EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS MONITOR

A civil society initiative that conducts research and analysis on harms and practices from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas for the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW).

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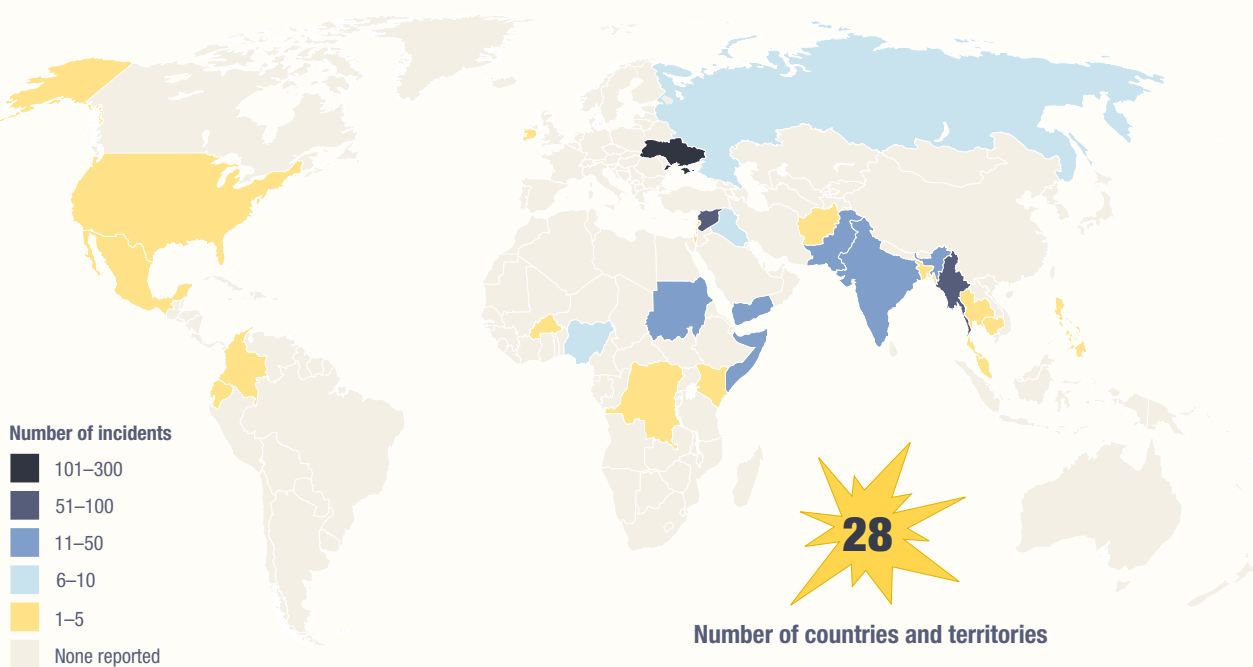
MONTHLY UPDATE FOR JULY 2023

Reported incidents of explosive weapon use that resulted in casualties

At least one death or injury from the use of explosive weapons was recorded in 28 countries and territories in July 2023. Worldwide, there were at least 552 reported incidents of explosive weapon use resulting in 2,694 casualties, of which 1,886 (70%) were civilians. About 50% of all reported civilian casualties occurred in Ukraine. Other affected countries and territories in terms of civilian casualties from the use of explosive weapons were Pakistan, Sudan, Myanmar, and Syria.

When explosive weapons were used in populated areas in July 2023, civilians reportedly accounted for 93% of all recorded casualties. This pattern of harm has been consistently recorded over the last decade.

This data is collected from English-language media reports. It does not attempt to exhaustively capture all incidents of explosive weapon use around the world but to serve as an indicator of the scale and pattern of deaths and injuries.

Reported incidents of explosive weapon use that resulted in civilian casualties by state/territory in July 2023

Number of incidents
- 101–300
- 51–100
- 11–50
- 6–10
- 1–5
- None reported

28 — Number of countries and territories

Reported incidents of explosive weapon use and civilian and armed-actor casualties in July 2023

