

Attacks on Health Care

Monthly News Brief

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).

September
2019

This monthly digest comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care.

It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

Access [data](#) from the Attacks on Health Care Monthly News Brief on HDX Insecurity Insight.

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Africa

Burkina Faso

General: Across Burkina Faso, jihadist violence continued to deprive half a million IDPs of access to health care. **Source:** [AFP](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

General: In Ebola-affected regions, mistrust of health workers and widespread security issues continued to threaten the fight against Ebola. **Source:** [AP](#)

08 September 2019: In Lubero territory, North Kivu province, suspected Mai Mai militia vandalised and set fire to Makumbo health facility at night. **Source:** [Radio Moto](#)

09-15 September 2019: In Mambasa and Komanda, Ituri province, minor security incidents have affected vaccination and burial activities in the area. **Source:** [WHO External Situation Report](#)

12-13 September 2019: In Uvira, South Kivu province, two unidentified individuals posing as security guards abducted a doctor during the night from the Uvira Reference General Hospital. The doctor was subsequently released a few days later, on 17 September, with wounds on his body. **Source:** [La Prunelle](#)

14 September 2019: A former health minister, who oversaw the national response to the Ebola crisis until his resignation in July, was taken into custody and charged with the mismanagement of public funds dedicated to the Ebola response. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#) and [The Guardian](#)

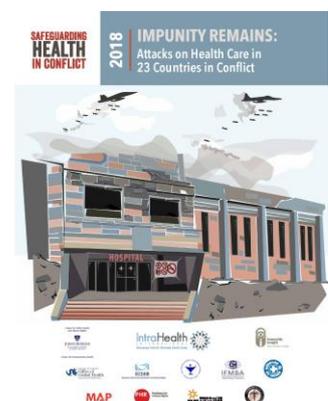
Attacks on Ebola Response in the DRC

Supporting organisations and health care providers with information alerts, analysis and practical recommendations on how to mitigate the impact of attacks on health care to ensure staff safety and better health outcomes. Sign up [here](#) for outputs.

Information Alerts

English: [1-15 Oct](#), [15-30 Sept](#), [1-16 Sept](#), [Jul-Aug](#)

French: [1-15 Oct](#), [15-30 Sept](#), [Juil-16 Sept](#)



The 2019 SHCC report focuses on 973 attacks on health care in 2018. Available in [Arabic](#), [English](#) and [French](#). Access [data](#) from the SHCC 2018 report on HDX Insecurity Insight.

15-16 September 2019: In Uvira, South Kivu province, two unidentified armed men reportedly assassinated a doctor at his home during the night. The victim was working at a local hospital run by nuns at the time of his death. In response, all the hospitals in South Kivu province provided a minimum level of service for three days. **Sources:** [Radio Opaki](#), [L'Essentiel](#), [La Prunelle RDC](#), and [Politico](#).

15-16 September 2019: In the locality of Lwemba, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, civilians reportedly associated with local Mai Mai Simba militia set four health facilities and eighteen houses belonging to Ebola medical responders on fire, apparently in reaction to the death by Ebola of a local Red Cross health worker. The local community reportedly accused the Ebola response of causing the victim's death to continue receiving humanitarian funding. In response to the attacks, the Ebola health response in the area was suspended, despite the continued presence of Ebola in the locality. **Sources:** [Radio Moto](#), [Radio Okapi](#), [WHO](#), and [Al Jazeera](#)

19 September 2019: On the road near Nyaleke village, Beni territory, North Kivu province, suspected ADF militia ambushed a vehicle, killing several civilians and stealing boxes of pharmaceutical products. **Source:** [Kivu Security](#)

20 September 2019: In Mususa commune, Butembo city, North Kivu province, suspected Mai Mai militia kidnapped a male doctor and two nurses from Vukaka hospital, where they were on duty. The hostages were released separately by the following day. The doctor was reportedly tortured during his abduction and threatened with being killed, apparently in retaliation for collaborating with Ebola responders. **Sources:** [Radio Moto](#), [Actu30](#), and [7sur7](#)

21-22 September 2019: In Kibwe, North Kivu province, around ten armed criminals reportedly targeted a local health centre, destroying part of the facility and attempting to abduct a local civilian for his involvement in the Ebola response. The criminals were eventually repelled by local community members, and four of the attackers were arrested and detained at a military camp. **Source:** [Radio Moto](#)

29-30 September 2019: In Biakato, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, a group of around thirty armed men identified as Mai Mai militants attacked a group of Ebola responders at their residence during the night. The assailants – who were reportedly looking to avenge the death by Ebola of a nurse who they believe was willfully killed by the responders – fled the scene after the rapid intervention of local police officers. No injuries were reported. **Source:** [Anadolu Agency](#)

