

Brussels, 16 October 2025
(OR. en)

14073/25

COHAFA 81
RELEX 1303
INTER-REP 98

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Protection of humanitarian and medical personnel - presentation by INSO

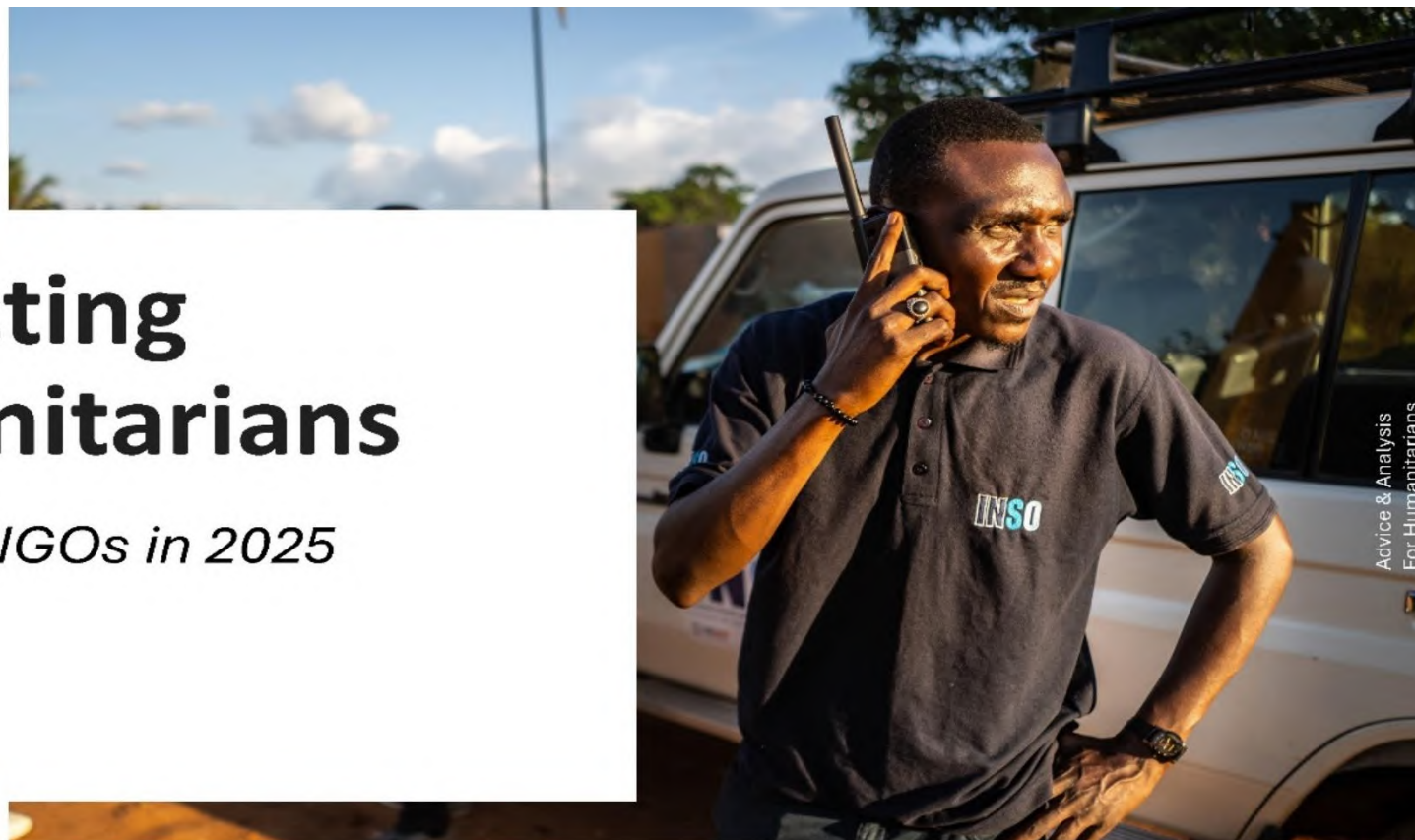
Following the meeting of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) on 14 and 15 October 2025, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by INSO ^{1 2}.

¹ International NGO Safety Organisation, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 2983112100754-33.

² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

Protecting Humanitarians

Threats to NGOs in 2025

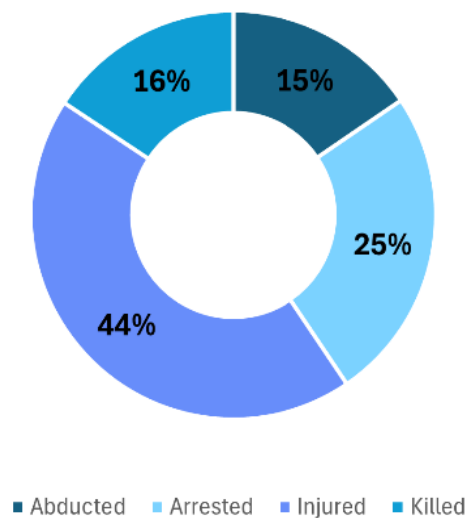


Advice & Analysis
For Humanitarians

Threats to Humanitarians – At a Glance

Trends in global data

Incidents with a serious impact on humanitarian (2025)

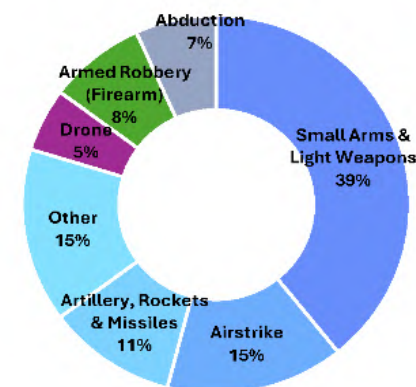
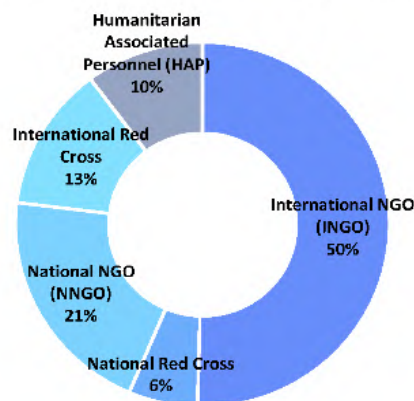
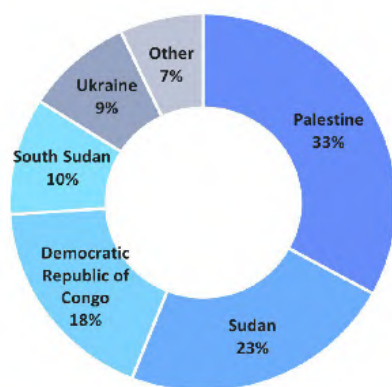


- Despite growth of fatalities globally, humanitarian are still *far more likely* to be injured or wounded
- Increasing hostility of states to humanitarian means *arrests* often resemble *abductions*

Threats to Humanitarians – At a Glance

Trends in global data

Share of humanitarian fatalities by Country (2025) Share of humanitarian fatalities by Affiliation (2025) Share of humanitarian fatalities by Act (2025)



- Five contexts account for 72% of humanitarian fatalities in 2025
- National staff, including of INGOs, face the most severe risks
- The mechanisms matter less than underlying drivers of risk

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Situating Humanitarian Risk into a Global Landscape

Geopolitical trends driving humanitarian risk



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The Impact of Defunding

Aid cuts degrade risk management capacity

UNHAS flights

Forums and UNHAS in a number of contexts

UNHAS has been the primary pain

UNHAS flights being affected.

Flights reduced in frequency to a number of our projects

UNHAS flights have been reduced that has had an impact on our ability to safely work in remote areas.

UNHAS flight impacted in some locations, all travel for forum cancelled.

- Defunding crisis is not a key driver of risk according to NGOs
- Less than 1% of NGO incidents this year are related to cuts
- Cuts are instead impacting NGOs' ability to *manage* risks
- Critical enablers and internal support functions are under pressure

