Aid in Danger
Monthly News Brief
Insecurity affecting aid workers and aid delivery

December 2018

Security Incidents and Access Constraints

Africa

Burkina Faso
15 December 2018: On the road between Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso, a Canadian aid worker traveling to Togo for a humanitarian project with the organisation Zion'Gaia went missing. No further details specified. **Source: aOuaga**

Burundi
24 December 2018: In Kinindo commune, Bujumbura Mairie province, Burundian soldiers arrested an employee of the NGO Handicap International while he was at a bar. There is no indication as to why he was arrested. **Source: SOS Averages Burundi**

Central African Republic
Annual Update: UN-OCHA reported that 363 violent incidents against aid workers were recorded from January to November of 2018, and over 25 aid agencies were forced to suspend their operations due to violence and insecurity. Of the 363 recorded incidents, at least 240 were robberies, break-ins, lootings and carjacking. **Source: UN-OCHA**

03 December 2018: *Update:* Two aid workers kidnapped while collecting data for a vaccination drive in late November were released after the intervention of UN peacekeepers. The kidnappers claimed the aid workers were spying on them but agreed to let them go. **Source: UN-OCHA**

04 December 2018: In Ippy town and district, Ouaka prefecture, UPC rebel forces encircled and fired at people inside the Catholic Church-run Ippy IDP site, killing at least two children and resulting in an unspecified number of other injured parties. Most sources report that Mauritanian peacekeepers were present at the time but failed to intervene and prevent the attack, while other sources claim that no loss of life occurred due to the intervention of MINUSCA forces. **Sources: Amnesty International, La Croix Africa and RJDH**

05 December 2018: In Ippy town and district, Ouaka prefecture, the UPC reportedly set fire to the IDP camp within the Catholic Church which they had attacked on the previous day, leaving three people dead. **Source: ACLED[2]**

14 December 2018: In Ouaka prefecture, armed men attacked and robbed an aid convoy belonging to an unspecified NGO, stealing valuables but leaving no aid workers injured. The NGO responded by suspending its operations in the region. **Source: UN-OCHA**

17 December 2018: In Masisi territory, North Kivu province, unspecified perpetrators waiting on the Masisi-Nyabiondo road intercepted a WFP truck containing food relief intended for displaced people in Nyabiondo and killed the driver. **Source: Radio Okapi**

Democratic Republic of Congo
04 December 2018: In Beni city, North Kivu province, unidentified individuals burned down two Ebola screening sites and a community relay centre, contributing to the mass displacement of people towards neighbouring Ituri province and thereby further spreading the risk of Ebola across the country. **Source: UN-OCHA**

06 December 2018: *Update:* Congolese authorities arrested a Congolese army colonel in connection with the killing of two UN experts in March 2017. **Source: Reuters**

10 December 2018: In Kazaro village, Ituri province, a group of young people attacked an Ebola vaccination team, resulting in no injuries. The motivation for the attack is unspecified but likely due to general suspicion of vaccination programs. **Source: UN-OCHA**

17 December 2018: In Loashi town, Masisi district, North Kivu state, the driver of a 2-vehicle UN food relief convoy was killed when the vehicles were ambushed roughly 70km north-west of Goma at 8.30am. **Source: AWSD[1]**

20 - 29 December 2018: In Beni and Butembo cities, North Kivu province, the IRC suspended all of its activities, including its Ebola response program, due to a surge in violence towards aid workers (amongst other groups) following the 20 December delay of the general election in DRC. The election had been due to take place in December 2016 but was met with repeated delays year-by-year, resulting in an outbreak of riots on the 20 December which left multiple IRC facilities damaged, destroyed, looted and burned. In Beni, the burning down of one Ebola triage centre resulted in at least twenty-one patients being declared missing (accounts vary). **Sources: IRC, Reuters, Media Congo and NY Times**

28 December 2018: In Beni and Butembo cities, North Kivu province, protests over the electoral commission forced Oxfam to suspend its Ebola response activities in the region. **Sources: Media Congo and Oxfam**

Ethiopia
03 – 09 December 2018: In an unspecified location, Oromia region, an unidentified group of people harassed USAID employees and stole food that would have fed 800 people for a month. **Source: ESAT**

12 December 2018 (DOA): In Oromia region, Gedeo-Guji ethnic fighting forced the USAID to suspend its food aid programme in Bule Hola and Gelana woredas, Borena zone, as well as Kercha woreda, Guji zone. **Source: ESAT**

16 December 2018: In Loashi locality, Masisi territory, North Kivu province, unspecified perpetrators – possibly of APCLS militia origin – shot and killed a WFP driver. No further details specified. **Source: Actualite**

Kenya
10 December 2018: In Kakuma town, Turkana county, two branches of the Nuer ethnic group clashed over

the impregnation of a girl in the Turkana refugee camp. Two people died and eight were injured in the clashes. No further details specified. **Source: ACLED[2]**

