Aid in Danger
Monthly News Brief

Safety, security and access incidents
Insecurity affecting aid workers and aid delivery

Africa

Burkina Faso
10 April 2019: In Dagou town, Foutouri department, Komondjari province, militants presumed to be from JNIM and/or ISGS broke into the home of a municipal councillor and abducted him along with an NGO worker presumed to have been at his home. The councillor's son had also been abducted three days prior. **Source: ACLED[1]**

15 April 2019 (DOA): Update: The Burkinabe Government announced that an Italian missionary, who was abducted in September 2018 in Niger, may have since been held in Burkina Faso. No further details specified. **Source: AFP**

Cameroon
19 April 2019: In Buea town, South-West region, a national staff member of a local NGO was kidnapped by unidentified armed militants before being released a few days later. **Source: UN-OCHA**

Central African Republic
04 April 2019: In Ouham prefecture, on the road between Batangafo and Bouca, an MSF staff member who worked at Batangafo Hospital was detained by an unidentified armed group before being held captive in the bush and killed. His motorcycle was also stolen by the perpetrators. **Source: ACLED[1], AWSD[2], MSF, and UN-OCHA**

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Throughout April 2019: In North Kivu and Ituri provinces, mistrust of first responders and widespread misinformation propagated by community leaders combined with a highly volatile security situation continued to hamper efforts to respond to the Ebola outbreak. **Sources: AP, NBC News, Reuters and The Guardian**

19 April 2019: In Butembo city, North Kivu province, unspecified gunmen suspected to be Mayi Mayi militia fighters attacked the Butembo University Hospital and ordered foreigners to go home, accusing them of bringing Ebola to the country. During the attack a Cameroonian epidemiologist of the WHO was shot dead and two other civilians injured. By 25 April 2019, Congolese authorities had arrested 11

suspects. **Sources: [AP (a)](#), [AP (b)](#), [AWSD](#)[2], [Channels TV](#), [SBS](#), [The Guardian](#), [Quartz Africa](#) and [WHO](#)**

20 April 2019: In Katwa town, North Kivu province, militia members armed with machetes attempted to burn down an Ebola Treatment Centre for unspecified reasons. In response, military and police personnel killed one perpetrator and detained five more. **Sources: [AP](#) and [The Guardian](#)**

24 April 2019: In Ruvungi town, Walikale territory, four MSF employees, including both national and international staff, were ambushed and abducted by an unidentified armed group. Two of the abductees were later released. No further details specified. **Source: [ACLED](#)[1]**

Kenya
01 April 2019: In Kericho county, a worker at the Daadab Refugee Camp was killed by unidentified armed men along with his wife and son. **Source: [ACLED](#)[1]**

13 April 2019: Update: Italian investigators announced that an Italian aid worker who was abducted on 20 November 2018 in Kenya is still alive. **Source: [AFP](#)**

22 April 2019: In Lamu town, Lamu West county, a red cross worker was either shot dead or hacked to death by unidentified perpetrator(s). **Source: [ACLED](#)[1] and [AWSD](#)[2]**

Mali
03 April 2019: In Kidal town, cercle and region, unidentified perpetrators attacked the MINUSMA base with mortars and gunfire, injuring two Chadian peacekeepers and damaging two helicopters. **Source: [The Defense Post](#)**

03 April 2019: In Kidal town, cercle and region, a group of 28 unidentified gunmen was spotted near to the northeast corner of the MINUSMA base, leading to concerns the base might be attacked again. **Source: [The Defense Post](#)**

17 April 2019: In Mopti region, between Douentza and Boni towns, two INGO staff members and one local NGO worker disappeared while travelling to Boni for a humanitarian mission. They are presumed to have been kidnapped. **Source: [AWSD](#)[2]**

20 April 2019: In Douentza cercle, Mopti region, a MINUSMA convoy en route to Boni village from Douentza city struck an improvised roadside mine laid by unidentified perpetrators, killing an Egyptian peacekeeper and wounding four others. Fellow peacekeepers responded and killed one attacker, before detaining eight more. **Sources: [AFP](#), [The New Arab](#) and [UN News](#)**

Mozambique
01 April 2019: In Sofala province, reports that village chiefs in charge of distributing humanitarian aid were raping beneficiaries began to circulate following the aftermath of Cyclone Idai. Further details not specified. **Source: [ACLED](#)[1]**

