

Attacks on Health Care

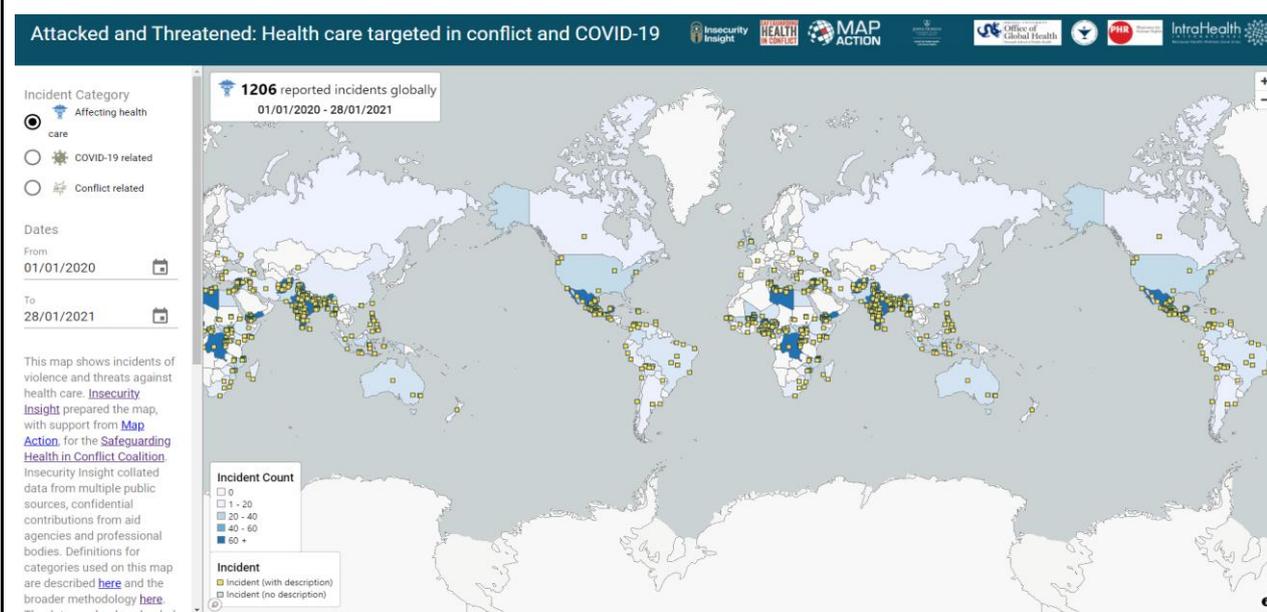
Monthly News Brief

February
2021

Insecurity Insight publishes data on incidents where health workers were killed, kidnapped or arrested (KKA) and incidents where health facilities were damaged or destroyed by a perpetrator including state and non-state actor groups, criminals, individuals, students and other staff members. **Download the data via our [website](#) or [HDX](#).**

Past editions: [January 2021](#); [December 2020](#). Join our [mailing list](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Get in [touch](#) to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on.

New Interactive Map Depicts Violence and Threats to Health Workers and Services around the World since January 2020



Take a look at our new [interactive map](#) which shows where health workers and facilities have been impacted by violence since January 2020.

How to use the map:

- Click on a country to show key statistics on perpetrators of violence, weapons use, the number of health workers killed, injured and kidnapped (KIK), and health facilities damaged or destroyed.
- Zoom in on a country to show yellow squares. Click on these to display the incident description.

Note: Incidents from the Attacks on Health Care Monthly News Brief will be added to the map. When added to the map, the incident is included in the country counts. Only geo-coded incidents appear on the map. Not all incidents included in the total counts for each country are currently geocoded. Geocoding is a labour-intensive process which causes delays in updates.

COVID-19 related resources

- Explore this [story atlas](#) we developed with UC Berkeley Human Rights Center, which includes videos of attacks and much more.
- Read our [latest research brief](#) on COVID-19 related violence.