11 December 2018: In Kakuma town, Turkana county, around 40 LGBT activists marched to the UNHCR office at the Kakuma Refugee Camp to protest the poor conditions, inadequate healthcare, and discrimination at the camp. Meanwhile, members of the local community and fellow refugees – who were later joined by the police – started to attack them with sticks and iron bars, resulting in the injury of at least 20 activists. The UNHCR subsequently relocated all 170 LGBT refugees to safe houses in Nairobi. **Sources: ACLED, Pink News and Thomson Reuters Foundation**

Mali
08 December 2018: In Mopti region, a seven-truck aid convoy was robbed while delivering vital food and relief supplies for 523 displaced people in the Karakinde locality. Both the aid workers and the convoy's drivers were left unharmed. This incident is the fifth such report of relief supplies being stolen in the region in 2018. **Source: UN-OCHA**

Niger
11 December 2018: In Niamey city, Niamey region, dozens of Sudanese refugees held a protest in front of the offices of the UNHCR over their poor living conditions. **Source: ACLED[2]**

31 December 2018: In Kabelawa village, Diffa region, fifteen people were wounded following violence between the Buduma and Fulani ethnic groups at the Kabelawa refugee camp. **Source: ACLED[2]**

Nigeria
02 December 2018: In Yola town, Adamawa state, unidentified gunmen entered an IDP camp, opened fire and stole valuables. No further details specified. **Source: UN-OCHA**

06 December 2018: In Ngala town, Borno state, a group of 20 female IDPs who were out collecting firewood were attacked by Boko Haram militants. One woman was killed, another flogged, and all left with their heads shaved. **Source: ACLED[2]**

06 December 2018: In Rann town, Borno state, a clash between armed assailants and soldiers led to the deaths of an unknown number of IDPs and the destruction of a medical centre. The violence subsequently forced an unspecified number of aid workers to relocate to Maiduguri city, the state capital. **Source: UN-OCHA**

08 December 2018: In Rann town, Borno state, Boko Haram militants torched a malnourishment treatment centre operated by an NGO. The attack was one component of a wider insurgent attack in the area. **Source: The Street Journal**

13 December 2018: In Ngala locality, Borno state, a fire likely caused by a cooking accident in an IDP camp left more than 40 IDP families homeless. **Source: UN-OCHA**

14 December 2018: In the northeast of the country, the Nigerian Army imposed a three-month suspension of UNICEF operations amid accusations that UNICEF trains and deploys spies who support insurgents and their sympathisers, thereby jeopardising its counter-insurgency efforts. The ban was reversed only a few hours later, following deliberations between army officials and UNICEF representatives. **Sources: BBC, Garda World, Punch and Reuters**

Somalia

18 December 2018: In Dollow town, Gedo region, an altercation between two IDPs in the Kabasa IDP camp led to the death of one of them after he was struck by a heavy metal bar. **Source: ACLED**[2]

South Sudan

07 December 2018: In Torit city, Eastern Equatoria state, a South Sudanese national UN staff member was robbed while travelling home in the evening. The two unidentified perpetrators stole his mobile phone and assaulted him in the process, leaving him with minor injuries. **Source: AWSD**[1]

19 December 2018 (DOA): The South Sudanese Government allegedly issued unspecified threats against MSF for exposing the rape of around 125 women and girls by armed men in Northern Liech state in November 2018. **Source: The East African**

Sudan

18 December 2018: In Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, the SPLM-N continued to delay the delivery of aid, demanding that at least 20% of aid deliveries to be transported through a humanitarian corridor agreed to in 2002. The Sudanese government rejects their demand, stating that the corridor would then also be used to transport arms. **Source: Sudan Tribune**

Tanzania

10 December 2018: In Moshi town and municipality, Kilimanjaro region, a municipality community development officer warned unnamed NGOs at a meeting to increase transparency in their daily activities, particularly with regards to expenditure of funds from donors, as diversion of funds received from abroad is allegedly a growing issue. **Source: The Citizen**

Uganda

03 December 2018: Following the release of an audit report by the UN Office of Internal Oversight which describes the wasting of money meant for refugee operations in Uganda, the UNHCR announced the establishment of a new high-level dialogue with the Ugandan Government to discuss the findings of the report, including recovery of funds. **Source: Daily Monitor**

23 December 2018: In Yumbe district, refugees at the Bidi Bidi camp rioted over food supply issues, smashing the property of an unspecified INGO and assaulting an unspecified number of staff members. **Source: ACLED**[2]

Asia

China

11 December 2018: In Beijing, state security officers detained a Canadian senior adviser of the International Crisis Group (ICG) for possible violation of the Foreign NGO Law, on the basis that the ICG is not legally registered in China. His detention came after the Canadian Government arrested the chief financial officer of the Chinese company Huawei Technologies, at the request of its US counterpart, a move that infuriated Beijing. **Sources: HKFP (a), HKFP (b), Reuters and The Guardian**