Niger
25 April 2019: In Maine Soroa commune, Diffa region, an MSF office was attacked by unidentified armed men who set fire to the building and destroyed four vehicles. One staff member was injured during the assault. UN-OCHA reports that this was the first major attack on a humanitarian organisation in Diffa but is representative of a surge in assaults on civilians in recent months. **Source: [UN-OCHA](#)**

Nigeria

19 April 2019: In Kaduna state, unidentified gunmen entered a hotel resort and opened fire on a crowd of people, killing a female international aid worker. The gunmen subsequently kidnapped three people and fled the scene. **Source: The Independent, The Guardian, AWSD**[2], **Reuters and The Telegraph**

24 April 2019: In an unspecified location, Rivers state, unspecified perpetrators kidnapped three men and a woman, all Nigerian, as they returned from an official assignment for the National Emergency Management Agency. A fifth staffer was also attacked but managed to escape. **Source: AFP**

Somalia

09 April 2019 (DOA): In Hargeisa city, Woqooyi Galbeed region, police arrested and detained two Canadian women's rights activists at the Koodbuur Police Station for no stated reason. **Source: The Globe and Mail**

14 April 2019: In South Darfur state, UNAMID is expected to withdraw its operations coming June 2019. **Source: Dabanga Sudan**

15 April 2019: Following the ousting of President al-Bashir, Britain's ambassador to Sudan requested that the military council cancels all permits for delivering aid. **Source: Reuters**

South Sudan

19 April 2019: In Jalle and Patiou area, Bor North county, Jonglei state, an unidentified armed group suspected to be Murle people from the disputed Boma state were accused of looting NGO vehicles after reportedly attacking civilians in a nearby cattle camp. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Asia

Afghanistan

11 April 2019: In areas under its rule, the Afghan Taliban announced a temporary ban on the ICRC and the WHO, citing unspecified suspicious actions during a vaccination drive. **Sources: RFE RL, Reuters and VOA**

Myanmar

01 April 2019: In Rakhine state, continued fighting between the Myanmar Army and forces of the Arakan Army have prevented at least 950,000 people from accessing healthcare, education and clean water. **Source: ACTED**

Pakistan

25 April 2019: In Sultan Zai village, Chaman tehsil, Qilla Abdullah district, Balochistan province, unidentified gunmen opened fire on a UN polio vaccination team for unspecified reasons, killing a female health worker and critically wounding another. Security forces launched a search operation in the area and the polio vaccination drive was suspended. **Sources: AWSD**[2], **France 24, Sky News and VOA**

Europe

Greece

05 April 2019: In Diavata village, Delta municipality, Thessaloniki regional unit, Central Macedonia administrative region, a false social media rumour stating that onward travel restrictions had been lifted led migrants from the Diavata Camp to attempt to travel toward North Macedonia, where they were met by police. The confrontation led to migrants throwing sticks and stones at police while the police fired teargas canisters at them. **Source: BBC**

16 April 2019: In Athens, employees of various NGOs held a demonstration in front of the Archaeological Museum of Athens to protest against the Greek Migration Policy Ministry's decision to request that the roughly 200 refugees who have been rehoused leave the apartments they had been living in to make way for newer refugees from the overcrowded camps of Lesvos and Samos. **Source: ACLED[1]**

Italy
17 April 2019 (DOA): The Interior Ministry ordered the Italian Navy and its coastguard to monitor the movements of the NGO rescue ship Mare Jonio, which was seized in March 2019 after defying an order not to bring migrants to Italy. **Source: The Guardian**

Malta
04 April 2019: The Maltese and Italian Governments denied the NGO Sea-Eye's vessel 'The Alan Kurdi' entry into their waters after the vessel had reportedly rescued 64 migrants off the Libyan coast the day before. **Source: Reuters**

Middle East North Africa

Egypt
09 April 2019: The Egyptian Government announced its intention to amend its existing restrictive NGO Law to 'ensure it is in line with the 2014 Constitution of Egypt'. Human rights activists expressed their scepticism, stating that the law is being reconsidered merely due to US political pressure. **Source: Al-Monitor**

Libya
Throughout April 2019: Near Tripoli, continuous shelling from the ongoing conflict between Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army and the UN-recognised Government of National Accord hampered the work of WHO hospital/ambulance teams and prevented humanitarian actors from reaching and delivering aid to the southern suburbs of the capital. **Sources: Reuters, The New Humanitarian and WHO**

