

Insecurity Insight Data on Aid Workers Killed, Kidnapped, or Arrested (KKA)

This document provides the methodology, definitions, and coding procedures for the data on aid workers killed, kidnapped, or arrested (KKA).

Key definitions

KKA event: Event in which an aid worker was killed, kidnapped, or arrested.

Aid worker: An employee, consultant, contractor or volunteer attached to not-for-profit humanitarian, multi-mandated, UN, or government aid agencies.

METHODOLOGY

The data resource includes events where an aid worker was reportedly killed by the use of violence and not an illness or accident, kidnapped, or arrested for whatever reason (KKA).

It is compiled from two categories of sources: (a) verified security events submitted to Insecurity Insight by 30 Aid in Danger partner agencies; and (b) open-source reported events identified by Insecurity Insight and published in the [Aid in Danger News Brief](#).

Events are categorised by date, country, and number of aid workers killed, kidnapped, or arrested. It also includes information on the known status of kidnapped aid workers.

It does not include information on either the perpetrator(s) of the event or their intentions. It does not assign a classification about the nature of attack, such as whether it was an ambush or aerial bombardment for example.

The dataset can be viewed at: www.data.humdata.org/dataset/sind-aid-worker-kka-dataset

DEFINITIONS

- **KKA event:** Refers to an event in which an aid worker was killed, kidnapped, or arrested.
- **Aid worker:** Refers to an employee, consultant, contractor, or volunteer attached to not-for-profit humanitarian, multi-mandated, UN, or government aid agencies. This includes individuals employed by or attached to recognised aid agencies; deminers working for a humanitarian demining organisations; health workers affiliated with an aid agency; missionaries, and staff of development agencies and local relief agencies serving a particular community; security guards or drivers employed or contracted by aid agencies; UN staff contracted by or working for the UN in a civilian, non-military capacity (includes drivers and security guards); and volunteers including RCRC members and other aid workers working in a voluntary capacity.
- **Killed:** Refers to an aid worker being killed by the use of violence or abuse. Note: aid workers killed while in captivity are counted as 'kidnapped' and not 'killed'. The status information provides details of whether the aid workers was also killed in captivity.
- **Kidnapped:** Refers to an aid worker being taken into captivity. Note: aid workers killed while in captivity are counted as 'kidnapped' and not 'killed'. As subcategories, a distinction is being made between aid workers being kidnapped or disappeared/missing based on key characteristics within an event:

- Information on perpetrator: An aid worker is coded as 'kidnapped' if taken by a non-state actor. An aid worker is coded as 'disappeared/missing' if reportedly taken by a state actor or by paramilitary groups aligned with state actors;
- Method of communication by the perpetrator following the event: an aid worker is coded as 'kidnapped' if demands related to the release are made. An aid worker is coded as 'disappeared/missing' if no communication is received from the perpetrators.
- **Arrested:** Refers to an aid worker being arrested, charged, detained, fined or imprisoned by a state authority or a non-state actor acting as a government. The information is based on reported arrests and no judgement is made related to the legality of the arrest:
 - **Arrest:** Deprivation of liberty following accusations of or being charged with a crime.
 - **Charges:** Formal legal charge made by a governmental authority asserting that someone has committed a crime.
 - **Detention:** Keeping a person in custody prior to official charges or without any official charges; includes temporary detention for hours or days.
 - **Fines:** An amount of money that must be paid as a punishment for not obeying a rule or law.
 - **Imprisonment:** Holding a person in a known official or unknown location, such as a jail or prison, often following formal charges.
- **Event ID:** Refers to the event ID assigned to the event.
- **Victim status:** Refers to the known status of kidnapped aid workers. Sub-types include:
 - **Killed:** Refers to a kidnapped aid worker being killed by the use of violence or abuse while in captivity, during a rescue mission or during an attempted escape.
 - **Escaped:** Refers to a kidnapped aid worker escaping or attempting to escape. Note: aid workers killed during an escape are coded as 'Killed, and not 'Escape'.
 - **Freed:** Refers to a kidnapping being resolved through the victim(s) being freed.
 - **Missing:** Refers to a kidnapped aid worker reported as missing.
 - **Multiple:** Refers to complex events involving more than one victim with different outcomes.
 - **NoInformation –** There is there no further information of what happened to the victim.
 - **StillInCaptivity:** Refers to a kidnapped aid worker still being kept in captivity.

CODEBOOK

Each row represents an individual event. Only the relevant columns are filled in. Where columns are left blank, the information is not available or does not apply to the event. For cases where the number of aid workers is unspecified, one is counted.

- A. **Event date:** The reported date the event took place.
- B. **Country:** Country in which the event occurred.
- C. **ISO code:** ISO country code.
- D. **Total aid workers killed:** Sum of aid workers reportedly killed in the event. Note: aid workers killed while in captivity are counted as 'kidnapped' and not 'killed'.
- E. **Total aid workers kidnapped:** Sum of aid workers reportedly kidnapped in the event. Note: aid workers killed while in captivity are counted as 'kidnapped' and not 'killed'.
- F. **Total aid workers arrested:** Sum of aid workers reportedly arrested in the event. Includes: arrested, charged, detained, fined or imprisoned.
- G. **Event ID:** The event number in the Security in Numbers Database (SiND).
- H. **Victim status:** The known status of aid workers reportedly kidnapped.