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

Cameroon

04 February 2021: In Muyuka town, Fako division, Southwest region, gunmen fired at an MSF ambulance responding to an emergency call, critically injuring a nurse on board who was picked up by a second ambulance and taken to hospital. **Sources:** [HumAngle](#) and [MSF](#)

04 February 2021: In Bamenda city, Northwest region, youths attacked health care workers overseeing the burial of a pastor who had recently died of COVID-19. After forcing the COVID-19 team away from the premises, they confiscated the coffin and carried out the burial without following the health measures imposed by the health care team. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

Central African Republic

15-16 February 2021: In Bambari city, Ouaka prefecture, bullets and explosives from violent clashes hit an MSF medical tent, wounding at least eight women and nine children. **Sources:** [MSF](#) and [MSF](#)

Canada

Democratic Republic of the Congo

13 January 2021: Near Mambasa town, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, two Red Cross volunteers were attacked by local community members during the burial of a suspected Ebola victim, causing serious injuries. **Source:** [IFCR](#)

06 February 2020: In Kigabiro locality, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu province, a male nurse at Tanga Health Centre was kidnapped in the night by unknown perpetrators. **Sources:** [Election-Net](#) and [WikiRumours](#)

Around 16 February 2021: Along the Beni-Kasindi axis, Kalembo and Libokara villages, Beni territory, North Kivu province, pharmacies as well as shops were looted in an attack by ADF militants during which between 10-18 civilians were killed, two wounded and two others held hostage. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

21 February 2020: In Kaheku village, Lubero territory, North Kivu province, an Ebola vaccination team was attacked by local community members. While no casualties or injuries were reported, the incident reportedly resulted in material damage to the team's equipment. After discussions, local community members allowed the Ebola response team to carry out their work in the locality. **Source:** [Radio Moto](#)



Social Media Monitoring

Resurgent Ebola in North Kivu: social media responses

- Social media reactions to news surrounding the new Ebola outbreak indicate that the damaging rumours which negatively impacted public health campaigns during the tenth Ebola epidemic continue to be shared on social media.
- Some of these rumours include the claim that Ebola is a plot by outsiders and corrupt institutions or individuals to make money from the outbreak. [Read the full report](#)

Ethiopia

15 February 2021: In the Aba Sina forest area of Gimbi, West Wollega zone, Oromia region, six people travelling in an ambulance from Asosa to Addis Ababa were abducted by an armed group. Two were later released. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Mali

26 January 2020: In Gao city, a private health clinic was robbed by armed men who arrived in a mounted vehicle. All patients in the clinic were robbed of their personal belongings. **Source:** [Studio Tamani](#)

10 February 2020: In Herba village, Bourra commune, Goa region, a local health centre was ransacked in the afternoon by six armed men mounted on motorbikes. The men broke down the pharmacy's door, looted all the medical supplies, and hijacked a moto-tricycle which served as an ambulance for the health centre. **Source:** [Studio Tamani](#)

18 February 2020: In Gao city and region, armed men looted a medical clinic, assaulted patients and health workers and robbed them of their personal belongings. **Source:** [Studio Tamani](#)

Niger

27 January - 04 February 2021: In Bani Bangou, Abala, Ouallam and Bankilare departments, Tillaberi region, 31 health facilities were forced to close due to continuous insecurity including attacks against civilians and health staff. **Source:** [ReliefWeb](#)

Nigeria

07 February 2021: In Owo city, Ondo state, relatives of a dead COVID-19 patient assaulted several nurses at the Federal Medical Centre, two of which were seriously injured and were subsequently hospitalised. The following day, nurses started a strike, refusing to return to work until adequate security was provided. **Sources:** [AP News](#), [Sahara Reporters](#) and [YouTube](#)

Somalia

19 February 2021: In Mogadishu, military personnel barred three doctors and staff of the free emergency provider Amin Ambulance from conducting medical evacuations for victims of gunshot wounds. The ban happened shortly after an ambush of opposition protesters. **Source:** [Goobjoog News](#)

South Africa

04 February 2021: In Carletonville town, West Rand District Municipality, Gauteng province, unidentified perpetrators set fire to the personal protective equipment storeroom, resulting in the loss of COVID-19 medical equipment. **Source:** [ENCA](#)

South Sudan

14 February 2021: Between Rumbek Centre and Rumber North, Lakes state, gunmen attacked a vehicle carrying a polio vaccination team and supplies from Rumbrek centre to Malek, killing at least three aid workers and wounding four more. One health worker is reportedly missing. The vehicle was hired by the Lakes' State Ministry of Health and was carrying communication material to sensitise the population about polio vaccination, as well as polio vaccines and packs, as part of the second round of vaccination since an outbreak in September last year. The incident occurred during clashes between armed pastoralists in the Mabor area. **Sources:** [ECHO](#) and [Eye Radio](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

