Attacks on Ebola Response

Latest available open-source safety, security and access information on reported attacks on health care in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

29-30 September 2019: In Biakato, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, a group of around thirty armed men identified as Mai Mai militants attacked a group of Ebola responders at their residence during the night. The assailants – who were reportedly looking to avenge the death by Ebola of a nurse who they believe was willfully killed by the responders – fled the scene after the rapid intervention of local police officers. No injuries were reported. **Source: Anadolu Agency**

01 October 2019: In Kamesi Mbonzo village, Butembo town, North Kivu province, men armed with knives attacked the Ikala health post, and set fire to Ebola-related equipment. **Source: Kivu Security**

02 October 2019: In Mangina town, near Beni city, North Kivu province, a group of armed men attempted to attack an Ebola treatment centre but were successfully pushed back by local police officers. No injuries were reported. **Source: Radio Moto**

06 October 2019: In Mambasa, Ituri province, Mai Mai militants attempted to blackmail Ebola health responders, demanding money while threatening to launch an imminent attack on an Ebola treatment centre should the request be declined. The militants claimed that the requested funds were intended to cover the burial costs of someone who died from Ebola. **Source: Radio Okapi**

08 October 2019: In Lwemba, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, the Ebola health response resumed its activities on a limited basis after having been suspended in mid-September in the aftermath of attacks on health facilities and residences belonging to responders. **Sources: CIDRAP and CMRA**

09 October 2019: In Pinga, North Kivu province, a group of youths protested in front of an office of the National Intelligence Agency (ANR), demanding the release of an Ebola medic who was reportedly taken to the office to have his documents checked. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Around 13 October 2019: In Lomami province, the chief medical officers responsible for the medical zones of East Kalonda, Ngandajika, Kamana, Kalambayi, and Tshofa were suspended and charged with the embezzlement of international funds. **Source: Media Congo**

Incidents reported by the World Health Organization's (WHO) Surveillance System of Attacks on Healthcare (SSA) in the DRC for the period 1-15 October 2019

The SSA[2] reported ten incidents of intimidation, harassment or threatening behaviour towards health workers and patients or health facilities. In two incidents, the SSA reported the perpetrator as armed with an individual weapon[3] and in another, reported a health worker being injured. The current available information makes it likely that there is no overlap in the reported SSA incidents, and those events documented in open sources; however, without having access to the further details of the ten reported SSA incidents this cannot be confirmed.

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

[2] The Surveillance System of Attacks on Healthcare (SSA) is a global standardized and systemic approach to collecting data of attacks on health care. This system utilizes the same methodology across countries to address the knowledge gap of the extent and nature of attacks on health care. The WHO SSA does not include information on location or perpetrator.

[2] The WHO SSA definition of an individual includes knives, bricks, clubs, guns, grenades and improvised explosive devices (IED).