Aid Security and COVID-19

Latest available information on COVID-19 developments impacting the security of aid work and operations.

**Threats and Violence Against Aid Agencies**

**Bangladesh**

**Around 19 March 2020:** In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, an INGO team was attacked by the local community while travelling towards a Roingya camp amidst rumours that foreigners travelling to the refugee camps have been spreading COVID-19. **Source:** Verified aid-agency security incident.

**Government Measures Impacting Aid Agencies**

Stay up-to-date with the latest information on global government measures from border closures and visa restrictions to electronic surveillance and curfews with ACAPS COVID-19 Government Measures interactive dashboard.

Updated every Tuesday and Thursday.

**Threats and Violence Against Health Providers**

**Kenya**

**27 March 2020:** In Mombasa city, health workers reported being intimidated by police officers as they tried to provide services during curfew hours. The government curfew was implemented as part of its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. **Source:** Al Jazeera.

**Sri Lanka**

**13 March 2020:** In Kalwanchikudy town, Manmunai South and Eruvilpattu Divisional Secretariat, Batticaloa district, rioters attacked an ambulance and attempted to disrupt hospital activities over the transportation of patients afflicted with COVID-19. **Source:** ACLED.

**United States of America**

**24 March 2020:** In Belton city, Missouri state, a man motivated by racist and anti-government beliefs sought to bomb a hospital that is providing critical care during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Source:** BBC and Time.

Have you or your organisation experienced a COVID-19-related security incident? Are you interested in sharing information? Get in touch info@insecurityinsight.org
Africa

Cameroon

Around 19 March 2020: In Douala and Yaoundé cities, an increase in anti-foreigner sentiment in the form of verbal and online harassment, stone throwing, and banging on vehicles occupied by expatriates, has been reported. The violence has been linked to the spread of COVID-19 in Cameroon. Source: US Embassy in Cameroon

27 March 2020: Reports of people defying and protesting against government restrictions on prayer attendance at mosques, imposed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Source: VOA News

Democratic Republic of the Congo

19 March 2020: In Upemba neighbourhood, Lumumbashi city, Haut-Katanga province, a Chinese was attacked during a riot. Source: MNCTV Congo

Security Media Trends: In Butembo region, North Kivu province, medical staff are being accused of preparing to spread COVID-19. This bulletin shares key insights from media monitoring and Ebola response surveys carried out in North Kivu, DRC in early March 2020.

Ethiopia

Around 18 March 2020: In Ethiopia, an increase in anti-foreigner sentiment in the form of verbal and physical harassment, stone throwing, and discrimination has been reported. The sentiment has been linked to the importation of COVID-19 in Ethiopia. Source: US Embassy in Ethiopia

Around 21 March 2020: In Addis Ababa city, foreigners of unidentified origin were reportedly attacked with stones and chased by crowds, on suspicion that they were carrying coronavirus. Source: ACLED

Kenya

17 March 2020: In Msambweni town, Kwale county, a mob killed a civilian whom they suspected of having coronavirus. Source: The Daily Nation

27 March 2020: In Mombasa city, paramilitary police officials used violence to disperse a crowd of people waiting to catch a ferry before the start of curfew. Dozens were injured as a result of the attack. Sources: Al Jazeera and National Public Radio

Nigeria

27 March 2020: In Kusada town, Katsina state, youths rioted after police officials prevented them from observing their prayers in compliance with measures implemented by the government as part of its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. Source: The Nation

Rwanda

23 March 2020: In Rwanda, reports circulated that two civilians shot dead by police officers were killed for defying the new lockdown measures. The reports were denied by the Rwandan police. Source: TIME

South Africa

27 March 2020: In Johannesburg city, police officials used violence against homeless people minutes after South Africa’s three-week lockdown began. Source: TIME
28 March 2020: In Alexandra township, Johannesburg city, military officials raided a large workers’ hostel in the Alexandra township where some residents had defied the lockdown. Source: TIME

Tanzania
15 - 26 March 2020: In Morogoro city and region, an increase in anti-foreigner sentiment in the form of verbal harassment has been reported. The harassment is linked to the spread of COVID-19 in Tanzania. Source: Verified aid-agency security incident.

Uganda
20 March 2020: In Nampirika village, Iganga district, a mob attacked a Kenyan trader, accusing him of importing COVID-19 after he developed symptoms. The man managed to escape to a police station. Source: Uganda Radio Network

Asia
Bangladesh
21 March 2020: In Bhabdia village, Rajbari Sadar sub district, a man was killed, and 10 others injured in a clash between two groups after arguments over COVID-19. Source: The Daily New Nation and The Daily Star

Europe
Ukraine
19 March 2020: In Odessa, Ukraine, people repeatedly blocked roads for minibuses and other public transportation in Odessa in demonstration against social distancing measures to counter the spread of COVID-19. Cases of violence were also reported. Source: ACLED

The Americas
Chile
20 March 2020: In Santo Domingo, Valparaiso region, a group of citizens built and set fire to road barricades to restrict tourist access to the district. Source: La Tercera

Colombia
21 March 2020: In Sampues municipality, Sucre department, around 70 people burned tires in a road to demand from the national government supplies and goods to stay in quarantine because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Source: Caracol
