2017 | VIOLENCE AGAINST AID WORKERS

Every day, aid workers save lives in conflicts and disasters, braving significant dangers and difficulties to deliver assistance to people who need it the most. On World Humanitarian Day (19 August), we remember and pay tribute to those heroic colleagues who lost their lives in humanitarian service.
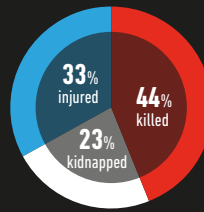
313
AID WORKER
VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

158
SECURITY INCIDENTS
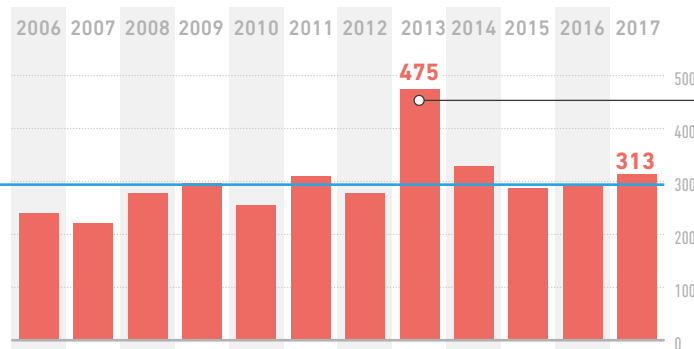AGAINST AID WORKERS

44%
OF VICTIMS
WERE KILLED

33% injured
44% killed
23% kidnapped

91%
OF VICTIMS WERE
NATIONAL STAFF

9% were international staff

TIMELINE OF AID WORKER VICTIMS

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017
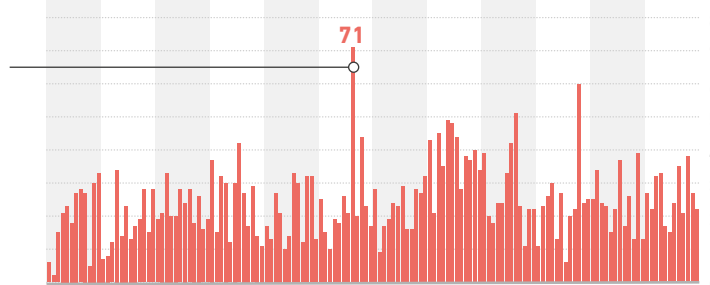
VICTIMS BY YEAR

With the exception of 2013, there has been an average of 293 victims in the past 12 years.

475

313

2013 saw the highest number of victims due to worsening crises in South Sudan and Syria, and continued violence in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sudan.
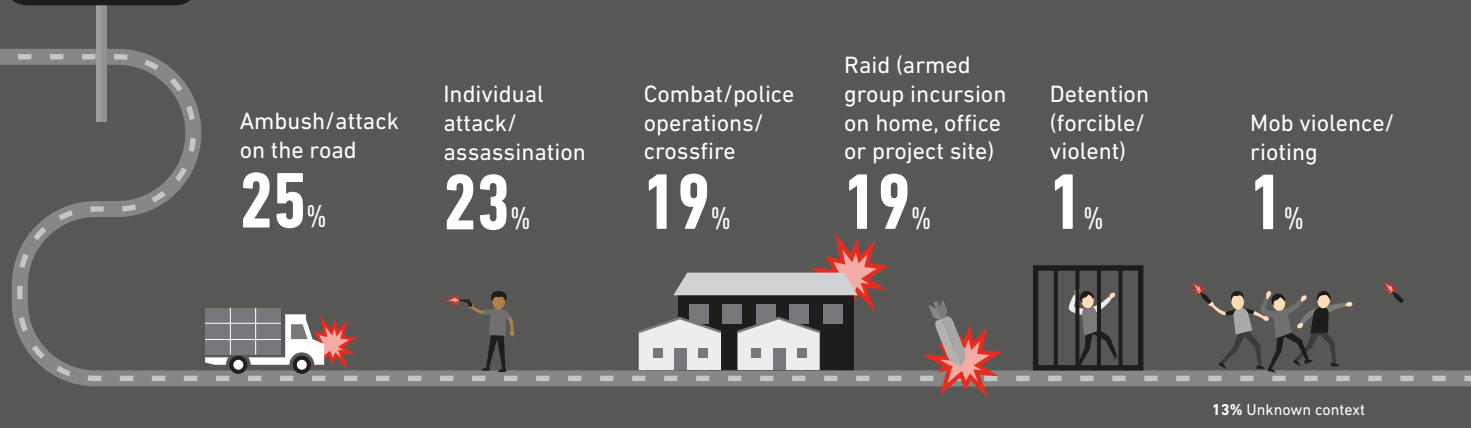
VICTIMS BY MONTH

