Africa

Burkina Faso
Throughout April 2019: Across Burkina Faso, various extremist militant groups (including al-Qaeda, Islamic State, and local militant offshoots) have inflamed tensions across the state leading to a broad assault on first responders. The militants reportedly conceal bombs within corpses to attack first responders, seize ambulances, and have ultimately forced medical workers to abandon their work across the country leaving 250,000 people without consistent access to healthcare services. Sources: The New Humanitarian and VOA

Central African Republic
04 April 2019: In Ouham prefecture, on the road between Batangafo and Bouca, an MSF staff member who worked at Batangafo Hospital was detained by an unidentified armed group before being held captive in the bush and killed. His motorcycle was also stolen by the perpetrators. Sources: ACLED¹, AWSD², MSF, and UN- OCHA

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Throughout April 2019: In North Kivu and Ituri provinces, mistrust of first responders and widespread misinformation propagated by community leaders combined with a highly volatile security situation continued to hamper efforts to respond to the Ebola outbreak. Sources: AP, NBC News, Reuters and The Guardian

19 April 2019: In Butembo city, North Kivu province, unspecified gunmen suspected to be Mayi Mayi militia fighters attacked the Butembo University Hospital and ordered foreigners to go home, accusing them of bringing Ebola to the country. During the attack a Cameroonian epidemiologist of the WHO was shot dead and two other civilians injured. By 25 April 2019, Congolese authorities had arrested 11 suspects. Sources: AP (a), AP (b), Channels TV, SBS, The Guardian, Quartz Africa and WHO

This monthly digest comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care.

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

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The section aligns with the definition of attacks on health care used by the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC).

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20 April 2019: In Katwa town, near Butembo city, North Kivu province, militia members armed with machetes attempted to burn down an Ebola Treatment Centre for unspecified reasons. In response, military and police personnel killed one perpetrator and detained five more. Other sources believe the perpetrators were Mai-Mai militants and described the centre as a hospital. **Sources: AP, The Guardian, Axios and Channels TV**

24 April 2019: In Ruvungi town, Walikale territory, four MSF employees, including both national and international staff, were ambushed and abducted by an unidentified armed group. Two of the abductees were later released. No further details specified. **Source: ACLED**

**Mali**
02 April 2019: In Gourma-Rharous town and cercle, Tombouctou region, an IED of unidentified origin hit an armoured vehicle, killing a French military doctor and wounding a soldier while they were on a counter-terror mission. **Source: Space War**

**Niger**
25 April 2019: In Maine Soroa commune, Diffa region, an MSF office was attacked by unidentified armed men who set fire to the building and destroyed four vehicles. One staff member was injured during the assault. UN-OCHA reports that this was the first major attack on a humanitarian organisation in Diffa but it is also representative of a surge in assaults on civilians in recent months. **Sources: ACLED and UN-OCHA**

**Nigeria**
21 April 2019: In Kajuru local government area, Kaduna state, unidentified gunmen stormed a resort and kidnapped a British Mercy Corps aid worker who was attending a party in the region before reportedly killing her later. **Sources: Reuters and The Telegraph**

**Sudan**
06 April 2019 (DOA): In Omdurman city, Khartoum state, clashes between security forces and demonstrators caused the death of a laboratory doctor. **Source: Reuters**

**Asia**
**Afghanistan**
11 April 2019: In areas under its rule, the Afghan Taliban announced a temporary ban on the ICRC and the WHO, citing unspecified suspicious actions during a vaccination drive. **Sources: RFE RL, Reuters and VOA**

**Myanmar**
01 April 2019: In Rakhine state, continued fighting between the Myanmar Army and forces of the Arakan Army have prevented at least 950,000 people from accessing healthcare, education and clean water. **Source: ACTED**

**Pakistan**
08 April 2019: In Ghazi Beg area, Mohmand district, Peshawar division, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a man shot and killed a member of a polio monitoring team after the victim reported the perpetrator’s name to the authorities for refusing to give oral polio drops to his children during a previous campaign. **Sources: The Telegraph (a), The Telegraph (b), The Week and WHO**

22 – 25 April 2019: In an unspecified location, Bannu district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, unspecified perpetrators killed a policeman guarding polio vaccinators under unspecified circumstances. **Source: Al...**
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Jazeera