11 April 2019 (DOA): In Tripoli, as ICRC officials distributed rations in an unnamed school, staff were reportedly in a vulnerable position with nearby gunfire audible between Khalifa Haftar's forces and Government of National Accord troops. **Source: Reuters**

Syrian Arab Republic
15 April 2019: Update: The fate of two Syrian aid workers and one New Zealander nurse of the ICRC, seized by the Islamic State in October 2013, remains unknown. The Red Cross has put out an international appeal for information leading to their return. **Source: BBC**

15 April 2019 (DOA): In Daraa city, district and governorate, the Syrian Government cut off medical supplies and aid to the state-run and only clinic of the city for allegedly 'receiving support from external sources' during the period it was under rebel control. The facility was forced to close down and the regime has provided no replacement facility or services. **Source: The New Arab**

Yemen
02 April 2019: In Hodeidah city and governorate, Houthi rebels denied the WFP access to the Red Sea Mills grain storage site, claiming that government forces would target UN staff and then blame them for it. **Source: Reuters**

02 April 2019: In Aden city and governorate, unspecified gunmen threatened guards and staff at an MSF-run Emergency Trauma Hospital before abducting a patient who was due to undergo surgery. Later, the patient was found dead in the district of Al-Mansoura. In response, MSF suspended its activities at the

hospital. **Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [MSF](#) and [Reuters](#)**

25 April 2019: In Mocha city, Taiz governorate, a blast at a depot containing mines and other explosive devices awaiting clearance killed six experts from the Saudi Project for Landmine Clearance. **Source: [The New Arab](#)**

The Americas

Dominican Republic
13 April 2019: In an unspecified location, police arrested the US founder of an unnamed Haitian orphanage who had fled Haiti to avoid arrest and prosecution for reportedly molesting boys in his care. **Source: [Fox News](#) and [Caribbean National Weekly](#)**

Guatemala
08 April 2019 (DOA): In an unspecified location, four aid workers of the NGO Trócaire, one of them Irish, were killed in a road accident under unspecified circumstances. **Sources: [Belfast Telegraph](#) and [News Letter](#)**

Haiti
04 April 2019: In Anse-Rouge commune, Gros-Morne arrondissement, Artibonite department, around 150 Haitian armed men ambushed a group of missionaries from the Living Water Ministries as they were on their way to deliver computers and servers to an unnamed school, shooting and severely wounding an American doctor in the process. **Sources: [ABC News](#) and [WPTV](#)**

23 April 2019: In Port-au-Prince, a national UN staff member travelling from the airport was attacked in their vehicle during a traffic stop. Two assailants attempted to rob the vehicle before firing their weapons into the car, leaving the staff member with serious injuries. The staff member later died in hospital. **Source: [AWSD](#)**[2]

Mexico
14 April 2019: In Salamanca city, Guanajuato state, a gang dragged a gunfire-wounded patient out of a Red Cross ambulance at gunpoint presumably in relation to a drug-related dispute. The Red Cross subsequently suspended its operations in the city temporarily. **Sources: [AP (a)](#) and [AP (b)](#)**

Venezuela
Throughout April 2019: The Maduro Government has allegedly prevented families of military officials caught at anti-Maduro meetings from accessing food programmes. **Source: [Fox News](#)**

16 April 2019: In Caracas, the first shipment of IFRC aid landed at the Simón Bolívar International Airport. **Sources: [AP](#), [Fox News](#) and [Reuters](#)**

KKA data
Aid workers reportedly killed, kidnapped and arrested.

Total aid workers reportedly affected, January-April 2019

	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected	Total KKA incidents
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0
CAR	4	8	0	12	6
DRC	1	0	0	1	1
Iraq	0	0	1	1	1
Mali	0	6	0	6	2
Nigeria	1	0	0	1	1
Somalia	3	11	0	14	3
South Sudan	0	0	0	0	0
Syria	4	2	0	6	6
Yemen	11	1	1	13	6
Other countries	12	5	1	18	14
Total affected	**36**	**33**	**3**	**72**	**40**

The countries have been selected by **Reliefweb**. Data collection is ongoing, and data may change as more information is made available. Our coding defines an aid worker as an individual employed by or attached to a humanitarian, UN, international, national, or government aid agency.

This document is part of the Aid in Danger project. It is published by Insecurity Insight and funded and supported by USAID through Save the Children US

[1] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) **database attribution policy**.

[2] The AWSD database does not include the names of individual victims or the agencies affected by an incident. This is done in consideration of the victims and their families who may not wish to have the names publicised in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available.