16 February 2021: Near Nasrat High school, in PD4 of Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province, a doctor was on his way to work with two security guards when they were killed in one of two shootings carried out in the area on that day by gunmen, possibly local militants. **Sources:** [Ariana News](#), [GardaWorld](#) and [Xinhua Net](#)

23 February 2021: In the Sarak-e Panj area of Baghlani-e-Markaz district, Baghlan province, a surgeon and head of the Baghlani Jadid Hospital was killed while on his way to Pul-e Khumri city. Baghlan police accused the Taliban of carrying out the attack. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [Tolo News](#)

Indonesia

15 February 2021: In Bilogai village, Sugapa district, Intan Jaya Regency, Papua province, three people, including a male patient who was shot earlier that day in Mamba village, were shot dead by

the Indonesian military at the Bilogai Health Clinic. The perpetrators claimed the victims were rebels who had tried to steal military weapons. Local community members stated that the victims were civilians and not part of the National Liberation Army of West Papua (TPNPB). **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Pakistan

22 February 2021: In North Waziristan district, Bannu division, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, unidentified perpetrators fired upon a vehicle carrying four female Pakistani aid workers affiliated with a programme for developing household skills for women, killing them. A fifth aid worker, also a woman, survived the attack by taking refuge in a nearby house. The attackers fled to the nearby mountains. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [The Guardian](#) and [The New York Times](#)

Myanmar

20 February 2021: In Mandalay city, Burmese soldiers shot at ambulance cars and medical staff who went to rescue injured protesters during the protests against the recent military coup. **Sources:** [Twitter I](#) and [Twitter II](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq

05 February 2021: On the Al Mandhariyah road, Diyala province, a doctor was injured during an assassination attempt by gunmen. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Occupied Palestinian Territories

23 January 2021: In Al Tuffah neighbourhood, Gaza strip, IDF warplanes damaged a children's hospital. **Source:** [Defence for Children International - Palestine](#)

15 February 2021: In the Gaza strip, the first shipment of 2,000 Sputnik V vaccines, intended for front-line medical workers, were reportedly blocked by Israeli authorities. Vaccine shipments were subsequently permitted to enter the Gaza strip on 17 February. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [The Guardian I](#) and [The Guardian II](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

16 February 2021: In Al Bab city and district, Aleppo governorate, a male volunteer to the Community Health Team which forms part of the Relief Experts Association, a UN-funded health project in the region, was killed after an IED placed under the organisation's vehicle by unknown perpetrators exploded. **Sources:** [Ahval](#), [OCHA](#) and [SNHR](#)

17 February 2020: In Afrin city, Aleppo governorate, al Shefaa Hospital was damaged when a missile fired by a Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) missile launcher landed close to it. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

22 February 2020: In Raqqa city and governorate, SDF arrested a male pharmacist in his home. His home was also looted and ransacked. Eleven other family members were arrested in Raqqa on the same day. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

Yemen

15 February 2021: In Wadi Hadramawt, Al Qatn district, Hadhramaut governorate, a civilian was killed during crossfire at Al Qatn General Hospital. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

The Americas

Brazil

23 February 2021: In Bandeirantes do Tocantins, Tocantins, a pharmacy owner was shot dead inside his own store by an armed individual who arrived with another person on a motorcycle. The perpetrators fled without taking anything. **Source:** [AF Notícias](#)

Colombia

19 February 2021: in Cuturu corregimiento, Caucasia municipality, Antioquia department, two health workers participating in a humanitarian medical mission were abducted by suspected Caparros members. The victims were released unharmed a day later following the deployment of additional military forces to search for the victims. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

El Salvador

31 January 2021: In Reparto Las Canas neighbourhood, Ilopango town, San Salvador department, an armed gang forced a doctor and an assistant nurse aboard an MSF ambulance to stop and get out of the vehicle while they were on their way to respond to a call. The crew was interrogated and threatened with guns before managing to escape. Both sought medical attention for minor injuries and bruises, as well as psychological assistance. In response, MSF suspended its activities in areas dominated by gangs near San Salvador until the reason behind this incident is clarified and the safety of staff is guaranteed. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [AP](#), [Doctors Without Borders](#), [MSF](#) and [Reuters](#)

Mexico

20 February 2021: In Huichapan, Hidalgo state, the Huichapan General Hospital was stormed by several armed men who forced doctors to hand over four patients treating injuries from a road accident on the Portezuelo-Palmillas road. The perpetrators kidnapped the four people and fled in an ambulance, which was later abandoned. **Source:** [El Universal](#)

Nicaragua

18 February 2021: In Managua, a doctor and member of the Nicaraguan Medical Unit suffered a head injury when two men on motorbikes hit him with an unspecified object. The attack seems to have political motivations as the perpetrators accused him of being a coup plotter. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Global Health Insecurity

These events go beyond the definition used by the SHCC to cover a wider range of events that affect the provision of health care including events perpetrated by patients or relatives of patients, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by health care personnel.

