

Aid in Danger

Monthly News Brief

Insecurity affecting the delivery of aid

Aid agencies

March
2018

Security Incidents and Access Constraints

Africa

Central African Republic

05 March 2018: In Paoua town, Ouham-Pendé prefecture, and across the wider Central African Republic, fighting among armed groups continues to stall humanitarian response efforts. Source: [Devex](#)

07 March 2018: In Bangassou city, Mbomou prefecture, rumours of an armed attack in the city forced several unspecified NGOs to withdraw. Source: [RJDH](#)

07 March 2018: In Bangassou city, Mbomou prefecture, protesters at a women's march against violence in the region called for the departure of MINUSCA and the Moroccan UN contingent from Bangassou, accusing them of passivity in the face of threats and harassment. Source: [RJDH](#)

09 or 11 March 2018: In Bangassou city, Mbomou prefecture, armed men suspected to be from the Anti-balaka movement invaded the base of the Dutch NGO Cordaid, looting pharmaceuticals, work tools, motorcycles and seats. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) personnel intervened, leading to a firefight between MINUSCA and the armed men. The perpetrators subsequently vandalised the local Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) office. Cars, motorbikes and solar panels belonging to several NGOs in the area were also stolen. Sources: [Centrafrique-Presse](#) and [Voice of America \(VOA\)](#)

10 March 2018: In Kabo town, Ouham prefecture, the NGO Solidarity International announced its withdrawal from Kabo following numerous robberies they had suffered over past months, and in light of the deteriorating security situation in the region. Source: [Le Réseau des Journalistes pour les Droits de l'Homme \(RJDH\)](#)

15 March 2018: In Bangassou city, Mbomou prefecture, Anti-balaka fighters stole two vehicles belonging to the NGO Catholic Mission. One of them was returned later, but the other remains in the possession of the attackers. Source: [aBangui](#)

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.

All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

Editorial team:
Christina Wille, Larissa Fast and Laurence Gerhardt
Insecurity Insight

Andrew Eckert
European Interagency Security Forum (EISF)

Research team:
James Naudi
Insecurity Insight

[Visit our website to download previous Aid in Danger Monthly News Briefs.](#)

Suggested citation: Insecurity Insight. 2018. The Aid in Danger Monthly News Brief, March 2018. Geneva: Insecurity Insight, Aid in Danger Project.

19 March 2018: In Alindao town and sub-prefecture, Basse-Kotto prefecture, Anti-balaka and Central African Unity armed men exchanged fire, resulting in the injury of two MINUSCA peacekeepers, one Burundian and one Gabonese. The reason for the clash was unclear. Source: [Centrafrique-Presse](#)

28 March 2018: In Bangui, the head of an unnamed armed group in the PK5 enclave threatened to go to war with the UN agency MINUSCA unless the peacekeepers left the area. Source: [Modern Ghana](#)

31 March 2018: In Bangui, members of an unnamed armed group in PK5 enclave fired at a MINUSCA peacekeepers on patrol. Source: [Modern Ghana](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

05 March 2018: In Dekese community, Kasai district and province, a clash between two families in a case related to witchcraft led to the death of a Caritas Congo Development employee. Source: [Radio Okapi](#)

17 March 2018: In Goma city, North Kivu province, armed assailants attacked a 20-vehicle convoy of an unspecified NGO, injuring the convoy's leader and kidnapping 21 people. Source: [AWSD](#)

18 March 2018: In Bwatsinge village, Lubero town, North Kivu province, gunmen killed a national aid worker from an unspecified international NGO under unknown circumstances. Source: [AWSD](#)

20 March 2018: In Kananga city, Lulua province, armed robbers in police uniforms and plainclothes targeted and threatened a United Nations Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) agent, who gave them money amidst panic. Source: [Actualite](#)

Mali

01 March 2018: In Mopti region, an explosion of a mine or an improvised explosive device (IED) against a Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) vehicle on the Boni-Douentza road killed four peacekeepers and wounded four more. Source: [Africa News](#)