Ethiopia

05 September 2019: In Gambella region, unidentified perpetrators killed two Action Against Hunger staffers who were returning from the paediatric Nutrition Stabilisation Centre at the Nguenyiel Refugee Camp. In response, Action Against Hunger suspended full operations in Gambella, but maintained the provision of emergency assistance. **Sources:** [Reuters](#) and [The New Humanitarian](#)

Nigeria

25 September (or around) 2019: In Maiduguri, Borno State, Boko Haram executed one of six aid workers it abducted in July 2019. The Nigerian aid workers, three of whom were health workers, were kidnapped during an ambush on their convoy near the Niger border. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

25 September 2019: In Borno and Yobe states, the Nigerian Armed Forces shut down four offices of Mercy Corps amid accusations of aiding terrorist organisations, forcing it to suspend its operations. **Sources:** [Africa News](#), [France 24](#), [Garda](#), [The Guardian](#), [TNH](#) and [Quartz Africa](#)

Sudan

13 September 2019: Update: In Khartoum, a doctor and activist who was wounded by gunshots during

the violent dismantling of a sit-in in front of the army command on 3rd June died from his injuries. **Source:** [Dabanga Sudan](#)

29 September 2019 (DOA): Update: In an unspecified location, a medical student and activist, who was raped during the violent dismantling of a sit-in in front of the army command on 3rd June, committed suicide. **Source:** [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

15 September 2019: In Taliban-controlled areas, the Afghan Taliban revoked their April 2019 ban on the ICRC and restored its guarantee for the security of ICRC staff carrying out humanitarian work across Afghanistan. ICRC operations resumed on the same day. **Sources:** [NPR](#) and [RFE RL](#)

19 September 2019: In Qalat city, Zabul province, a Taliban car bomb targeting an intelligence services building caused severe structural damage to the nearby city hospital, putting it out of service and killing at least 20 people, in addition to wounding 97 more, amongst whom were patients, doctors and hospital staff. **Sources:** [OCHA](#) and [RFE RL I](#)

25 September 2019: In Taliban-controlled areas, the Afghan Taliban revoked their April 2019 ban on the WHO and restored its guarantee for the security of WHO staff under the conditions that the WHO conduct only health-related work, get Taliban permission before hiring staff, and carry out vaccine campaigns only in health centres. **Sources:** [News Week Pakistan](#) and [RFE RL](#)

Indonesia

26 September 2019: In Central Jakarta city, Jakarta province, Indonesian police attacked the staff of the Red Cross who were helping a wounded rioter. The policeman stopped the Red Cross' ambulance, spat at the staff, and beat the rioter. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Pakistan

06 September 2019: In Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a female NGO immunization aid worker was shot and killed on her way to work by unidentified perpetrator(s) while travelling on the ring road near Madina CHG Station. **Source:** [AWSO](#)²

11 September 2019: In Wana town, South Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, masked gunmen kidnapped the doctor in-charge of Wana TB hospital. **Source:** [Dawn](#) and [Baaghi TV](#)

16 September 2019: In Sarokai, subdivision of Wana, South Waziristan district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, unidentified armed men abducted a doctor working with an unspecified international health agency. **Source:** [Eye News Network](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

04 September 2019: In Bab El Hawa, Dana, Idleb, a group of HTS fighters opened fired at a doctor's vehicle while he was driving to work, causing it to crash. HTS members then shot at the doctor's feet and physically assaulted him. The doctor, who works at the Maarat Misrin hospital, was taken to Bab El Hawa hospital for treatment. **Source:** [SAMS](#) and [SHRC](#)

04 September 2019: In Bab El Hawa, Dana, Idleb, HTS members stormed Bab el Hawa hospital, threatened doctors and medical staff, and kidnapped the doctor they had attacked earlier in the day. In protest to the violations, the hospital announced the suspension of its activities. **Source:** [SAMS](#)

08 September 2019: In Douma, Eastern Ghouta, Rif Damascus governorate, Syrian regime security forces arrested former doctors and nurses in various neighbourhoods. All of those arrested used to be active in the health sector during the opposition's control over the city. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

09 September 2019: In Kafranbel city, Idlib governorate, suspected Syrian regime artillery shelled a welfare centre for people with special needs, severely damaging the building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

10 September 2019: In Afrin city, Aleppo governorate, suspected members of the Syrian armed opposition arrested a male doctor who is also the director of Jihan Hospital, situated in Afrin city. The doctor was taken to an undisclosed location. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

12 September 2019: In Sfuhun village, Idlib governorate, suspected Syrian regime warplanes fired a missile near a Syrian Civil Defense centre, damaging the building and an ambulance located outside. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

13 September 2019: In Kansafra village, Idlib governorate, suspected Syrian regime artillery fired a shell on Kewan Hospital, damaging the building and injuring one patient. This marks the 52nd medical facility attacked since the beginning of the latest military campaign on April 28, 2019. **Sources:** [SNHR](#) and [Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations](#)

15 September 2019: In Ar-Ra'ee town, Aleppo governorate, a car bomb planted by unknown individuals hit a hospital, resulting in many casualties, including that of a male medical worker. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

25 September 2019: In Aleppo governorate, Syrian regime forces detained two brothers – a doctor and a paramedic – who used to work at the Daraa Makeshift Hospital and took them to an undisclosed location. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

Yemen

18 September 2019: In Marit city and governorate, unidentified tribesmen reportedly looted 10 vehicles belonging to the ICRC. **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.