Incidents: 552

Deaths: 553 civilians — 487 armed actors

Injuries: 1,333 civilians — 321 armed actors

Impact on civilians in populated areas in July 2023

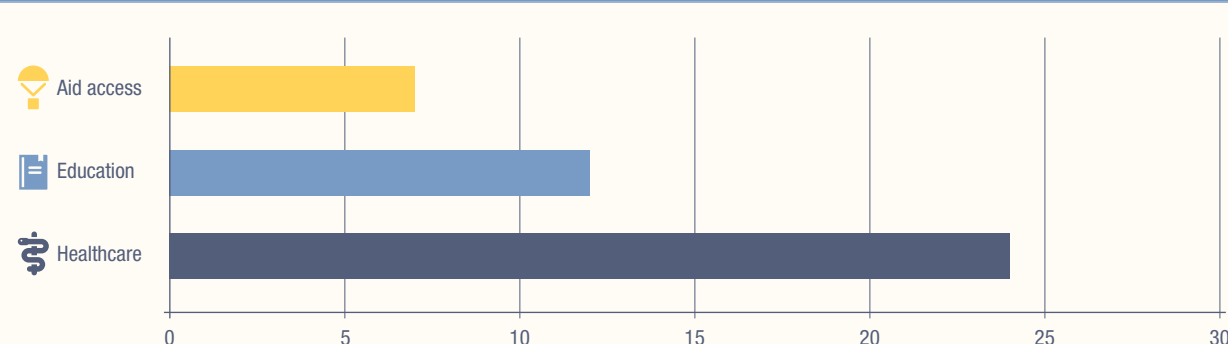93% of all people reportedly killed or injured in populated areas were civilians.

Reported incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education and healthcare

There were 43 incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education and healthcare services reported in seven countries and territories in July 2023. This marked a noticeable increase from 18 incidents recorded in June 2023.

At least 16 incidents were reported in Myanmar, where bombs were dropped on or near health facilities, and airstrikes and artillery shelling by Myanmar military forces damaged hospitals in Kayah and Kayain states. At least 15 incidents were also reported in Ukraine where airstrikes, rockets and shelling by Russian military forces damaged hospitals, clinics, pharmacies and schools.

Incidents also occurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Syria and Sudan. In Sudan, the Sudanese Air force fired artillery shells and deployed airstrikes which damaged hospitals on three occasions in Khartoum, and Rapid Support Forces dropped bombs in two health facilities in Omdurman.

Reported incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education and healthcare in July 2023
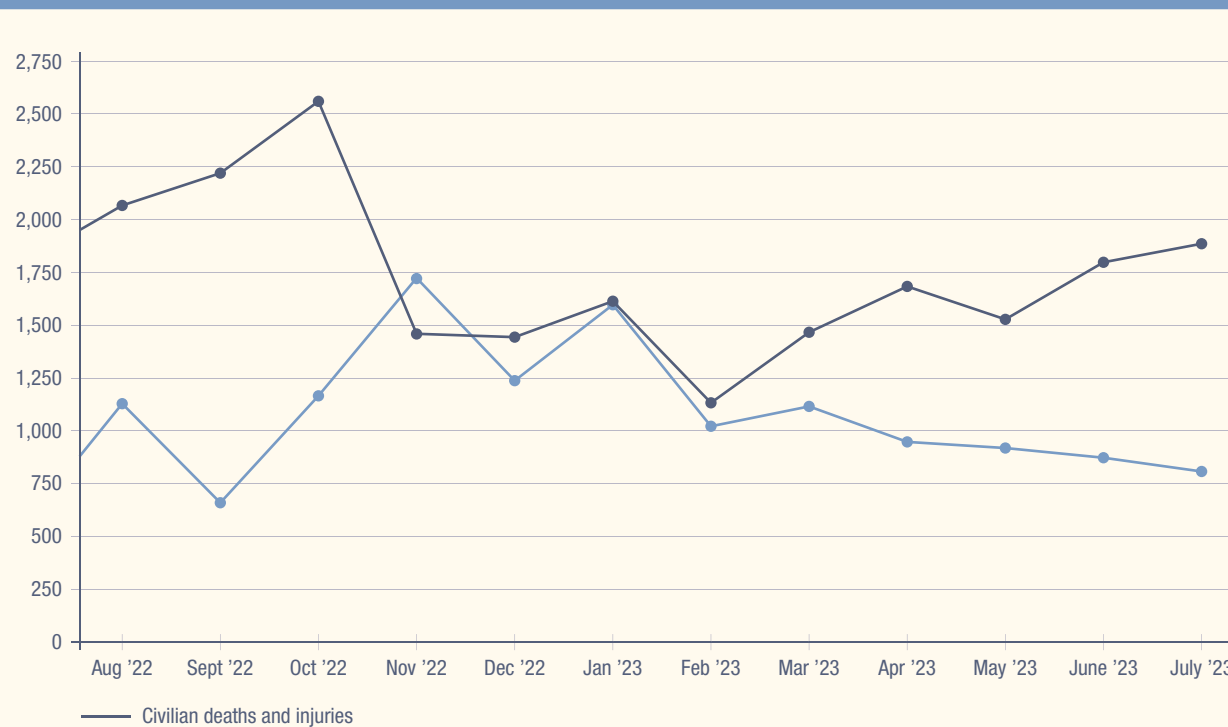