20 March 2018: In Mopti region, unidentified perpetrators killed an aid worker from an unspecified NGO at his home. The motive is unknown. Source: [aBamako](#)

22 March 2018: In Mopti region, gunmen abducted three aid workers from an unspecified NGO at their home. The motive is unknown. Source: [aBamako](#)

Malawi

07 March 2018: Three parliamentary committees endorsed the raising of fees paid by NGOs to the Malawian government based on the funding they receive, as opposed to the current approach of asking for fixed amounts. The committees have demanded both local and international NGOs in Malawi comply with the new fee structure. NGOs and civil society have fought back against these fees, arguing them to be unfair. Source: [Nyasa Times](#)

Nigeria

01 March 2018: In Rann community, Kala Balge local government area, Borno state, Boko Haram insurgents attacked an internally displaced people (IDP) camp, killing two International Organization for Migration (IOM) employees, a doctor working as consultant with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and an aid worker from International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), all Nigerian. They also kidnapped a female NGO nurse, and injured a female aid worker. On 02 March, following this attack, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) announced the suspension of its medical activities in the town, and the evacuation of 22 national and

international staff. Sources: [AWSD](#), [MSF](#), [Punch](#), [Reuters \(a\)](#), [Reuters \(b\)](#), [Reuters \(c\)](#), [Reuters \(d\)](#), [The New York Times](#) and [Xinhua](#)

Somalia

28 March 2018: In Mogadishu, a bomb attached to a police vehicle exploded in a parking lot near the office of the ICRC, killing one local staffer. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for this attack, stating that they killed the victim because he was a member of parliament. Sources: [ICRC](#), [The Washington Post](#) and [VOA News](#)

South Sudan

07 March 2018: In Melut county, Upper Nile state, an explosion of unknown origin severely wounded a deminer from the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) whilst he was working at a demolition site, he later died from his injuries. Source: [Radio Tamazuji](#)

09 March 2018: In Juba, the South Sudanese Media Authority suspended the UN-run Radio Miraya because they had failed to acquire a license for operation in the country. Source: [Radio Tamazuji](#)

14 March 2018: In Bentiu town, Rubkona county, Northern Liech state, local youths threw stones at a truck of a United Nations (UN)-contracted driver, breaking the windscreen, and injuring the driver. The reason behind this assault remains unknown. Source: [AWSD](#)

25 March 2018: In Kupera, Yei, Central Equatoria state, seven NGO workers were reportedly abducted by SPLA-IO opposition forces. The aid workers were part of a convoy that were delivering supplies to health centres in Kupera, Limuro, Wuji, and Koyoko. Source: [AWSD](#)

Uganda

28 March 2018: In Yumbe district, West Nile sub-region, North region, a crowd of rioters burned down two vehicles parked in the compound of Dan Church Aid offices, owned by the same NGO. The riot was sparked due to the Uganda Revenue Authority's decision to crack down on boda bodas operating without paying taxes. Source: [Xinhua](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

18 March 2018: In Kutukchuri area, Rangamati district, Chittagong division, unidentified assailants abducted the two leaders of the rights group Hill Women's Federation for unspecified reasons, prompting 15 unspecified human rights organisations to call for demonstrations in Dhaka to demand the quick rescue of the said leaders, and protest against government inaction. Source: [Dhaka Tribune](#)

Myanmar

18 March 2018: The Myanmar government is drafting a Law on International Non-Governmental Organisations which would seek greater oversight of the work of international NGOs, including the UN, prompting concerns of a crackdown on their activities. Sources: [The Sydney Morning Herald](#) and [The Washington Post](#)

Pakistan

18 March 2018: In an unspecified remote tribal region, unspecified militants ambushed a seven-member polio vaccination team, killing two of the medical workers, and seriously wounding another two. Two others disappeared after the attack, but later returned unharmed. Jamaatul Ahrar, a faction of the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for this attack. Source: [VOA](#)

Europe

Azerbaijan

29 March 2018: In Ghazanchi area, Nagorno-Karabakh region, an anti-tank landmine detonated when a vehicle ran over it, killing three Azerbaijani aid workers from an unspecified organisation and injuring two more. Source: [AWSD](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

