

18 August 2017 – Despite condemnations from WHO and health partners, attacks on health care in the Eastern Mediterranean have not decreased this year over last.

In the first 3 months of 2017, more than 152 attacks on health care were reported from 9 countries in the Region, compared to 57 attacks during the same time in 2016.

Behind these startling figures are real lives and real people. Every day, health workers in conflict settings face remarkable dangers and difficulties to provide care to those who need it most.

Thousands of health workers across the Region remain committed to the oath they took to save lives, sometimes knowingly risking their own lives as they refuse to abandon their patients.

World Humanitarian Day is time for us to stand with health workers, and show them that we are fulfilling our moral and human obligation to keep them safe.

[Attacks on health care](#)

[#NotATarget](#)

**Photo gallery**



Maher Hamzeh Abdul Kader is a health worker in the Syrian Emergency Medical System in rural Damascus.

"Luckily, I survived," says Maher. "After 22 years as an emergency worker in the national emergency service."



Yasser Shokri Al-Hussain is a nurse at Al-Qamishli national hospital, Al-Hassakeh, Syria. He has been working in the national emergency service for 22 years.

"Although I am supposed to work 8 hours per day, I sometimes work for 17 hours per day to fill shortages."



Ibtisam Salam Alaik is a health worker in Aleppo, Syria.

“I have been vaccinating children in Aleppo for more than 15 years. I continued performing my duties in



Hasan Kassar is a health worker who has been displaced from Al-Bab city in eastern rural Aleppo, Syria

“I fled with my family due to escalating violence in the area and I now deliver vaccines in the main health



Nibal Awad is a family doctor working as part of a mobile clinic team in the West Bank, occupied Palestine

“The work I do is very rewarding, not financially but emotionally. When I do my job, it gives satisfaction I



Raed Al-Shilleh from the West Bank in occupied Palestinian territory, is an ambulance worker with the P



Mahmoud Almasri, from Gaza has been a volunteer paramedic at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society



Ahmad Zia, 40, has worked for Afghanistan's national vaccination programme for 10 years as a campaigner

"I joined the vaccination programme because I want to serve our country and to see people protected from



Zahra recently joined Afghanistan's national vaccination programme and works as a volunteer vaccinator



Mohammad Ferdaus, 23, has worked as a volunteer vaccinator for 5 years. He goes from house to house

“Almost everyone in my area accepts vaccines when we offer them. If someone initially refuses, we con

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