Aid Security and COVID-19

Latest available information on COVID-19 developments impacting the security of aid work and operations.

Bulletin 1
29 March 2020

Threats and Violence Against Aid Agencies

Bangladesh
Around 19 March 2020: In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, an INGO team was attacked by the local community while travelling towards a Royingya camp amidst rumours that foreigners travelling to the refugee camps have been spreading COVID-19. **Source: Verified aid-agency security incident**.

Government Measures Impacting Aid Agencies

Stay up-to-date with the latest information on global government measures from border closures and visa restrictions to electronic surveillance and curfews with **ACAPS** COVID-19 Government Measures interactive dashboard.

Updated every Tuesday and Thursday.

Threats and Violence Against Health Providers

Kenya
27 March 2020: In Mombasa city, health workers reported being intimidated by police officers as they tried to provide services during curfew hours. The government curfew was implemented as part of its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. **Source: Al Jazeera**

Sri Lanka
13 March 2020: In Kalwanchikudy town, Manmunai South and Eruvilpattu Divisional Secretariat, Batticaloa district, rioters attacked an ambulance and attempted to disrupt hospital activities over the transportation of patients afflicted with COVID-19. **Source: ACLED**[1]

United States of America
24 March 2020: In Belton city, Missouri state, a man motivated by racist and anti-government beliefs sought to bomb a hospital that is providing critical care during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Source: BBC and Time**

Have you or your organisation experienced a COVID-19-related security incident? Are you interested in sharing information? Get in touch **info@insecurityinsight.org**

This information bulletin provides the latest available information on COVID-19 developments impacting the security of aid work and operations to help aid agencies meet duty of care obligations to staff and reach people in need.

It is published by Insecurity Insight using verified security incidents from aid agencies and information available in open sources.

It covers threats and violence against aid organisations, and health providers and general insecurity related to COVID-19.

Access data from this bulletin on HDX Insecurity Insight.

Visit our **website** for more security related information for aid agencies in the context of the Covid-19 epidemic.

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Insecurity Insight
Data on People in Danger

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General Insecurity Related to COVID-19

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Africa

Cameroon

Around 19 March 2020: In Douala and Yaoundé cities, an increase in anti-foreigner sentiment in the form of verbal and online harassment, stone throwing, and banging on vehicles occupied by expatriates, has been reported. The violence has been linked to the spread of COVID-19 in Cameroon. **Source: US Embassy in Cameroon**

27 March 2020: Reports of people defying and protesting against government restrictions on prayer attendance at mosques, imposed to reduce the spread of COVID-19. **Source: VOA News**

Democratic Republic of the Congo

19 March 2020: In Upemba neighbourhood, Lumumbashi city, Haut-Katanga province, a Chinese was attacked during a riot. **Source: MNCTV Congo**

Security Media Trends: In Butembo region, North Kivu province, medical staff are being accused of preparing to spread COVID-19. This **bulletin** shares key insights from media monitoring and Ebola response surveys carried out in North Kivu, DRC in early March 2020.

Ethiopia

Around 18 March 2020: In Ethiopia, an increase in anti-foreigner sentiment in the form of verbal and physical harassment, stone throwing, and discrimination has been reported. The sentiment has been linked to the importation of COVID-19 in Ethiopia. **Source: US Embassy in Ethiopia**

Around 21 March 2020: In Addis Ababa city, foreigners of unidentified origin were reportedly attacked with stones and chased by crowds, on suspicion that they were carrying coronavirus. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Kenya

17 March 2020: In Msambweni town, Kwale county, a mob killed a civilian whom they suspected of having coronavirus. **Source: The Daily Nation**

27 March 2020: In Mombasa city, paramilitary police officials used violence to disperse a crowd of people waiting to catch a ferry before the start of curfew. Dozens were injured as a result of the attack. **Sources: Al Jazeera and National Public Radio**

Nigeria

27 March 2020: In Kusada town, Katsina state, youths rioted after police officials prevented them from observing their prayers in compliance with measures implemented by the government as part of its efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. **Source: The Nation**

Rwanda

23 March 2020: In Rwanda, reports circulated that two civilians shot dead by police officers were killed for defying the new lockdown measures. The reports were denied by the Rwandan police. **Source: TIME**

South Africa

27 March 2020: In Johannesburg city, police officials used violence against homeless people minutes after South Africa's three-week lockdown began. **Source: TIME**

28 March 2020: In Alexandra township, Johannesburg city, military officials raided a large workers' hostel in the Alexandra township where some residents had defied the lockdown. **Source: TIME**

Tanzania
15 - 26 March 2020: In Morogoro city and region, an increase in anti-foreigner sentiment in the form of verbal harassment has been reported. The harassment is linked to the spread of COVID-19 in Tanzania. **Source: Verified aid-agency security incident**.

Uganda
20 March 2020: In Nampirika village, Iganga district, a mob attacked a Kenyan trader, accusing him of importing COVID-19 after he developed symptoms. The man managed to escape to a police station. **Source: Uganda Radio Network**

Asia
Bangladesh
21 March 2020: In Bhabdia village, Rajbari Sadar sub district, a man was killed, and 10 others injured in a clash between two groups after arguments over COVID-19. **Source: The Daily New Nation and The Daily Star**

Europe
Ukraine
19 March 2020: In Odessa, Ukraine, people repeatedly blocked roads for minibuses and other public transportation in Odessa in demonstration against social distancing measures to counter the spread of COVID-19. Cases of violence were also reported. **Source: ACLED**[1]

The Americas
Chile
20 March 2020: In Santo Domingo, Valparaiso region, a group of citizens built and set fire to road barricades to restrict tourist access to the district. **Source: La Tercera**

Colombia
21 March 2020: In Sampues municipality, Sucre department, around 70 people burned tires in a road to demand from the national government supplies and goods to stay in quarantine because of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Source: Caracol**

[1] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) database attribution policy. Accessed 16 March 2020.