At least one death or injury from the use of explosive weapons was recorded in 21 countries and territories in July 2021. The five most affected countries/territories in terms of civilian casualties from the use of explosive weapons were Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Somalia. Worldwide, there were 209 recorded incidents of explosive weapon use, causing 1,456 casualties, of which 887 (61%) were civilians.

There were 10 incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education and healthcare services in four countries: Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sudan and Syria. A high number of incidents affected healthcare services in Syria. This data may include some incidents where the 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.
In July 2021, across 48 incidents, Afghanistan suffered 263 civilian casualties, 50% of the total casualties (531) from explosive weapons use. 88 of the civilian casualties were killed and 26 of the civilian casualties were reportedly children. 42% (110) of the civilian casualties were caused by ground-launched weapons, specifically mortars, while 36% (94) were caused by directly emplaced explosive weapons and 14% (37) by air-launched weapons. 33 of the 48 incidents took place in populated areas, and of the total casualties from these incidents (294), 82% were civilians (240).

The incident with the highest number of civilian casualties took place on 15 July when 12 civilians were killed and 20 injured in an airstrike by the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in Shuhada district of Badakhshan province, according to local officials.

July saw a decrease in the civilian casualties of explosive weapons of 27% when compared to June. However, civilian casualties still account for at least half the total number of casualties from explosive weapon use in the country. The most dangerous province for civilians in July was Kandahar, where 62 civilians were killed or injured by explosive weapon use. The number of civilian casualties from ground launched weapons increased significantly, from 72 in June to 110 in July, whereas the number of casualties from directly emplaced weapons, specifically IEDs, dropped from 231 civilian casualties in June to 94 in July. This is representative of a shift in tactics by the Taliban, as the Islamic fundamentalist group began focussing their efforts on capturing provincial capitals, causing an increase in the number of civilian casualties from the crossfire between the Taliban and ANSF.

Source: NYT.
Afghanistan

Healthcare

Around 15 July 2021 in Kunduz city and province, mortars of unidentified origin hit the main provincial hospital. Since the start of 2021, three incidents of explosive weapons impacting health services in Afghanistan have been reported. ©Source: BBC.

Syria

236 Civilian casualties

In July 2021, there were 73 recorded incidents of explosive weapon use in Syria, which caused 236 civilian casualties. 70 of these casualties were killed and 166 were injured. 31 were women and 77 casualties were reportedly children. Ground-launched weapons, such as artillery shelling, mortars, rockets, and grenades, accounted for the majority of incidents and civilian casualties, at 51 of the 73 incidents and 86% (206) of civilian casualties. There were 12 incidents involving use of directly emplaced weapons, predominantly IEDs as well as mines, causing 15 civilian casualties. There were 10 recorded incidents of the use of air-launched weapons, seven of which were airstrikes which caused 11 civilian casualties. All 11 civilian casualties of airstrikes were caused by Russian and Syrian airstrikes in populated areas in Idlib. 61% (126) of the civilian casualties caused by ground launched weapons took place in Idlib. 51 civilians in Idlib were killed or injured between the 15th and 17th of July by state rocket attacks on villages. 10 of the 51 civilian casualties were women and 18 were reportedly children.

The highest casualty incident for civilians in July took place on 17 July when eight civilians, seven from one family, were killed, including four women and four children, and nine others injured, including two women and three children, in a state perpetrated rocket strike on a village in Jabal al-Zawiya. 57 civilians were injured or killed by Syrian state ground launched weapons in Jabal al-Zawiya in July. As in June, Aleppo and Idlib provinces remain the most dangerous areas for civilians, combined accounting for 75% (178) of the total civilian casualties (236). The number of civilian casualties in Syria in July has increased by 11%, and the proportion of civilian casualties to total casualties has increased notably, from 57% in June to 75% in July. ©Sources: Syrian Network for Human Rights, Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Education

In July 2021 in Syria, two incidents of explosive weapon use affecting the provision of education were recorded. Two schools in Idlib governorate were damaged by artillery shells fired by Syrian forces. In 2021 so far, four incidents where explosive weapons impacting education services in Syria have been reported. ©Sources: Airwars, SNHR I and SNHR II.
**Iraq**

In July 2021 across 19 incidents of explosive weapons use in Iraq, there were 108 civilian casualties, 36 of whom were killed and 72 injured. There were 29 armed-actor casualties, 25 injured and 4 killed. As in June, directly emplaced weapons, specifically IEDs accounted for the majority of incidents and civilian casualties. There were 16 incidents of IED use in July, all of which were in populated areas, and these accounted for all but one (107) of the civilian casualties in July.

