

## Cyclone Idai: Media monitoring

Latest incidents affecting response efforts

**From 21 to 31 March 2019** Insecurity Insight partnered with [Standby Task Force](#), a global network of digital humanitarians, to monitor local news and social media sources in the aftermath of the Cyclone Idai to see if these sources can provide useful insights on the security context for aid agencies. This Monthly News Brief starts with the information from this special monitoring before covering all other countries with information from main stream media.

### **Mozambique**

**17 March 2019:** In Thondwe, Zomba district, members of the Area Development Committee (ADC) allegedly stole food supplies meant for civilians affected by Cyclone Idai. The police apprehended two members of the committee and recovered some of the stolen supplies. **Source:** [News of the South](#)

**19 March 2019 (DOA):** Reports allege that false fundraising efforts have been created to take advantage of the humanitarian situation following the damage caused by the cyclone, resulting in the looting of funds meant for helping victims. In response, a government official has called for all donations to be handed over to the Civil Protection Unit, an authority mandated by government to provide protection to the victims of natural disasters. **Source:** [Zim Morning Post](#)

**20 March 2019:** In Matacuane neighbourhood, Beira, residents attempted to loot a food warehouse. Police intervened by firing live ammunition at the civilians. No casualties were reported. **Source:** [Verdade](#)

**21 March 2019 (DOA):** In Beira, fighting broke out after more than a hundred civilians tried to force their way into a municipal building where food supplies were stored. Soldiers guarding the building responded by shooting live ammunition into the air. **Source:** [ITV](#)

**22 March 2019 (DOA):** In Beira, residents looted a warehouse containing food supplies. **Source:** [Good Morning Zimbabwe](#)

**22 March 2019 (DOA):** In Vaz neighbourhood, Beira, vehicles bringing food into the area were attacked by local civilians. **Source:** [Mail and Guardian](#)

**22 March 2019:** In Buzi, Sofala Province, Indian navy boats seeking to rescue people were confronted by local civilians, who thought the boats contained food supplies. As a result, only one out of the six Indian boats returned to Beira with people who wanted to leave Buzi. **Source:** [Washington Post](#)

**25 March 2019 (DOA):** In Mobeira, Beira, local civilians were allegedly prohibited by the local government authority to travel to Beira, where aid is reportedly more easily accessible. **Source:** [Sky News](#)

**27 March 2019 (DOA):** NGOs claim that the slow response from the government to their requests for permission to operate in the country has resulted in aid supplies being delayed. **Source:** [Observador](#)

### **Reports of rumours and allegations affecting the delivery of aid**

- Rumour that foreign organisations bringing food aid are also bringing spies and come to gather intelligence. Facebook 27 March 2019.

# Safety, security and access incidents

Insecurity affecting aid workers and aid delivery

## Africa

### *Burkina Faso*

**11 March 2019:** In Centre-Nord region, between Namssiguia and Djibo towns, a vehicle carrying an NGO worker was stopped by unidentified gunmen and the NGO worker abducted. The group was allegedly sighted driving towards the border with Mali. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**11 March 2019 (DOA):** In Foube village, unspecified perpetrators kidnapped an unspecified number of aid workers who were about to reopen an unnamed school. The opening of the school was consequently delayed. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

### *Burundi*

**28 February 2019:** In Bujumbura, the Burkinabe Government forced the local office of the UN Human Rights Council to close, alleging that Burundi had “made sufficient progress in human rights” and the country had no need for it anymore. **Source:** [OHCHR](#)

### *Cameroon/Central African Republic*

**20 March 2019:** In Garoua-Boulai town, Lom-et-Djérem department, East region Cameroon, rebel forces from the Central African Republic cut off the road that leads to Bangui to protest the Central African President’s new cabinet, preventing 230 trucks loaded with aid from entering the country. **Source:** [VOA News](#)

### *Central African Republic*

**12 March 2019:** In Piya village, Haute-Kotto prefecture, a young male Oxfam worker who was part of a team drilling a well in the region was attacked by a group of FPRC militants who accused him of stealing. They reportedly took him back to their base in Calvere and tortured him to death. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**15 March 2019:** In Bamara-Kassai region, north of Batangafo, a national INGO employee distributing food was shot and wounded by two unidentified armed perpetrators before being evacuated to Batangafo for medical attention. The perpetrators fled before a UN patrol arrived. **Source:** [AWSO](#)<sup>2</sup>

**30 March 2019:** In Pavika village, on the Alindao-Bangassou axis, a national INGO staff member was injured when armed perpetrators opened fire on the NGO group. The staff member and 3 others were travelling through the village at the time. The injured staff member was admitted to a local hospital for treatment. **Source:** [AWSO](#)<sup>2</sup>

**This monthly digest comprises threats and incidents of violence affecting the delivery of aid.**

**It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.**

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## ***Democratic Republic of the Congo***

**General:** In North Kivu province, false perceptions about Ebola treatment and health workers amongst local communities, coupled with insecurity, continued to hamper humanitarian efforts to respond to the Ebola outbreak. **Sources:** [Devex](#), [Reuters](#), [Roll Call](#) and [VOA News](#)

