2018 saw the second highest number of aid worker attacks on record. A total of 405 aid workers were affected by major violence in 226 separate incidents.

Attacks took place in 35 countries, but most occurred in South Sudan, Syria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, and Central African Republic (CAR). Together these countries accounted for 67% of all major attacks.

An analysis of gender-based risks and sexual violence for this year’s Aid Worker Security Report found male aid workers experience attacks at rates 3-6 times higher than female aid workers overall. However, women are predominantly the victims of sexual violence (as reported) and are slightly more likely to be victims of other types of bodily assaults.

National aid workers, always the majority of victims in absolute numbers, are seeing their rates of attack per capita rising relative to their international counterparts, particularly fatal attacks. This reflects the comparative absence of international aid workers in many of the most insecure areas in conflict-affected countries.

Although South Sudan remained the country with the highest number of major attacks (55) and victims (111) recorded, Syria was the most lethal context for aid workers, with 56 fatalities recorded in 2018, mostly from aerial bombardment. DRC saw the steepest increase in violence in 2018, due both to increased criminal activity, including kidnapping, and the beginning of a spate of attacks against Ebola workers.

The highest incident contexts with types of attack (where known), 1997–2018

National aid workers, always the majority of victims in absolute numbers, are seeing their rates of attack per capita rising relative to their international counterparts, particularly fatal attacks. This reflects the comparative absence of international aid workers in many of the most insecure areas in conflict-affected countries.

Who provided the aid you received?

Obstacles to accessing aid

Has the aid presence reduced or increased in past year?

April 2019: 406 respondents (51% male, 49% female) living in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe

This overview of the latest verified aid worker casualty statistics is based on data from the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD). The AWSD is a project of Humanitarian Outcomes, made possible by funding support from USAID and available online at www.aidworkersecurity.org