Overall, attacks against aid workers were marginally lower in 2022, but there was a significant surge in kidnappings. A total of 444 aid workers fell victim to violence in 235 separate attacks, with 116 killed, 143 injured, and 185 kidnapped. South Sudan remained the most dangerous operational context for humanitarian workers, with Haiti and Ukraine newly joining the group of countries with the highest number of incidents.

In Ukraine, attacks by Russian forces claimed the lives of at least 11 aid workers, mostly in collateral damage from airstrikes and shelling. Moreover, they have illegally detained at least 39 aid workers, many of whom were reportedly abused.

The increase in casualties among national NGOs is especially concerning considering the disparity in security risk management resources between national and international NGOs, including the provision of security training. The upcoming Aid Worker Security Report (August 2023) will focus on security training in the humanitarian sector: what it consists of, who gets it, and how do we know if it works. The report will also analyze the 2022 data, particularly the country-specific trends contributing to the rise in kidnappings, and will provide preliminary statistics for the first half of 2023, a period marked by a surge in violence in Sudan and other regions.

Verified incidents of aid workers being kidnapped, defined as forcible abduction or detention exceeding 24 hours, saw a 58% increase over the previous year, marking the highest total ever recorded.