

MONTHLY UPDATE FOR MAY 2023

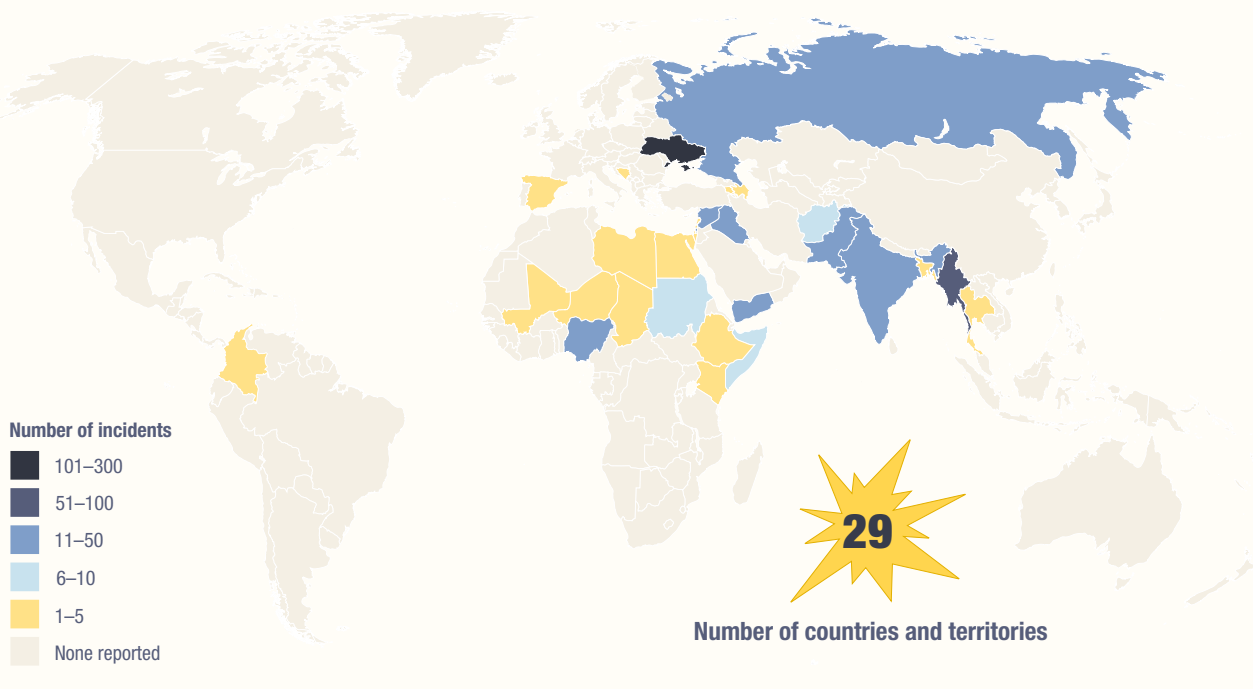
Reported incidents of explosive weapon use that resulted in casualties

At least one death or injury from the use of explosive weapons was recorded in **29** countries and territories in May 2023. Worldwide, there were at least 543 reported incidents of explosive weapon use resulting in 2,447 casualties, of which 1,528 (62%) were civilians. About 52% 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 Sudan, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Myanmar, and Syria.

When explosive weapons were used in populated areas in May 2023, civilians reportedly accounted for 86% 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 May 2023



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

Incidents



543

Deaths



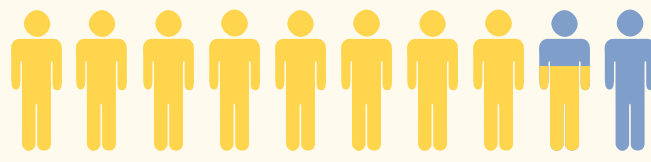
321 civilians
597 armed actors

Injuries



1,207 civilians
322 armed actors

Impact on civilians in populated areas in May 2023



86% of all people reportedly killed or injured in populated areas were civilians.

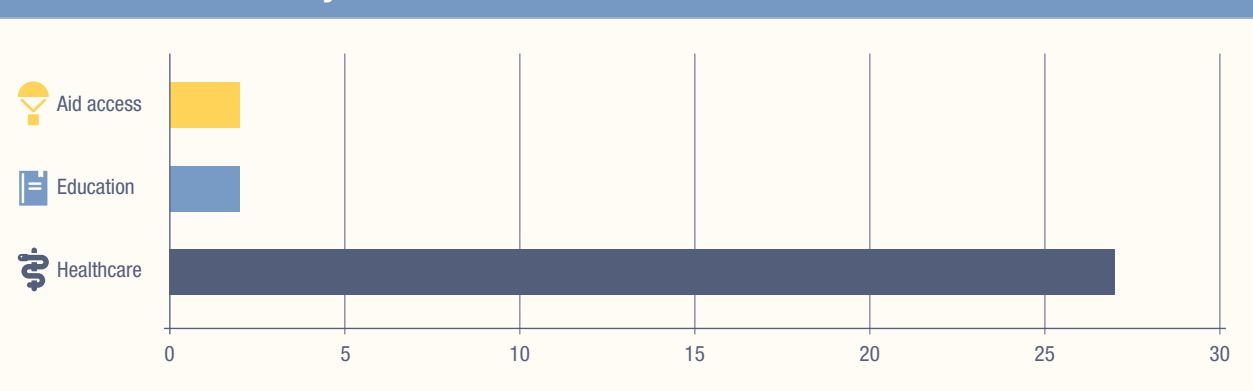
Reported incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education and healthcare

There were **31** incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education and healthcare services reported in Myanmar, Sudan and Ukraine in May 2023. Nearly two-thirds of all recorded incidents affected healthcare in Ukraine, where all but one incident were attributed to airstrikes, rockets, shelling, and missiles used by Russian Armed Forces. These incidents resulted in the deaths of at least 11 health workers and damage to health facilities including a children's rehabilitation centre, intensive care unit, mobile health unit and a medical warehouse.

