



ATTACKS

Against medical
Facilities in

SYRIA

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About INFORMAGENE:

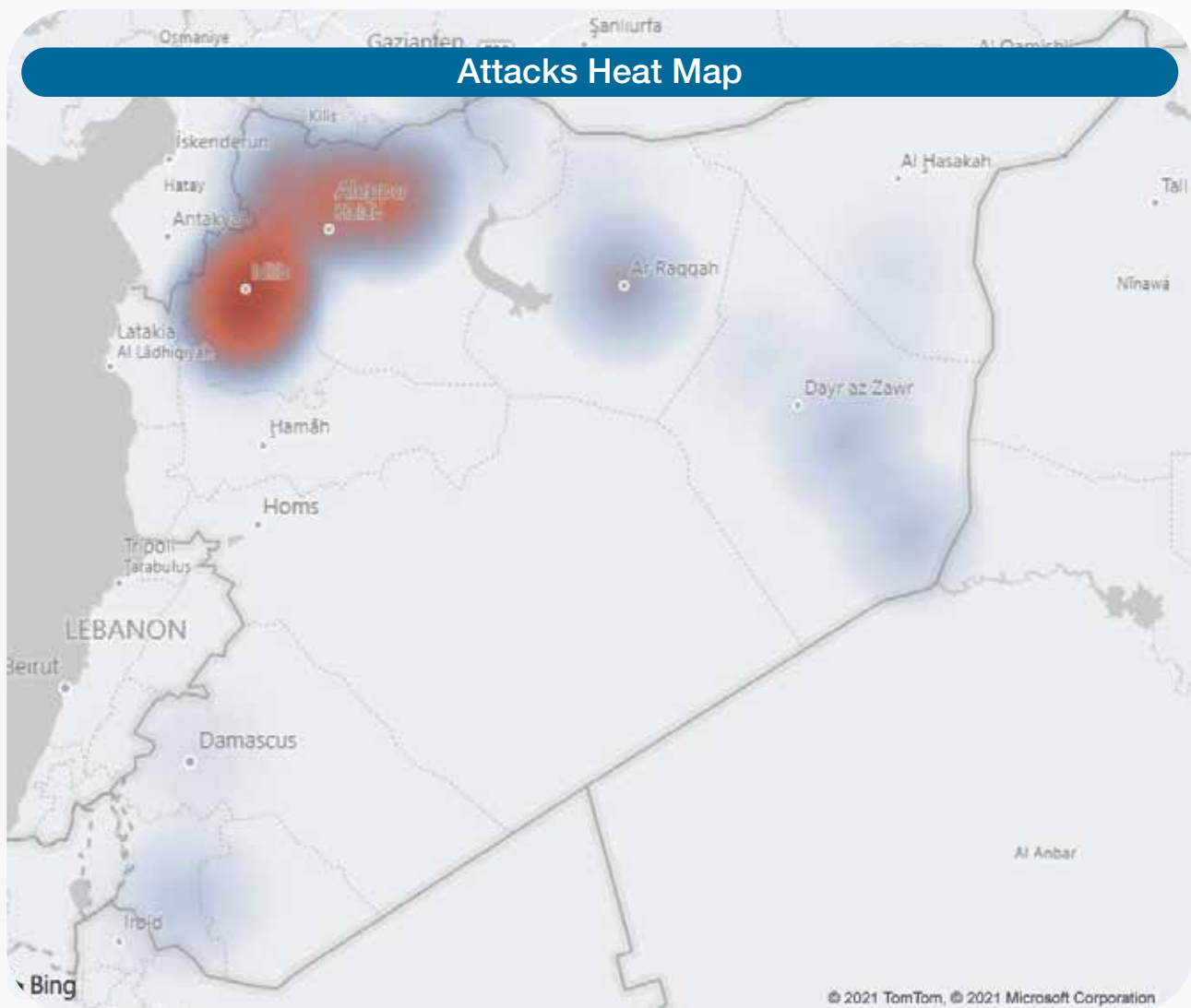
InformaGENE is a platform for data collection analyzing and visualization, to understand the main trends in a scientific, innovative and simplified way

Our name, “InformaGENE” came to be, given our background in business analysis, a relatively new and growing research and professional discipline which involves identifying business needs and determining solutions to key problems.

INTRODUCTION

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Over the past years, hospitals and medical facilities across Syria have been attacked hundreds of times. Data analyzed and illustrated by InformaGENE indicate that these attacks formed part of a larger strategy to affect access to medical facilities in opposition-controlled areas as well as a representation of additional constraints and threats over the medical facilities and staff.