The worst incident for civilian casualties took place on 19 July in Sadr City, Baghdad, when an ISIS suicide bomber detonated his vest in the crowded Wahalat market on the eve of the Eid al-Adha festival, killing 35 civilians and injuring at least 60. This incident marked the highest death toll of any incident of explosive weapon use this year. The number of civilian casualties in July increased by 25% since June. *Sources: Al Jazeera, AP, ISHM.*

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**Syria**

In July 2021 in Syria, four incidents of explosive weapon use affecting health services were recorded. Emergency responders and a vaccination worker were killed and an ambulance, health office and medical equipment were damaged by air-and ground-launched explosive weapons. In 2021 so far, health services in Syria have been impacted by explosive weapons on eight occasions. *Sources: Airwars I, Airwars II, Airwars III and SNHR I, SNHR II, SNHR III and Twitter.*

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**Yemen**

In July 2021 in Yemen there were seven incidents of explosive weapon use recorded, causing 150 casualties, 77% (115) of whom were civilians. 91 civilians were killed and 24 were injured. There were 35 armed-actor casualties. The number of civilian casualties in July has increased by 28% compared to June. These civilian casualties were attributed to the use of ground launched weapons, air launched weapons and directly emplaced weapons, specifically shelling, landmines, a missile and an air strike. All incidents that caused civilian casualties took place in populated areas.

The worst incident of explosive weapon use for civilian casualties in July caused 77% of the total civilian casualties in the month. On 3 July, Saudi shelling in Saada reportedly killed 12 civilians and injured as many as 80 others, as reported by Yemen’s Al-Masira news network. Saudi Arabia was responsible for three of the eight incidents of explosive weapon use in Yemen in July. Houthi rebels were responsible for 21 civilian casualties through the use of landmines and shelling. July has seen the highest level of civilian casualties from the use of explosive weapons in Yemen this year so far. *Sources: ABNA 24, Islam Times.*
Somalia

59 Civilian casualties

There were four incidents of explosive weapon use in Somalia in July 2021, causing 59 civilian casualties, 36 of whom were killed and 23 injured. There were two armed-actor casualties. All incidents of explosive weapon use involved directly emplaced weapons, specifically IEDs, and two of the four incidents were suicide attacks. 58 of the 59 civilian deaths and injuries took place in populated areas.

The worst incident for civilian casualties of explosive weapon use took place on 2 July when an al-Shabaab suicide bomber detonated his vest in a crowded tea shop near a hotel in Mogadishu, killing at least 10 people and wounding at least 22 others. The incident with the second highest number of civilian casualties was also an al-Shabaab suicide bombing in Mogadishu that took place eight days later on 10 July and used a car bomb, killing nine civilians and injuring eight others. There were over five times more civilian casualties of explosive weapon use in Somalia in July than in June. Sources: Al Jazeera, The Hindu, Somali Guardian, Reuters, Guardian.

Sudan

32 Civilian casualties

There were two incidents of explosive weapon use in Sudan in July 2021, together causing 32 civilian casualties, 21 of whom were killed and 11 injured. There were no armed-actor casualties in July. The worst of the two incidents of explosive weapon use took place on 19 July in North Darfur, when artillery fire from an unknown perpetrator struck the Sortony camp for displaced people in Kabkabiya, killing 17 and injuring 9 civilians. 14 of the fatalities were reportedly women and 7 were children. The other incident of explosive weapon use occurred on 10 July in Port Sudan, when an IED killed 4 civilian fatalities and injured 2 others. These are the only recorded incidents of explosive weapon use in Sudan in 2021. Sources: Dabanga, Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Middle East Monitor, Garda, Global Times.

Aid Access

Around 18 July 2021 in Sortony IDP camp, North Darfur state, the camp was attacked with artillery shelling fired by unidentified perpetrators. At least 17 people were killed, including five children and seven women, and others injured. Several houses were also destroyed. Source: Radio Dabanga.
In July 2021 in Pakistan there were 12 incidents of explosive weapon use resulting in 21 civilian casualties, down from 31 in June. 14 of the civilian casualties were killed, seven injured, and three of the casualties were reportedly children. There were 30 armed-actor casualties from explosive weapon use. Ten of the 21 civilian deaths and injuries occurred in populated areas, while 11 took place in non-populated areas. The highest number of civilian fatalities from explosive weapon use in the month occurred on 2 July, when at least 40 artillery shells fired by state forces hit a village in Sagaing, 20km south-west of Mandalay in central Myanmar. Four civilians were killed and 21 armed-actors were killed and 10 injured in the attack.

Source: The Irrawaddy.

In July 2021 in Myanmar, two incidents of explosive weapon use affecting the provision of education were recorded. A primary school in Kachin and a high school in Magway region were damaged by directly emplaced explosive weapons. Between February and May 2021, homemade or crude bombs planted by unidentified groups were found or detonated on school premises at least 40 times. Source: ACLED¹.

In July 2021 in Pakistan there were 12 incidents of explosive weapon use resulting in 21 civilian casualties, down from 31 in June. 14 of the civilian casualties were killed, seven injured, and three of the casualties were reportedly children. There were 30 armed-actor casualties from explosive weapon use. Ten of the 21 civilian deaths and injuries occurred in populated areas, while 11 took place in non-populated areas. All but one (20) civilian casualties were caused by the use of directly emplaced weapons, specifically IEDs. The one other civilian casualty was caused by ground launched weapons. The worst incident for civilian casualties of explosive weapon use took place on 14 July, when an explosion on a bus carrying Chinese and Pakistani workers to a hydroelectric dam construction site in northern Pakistan killed 13 people. 11 of the fatalities were civilians, including 9 Chinese nationals, and two were Pakistani security forces. The cause of the blast was initially unclear and attributed to a mechanical failure, but ongoing investigations revealed traces of explosives and the Pakistani Foreign Minister has said the attack was a suicide bombing by Islamist backed militants. Sources: Reuters, Reuters, Reuters, NYT.