22 – 25 April 2019: In an unspecified location, Buner district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, unspecified perpetrators killed a policeman who was on duty guarding polio vaccinator. Their motivation is unknown. Source: Al Jazeera

25 April 2019: In Sultan Zai village, Chaman tehsil, Qilla Abdullah district, Balochistan province, unidentified gunmen opened fire on a Polio vaccination team for unspecified reasons, killing a female health worker and critically wounding another. Security forces launched a search operation in the area and the polio vaccination drive was suspended. Sources: France 24, Sky News and VOA

Middle East and North Africa

Libya

Throughout April 2019: Near Tripoli, continuous shelling from the ongoing conflict between Khalifa Haftar’s Libyan National Army and the UN-recognised Government of National Accord hampered the work of WHO hospital/ambulance teams and prevented humanitarian actors from reaching and delivering aid to the southern suburbs of the capital. Sources: Reuters, The New Humanitarian and WHO

08 April 2019: Near Tripoli, heavy fighting between Khalifa Haftar forces and troops of the UN-recognised government reportedly caused the death of two doctors who were evacuating wounded patients from conflict areas. Sources: The New Arab and WHO

Syrian Arab Republic

04 April 2019: In Kafr Nabl, Idlib governorate, suspected Syrian forces launched three missiles on the area, damaging a primary health care dispensary supported by Syria Relief and Development Organisation (SRD). 13 civilians were killed, including five children and two women. Source: SNHR

07 April 2019: In Masyaf city and district, Hama governorate, rocket fire from unspecified extremist forces hit an unnamed hospital, killing a staff member. Source: VOA

09 April 2019: In Hama city and governorate, a college student of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Hama University was reported dead after being arrested by Syrian regime forces in July 2018, following a raid on his home. Reports suggest it is probable that he died due to being tortured at Sydnaya Military Prison in Damascus. Source: ACLED

15 April 2019: Update: The fate of two Syrian aid workers and an ICRC nurse from New Zealand, seized by the Islamic State in October 2013, remains unknown. The Red Cross has put out an international appeal for information leading to their return. Source: BBC

15 April 2019 (DOA): In Dara’a city, district and governorate, the Syrian Government cut off medical supplies and aid to the state-run and only clinic of the city for allegedly ‘receiving support from external sources’ during the period it was under rebel control. The facility was forced to close down and the regime has provided no replacement facility or services. Source: The New Arab

24 April 2019: In Nawa town, Dara’a governorate, unidentified gunmen broke into the home of a doctor and opened fire on both him and his family, seriously wounding them before stealing from them. No fatalities were reported. Source: ACLED

26 April 2019: In Tal Hawwash village, Sahl al Ghab area, Hama governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired a number of missiles that landed near an ambulance of centre 33101 of the Syrian Civil...
Defense (SCD) while the ambulance was carrying victims of a previous bombing, damaging the ambulance. **Source: SNHR**

**27 April 2019:** In Kafr Karmin village, Aleppo governorate, an explosive device planted by unknown perpetrator(s) opposite the Baghdad hospital detonated, damaging an ambulance outside the hospital belonging to the Aleppo suburbs Emergency System parked. **Source: SNHR**

**29 April 2019:** In Latamna town, Hama governorate, an airstrike of unspecified origin hit an unnamed hospital, putting it out of service. While the origin of the strike is unclear, only Russian and American forces have air power capable of delivering airstrikes in the region and American forces have been pulling back. **Source: Asharq Al-Awsat**

**29 April 2019:** In Madiq Castle sub-district, Hama governorate, an airstrike of unspecified origin hit the Madiq Castle Hospital, causing heavy damage to its outpatient clinic, pharmacy and laboratory. **Sources: Asharq Al-Awsat and UN-OCHA**

**29 April 2019:** In the sub-districts of Madiq Castle, Ilhsim, Maarrat al-Nu’man, Kadr Nabl and Ariha, within various districts, Idlib and northern Hama governorates, airstrikes and shelling forced the closure of eight static service points, including community centres, women and girls safe spaces, child-friendly spaces and health facilities, three of which were directly damaged. **Source: UN-OCHA**

**30 April 2019:** In Hbeit town, Idlib governorate, artillery shelling from government forces severely damaged an unnamed medical centre, littering its interior with rubble. **Sources: Asharq Al-Awsat and UN-OCHA**