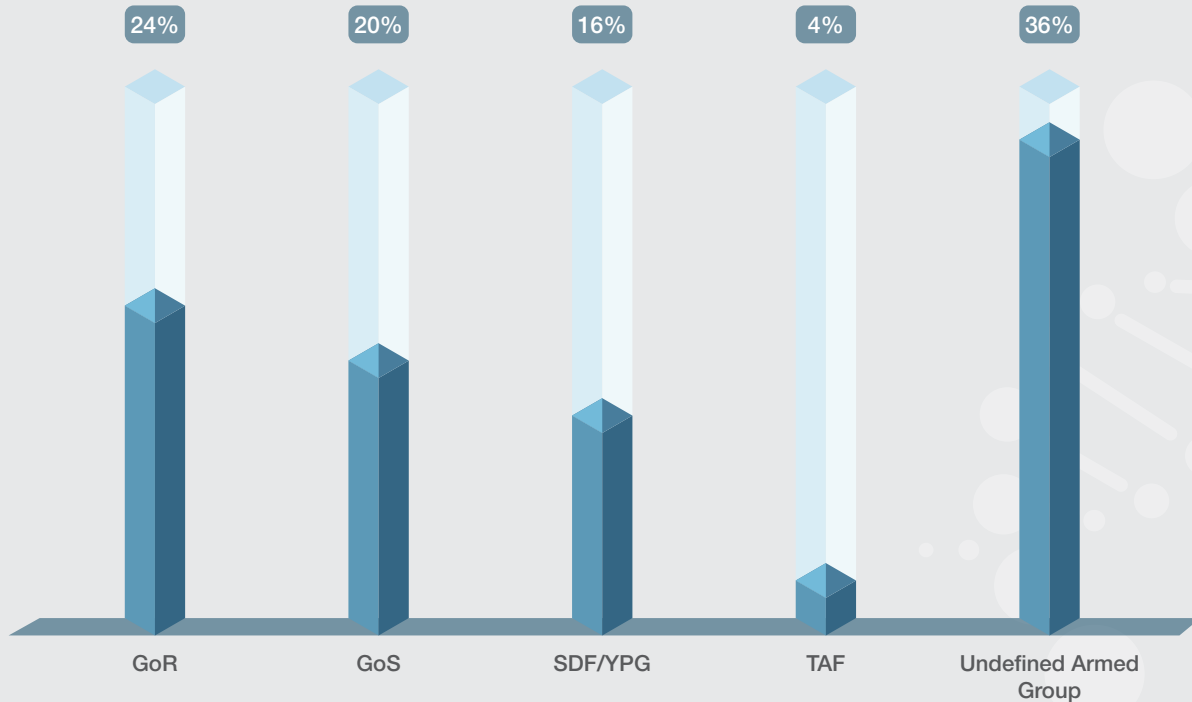


HISTORY OF ATTACKS

During 2020 and 2021 around 50 attacks against medical facilities in Syria were reported, majority of them were in Opposition-Controlled areas with more than 50% of the total attacks.

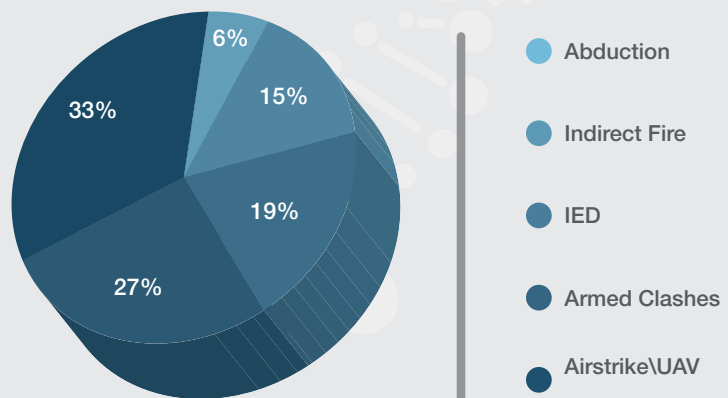
Both the Syrian Regime and the Russian forces allegedly conducted more than 45% of the attacks where the major means of attack was through airstrikes 33% and 6% through shelling and indirect fire.

Attacks against Medical Facilities by Actors



While during 2020 and 2021 more than 45 immediate attacks were reported against medical facilities that resulted into destruction or partial suspension of medical services in 76% of the attacks in the opposition-controlled areas, where at least 5 medical personnel were killed due to these attacks. But it is essential to understand that this is an extension of a decade of similar attacks where more horrific facts shared by many international entities, and according to PHR (Physicians for Human Rights), at least 930 medical professionals have been killed in Syria from 2011 through March 2021, and assessed that at least 91% of medical personnel killings were committed by Syrian government forces and their Russian allies.