There were two incidents of explosive weapon use in Nigeria in July 2021, which resulted in nine civilian casualties. There were no armed-actor casualties. Both incidents occurred in populated areas. Three of the casualties, one child fatality and two others wounded, were caused by an IED. The worst incident for civilian casualties was a Nigerian state airstrike targeting armed groups in Zamfara, which killed a woman and four children and injured another woman. Sources: Sahara Reporters, Daily Trust.

Across seven incidents in July 2021, India suffered 5 civilian casualties, and 14 total casualties. Four of the civilian casualties were injured, and one was killed. One civilian casualty was reportedly a child and three of the five civilian casualties occurred in populated areas. Four were caused by ground-launched weapons, specifically grenades, and one was caused by an IED. The worst incident for civilian casualties occurred in incidents when State actors were being targeted in attacks using explosive weapons. On 31 July, a woman and child were injured by a grenade attack in Moreh, Manipur, that targeted the home of a police officer. Civilian casualties of explosive weapon use have decreased from 25 in June. Sources: The Hindu, Nagaland Post.

In July 2021 there were three incidents of explosive weapon use in Libya which collectively resulted in 13 civilian casualties and six armed-actor casualties. One of the 13 civilian casualties was killed and 12 were injured. All casualties were caused by the use of ground-launched weapons, specifically shelling, a grenade, and an RPG. All incidents took place in populated areas. The incident with the highest number of civilian casualties occurred on 18 July, when a militiaman fired an RPG round into the air while celebrating the wedding of a comrade. The round landed in the nearby neighbourhood of Laithi, in Benghazi, killing one civilian and injuring five others. Last month, June, there were no civilian casualties from explosive weapon use in Libya. Source: Airwars.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Civilian Casualties</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Two incidents of explosive weapon use in July 2021, resulting in four casualties. One incident caused two civilian casualties and one caused two armed-actor casualties. On 21 July, two civilians were injured by a landmine blast in the Khojlay district of Upper Karabakh. Sources: News.az.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>One civilian casualty from explosive weapon use in July 2021. On 10 July, a grenade targeting a civilian woman was thrown in a bar in Isiolo, injuring an off-duty Kenyan Defense Forces soldier. Sources: The Standard, AllAfrica.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oman</td>
<td>1 Civilian casualty</td>
<td>On 30 July 2021, an airstrike from a suspected Iranian unmanned drone hit an Israeli-operated oil tanker in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Oman, killing two crew members - one British national and one Romanian national. Sources: The Guardian, Daily Record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>1 Civilian casualty</td>
<td>Ten incidents of explosive weapon use in July 2021, resulting in one civilian casualty and 23 armed actor casualties. On 23 July, a civilian was wounded by Russian shelling in Maryinka, Donetsk. Sources: Ukrinform, Kyiv Post.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Casualties</td>
<td>On 16 July 2021, 10 Lebanese soldiers were injured by a grenade during protests in Tripoli, northern Lebanon. Sources: Xinhua Net.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Philippines

Casualties

On 7 July 2021, three armed actors were killed and six wounded by a landmine and gun attack in the Philippines. Sources: Philstar Global, Philippines News Agency.

Thailand

Casualties

There were nine armed-actor casualties in Thailand in July 2021, all caused by directly emplaced weapons, specifically a roadside bomb and an IED. Sources: Thaiger, Bangkok Post.

Armenia

Casualties

There were six armed-actor casualties in Armenia in July 2021, all from ground launched weapons, specifically shelling and a grenade. On 28 July, three Armenia soldiers were killed and two injured by Azerbaijani shelling in Basarkechar. Sources: TASS, TRT World.

Paraguay

Casualties

Three soldiers were killed on 29 July 2021 in Paraguay when their vehicle hit an IED in the road in San Pedro. Sources: The Rio Times, Archyde.

Mali

Casualties

On 9 July 2021, seven UN peacekeepers were injured when their vehicle hit an IED in the Mopti region in Mali. Sources: Punch, CGTN Africa.
ANNUAL 2021 COUNT

Recorded casualties

Data collection is ongoing and data may change as more information is made available.
## Explosive Weapons Type

**Recorded incidents between 1 January and 31 July 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Air-launched</th>
<th>Ground-launched</th>
<th>Directly emplaced</th>
<th>Combination</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian casualties</td>
<td>1,818</td>
<td>1,905</td>
<td>3,362</td>
<td>310</td>
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<td>% of total</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>89%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aid access incidents</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education incidents</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare incidents</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)](https://aoav.org) on incidents of explosive weapon use and casualties (including deaths and injuries), and data collected by [Insecurity Insight](https://insecurity-insight.org) on incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education and healthcare.