WHAT IS THE AWSD?

The Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD) is a comprehensive global information source of major attacks against civilian aid operations.

Humanitarian Outcomes initiated the AWSD in 2005 as a continuously updated database with security incident reports going back to 1997. The AWSD is the only source of this global data that allows for user query customisation of our entire dataset. It is publically available and free for everyone to use.

The database does not include the names of individual victims or the agencies affected, in consideration of the victims and their families who may not wish to have the names publicised, also affording equal respect for those whom this information is not available.

The AWSD records major incidents of deliberate violence affecting humanitarian personnel.
These include:
- Killings
- Kidnappings
  (where the victim is held over 24 hours)
- Serious injuries
- Rape and sexual assault

For each report, the AWSD records the:
- Date
- Country | Geocodes
- Number of affected aid workers
- Gender
- Type of staff: National | International
- Institutional affiliation: UN | INGO | NGO | Other
- Incident outcome: Killed Wounded | Kidnapped
- Means of violence
- Context of attack
- Summary description of incident

The AWSD defines aid workers as the employees and associated personnel of not-for-profit organisations (both national and international) that provide material and technical assistance in humanitarian relief contexts.

Who we include (partial list):
- International and national NGOs
- Community-based organisations
- UN humanitarian agencies
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement organisations

Associated personnel includes:
- Contracted drivers
- Security guards
- Other contractors

We do not include:
- Peacekeepers
- Human rights workers
- Election monitors
- Purely political, religious, or advocacy organisations
- Hospital staff that are not supported by humanitarian organisations

WHAT IS VERIFICATION?

Our verification process helps ensure the information we collect is as accurate and complete as possible.

Why verify?
- Information can change after initial reports
- Sources get more information over time
- Protracted incidents require updates (e.g. kidnapping)
- To catch any incidents not initially reported

The Aid Worker Security Database is only as strong as the reporting that feeds it.
We are grateful for the many organisations and individuals that support our verification process.

How it works:

1 The team reaches out to every humanitarian organisation with a recorded incident

2 We ask for incident confirmations or corrections.

3 Where direct confirmation is not possible, the team triangulates supporting information and evidence to confirm incidents.

4 The AWSD is updated.

Humanitarian Outcomes