



The Explosive Weapons Monitor is a civil society initiative that conducts research and analysis on harms from and practices of explosive weapon use in populated areas for the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW).

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## **KEY MESSAGES**

# EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS MONITOR 2025

Civilians around the world continued to experience severe harm from the use of explosive weapons in 2025, as widespread bombing and shelling in populated areas extended a three-year pattern of elevated harm. In many conflicts, civilian suffering from explosive weapons has become a routine feature of warfare rather than an exception, which threatens to normalise the elevated levels of civilian harm documented by the Explosive Weapons Monitor in 2023-2025. Against a backdrop of growing concerns over violations of international humanitarian law and weakening protections for civilians, the *Explosive Weapons Monitor 2025* takes stock of this harm and highlights the importance of implementing and defending the norms and principles of the *Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences of the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas*. Findings from the report include:

- **Harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure from the use of explosive weapons occurred in at least 65 countries, territories and maritime locations around the world in 2025.**

Civilians in 13 countries and territories were heavily impacted by the use of explosive weapons – Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Myanmar, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.
- **State armed forces were responsible for 85 percent of all incidents in which civilians and civilian infrastructure were affected by the use of explosive weapons in 2025.**

Armed forces of 29 states were responsible for the majority of all incidents that affected civilians or civilian infrastructure in 2025. More than 17,180 such incidents were attributed to state armed forces compared to more than 3,090 incidents attributed to non-state actors.
- **The use of explosive weapons that affected civilians and civilian infrastructure by armed forces of states that have endorsed the Political Declaration increased in 2025.**

The number of endorsing states to which civilian harm from explosive weapons use could be attributed increased to eight in 2025 – Cambodia, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Somalia, Türkiye and the United States – from five in 2024. The geographic scope of such incidents also increased.
- **Civilian deaths from the use of explosive weapons remained alarmingly high in 2025.**

More than 22,600 civilians were killed by explosive weapons in 2025, despite a 21 percent decline from 2024 driven largely by ceasefires in Palestine and Lebanon. Civilian harm remained severe, with 56 percent of all recorded civilian deaths attributed to Israeli armed forces and rising fatalities linked to other state and non-state actors across multiple conflicts.
- **The use of explosive weapons in attacks on humanitarian aid increased by 52 percent in 2025.**

At least 1,688 of explosive weapons use affecting humanitarian aid operations, aid workers and camps were recorded by Insecurity Insight in 17 countries and territories in 2025. About 90 percent of all incidents were recorded in Palestine.



- **The use of explosive weapons in attacks on education increased by 64 percent in 2025.**

At least 1,416 incidents in which explosive weapons damaged or destroyed education facilities or killed teachers or students were recorded in 27 countries and territories by Insecurity Insight in 2025. The number of attacks decreased by 40 percent in Lebanon and Palestine and increased by 20 percent in Ukraine.

- **The use of explosive weapons in attacks on healthcare continued to disrupt health services in 2025.**

At least 1,272 incidents in which explosive weapons damaged or destroyed health facilities and ambulances or killed health workers were recorded in 22 countries and territories by Insecurity Insight in 2025. About 90 percent of all incidents were recorded in four countries – Lebanon, Myanmar, Palestine and Ukraine.

- **The use of explosive weapons in attacks on food and water systems continued in at least 15 countries and territories in 2025.**

Where data was available, Insecurity Insight documented at least 1,082 incidents in which explosive weapons affected communities' ability to produce and access food, as well as 87 incidents in which the use of explosive weapons damaged and destroyed water distribution networks, water storage infrastructure and water transportation vehicles in 2025.

- **Air-launched explosive weapons were most frequently used by all actors in incidents of harm to civilians and civilian infrastructure in 2025.**

About 67 percent of all incidents that affected civilians and civilian infrastructure in 2025 involved the use of air-launched explosive weapons, while 20 percent involved the use of ground-launched explosive weapons and 13 percent involved the use of directly-emplaced explosive weapons.

- **It remains a critical humanitarian priority to bring the Political Declaration into effect to prevent and reduce harm to civilians.**

**To do so, the Explosive Weapons Monitor recommends that states:**

- Publicly acknowledge and call for action to address the harm to civilians and communities resulting from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas;
- Endorse the Declaration and encourage endorsement by other states in order to ensure its adoption and implementation by the greatest number of states;
- Review, revise or develop new national policy and practice that establishes clear limits on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas in order to avoid civilian harm;
- Promote, support and utilise the diversity of stakeholders engaged in work around the Declaration, working in partnership with armed forces, civil society and international organisations.