom were injured, after a protest against the Taliban's collection of Pakistani medicines escalated into clashes between demonstrators and Taliban fighters. Seven were later released while 14 remained in detention. **Source: 8AM Media**

14 November 2026: In Saighan district, Bamyan province, two female health workers were detained for 24 hours, humiliated and threatened by the Taliban for not having a male guardian while they were traveling to the province to provide health services sent by the Taliban's Public Health. **Source: 8AM Media**

Publicly-reported incidents affecting polio vaccination efforts in Pakistan

02 November 2026: In Sheikh Utar union council, Tank district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, four health workers supporting the polio vaccination scheme were abducted by unidentified armed men. **Sources: Daily Excelsior, Rediff and Xinhua**

02 November 2026: In Azam Warsak area, Lower South Waziristan district, Dera Ismail Khan division, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, two members of a polio vaccination team were abducted by armed men. Both workers were subsequently released.**Sources: Daily Excelsior**,

04 November 2026: In Jamrud town and tehsil, Khyber district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a polio worker team supervisor was kidnapped while working on a polio vaccination campaign by unidentified perpetrators. **Sources: Daily Excelsior and IANS Live**

10 November 2026: In Sorghar area, Tank district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, three polio vaccine campaign workers were abducted by unidentified armed perpetrators while working. **Source: Daily Excelsior**

Data by Insecurity Insight shows that over 120 incidents affecting vaccination programmes were recorded in Pakistan between January 2016 and October 2026. At least 35 health workers working on vaccination programmes were killed and 35 kidnapped. Violence against vaccination programmes in Pakistan is **often fuelled** by militant opposition, misinformation and vaccine hesitancy. Such attacks have disrupted immunisation campaigns, placed health workers and security personnel at risk, and undermined wider public health and polio eradication efforts. 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 23 November following subsequent updates.

Europe

Ukraine

02 November 2026: In Tsentralnyi district, Kherson city, urban hromada, raion and oblast, a health facility was hit by a Russian drone less than nine hours after a localised humanitarian ceasefire ended. The impact damaged several rooms in the medical facility, breaking windows and interior doors, the facade, offices, computers, office equipment, and furniture. All staff had been in shelter when the drone struck. **Sources: 24tv**, **Al Bayan**, **Chroniclers**, **FREEDOM**, **Kherson MBA**, **Kyiv Post**, **L'Avenir**, **Shtab Info**, **TSN**, **UA Varta**, **Ukrainian News**, **Ukrainian Truth**, **Ukrinform**, **Vgoru I**, **Vgoru II** and **Vgoru T**

03 November 2026: In Nemishlyanskyi district, Kharkiv city, Kharkiv oblast, City Hospital No.8 was hit by Russian forces at approximately 0320hrs with a guided aerial bomb during a wider combined attack on Kharkiv involving ballistic missiles and guided aerial bombs. The bomb struck a passageway connecting two hospital buildings, damaging the hospital facade, wards and cardiology department building. The blast also damaged another medical facility, a laboratory, windows in ten nearby multi-storey residential buildings and 13 vehicles. More than 1,000 windows were damaged across the hospital and surrounding buildings. 73 patients, including elderly patients were injured and 226 patients were evacuated to other hospitals. **Sources: 057**, **AlQuds**, **Dumka**, **Gazeta Misto**, **Glavnoe**, **Head of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration**, **Kharkiv Today**, **Kharkiv Today I**, **Kyiv Post**, **NEWSru**, **Office of the Attorney General**, **Pravda**, **President of Ukraine**, **Suspilne**, **UA Varta**, **UNIAN**, **Word and Deed I** and **Word and Deed II**

08 November 2026: In Komyshuvakha settlement, Zaporizhzhia raion and oblast, two emergency responders were injured in a Russian drone strike while searching for those still missing from the Russian attack on an aid distribution site at a school on 02 November. **Sources: Deccan Chronicle** and **UN News**

13 November 2026: In Shevchenko district, Kyiv city, the building of the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedics was damaged in an attack by Russian forces at 0300hrs. The blast wave blew out more than 100 windows, causing a fire, and partially destroyed the second

floor of the building, which housed the hospital's offices, accounting department, and pharmacy. The hospital staff evacuated 30 people to safety, and seven more people were rescued by the State Emergency Service. Three people were injured and received medical treatment. Patients were also injured when the explosion occurred as people were descending to a shelter. **Sources: 360UA, Apostrophe, Chronikers, Fakty, Glavred, Ministry of Health of Ukraine, Nash Kyiv I, Nash Kyiv II, Novyny.LIVE, NV, Obozrevatel, Politarena, RBC, RegioNews, State Emergency Service of Ukraine, UAGolos, UA Varta, UNN and The News**

Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

04 November 2026: In Qabrikha municipality, Marjayoun district, Nabatieh governorate, an al-Rissala paramedic was killed by an Israeli drone strike. Another man was injured in the attack. **Source: Ahram Online**

Yemen

01 November 2026: In Al-Hudaydah city and governorate, the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Hodeidah was struck by two airstrikes carried out by Saudi-led coalition aircraft. **Sources: 26 September, Yemen News Agency and Yemen News Agency II**

01 November 2026: In Al Suqaya area, Al-Mudaraba district, Lahj governorate, Al-Suqaya Health Centre, a UNICEF-supported facility, was struck and destroyed by a ballistic missile launched by Houthi forces in the evening, killing five people, including three health workers, and injuring 15 others, including seven health workers. An ambulance was also damaged in the attack. **Sources: Al Jazeera, Khabar Agency, Okaz, South24, South24 I, South24 II and UNICEF**