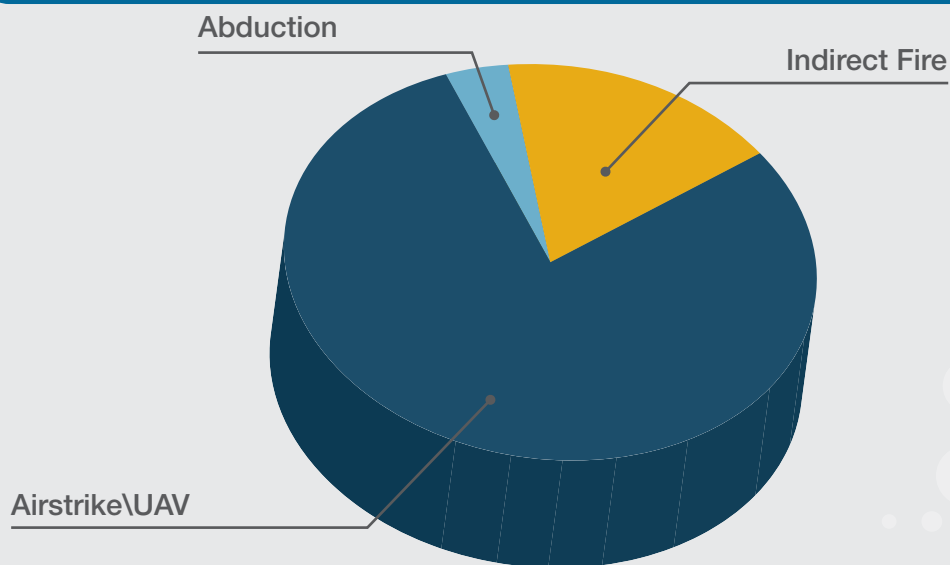
Types of Attacks against Medical Facilities



ATTACKS AGAINST MEDICAL FACILITIES IN NWS

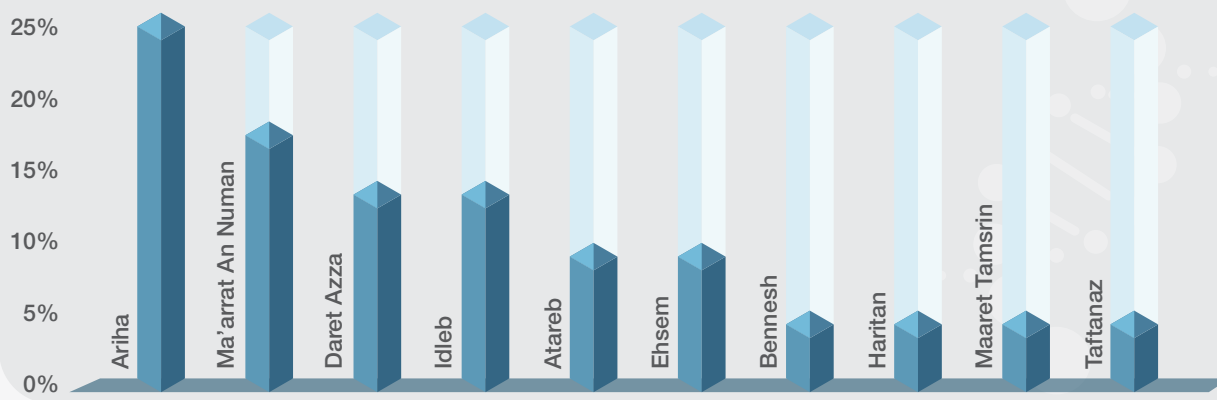
On 17th Sep 2019, Turkey and Russia agreed to create a demilitarized buffer zone in Idlib province that extended 9 to 13 miles from the Turkish border south into Idlib. The agreement stipulated that Turkish troops and Russian military police would jointly oversee security in the area to forestall military action by Syrian government forces. In turn, extremist rebels, such as Hayat Tahrir al Sham, would leave the zone. Idlib was home to some three million Syrians, at least half of whom had already fled other parts of Syria.

Attacks against Medical Facilities by Actors



However, this agreement was not able to avoid the medical facilities from the hostile activities, and according to the datasets, more than 20 attacks were conducted against the medical facilities and personnel since that date, more than 95% conducted by Syrian Regime or Russian forces, and around 4% by HTS, around 79% of these attacks conducted through Airstrikes and 17% through indirect fire including artillery and missiles. Idlib governorate obviously received majority of these attacks that distributed to different subdistricts in the opposition controlled areas as below.

Attacks by Sub-Districts



SUMMARY

Although the attacks against the medical facilities used to be considered as an indicator of a wider ground offensive that is conducted by the Syrian regime supported by Russian forces however it is important and vital to keep in mind the significant impact of such attacks not only in the framework of a military operation, but also from a humanitarian and ethical point of view especially while COVID-19 is already affecting the capacity of the health sector significantly and affecting the prioritizing mechanism of the medical staffs response during the ongoing crisis.



ATTACKS AGAINST MEDICAL FACILITIES IN SYRIA