

# Education in Danger: Drone Attacks on Education Facilities

At 10.05 am on 23 August 2023, a school in the city of Romny in northeastern Ukraine was struck by drone delivered explosives and almost completely destroyed. Four of the school's staff were reported killed and multiple civilians were injured in the attack. Occurring days before students were due to return to classrooms after the summer break, it is just one example of the severe setbacks in educational opportunities for Ukrainian students caused by Russia's full-scale invasion. Thousands of students across the country have been forced to take their lessons in metro stations this autumn due to safety concerns.

Insecurity Insight's monitoring has recorded at least 21 incidents where drones were used to deliver explosive weapons that damaged and destroyed schools, a university and a kindergarten between 01 January 2021 and 23 August 2023. Incidents were mostly attributed to Russian forces mainly using Iranian-made Shahed 136 drones in seven Ukrainian oblasts during the first eight months of 2023. The remaining 12 incidents were recorded in Ethiopia, Iraq, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen and attributed to the armed forces of Türkiye and Ethiopia, the Saudi-led coalition, opposition groups and Houthi rebels. This data is [available on HDX](#).

These are examples of the increasing use of drones in today's conflicts to deliver explosive munitions. Drones are considerably lower cost than aircraft- or helicopter-delivered munitions and their use is likely to increase further. The use of drones reduces the risks faced by operating pilots. In the future, the technology is likely to improve and the extent to which they have been used to target educational facilities remains a concern.