An additional nine incidents were recorded in Myanmar in May, eight of which involved Myanmar military air strikes or shelling that damaged or destroyed health facilities. In addition, a Local Defense Force (LDF) in Kayah state reportedly used a drone armed with explosives which damaged a rural health centre. In Sudan, at least two health facilities were damaged by Sudanese Armed Forces airstrikes and a health worker was killed when a bomb of unidentified origin struck his family home.

This data may include some incidents where a device did not detonate or where there were no civilian casualties, and includes incidents where historical items such as unexploded ordnance were found and which affected the provision of these services.

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



ANNUAL UPDATES FOR 2022-2023

Reported incidents of explosive weapon use that resulted in casualties

In the last year (June 2022 to May 2023), at least one death or injury from the use of explosive weapons was recorded in **61** countries and territories. Worldwide, there were 5,594 incidents of explosive weapon use resulting in 33,292 casualties, of which 62% (20,558) were civilians. About 48% 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, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

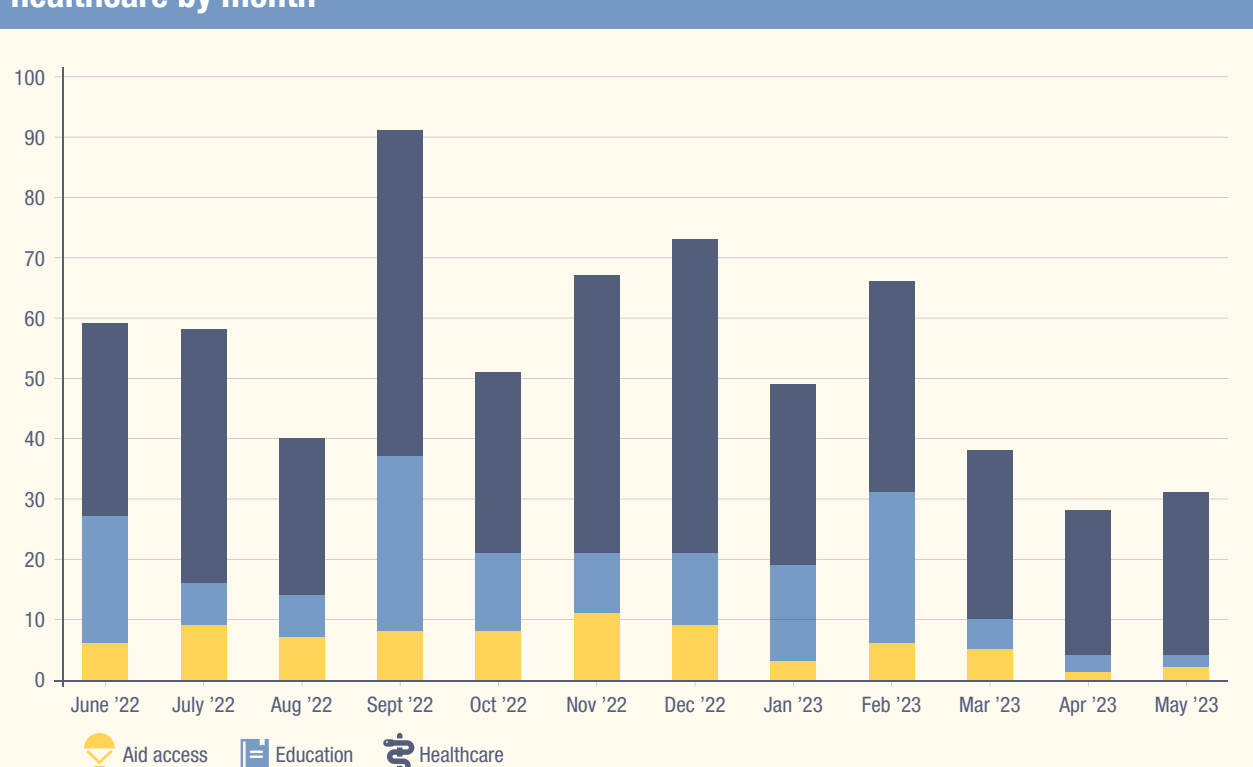
Reported civilian and armed-actor casualties by month



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

In the last year (June 2022 to May 2023), there were **682** recorded incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education, and healthcare services in 29 countries and territories. Nearly 90% of the 682 recorded incidents affected local healthcare or education providers. In total, at least 75 aid workers, educators and health workers were killed. The damage or destruction to health and educational facilities by explosive weapons use often led to their closure, impacting the population's access to these services.

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



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

This bulletin produced by Explosive Weapons Monitor publishes data on incidents of explosive weapon use around the world as reported in open sources. It uses data collected by Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) on incidents of explosive weapon use and casualties (including deaths and injuries), and data collected by Insecurity Insight on incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education and healthcare.