Aid in Danger

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

02 September 2019: In Goma, North Kivu province, at least 22 health workers held a demonstration to demand employment rights. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Mozambique

10 September 2019: In Malinde, Macímboa da Praia, Cabo Delgado province, a health care clinic still under construction was destroyed in unspecified circumstances. **Source:** [Plataforma Media](#)

Niger

10 September 2019: Near Tongo Tongo, Tillabery region, two ICRC vehicles were ambushed by armed bandits. No injuries were reported. **Source:** [Xinhuanet](#)

Zimbabwe

14 September 2019: In Harare, three state security agents abducted a doctor and acting president of the Zimbabwe Hospital Doctor's Association from his home in the suburb of Budiriro, after a strike he had helped organise. A few dozen doctors and nurses subsequently marched to protest his disappearance. In a bid to contain the strike, the Zimbabwean Government temporarily deployed military doctors to state hospitals. Five days later, on 19 September, the victim was found alive in a bush approximately 35 kilometres away from Harare, where his captors had left him. **Sources:** [AFP](#), [Al Jazeera I](#), [Al Jazeera II](#), [BBC](#), [Frontline Defenders](#), [The Guardian](#) and [Times Live](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

19 September 2019: In Amtali, Barguna, Barisal, a health worker was attacked by a gang (allegedly led by Jahirul Islam Khokon) with hammers and had his hands and legs broken at Islampur community in what is believed to be a politically motivated attack. He is receiving medical treatment for his injuries. **Sources:** [The Daily Star](#)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

August/September 2019: The North Korean Government announced that it wants the number of international staff of the UNDP to be cut to one or two from six, the WHO to four from six, and UNICEF to cut its 13 staff by one or two. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

India

General: In Jammu and Kashmir state, security restrictions and a communications blackout by the Indian Government continued to result in long waits at hospitals, medicine shortages, and patients going without urgent operations and treatment. **Source:** [TNH](#)

26 September 2019: In Bangalore city, Bangalore Urban district, Bayaluseemé region, Karnataka state, unidentified perpetrators stabbed a South Sudanese pharmacy student, who succumbed to his injuries a day later. One suspect was arrested. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Yemen

18 September 2019: At Aden-Jawlat ath Thaqafah, Khur Maksar, Aden, dozens of students in Aden, the country's interim capital, were reportedly hit by a bus and assaulted by the driver while they were holding a protest in front of the Faculty of Medicine of the city's university to demand reductions in university fees. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Europe

France

16 September 2019: In Paris, nurses and doctors, alongside other professionals, held a demonstration to protest government plans to reform their pension scheme. **Sources:** [Euro News](#) and [Morning Star](#)

The Americas

Brazil

12 September 2019: In Rio de Janeiro city, Rio de Janeiro state, a fire of undetermined origin burned through the Badim Hospital, forcing staff to wheel patients into the streets on beds or in wheelchairs and leaving at least 11 people dead. **Source:** [JEMS](#)

WHO SSA reported incidents: September 2019

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 (e.g. transport, supplies, materials)	Setting fire	Sexual assault	Unknown	Violence with heavy weapons	Violence with individual weapons
Afghanistan	11	2					3	1					3	3
Cameroon	3												2	1
CAR														
DRC	24	1	2	3			4	21	2	2				4
Ethiopia														
Indonesia														
Iraq														
Libya														
Mali	1		1					1	1					1
Myanmar														
Nigeria														
oPt	3												1	3
Pakistan														
Somalia														
South Sudan														
Sudan														
Syria														
The Philippines														
Turkey														
Ukraine														
Yemen														
Total	42	3	3	3	0	0	7	23	3	2	0	0	6	12

Source: [WHO SSA](#)

Date period: September 2019

Data accessed: 11 October 2019

Note: See [SHCC Methodology](#) for information on how the SHCC uses this data.

Caveats and comments: This information may change as the WHO SSA is updated.

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The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of health care in the DRC 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.

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

² The AWSD database does not include the names of individual victims or the agencies affected by an incident. This is done in consideration of the victims and their families who may not wish to have the names publicised in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available.