Nepal

10 December 2018: In Jhapa district, around 200 Bhutanese refugees held a demonstration at the Beldangi Refugee Camp, calling upon national and international human rights watchdogs to help them return to Bhutan. The WFP has declared that it will suspend its food relief program to the Bhutanese refugees from December onwards. **Source: Kathmandu Post**

Pakistan

06 December 2018: The Pakistani Government rejected the final appeal of 18 INGOs – including ActionAid, Plan International, and International Alert – to stay in Pakistan, after denying them official registrations without explanation on 07 October 2018. The Pakistani Government accused the INGOs of spreading disinformation. This move is expected to affect at least 11 million recipients of aid. A further twenty other unnamed NGOs are also at risk of being denied registration. **Sources: Independent and Reuters**

26 December 2018: In Quetta city, Balochistan region, a female employee of a local NGO working on a Polio program was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen. **Source: AWSD[1]**

The Philippines

14 December 2018 (DOA): In Mindanao island, military officials at a checkpoint stopped two vehicles loaded with food and medical relief supplies en route to Sitio Dulyan village, telling the teacher, doctors and volunteers on board that they would have to turn back, thereby depriving 120 indigenous families from much-needed aid. **Source: Al Jazeera**

Europe

France

06 December 2018: In Marseille city, Bouches-du-Rhône department, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, allegations of criminal activity by the Italian Government and other European states forced MSF and SOS Méditerranée to terminate operations by the search-and-rescue vessel Aquarius. MSF claim that the allegations are part of a deliberate campaign of slander and obstruction by European states opposed to humanitarian search and rescue operations which bring refugees into the EU. The termination of the Aquarius vessel program will leave tens of thousands of people without lifesaving assistance in the Mediterranean. **Sources: MSF and NZ Herald**

Greece

05 December 2018: *Update:* In Athens, a Syrian human rights worker was released on bail from the Koryallos Prison, where she had been held since August 2018 on human trafficking charges. **Source: The Guardian**

01 – 09 December 2018: *Update:* An Irish aid worker was released on bail from an unnamed prison, where he had been held for 107 days for charges of human trafficking. **Source: The Irish Sun**

Italy

05 December 2018 (DOA): As the Italian government's 'Salvini decree' – which removes humanitarian protection status for asylum seekers – began to take effect, migrants have begun to be expelled from council-run reception centres, deprived of adequate alternative accommodation and denied other basic services. **Sources: IRIN and The Independent**

United Kingdom

01 December 2018 (DOA): The House of Lords is considering a Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill designed to criminalise returning ISIS fighters who cannot be prosecuted for other crimes because of a lack of proof. Prominent organisations argue that this proposed legislation fails to provide sufficient protection for British aid workers and could instead mean they face police interrogation and arrest on their return. **Source: The Independent**

Middle-East and North Africa

Iraq

13 December 2018: In Erbil governorate, three women and a child were killed when the Turkish armed forces launched an airstrike on the Makhmour refugee camp, where over 12,000 Kurdish refugees from Turkey have sought shelter. Turkey has previously referred to Makhmour as a "breeding ground for terrorists" to justify its military strikes which have repeatedly killed refugees in the region. **Sources: ACLED[2], Rudaw**

Occupied Palestinian Territories

12 December 2018: In Gaza, a team of Israeli intelligence officials disguised as Palestinian aid workers infiltrated Abasan al-Saghira town for unascertained reasons. **Source: The New Arab**

14 December 2018: Near to Ramallah, West Bank, a group of Israeli settlers from the nearby Beit El settlement attacked Palestinian civilians at the entrance to al Jalazoun refugee camp, injuring one of them before leaving. **Source: ACLED[2]**

14 December 2018: Near to Ramallah, West Bank, Israeli forces entered al Amari refugee camp to demolish the home of a Palestinian who had lived there before being arrested for the murder of an Israeli soldier. Residents of the camp protested the presence of Israeli soldiers there, leading to violent clashes between the two groups and over 50 people injured. The house was blown up using explosives during the violence. **Source: ACLED[2]**

14 December 2018: In Hebron, West Bank, Israeli forces shot a Palestinian child with live ammunition during clashes in al Fawwar refugee camp. **Source: ACLED[2]**

14 December 2018: Near to Ramallah, West Bank, a Palestinian teenager was shot and killed when Israeli forces entered al Jalazoun refugee camp, sparking clashes with internally displaced Palestinians in the area. **Source: ACLED[2]**

19 December 2018: In Bethlehem, West Bank, clashes between Palestinian displaced people and Israeli forces broke out following an Israeli military raid on the Dheishe refugee camp. Three Palestinians were arrested and a further three were shot and injured. **Source: ACLED[2]**