**03 March 2019: Update:** In Butembo city, North Kivu province, an Ebola Treatment Centre that was attacked by unidentified perpetrators on 27 February 2019 has resumed operations after a temporary shutdown and is now managed by the Health Ministry in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF. **Sources:** [Reuters](#), [The Telegraph](#), [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#) and [UN News](#)

**08 March 2019:** In Lubwasi town, North Kivu province, suspected ADF forces burned down a health clinic and several houses during an attack on the town. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup> and [Actualite](#)

**09 March 2019:** In Butembo city, North Kivu province, Mai Mai militiamen attacked the recently re-opened Ebola Treatment Centre in an apparent effort to foment chaos amongst local communities, killing a police officer, and wounding one or more health workers. **Sources:** [News 24](#), [NPR](#), [Reuters](#) and [Xinhua](#)

**10 March 2019:** In Butembo, armed assailants raided an Ebola treatment centre, wounding health workers and killing a policeman. **Source:** [UN-OCHA](#)

**24 March 2019:** In Kalemie town, Tanganyika province, an unidentified armed group fired shots at a hospital vehicle carrying representatives of the World Bank and Panzi Hospital. The passengers fled and the perpetrators looted the vehicle. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**24 March 2019:** In Butembo city, North Kivu province, a UN staff member was assaulted by a group of locals and alleged family members of an Ebola victim. A total of three UN staff were assaulted, with only one receiving injuries, who was later treated at the local Ebola treatment centre. This incident reportedly followed a spate of attacks on aid workers in North Kivu throughout March 2019. **Source:** [AWSO](#)<sup>2</sup>

## ***Ethiopia***

**10 March 2019:** In Bishoftu town, Shewa zone, Oromia region, the crash of an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737-MAX jet killed at least 45 aid workers, peacekeepers, and staff of UN and affiliated organisations – including the Catholic Relief Services, the International Committee for the Development of Peoples, IOM, UNHCR, WFP, World Bank and UN Environment Agency – who were on their way to Nairobi for a UN conference. **Sources:** [Channel New Asia](#) and [The New Humanitarian](#)

## ***Kenya***

**29 March 2019:** According to a leaked UN document, the Kenyan Government plans to close the Dadaab Refugee Camp by August 2019; a move that, if implemented, would affect some 230,000 refugees. **Source:** [The New Humanitarian](#)

## ***Mali***

**General:** In central and northern Mali, an increasingly militarised security landscape continued to restrict aid workers in their ability to respond to the needs of displaced peoples. **Source:** [The New Humanitarian](#)

**30 March 2019:** In Boya Goundya town, Gao region, suspected Ganda Izo militiamen attacked a medical centre and abducted two health workers. No further details specified. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

## **Somalia**

**13 March 2019:** Near Caasho-Gaabo village, Sanaag region, al-Shabaab fighters opened fire on the rented vehicle of an unspecified INGO. No further details available. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**13 March 2019:** In Baidoa city, Bay region, a police officer shot and injured the driver of an INGO vehicle. No motivation is known for the shooting and no further details specified. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

## **Zimbabwe**

**20 March 2019:** In Mutare, a truck carrying aid from Harare was reportedly almost hijacked by youths in Zanu PF regalia, who demanded that the sugar, mealie meal and blankets be off-loaded at the Mutare party office. **Source:** [News Day](#)

**29 March 2019 (DOA):** In Zimbabwe, government and Zanu PF officials were accused of distributing aid on partisan lines and of appropriating aid destined for victims of the Cyclone Idai. **Source:** [Daily News](#)

## **Asia**

### **Bangladesh**

**General:** The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army has been blamed by the media for organised violence and a series of killings in camps for Rohingya refugees. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

**11 March 2019:** The Bangladeshi Government plans to forcibly relocate 23,000 Rohingya refugees from camps in Cox's Bazar district to the remote island of Bhasan Char in April 2019, a move that could possibly trigger a new crisis, the UN warned. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

### **North Korea**

**15 March 2019 (DOA):** Broadly applied UN and government-imposed sanctions against North Korea have left banks, goods suppliers, and transport companies afraid of running afoul of the sanctions, thereby seriously disrupting aid work in the region. **Source:** [The New Humanitarian](#)

## **Europe**

### **Greece**

**20 March 2019:** In Athens, an asylum-seeker from Guinea attempting to receive a 90 Euro subsistence from UNHCR was attacked by police, who held him down on the pavement and kicked his leg on a pre-existing wound he had received during torture before punching his face and back. When he requested to go to hospital they said, "Die here, not in hospital" and "Black go back to your country". **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

## **Middle East North Africa**

### **Iran**

**08 March 2019: Update:** The British Government announced that it will give diplomatic protection to a British-Iranian project manager of Thomson Reuters Foundation – arrested and jailed by the Iranian authorities since April 2016 – in an attempt to put pressure on Tehran to release her. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