In August 2011, a suicide bomber attacked the United Nations building in Abuja, Nigeria, killing 9 people and injuring 37 people. This was the highest number of victims in a single month.
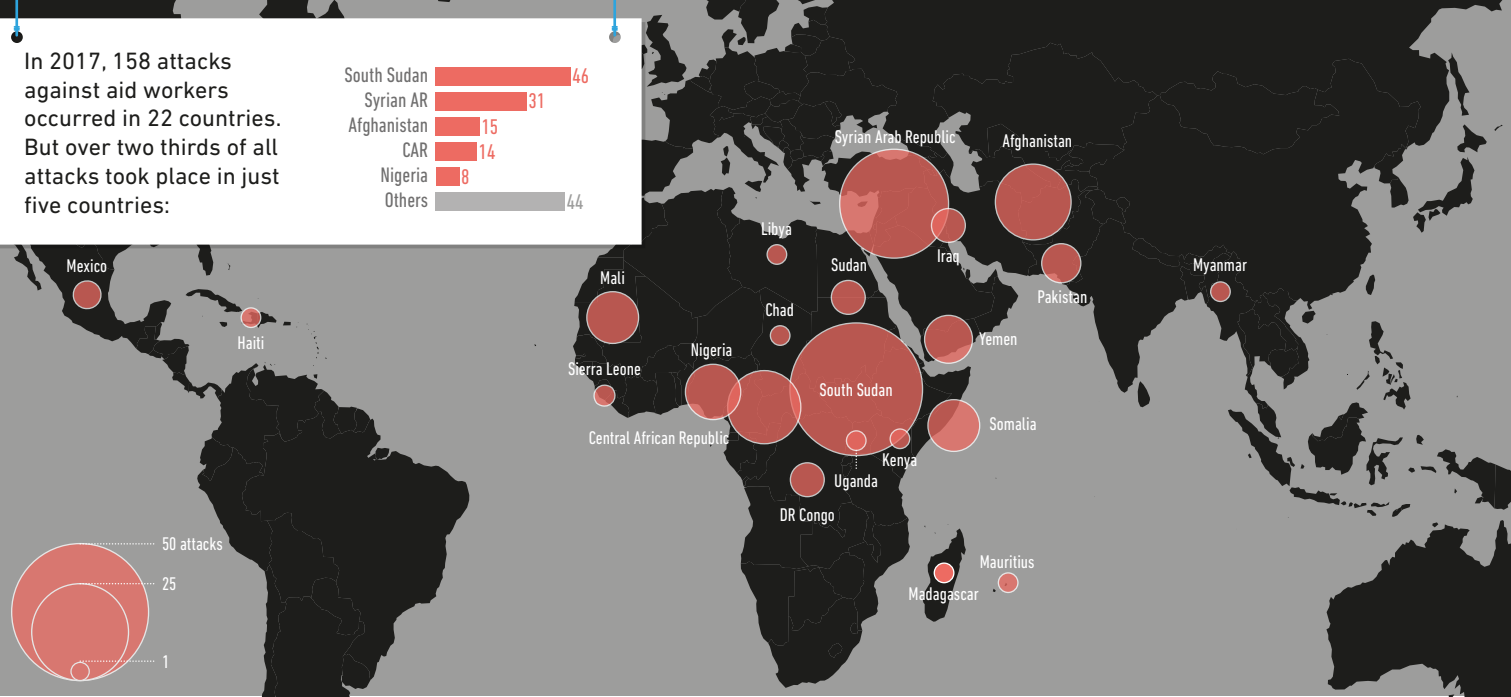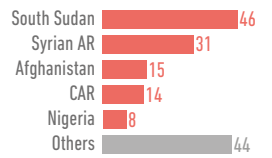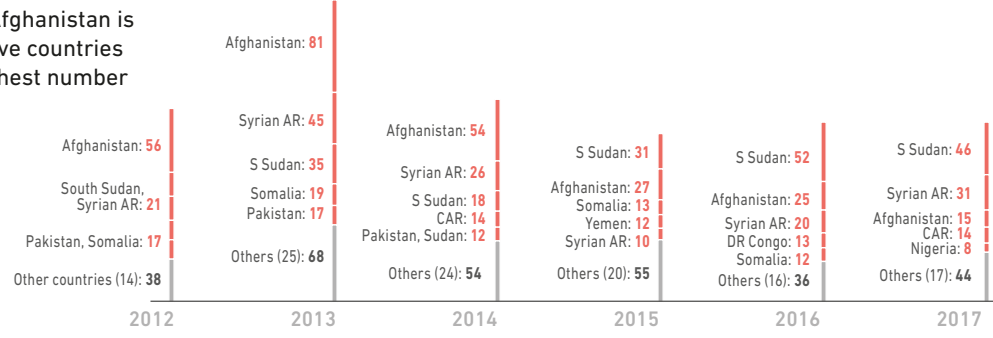
71

