Aid in Danger

Monthly News Brief

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

Africa

Central African Republic
06 February 2020: In Kaga-Bandoro, Nana-Gribizi prefecture, an INGO compound was broken into by unidentified armed men who stabbed one security guard and injured another. The remaining staff in the compound were unharmed and the perpetrators later fled when MINUSCA forces responded. **Source: AWSD**[1]

Democratic Republic of Congo
02 February 2020: In Vulese village, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, a Red Cross paramedic, his wife and their son were killed in a machete attack by ADF militia. **Source: Actualité**

Community Resistance and Mistrust in eastern DRC
Reports of community members threatening response actors during programme activities are frequent, and often lead to assaults and injuries. In many of these incidents' response actors are targeted directly.

These **recommendations** are for implementing appropriate security risk management measures in eastern DRC. They focus on a strategy to gain the acceptance of community members to enable response actors, including healthcare workers, to effectively address security challenges

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Ethiopia
Around 29 February 2020: In an unspecified location, Ethiopian authorities detained 10 Canadian volunteers, three Canadian and two Ethiopian aid workers from the INGO Canadian Humanitarian Organization for International Relief. **Source: CBC**

Somalia
02 February 2020: In Belet Xaawo district, Gedo region, three aid workers - including a female doctor, a driver and a female aid worker - were abducted by Al Shabaab militants while delivering medical supplies in rural areas. **Source: Garowe Online**

South Sudan
12 February 2020: Along the Gumuruk-Pibor road, Pibor town and county, Boma state, a clearly marked INGO vehicle carrying four national aid workers was involved in an accident that left one youth dead. Local youths who observed the accident reportedly shot and killed the driver in revenge. The three others escaped the scene on foot. **Sources: AWSD**[1]**, OCHA, Sudan Tribune and Xinhua**

21 February 2020: Along the Tonj-Cueibet Road, Warrap city, Tonj state, an INGO vehicle was reportedly ambushed by unidentified armed men. Two national aid workers were seriously injured but managed to escape. **Source: AWSD**[1]

25 February 2020: On the Kapoeta-Budi Road, Kapoeta town, Namorunyang state, an INGO driver was sustained gunshot injuries to the leg when the INGO vehicle they were driving was ambushed and robbed by a group of unidentified armed men. **Source: AWSD**[1]

Middle East and North Africa

Libya
12 February 2020: In Tripoli, the Libyan National Army led by General Haftar continued to prevent UN flights from landing in the country's only functioning airport, hampering humanitarian and mediation efforts. **Sources: Al Jazeera and UN DGC**

Saudi Arabia
Update: Around 10 – 16 February 2020: Near Riyadh, a Saudi aid worker who had not been heard from since they were arrested in March 2018 contacted a family member from the al-Hair Prison. **Source: Middle East Eye**

Syrian Arab Republic
04 February 2020: In Taftanaz town, Idlib governorate, a barrel bomb of unidentified origin detonated 50 metres away from the UOSSM-supported Al Hikma Hospital, causing damage to it and forcing it to close. **Source: UOSSM**

10 February 2020: In Maarat al-Numan city, Idlib governorate, an airstrike of unidentified origin hit a primary health centre run by the NGO Syria Relief. **Sources: AWSD**[1] **and TNH**

15 February 2020: In al Sahhara village, Aleppo governorate, a Syrian Civil Defense (SCD) member was injured by missiles fired by Russian warplanes while he was aiding victims of previous bombing by the same forces on the village. **Source: SNHR**

19 February 2020: Between Nawa town and al Yadudah village, Muzayrib sub-district, Dara'a district and governorate, an unidentified armed group attacked a vehicle belonging to Oxfam, killing the driver and a staff safety officer, and wounding a volunteer. **Sources: Oxfam I, Oxfam II, Middle East Eye and TNH**