**Yemen**

**02 April 2019:** In Hodeidah city and governorate, Houthi rebels denied the WFP access to the Red Sea Mills grain storage site, claiming that government forces would target UN staff and then blame them for it. **Source: Reuters**

**02 April 2019:** In Aden city and governorate, unspecified gunmen threatened guards and staff at an MSF-run Emergency Trauma Hospital before abducting a patient who was due to undergo surgery. Later, the patient was found dead in the district of Al-Mansoura. In response, MSF suspended its activities at the hospital. **Sources: ACLED¹, Al Jazeera, MSF and Reuters**

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**Global Health Insecurity**

These events go beyond the definition used by the SHCC to cover a wider range of events that affect the provision of health care including events perpetrated by patients or relatives of patients, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by health care personnel.

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**Africa**

**Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**24 April 2019:** In Butembo city, North Kivu province, dozens of Congolese doctors and nurses held a protest over the physical risks they face in their duties, urging the Congolese authorities to provide them with sufficient security by the beginning of May 2019 or face an indefinite strike. **Sources: ABC News and SBS**
**Kenya**

**12 April 2019:** In Mandera town and county, suspected al Shabaab militants ambushed and kidnapped two Cuban doctors as they were heading to the Mandera County Referral Hospital and shot dead the police officer who was guarding them. The victims are believed to have been taken to neighbouring Somalia. **Sources:** Africa News, BBC, CBS News, CNN and Reuters

**22 April 2019:** In Lamu town, Lamu West county, a red cross worker was shot dead by unidentified gunmen. No further details specified. **Source:** ACLED

**Nigeria**

**06 April 2019 (DOA):** In Lagos city and state, a doctor was stabbed and killed in a random attack a day after he had graduated from the University of Lagos. **Source:** PM News

**Asia**

**China**

**11 April 2019 (DOA):** In Weitang neighbourhood, Suzhou city, Jiangsu province, a brochure issued by the local government described medical doctors as one of China’s “most evil professions”, seemingly due to the high cost of seeing a doctor. **Source:** Inkstone News

**Pakistan**

**18 April 2019:** In Korangi town, Karachi district, Sindh province, a doctor and three medical officials of the Sindh Government Hospital raped a patient who had been seeking treatment for a toothache. The attackers subsequently poisoned her to death. **Source:** Metro

**20 April 2019:** In Sardogha city, Punjab state, a group of random unknown men threw acid at the Vice Chairman of the Young Doctors Association in Sardogha, leaving him with serious burn injuries. **Source:** ACLED

**22 April 2019:** In an unnamed location, near Peshawar city, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a mob ransacked and set fire to an unnamed health clinic amid a wider panic over a supposedly tainted batch of polio vaccinations, forcing doctors and nurses to take refuge in a local public school whose principal prevented the angry crowd from getting inside. **Sources:** CBC, France 24 and The Telegraph

**28 April 2019:** In Chunian town, Punjab state, unidentified armed men shot dead a man they said was a ‘fake doctor’, who was also the President of the local union of pharmacists. **Source:** ACLED

**Middle East and North Africa**

**Morocco**

**16 April 2019:** In Rabat city and region, a two-day strike and protest march was organised by nurses and medical assistants. The health workers marched from the Ministry of Health to the Moroccan Parliament to demand compensation for occupational hazards and national representation in a medical practitioners’ union amongst other requests. **Source:** Teller Report

**The Americas**

**Mexico**

**01 – 07 April 2019:** In an unspecified location, Guerrero state, unspecified perpetrators executed a woman with gunshot wounds inside an ambulance presumably in relation to a drug-related dispute, and physically assaulted paramedics in the process. **Source:** AP
14 April 2019: In Salamanca city, Guanajuato state, a gang dragged a gunfire-wounded patient out of a Red Cross ambulance at gunpoint presumably in relation to a drug-related dispute. The Red Cross subsequently suspended its operations in the city temporarily. Sources: AP (a) and AP (b)

Venezuela
16 April 2019: In the Catia neighbourhood of Caracas, Maduro Government supporters fired six gunshots in the air as a van arrived to distribute water purification tablets and empty plastic jugs, creating a small commotion on a major avenue during rush hour. Source: AP