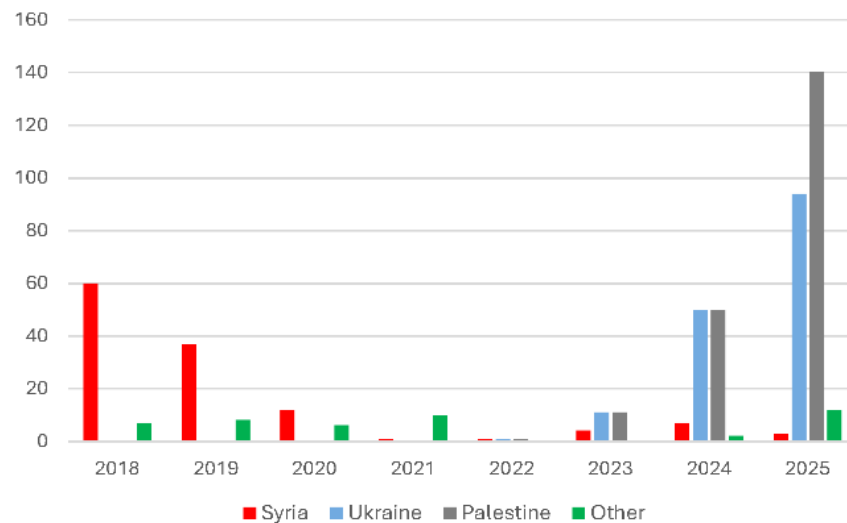
Testimony from partners on the effects of defunding (INSO Survey on Defunding Impacts on NGO Security Risk Management Capacity and Acceptance 2025)

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Key Contexts

Ukraine

Drone incidents affecting humanitarians (2018 – 2025)

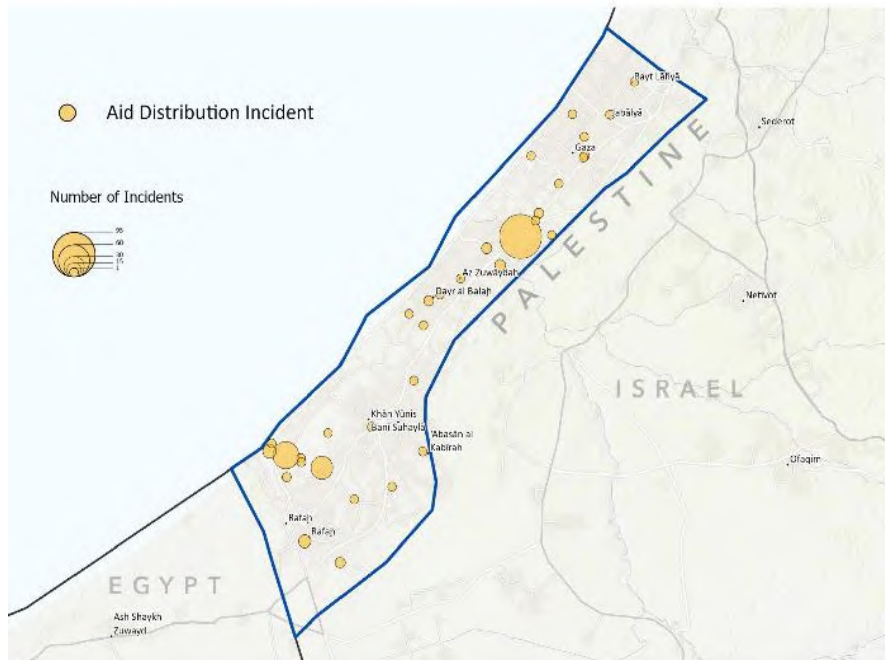


- Drone use has expanded globally, but is a defining feature in Ukraine
- Short-range drones *deliberately target* NGO vehicles near frontlines
- Clear disregard for IHL by main conflict actor
- NGOs must decide how to counter threat in principled manner

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Key Contexts

Palestine



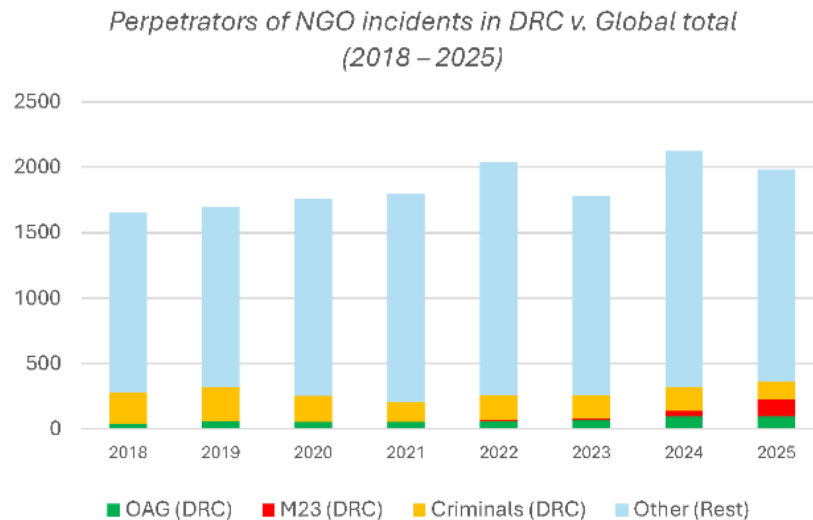
Violence at distribution sites in oPT in 2025