20 February 2020: In Maarat al-Numan city, Idlib governorate, an airstrike of unidentified origin hit a primary health centre run by the NGO Syria Relief that had been closed since an earlier bombing on February 10, killing the male national manager who was returning there to collect material. **Sources: AWSD**[1] **and TNH**

21 February 2020: In Sarmin city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles on an SCD building for women, partially destroying the building and damaging furniture. **Source: SNHR**

23 February 2020: In Bsamis village, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes carried out four air strikes near an SCD centre, damaging the building and equipment. **Source: SNHR**

27 February 2020: In Ariha city, Idlib governorate, two SCD members were injured in a shelling by Syrian regime forces' missile launcher near their SCD vehicle while they were turning from a site of previous bombing by Syrian- Russian alliance forces on the city. **Source: SNHR**

Yemen
03 February 2020: In Sana'a, a UN medical relief flight evacuated eight patients in need of medical assistance abroad from the Houthi-controlled capital for the first time in over three years. A further 32,000 patients with serious conditions continue to await their evacuation. **Sources: Reuters and VOA**

05 February 2020:, As Houthi authorities continued to obstruct aid activities, including by demanding a 2% tax on all humanitarian supplies brought into their territory in northern Yemen, the governments of the United States and Britain joined humanitarian agencies in warning that if the Houthis do not change course all aid in Houthi-controlled areas will be suspended as of March 2020. **Sources: Reuters and TNH**

14 February 2020: Following protests by UN members and humanitarian organisations over extensive interference and obstruction of aid, Houthi authorities announced the temporary suspension of their plan for a 2% tax on humanitarian supplies. **Sources: BBC, The New Arab and TNH**

21 February 2020: In Al Ghulayfiqha village, Ad Durayhimi district, Al Hudaydah governorate, artillery shells of unidentified origin hit an unnamed aid facility. **Source: CIMP**

25 February 2020: USAID warned that it will suspend aid in rebel-controlled areas of northern Yemen as of late-March 2020 if Houthi authorities continue to obstruct and exploit humanitarian operations. **Sources: Al Jazeera and TNH**

The Americas
Haiti
20 February 2020: Gang violence along roads has forced the WFP to transport staff, other aid workers and light cargo by helicopter. **Source: Reuters**

26 February 2020: Protests over fuel prices across Haiti continue to create logistical problems for NGOs, hampering aid from reaching beneficiaries. **Source: Devex**

Notes

[1] 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. Accessed 05 March 2020.
[2] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) database attribution policy. Accessed 05 March 2020.

KKA data February 2020
Aid workers reportedly killed, kidnapped and arrested.

	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected	Total KKA incidents
Afghanistan			1	1	1
CAR				0	
DRC	1			1	1
Iraq		4		4	1
Mali		1		1	1
Nigeria				0	
Somalia		3		3	1
South Sudan	1			1	1
Syria	9			9	7
Yemen				0	
Other countries	1		10	11	2
Total affected	**12**	**8**	**11**	**31**	**15**

Key definitions

Aid worker: An individual employed by or attached to a humanitarian, UN, international, national, or government aid agency.

Killed: Refers to a staff member being killed. Aid worker(s) killed while in captivity are coded as 'kidnapped'.

Kidnapped: Refers to a staff member being kidnapped, missing or taken hostage.

Arrested: Refers to a staff member being arrested, charged, detained, fined or imprisoned. The classification is based on reported but not independently verified information. The Aid in Danger project makes no independent judgement about the legality of any reported arrest or detention.

KKA data

We monitor local, national and international news outlets and online databases for threats facing people living and working in dangerous environments. Each month we release the latest available data on aid workers killed, kidnapped and arrested. The data is continually updated and includes new and historic reports identified in open-sources and verified security incidents submitted by Aid in Danger partner agencies. The dataset and quick charts can be accessed via **HDX Insecurity Insight**.

Data collection is ongoing, and data may change as more information is made available. Where the number of aid workers affected is unspecified, one is counted. The countries above have been selected by **Reliefweb**.