

Attacks on health care



Escalating conflict and the massive scale of humanitarian needs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region continue to place health care providers at great risk.

Health workers are killed, kidnapped, and assaulted. Health facilities are destroyed, damaged or taken over for non-medical purposes. Ambulances are looted, stolen, shot at and denied travel through checkpoints. Health workers, hospitals, and patients also come under threat due to disruptions to electricity and water supplies, fuel shortages or obstruction of access to besieged populations.

In situations where health care systems are already fragile, threats to health care providers have devastating consequences, going beyond the loss of lives of health workers and the patients they might have saved. Thousands of people every year will die not because they are direct victims, but because the environment becomes too dangerous for effective health care to be delivered.

Documentation is essential to identify violations, create mechanisms for protection and develop the political will to enforce them. Together with partners, WHO is establishing a system for collecting data on attacks on health workers, health facilities, transport, and patients in complex emergencies. This information will be used to identify patterns and find concrete ways to avoid attacks or mitigate disruptions to health care delivery.

Regional Director video message



[Statement by Dr. Ahmad Al-Sarraf, WHO Regional Director,](#)
Photo essay



[View the photo essay](#)

Regional press releases and statements

[Attack targets health facility in Hama, Syria](#)

17 October 2016

[WHO condemns attack on Abs Hospital and calls for protection of health staff and facilities in Yemen](#)

17 August 2016

[Hospitals turned into graveyards: child and maternity hospital in Aleppo hit](#)

17 August 2016

[WHO condemns attack on Quetta Civil Hospital, Pakistan](#)

9 August 2016

[WHO condemns attack on Ma'arib Hospital, Yemen](#)

6 April 2016

[WHO condemns multiple attacks on health facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic](#)

17 February 2016

[WHO strongly condemns attack on hospital in Syria](#)

10 February 2016

[Insecurity drives health workers out of Yemen](#)

7 January 2016

[WHO condemns attack on Al Houban clinic in Taiz, Yemen](#)

7 December 2015

[WHO condemns attack on MSF hospital in Yemen](#)

5 November 2015

[WHO deplores bombing of MSF clinic in Kunduz](#)

3 October 2015

[WHO Regional Director calls for respect and safety for health care workers and facilities](#)

21 May 2015

[WHO condemns attacks on health facilities in Yemen and calls for immediate access for a scaled-up health response](#)

27 April 2015

[WHO condemns recent attack on a health facility in Deir ez-Zor](#)

17 March 2015

[WHO deplores attacks on health workers and health facilities in Afghanistan, Sudan and Yemen](#)

29 January 2015

[Gaza: WHO calls on all parties to respect and protect health facilities, personnel and patients](#)

22 July 2014

[WHO appalled by attacks on health-care facilities in Gaza](#)

28 July 2014

[WHO and UNICEF condemn attacks on health workers in Pakistan](#)

18 December 2012

[WHO condemns attacks on health facilities in Iraq](#)

21 June 2014

[WHO condemns attacks on health facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic](#)

15 October 2012

[WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean condemns deadly attacks on polio workers in Pakistan](#)

19 December 2012

[WHO condemns attacks on health facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic](#)

15 October 2012

[Protection from aerial attacks](#)

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