CONTEXT OF ATTACKS

Ambush/attack on the road
25%

Individual attack/assassination
23%

Combat/police operations/crossfire
19%

Raid (armed group incursion on home, office or project site)
19%

Detention (forcible/violent)
1%

Mob violence/rioting
1%

13% Unknown context

In 2017, 158 attacks against aid workers occurred in 22 countries. But over two thirds of all attacks took place in just five countries:

South Sudan	46
Syrian AR	31
Afghanistan	15
CAR	14
Nigeria	8
Others	44

Mexico
Haiti
Syrian Arab Republic
Afghanistan
Libya
Mali
Sudan
Iraq
Pakistan
Myanmar
Chad
Sierra Leone
Nigeria
Yemen
South Sudan
Somalia
Central African Republic
Kenya
Uganda
DR Congo
Mauritius
Madagascar

50 attacks
25
1

TIMELINE OF FIVE COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ATTACKS PER YEAR

Each year, Afghanistan is one of the five countries with the highest number of attacks.

2017 was Nigeria's first year as one of the five worst countries. South Sudan continues to be the country with the highest number of attacks.

2012
Afghanistan: 56
South Sudan, Syrian AR: 21
Pakistan, Somalia: 17
Other countries (14): 38

2013
Afghanistan: 81
Syrian AR: 45
S Sudan: 35
Somalia: 19
Pakistan: 17
Others (25): 68

2014
Afghanistan: 54
Syrian AR: 26
S Sudan: 18
CAR: 14
Pakistan, Sudan: 12
Others (24): 54

2015
S Sudan: 31
Afghanistan: 27
Somalia: 13
Yemen: 12
Syrian AR: 10
Others (20): 55

2016
S Sudan: 52
Afghanistan: 25
Syrian AR: 20
DR Congo: 13
Somalia: 12
Others (16): 36

2017
S Sudan: 46
Syrian AR: 31
Afghanistan: 15
CAR: 14
Nigeria: 8
Others (17): 44