16 March 2018: In Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, all United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) workers held a one-hour sit-in, in accordance with the resolution of the General Conference of Agency Staff Unions, to draw attention to the demands of the Palestinian refugees and their right to access full educational, health and social relief services. Source: [Jordan Zad](#)

Jordan

17 March 2018: In Irbid city and governorate, the National Action Committee and a group of UNRWA staff in the Irbid Palestinian refugee camp staged a protest against a decision to dismiss 15 cleaners. Dozens of residents took part in the demonstration in solidarity with UNRWA staff. Source: [Jordan Zad](#)

Libya

15 March 2018: In the Mediterranean Sea, a Libyan coast guard vessel threatened to shoot Proactiva rescue dinghies unless they kicked out their passengers during a rescue mission in international waters. Proactiva refused, and eventually the Libyan ship pulled away. Source: [Libyan Express](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

01 March 2018: In Aleppo governorate, an ICRC 29-truck convoy carrying 430 tonnes of food, mattresses, blankets, winter clothes and hygiene kits reached Afrin city and district. The Syrian government reportedly stripped some medical supplies from the convoy. The ICRC dismissed reports that the convoy had come under attack during the journey. Sources: [Reuters \(a\)](#) and [Reuters \(b\)](#)

01 March 2018: In Eastern Ghouta region, shelling by pro-Syrian government and opposition forces continued to prevent aid convoys from reaching civilians. Sources: [Reuters](#) and [VOA](#)

01 March 2018: Syrian authorities indicated that they may grant permission for UN humanitarian convoys to enter Douma city and district, Eastern Ghouta region, to deliver aid to civilians. Source: [VOA](#)

02 March 2018: In Daraa city, district and governorate, stray bullets reportedly killed two Syrian volunteers from an unspecified organisation. Source: [AWSD](#)

05 March 2018: In Douma city, Eastern Ghouta region, airstrikes and shelling by Syrian and Russian government forces led to a 46-truck aid convoy (the first to reach the enclave in over three months) to pull out of the town before it had fully unloaded. 10 full and four partial trucks could not be unloaded, including half of the food for 27,500 people. Sources: [Reuters](#), [The Guardian](#), [The New York Times](#), [UN News](#) and [VOA \(a\)](#), [VOA \(b\)](#)

06 March 2018: In Ein Tarma suburb, Markaz Rif Dimashq district, Rif Dimashq governorate, airstrikes of unspecified origin reportedly killed a Syrian volunteer from an unspecified organisation. Source: [AWSD](#)

07 March 2018: In Eastern Ghouta region, airstrikes of unspecified origin reportedly killed three Syrian male volunteers from an unspecified organisation as they were conducting an emergency response operation.

Another volunteer was critically injured and died on 08 March. Source: [AWSD](#)

08 March 2018: In Douma city, Eastern Ghouta region, continuing fighting forced the postponement of a UN inter-agency relief convoy. Source: [UN News](#)

08 March 2018: In Hama city, district and governorate, an aerial attack from an unspecified source reportedly killed a Syrian volunteer from an unspecified organisation as he was conducting an emergency response operation. Source: [AWSD](#)

08 March 2018: In Saqba, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, three members of the Syrian Civil Defence (SCD) were reportedly killed in a bombing of an ambulance reportedly by Syrian regime/Russian warplanes. Source: [SNHR¹](#)

08 March 2018: In al Khwen village, Idlib governorate, a SCD member was reportedly killed while attending to the wounded in a bombing reportedly by Russian warplanes. Source: [SNHR](#)

08 March 2018: In Saqba, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, three SCD members were reportedly killed and four others wounded when Syrian regime/Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at an ambulance belonging to the SCD centre 114. The ambulance was also rendered out of commission. Source: [SNHR](#)

09 March 2018: In Misraba, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, Syrian regime/Russian warplane missile-fire reportedly destroyed an ambulance belonging to the SCD centre 270, rendering it out of commission. Source: [SNHR](#)