23 December 2018: In Hebron, West Bank, dozens of Palestinian IDPs at al Arroub refugee camp were teargassed by Israeli forces during clashes between the soldiers and refugees. Israeli forces subsequently closed the camp's entrance. No further details specified. **Source: ACLED[2]**

26 December 2018: In West Bank, clashes broke out between Israeli forces and Palestinian children in the Qalandiya refugee camp during an Israeli military arrest raid. **Source: ACLED[2]**

Syrian Arab Republic

01 December 2018 (DOA): In Daraa district and governorate, fighting between unspecified parties gradually destroyed all but one of the food distribution centres of the UNRWA at the Daraa Palestinian Refugee Camp, as well as leaving damaged six other installations, including three schools and a clinic. **Source: UNRWA**

01 December 2018 (DOA): In Damascus, fighting between unspecified warring parties gradually destroyed all three clinics of the UNRWA at the Yarmouk Palestinian Refugee Camp, and damaged to varying levels almost all of its 23 facilities, including 16 schools. **Source: UNRWA**

04 December 2018: In Jendeires city, Afrin district, Aleppo governorate, a member of the Jandaris Syrian Civil Defence died from injuries he received two days earlier when an IED attached to a motorbike exploded. The perpetrator was not identified. **Source: AWSD[1] and SNHR**

13 December 2018: The UNSC approved a resolution to authorise another year of aid delivery across Syria's borders into rebel-held areas, circumventing the need for the permission of the Syrian Government. Meanwhile, the UNHCR warned that a further escalation of violence in the country would quickly overwhelm the current ability of humanitarian agencies. **Sources: IRIN and The Seattle Times**

19 December 2018: In al Latamena town, Hama governorate, a Civil Defence centre was struck by two artillery shells, severely damaging an ambulance, a rescue vehicle and a truck. No injuries were recorded. The attack was allegedly perpetrated by Syrian regime forces stationed in nearby Helfaya town. **Source: SNHR**

22 December 2018: In Homs governorate, militia forces from Ahmad al Abdo Forces and Al Maghawir Division, two Syrian opposition groups, entered the Rukban refugee camp and arrested sixteen people on suspicion of being Islamic State sleeper cells. **Source: ACLED[2]**

24 December 2018: In Morek town, Hama governorate, a series of artillery shells reportedly fired by Syrian regime forces struck the local Civil Defence centre, moderately damaging the building and severely damaging an ambulance and a rescue vehicle. **Source: SNHR**

31 December 2018: In Idlib governorate, an IDP camp near to Has city was struck by rocket fire from Syrian regime forces, killing one young man and mortally wounding a child, who died four days later. **Source: ACLED[2]**

Yemen
02 December 2018: In Hodeidah city, district and governorate, Houthi rebels arrested a field monitoring expert of the UNOHCHR and imprisoned him. No reason has been specified for his detention. **Source: Aden Ghd**

The Americas
Guatemala
18 December 2018: The Guatemalan Government revoked visas and immunity for 11 foreign investigators of the CICG, a UN body which pursues high-impact corruption-related cases in Guatemala, placing them at risk of criminal prosecution without immunity protection. **Source: Reuters**

Nicaragua
29 November – 14 December 2018: The Nicaraguan National Assembly stripped ten NGOs which had been critical of the Nicaraguan Government of their legal status. The government alleged that this was in response to criminal behaviour, breaches of internal statutes, and violations of national NGO regulations; however, international human rights monitors have called the situation 'a serious attack on civil society'. The head of one NGO was deprived of Nicaraguan nationality and deported to Costa Rica. **Sources: El Nuevo Diario and Reuters**

13 December 2018: Armed police raided and seized the headquarters of the human rights group Centro Nicaragüense de Derechos Humanos (CENIDH) as part of a crackdown on organisations critical to the Nicaraguan Government. **Sources: El Nuevo Diario and The Guardian**

Aid workers killed, kidnapped and arrested in selected countries in 2018

SiND Aid Worker KKA 2018				
	Number of reported aid workers affected (January-December 2018)			
	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected
Afghanistan	13	16	2	31
CAR	8	5	0	13
DRC	7	30	1	38
Iraq	0	0	1	1
Mali	1	6	1	8
Nigeria	5	3	0	8
Somalia	5	6	1	12
South Sudan	17	48	45	110
Syria	69	7	11	87
Yemen	5	14	3	22
Other countries	19	19	108	146
Total affected	**149**	**154**	**173**	**476**

The countries have been selected by Reliefweb.

This KKA data is updated each month to include backdated reports identified in open-sources and shared by Aid in Danger partner agencies. It is available on HDX Insecurity Insight and Reliefweb Crisis App Data.

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[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.

[2] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) **database attribution policy**