



# Attacks on Health Care Workers

## A WHO Perspective

- What is the extent of the problem ?
- What can we do about it ?



# Problem

Hospitals, health care workers, patients  
are under attack

Right to health care is under attack

Health care seems to be targeted



# Challenges today

- Hospitals are under attack :  
**Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen, ....**
- Health care workers are under attack:  
**Nigeria, Pakistan, Myanmar ....**



# Challenges today

- Patients are under attack:  
**South Sudan, Central African Republic**
- The right to health is under attack:  
**Myanmar**
- Health is impacted : **Syria**
- International health risks: **polio**

# Challenges today

*Polio workers attacked in Pakistan*



Photo: euronews/moroccantimes.com

▲ Ebola burial team attacked in Sierra Leone



**8 EBOLA "AID WORKERS" MURDERED IN GUINEA  
ACCUSED OF SPREADING THE DISEASE**

## WHA 65.20

“WHO’s response, and role as the health cluster lead, in meeting the growing demands of health in humanitarian emergencies”

Paragraph 2(8) calls on the Director-General

"to provide **leadership** at the global level in developing methods for systematic **collection and dissemination of data on attacks on health facilities**, health workers, health transports, and patients in complex humanitarian emergencies .....





# What do we know?

## Attacks during humanitarian emergencies in 2014-15

### From open source data

- Reports from 594 attacks in 19 countries
- 959 health care workers died
- 1,561 were injured

*(source: WHO review of 2014 2015 open source secondary data)*



# What do we know?



## Attacks during humanitarian emergencies in 2014-15

### From open source data

- 63% of attacks were against health care centres
- 26% against health care workers
- 62 % of attacks were intentional

*(source: WHO review of 2014 2015 open source secondary data)*





# Why do we care?

## Attacks against health care:

- deprive populations of urgently needed life-saving health care
- endanger health workers
- undermine duty of care
- decrease health security
- violate International Humanitarian Law
- impede health development goals





# What's our aim?

**Stop attacks on health care**

**Protect health care facilities and workers**

**Minimize disruptions to essential health services**





ATTACKS ON HEALTH CARE  
Prevent • Protect • Provide

# What do we need?

**Global and country-specific data and trends**

**Best ways to use this information for change**

**Good practices to stop/avoid attacks and mitigate the resulting disruptions to health care delivery**



# What does WHO do ?

**Documents attacks**

**Identifies and promotes good practices**

**Advocates / diplomacy**

**Safe hospitals program**



# The 5 A's

- Awareness
- Advocacy
- Attitude
- Action
- Accountability



# Technical Briefing at the World Health Assembly “Health Care under Attack: a call for action “



# Advocacy

- Technical briefings
- High level events
- General Assembly Resolutions
- Monthly input in SG report to Security Council
- Press statements
- Articles

# High level advocacy



**Valerie Amos**  
OCHA

**Bruce Aylward**  
WHO

**Peter Maurer**  
ICRC





# Future directions





# Attacks on Health Care Dashboard

Reporting period: 1 January to 31 March 2016 (Quarter 1)

## Overview

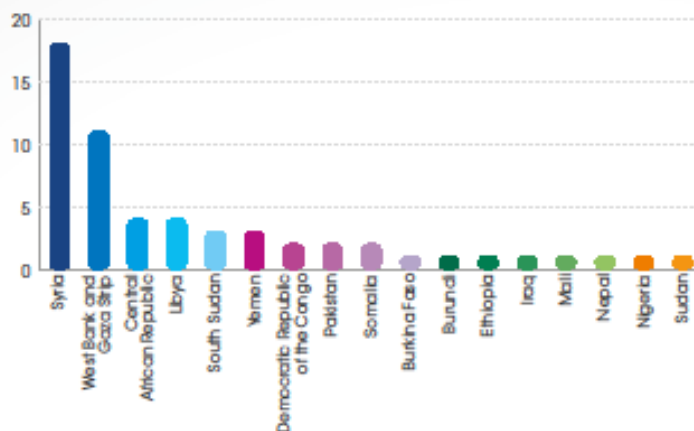
**57** attacks

**105** deaths

**138** injuries

**17** countries and territories

## Number of attacks



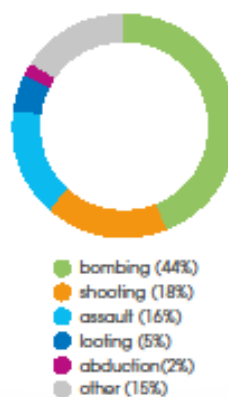
## Primary object



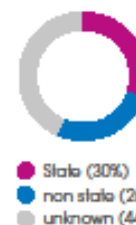
## Countries and territories with reported attacks (Q1 2016)



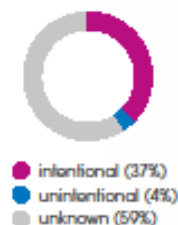
## Type



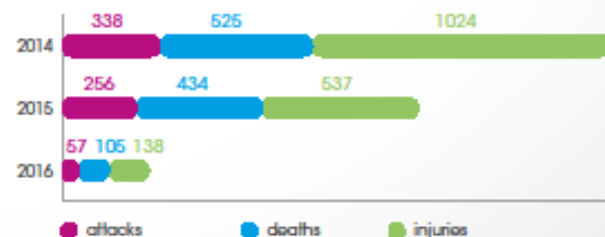
## Perpetrator



## Intentionality



## 3-year comparative data





# Future directions

- WHO to advocate for the right to health in all circumstances
- Collect data on the extent and the nature of the problem
- Work with all parties to ensure preventive measures are put in place

# So that the attacks will stop