- Israeli forces are responsible for 25% of *global* humanitarian deaths in 2025
- Physical risks to staff are matched by systemic challenges to principled action
- GHF exemplifies politicised and securitised aid
- Co-option by bad faith actors endangers acceptance

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Key Contexts

DRC



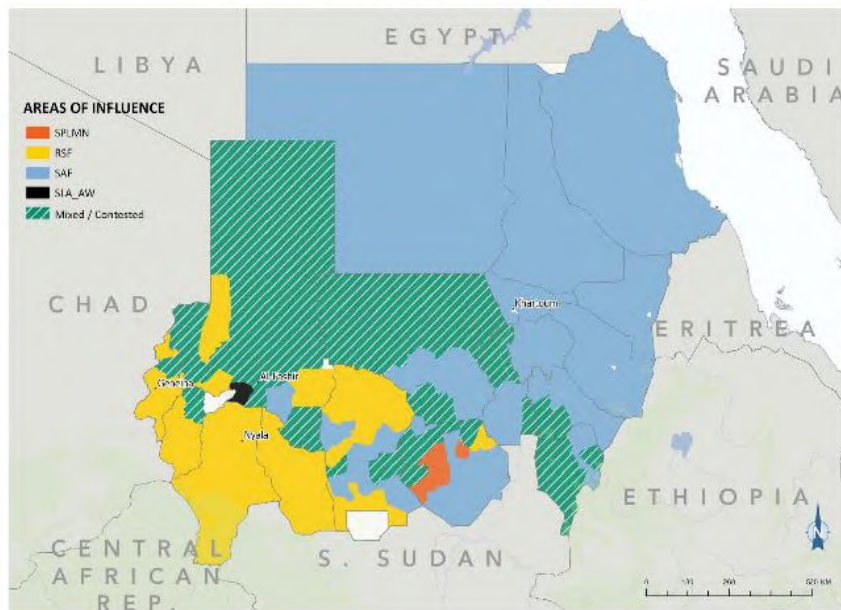
- M23 have perpetrated nearly 10% of NGO incidents *globally* in 2025
- Proliferation of conflict actors is a major obstacle to access
- Hardening of access regimes between M23 and government-held areas
- NGOs may be forced to align, risking neutrality and acceptance

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Key Contexts

Sudan

Areas of Influence in Sudan (Current)



- Sudan's scale incorporates several key trends
- State and quasi-state actors present acute threats
- Territorial control hardening between a series of armed actors
- Presence of non-traditional aid groups complicates relations with partners

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Information under attack

Safeguarding a key enabler of effective response

Funding Gaps

Politicisation, Criminalisation and
Declining Acceptance

*[We commit to] Provide support that allows international, national and local humanitarian personnel to **access timely and relevant information**, training and systems, to promote measures to **support the physical and mental well-being** of humanitarian personnel*

21.3c Declaration for the Protection of Humanitarian Personnel

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Policy Recommendations

- Continue to **strengthen accountability** for violations of international law and support broader collective action on protection of civilians.
- Take concrete actions towards the **decriminalisation of aid work**, including the adoption of humanitarian exemptions into domestic legal frameworks, counter-terrorism legislation and sanctions regimes.
- Maintain and strengthen **coordinated diplomatic engagement** during crises. Absence of diplomatic support leaves humanitarian actors more vulnerable.
- Support and defend **Independent information services on humanitarian safety** through both continued funding but also political support.
- **Support stronger humanitarian leadership** to defend humanitarian space including coordinated action when such leadership is threatened.
- Push within the Humanitarian Reset for the stronger **integration of safety and security of aid workers** into humanitarian architecture.
- Continue to support ECHO's efforts to support the implementation of the **IASC Risk Sharing Framework**.
- Ensure structured financial support to critical **field enablers**.

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Thank you

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More from INSO at

www.NGOsafety.org