### **Occupied Palestinian Territories**

**19 March 2019:** In Nablus region, West Bank, Red Crescent workers attempting to reach two injured Palestinians near to Joseph's Tomb were shot at by IDF soldiers. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**27 March 2019:** In Bethlehem city, West Bank, a male national INGO volunteer was reportedly shot and killed by the IDF at the Dheisha refugee camp. The volunteer paramedic was working within the camp and was shot when others in the area throwing rocks led to the Israeli soldiers opening fire with live ammunition. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>2</sup>

### ***Syrian Arab Republic***

**General:** In Idlib governorate, a renewed wave of attacks by the Assad regime on schools, hospitals and civilian infrastructures began, leading to the deaths of at least 170 civilians despite a ceasefire deal brokered in September 2018. **Source:** [Guardian](#)

**01 March 2019:** In an unspecified location, a male International staff member died while working in a medical facility in a refugee camp when the area was hit by an airstrike. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>2</sup>

**03 March 2019:** In Idlib governorate, a male international INGO employee was killed during a suicide bombing attack on a community restaurant that reportedly provides food for orphans, widows, and others in need. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>2</sup>

**09 March 2019:** In Saraqeb town, Idlib governorate missiles reportedly fired by Assad regime forces struck Al-Hayat hospital, a blood bank and an ambulance response unit, leading to the hospital's temporary closure. **Source:** [Guardian](#)

**10 March 2019:** In Murek town, Hama governorate, a male NGO volunteer was killed after the organization's centre was reportedly targeted by regime artillery. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>2</sup>

### ***Yemen***

**01 March 2019:** In al-Huwaimi village, an INGO-contracted truck struck a landmine while passing, leaving two unspecified individuals injured. No further details available at this time. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>2</sup>

**02 March 2019:** In Hodeidah city, district and governorate, Houthi rebels accused government troops of attacking the convoy of the Head of the UN Mission in support of the Stockholm Agreement as it was driving back from the Red Sea Mills. **Source:** [Xinhua](#)

**10 March 2019:** In Hajjah governorate, a lack of authorisation from the local authorities prevented the delivery of food to Abs and Kushar districts, affecting 61,600 people. **Source:** [NRC](#)

**13 March 2019 (DOA):** In Kushar and Aflah Al Yaman districts, Hajjah governorate, fighting continued to prevent people from fleeing to areas where they can access food, water, medical treatment and other aid, as well as preventing aid organisations from reaching families near or across frontlines. **Source:** [NRC](#)

**13 March 2019 (DOA):** In Saada governorate, a lack of authorisation from the local authorities prevented aid workers from reaching people close to the frontlines. **Source:** [NRC](#)

**19 March 2019:** In Hodeidah city, district and governorate, shrapnel hit an aid worker from Action Against Hunger, killing her and wounding her sister. The office of the NGO in Hodeidah was subsequently closed for two days out of respect for the victim and her family, and to assess the security situation. **Source:** [Action Against Hunger](#) and [AWSD](#)<sup>2</sup>

**26 March 2019:** In an unnamed rural area, Kitaf wa Al Boqe'e district, Sa'dah governorate, a missile of unclear origin hit a petrol station near the entrance to the Save the Children-supported Kitaf Hospital, killing seven people, amongst whom were a health worker and his or her two children, as well as a security guard.

Sources: [AWSD](#)<sup>2</sup>, [Al Jazeera](#), [AP](#), [BBC](#), [Save the Children](#) and [SBS](#)

## The Americas

### Haiti

**27 March 2019:** In Port-au-Prince, unidentified gunmen attacked a motorcade containing the Chilean Ambassador to Haiti and 13 volunteers of the NGO America Solidaria, whilst en route to a clean-water project in Croix-des-Bouquets area, wounding a driver and an NGO official. A Haitian driver for the America Solidaria, an official from Haiti's water authority, and an engineer of the NGO Proyecto Universal went missing. **Source:** [AP](#)

### United States of America

**General:** The US Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act of 2018 may cripple the ability of the USAID to find reliable humanitarian partners across the world. **Source:** [The New Humanitarian](#)

### Venezuela

**General:** In the midst of an escalating political crisis, the Maduro Government continued to prevent the entry of international aid into Venezuela from Brazil and Colombia, claiming that humanitarian convoys are a pretext for a US-led military invasion. **Source:** [The Conversation](#)

**30 March 2019:** Upon the authorisation of the Maduro Government, the IFRC announced that it can begin distributing aid supplies to 650,000 crisis-affected individuals within the first two weeks of April 2019. **Source:** [BBC](#)

## KKA data

Aid workers reportedly killed, kidnapped and arrested.

### Total aid workers reportedly affected, January-March 2019

Based on incidents identified in open-sources and verified information shared by 28 partner agencies.

	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected	Total KKA incidents
Afghanistan	0	0	0	0	0
CAR	4	7	0	11	5
DRC	0	0	0	0	0
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0
Mali	0	3	0	3	1
Nigeria	0	0	0	0	0
Somalia	3	11	0	14	3
South Sudan	0	0	0	0	0
Syria	4	2	0	6	6
Yemen	5	0	1	6	4
Other countries	4	5	0	9	7
<b>Total affected</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>26</b>

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#).

<sup>2</sup> 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.