03 November 2026: In Hayfan district, Taiz governorate, Ma'shar Health Centre was struck and damaged by a mortar shell. The attack was attributed by the Ministry of Health and Environment to Saudi forces and their affiliated forces. **Sources: Al Manar and Yemen News Agency**

03 November 2026: In Al-Qabilah village, Al-Salw District, Taiz governorate, Al-Qabilah Health Centre was directly struck and destroyed by a Saudi airstrike, leaving the facility out of service. **Source: Al Manar**

05 November 2026: In the Al-Talh area, Sahar district, Saada governorate, health workers and first responders were directly hit in sequential Saudi-led coalition airstrikes while attempting to treat injured people and recover victims of an initial airstrike on a farm where two farming families were working. The attacks initially killed seven people and injured six others, with the overall death toll later rising to 13. **Sources: Al Manar, Yemen News Agency, Yemen News Agency I, Yemen News Agency II and 26September**

07 November 2026: In Al-Sharia village, Bani Hashish district, Sana'a governorate, paramedics were hit by three sequential Saudi airstrikes while attempting to retrieve people killed and injured in earlier airstrikes on homes. The subsequent strikes also hit civilians who had rushed to rescue victims trapped under the rubble, obstructing rescue efforts and the provision of medical assistance. Saudi forces also launched airstrikes on roads leading to the village, preventing ambulances and rescue teams from reaching the area and delaying the evacuation of injured people. The airstrikes killed 32 people and injured 38 others, including six civil defence personnel and an unspecified number of women and children. The number of paramedics among the casualties was not specified. **Sources: Al Manar,Al Manar I and 26September**

08 November 2026: In Al-Awat area, Al-Shaqab village, Saber Al-Mawadem district, Taiz governorate, an ambulance was fired upon and damaged by Houthi forces while transporting an

injured person. The attack killed the patient and ambulance driver, and injured a paramedic. The ambulance was left stranded at the scene due to continued gunfire, and a replacement ambulance team was deployed to recover casualties. **Sources: News Yemen and Yemen Window**

10 November 2026: In Al-Shaqab mountainous region, Sabr al-Mawadim district, Taiz governorate, an ambulance transporting an injured child was fired upon by Houthi fighters and prevented from reaching hospitals in Taiz city, obstructing her evacuation for medical treatment. The child subsequently died. **Source: Yemen Window and Yemen Window I**

The Americas

Colombia

01 November 2026: In Planadas municipality, Tolima department, a hospital was largely destroyed after suspected FARC dissidents reportedly used drones carrying explosives and a dump truck from which they launched cylinders filled with explosives (gas cylinder bombs) near a military base; one of the cylinders landed in the hospital's pharmacy area. Four people were killed, including a baby and 17 others were injured. **Sources: Caracol, El Colombiano and Shourouk News**

06 November 2026: In El Limoncito community, Maicao city, La Guajira department, an ambulance was intercepted and overturned by armed men on motorcycles carrying guns during an attempted robbery and kidnapping of the vehicle's occupants including medical and support staff, patients, and four children. A female health worker was reportedly thrown to the ground, and the driver was violently grabbed by the neck. **Sources: Guajira and Manaure Mi Pueblo**

09 November 2026: In Angostura town, Antioquia department, an ambulance carrying a 16-year-old patient was intercepted at around 2100hrs by armed men who searched the vehicle, allegedly to verify that it was not carrying a member of their opposition. The armed men then escorted the ambulance and patient for the rest of the journey to hospital. **Source: Tele Antioquia**

Mexico

07 November 2026: In Mazatlán city, Sinaloa state, a Red Cross ambulance was reportedly detained upon arrival at Mazatlán General Hospital at around 1300hrs, while carrying two gunshot patients from clashes in Loma Blanca, Rosario municipality, due to a lack of paperwork. One of the patients died on arrival, but was left inside the ambulance because a procedure was pending before the Attorney General's Office. **Source: Noroeste**

This 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. It is funded and supported by the Tides Foundation. The opinions expressed in it do not reflect in any way the position of the Tides Foundation who is not responsible for the content expressed in this document.

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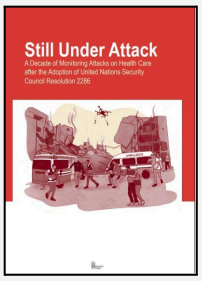
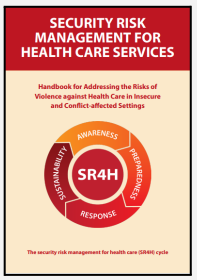


Drawing on ten years of systematically collected data, *Still Under Attack: A Decade of Monitoring Attacks on Health Care after the Adoption of UNSCR 2286* by Insecurity Insight documents the scale, patterns, and consequences of attacks on health care in conflict-affected settings worldwide. Based exclusively 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.



Health care provision has unique characteristics that shape its specific exposure to security risks in conflict zones. The Security Risk Management for Health Care (SR4H) Handbook – available in **Arabic**, **English**, **French** and **Spanish** – provides guidance on how to implement a range of actions intended to promote respectful and violence-free environments and prepare individuals or organisations to face and respond appropriately to violent incidents, also dealing with the aftermath of such events. The SR4H Handbook brings together some of the best practices on security risk management and proposes a framework adapted for health care providers working with limited resources. The objective is to promote an approach that considers the safety and security of health professionals while ensuring patients' access to care.

Country News Briefs:

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Sudan: **01-15 October**; **16-30 September**; **01-15 September**: **19-31 August**; **05-18 August**; **All**