ANNUAL UPDATES FOR 2022–2023

Reported incidents of explosive weapon use that resulted in casualties

In the last year (August 2022 to July 2023), at least one death or injury from the use of explosive weapons was recorded in 58 countries and territories. Worldwide, there were 5,973 incidents of explosive weapon use resulting in 33,998 casualties, of which 61% (20,820) were civilians. About 45% of all reported civilian casualties occurred in Ukraine. Other affected countries and territories in terms of civilian casualties from the use of explosive weapons were Somalia, Myanmar, Syria, Sudan, and Afghanistan.
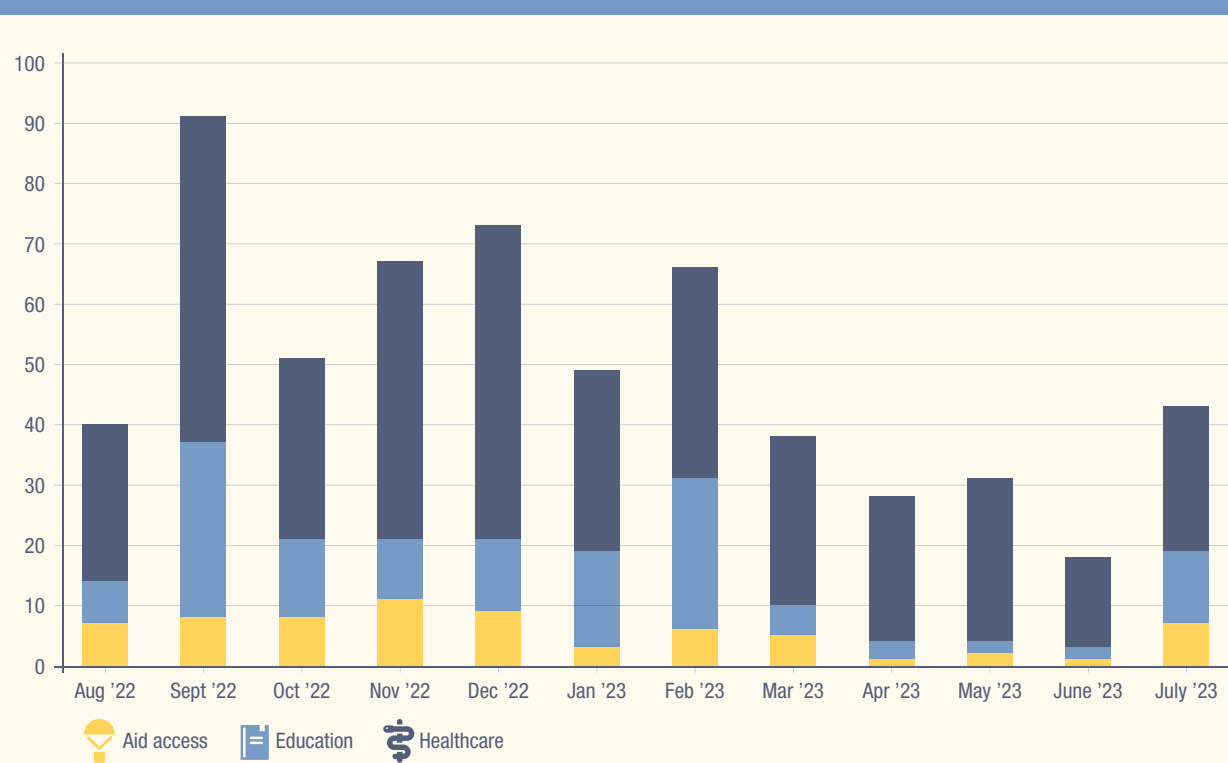
Reported civilian and armed-actor casualties by month

- Civilian deaths and injuries
- Armed actors deaths and injuries

Reported incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education and healthcare

In the last year (August 2022 to July 2023), there were 595 recorded incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education, and healthcare services in 23 countries and territories. Over two-thirds involved the use of ground-launched weapons including missiles, rockets and shelling. At least 187 aid workers, educators, health workers and students were killed by explosive weapons use in the last year.

Reported incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education and healthcare by month

- Aid access
- Education
- Healthcare

Data collection is ongoing and data may change as more information is made available.