Africa

Cameroon

19 February 2021: In Kumba city, Meme department, Southwest region, educational classes were interrupted as students fled to avoid vaccination against COVID-19. At least three students sustained injuries as they fled the school campus. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

18 February 2020: In Kinshasa city, administrators and health workers at the General Hospital went on strike and burned tires in front of the hospital to express their dissatisfaction with the new medical director. **Source:** [Actualité](#)

09 February 2021: In Abuja city, a COVID-19 test centre was closed down by the Centre for Disease Control after having been found to be issuing false COVID-19 certificates. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

Somalia

As reported on 19 February 2021: In Bulo Fulay town, Bay region, efforts to vaccinate local community members against COVID-19 are expected to be hampered by misinformation and disinformation that COVID-19 only affects foreigners and that vaccine drives are a means of mass sterilisation. General insecurity in the region is also expected to hamper efforts. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

Asia

India

16 February 2021: In Kaithal city, Kaithal district, Haryana state, farmers opposed to the COVID-19 vaccination tried to chase doctors and health workers from a vaccination centre. This attack took place during ongoing protests against the recent farming reforms. **Source:** [The Economic Time](#)

Myanmar

03 February 2021: Across the country, public health workers went on strike to protest against the recent military coup. **Source:** [Crisis24](#)

Pakistan

11 February 2021: In the Bazidkhel area, Peshawar city, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, an Ahmadi homeopathic doctor was shot dead at his clinic by a Muslim teenager. The perpetrator was overpowered by local community members who handed him over to the police. A spokesperson for the minority Ahmadi group claims that members of their group have been attacked because of their faith by Islamic extremists. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [AP News](#) and [Dawn](#)

Europe

France

Around 17 February 2021: In Villefranche-sur-Saône commune, Rhône department, ransomware attacks struck two hospital groups in less than a week, prompting the transfer of some patients to other facilities. The attack, however, did not affect care providing for Covid-19 patients or virus vaccinations. **Source:** [France24](#)

United Kingdom

04 February 2021: In Kilmarnock burgh, East Ayrshire council area, Scotland, Crosshouse hospital was put into lockdown while police investigated a stabbing incident as well as two potentially linked incidents in the area. **Source:** [The Guardian](#)

Ukraine

27 February 2021: In Chernivtsi city, district, and region, a patient at a local hospital set himself on fire, resulting in a fire which killed the perpetrator and seriously injured another patient. **Source:** [112 Ukraine](#)

The Americas

United States of America

09 February 2021: In Buffalo city, Minnesota state, a gunman shot dead a nurse, injured four other people, and detonated three homemade bombs at a health clinic which had cut off his supply of pain medication. **Sources:** [Dailymail](#), [Fox9](#), [Fox News](#) and [Slashdot](#)

15 February 2021: In Auburn city, Alabama state, a bullet fired at a townhouse ricocheted into a hospital window, leaving a nurse with a cut leg. Police believe the shooting is linked to an escalating deadly feud between two crime families. **Source:** [ABC](#)

This 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.

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WHO SSA reported incidents in February 2021

This table shows the number of incidents reported by the WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA) in countries monitored by the Safeguarding Health Care in Conflict Coalition (SHCC). Incidents are broken down by attack type.

	# of reported incidents	Abduction, arrest, detention of health personnel or patients	Armed or violent search of health care personnel, facility or transport	Assault (without weapon)	Chemical agent	Militarization of civilian health facility	Obstruction to health care delivery	Psychological violence/of violence/intimidation	Removal of health care assets	Setting fire	Sexual assault	Other	Violence with heavy weapons	Violence with individual weapons
Afghanistan	1											1		
Burkina Faso	1								1					
CAR	2												1	1
Mali	1						1							
Nigeria	2			1										1
Syria	2												1	1
Yemen	1												1	
Total	10			1			1		1			1	3	3

Date period: February 2021. Data accessed: 11 March 2021

See [SHCC Methodology](#) for information on how the SHCC uses this data. This information may change as the WHO SSA is updated.

¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 04 March 2021.