09 March 2018: In Eastern Ghouta region, a 13-truck humanitarian convoy sent by the ICRC, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and UN successfully delivered 2,400 food parcels that can sustain 12,000 people for one month, as well as 3,248 wheat flour bags, to Douma City. This delivery was part of a convoy that could not be fully unloaded on 05 March due to insecurity. Sources: [British Broadcasting Corporation \(BBC\)](#), [ICRC](#), [The New York Times](#) and [The Telegraph](#)

10 March 2018: Near al Latamena town, Hama governorate, Syrian regime forces reportedly fired a rocket at a rescue vehicle belonging to the SCD, rendering it out of commission. Source: [SNHR](#)

13 March 2018: In Zamalka neighbourhood, Markaz Rif Dimashq district, Rif Dimashq governorate, an airstrike reportedly hit the office of an unspecified organisation, killing a Syrian volunteer. Source: [AWSD](#)

14 March 2018: In Hazeh neighbourhood, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, an aerial attack from an unspecified source reportedly killed a Syrian volunteer from an unspecified organisation as he was helping civilians affected by an earlier assault, and also destroyed the organisation's service centre and ambulance. Source: [AWSD](#)

15 March 2018: A 25-truck humanitarian convoy carrying 5,220 ICRC food parcels and 5,220 WFP flour bags, intended to feed 26,100 people for one month, was stopped at the al-Wafideen crossing to enter the eastern Ghouta region. Source: [Reuters](#)

¹ It is likely that this refers to the same event: In Eastern Ghouta region, an aerial attack from an unspecified source reportedly killed a Syrian volunteer from an unspecified organisation. Unverified reports suggest that two more volunteers died in the same attack. Source: [AWSD](#)

21 March 2018: In Douma, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, three SCD members were reportedly killed and one wounded when Syrian regime forces reportedly fired several shells near an ambulance. The ambulance was also heavily damaged. Source: [SNHR](#)

21 March 2018: In Douma, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, three SCD members (centre 300) were killed in a reported shelling by Syrian regime forces while they were examining a previous attack site. Source: [SNHR](#)²

23 March 2018: In Idlib governorate, heavy violence just 300 metres away from a UNICEF-supported school, forced children attending classes to seek shelter in an improvised shelter nearby. The building was then attacked, resulting in the death of 17 children. Source: [UNICEF](#)

24 March 2018: In Idlib city and governorate, a car bomb destroyed the specialized clinic wing of the Idlib Central Hospital, a facility supported by the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS). The building was heavily damaged and temporarily put out of commission, while the perpetrator remains unknown. Source: [SNHR](#)

26 March 2018: In Douma city and district, Eastern Ghouta region, an artillery shell of unspecified origin reportedly wounded a Syrian volunteer from an unspecified organisation as he was conducting a rescue mission to evacuate wounded civilians from the area. Source: [AWSD](#)

31 March 2018: In al Dana city, northern Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired a missile near the SCD building located there, damaging a nearby ambulance. This building is known to have been targeted previously. Source: [SNHR](#)

31 March 2018: In Al Hudaydah city and governorate, a massive fire of unknown cause at a World Food Program (WFP) facility severely damaged humanitarian aid held at the outpost. Source: [VOA](#)

Yemen

25 March 2018: In Yemen, warring parties continue blocking or delaying aid deliveries. Source: [The Times of India](#)

31 March 2018: In Hudaydah, a fire destroyed large quantities of UN food and other humanitarian supplies in war-torn Yemen. The cause of the blaze is unclear. Source: [BBC](#)

² It is likely that this refers to the same event: 21 March 2018: In Douma city and district, Eastern Ghouta region, a Syrian volunteer from an unspecified organisation reportedly died under unspecified circumstances, after sustaining life-threatening injuries as he was helping civilians affected by an earlier assault. Two other volunteers were also killed in the same area by artillery shelling as they were supporting civilians affected by earlier attacks. Source: [AWSD](#)

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

The countries have been selected by [Reliefweb Crisis App](#).

KKA 2018 (SiND)												
Number of reported aid workers affected												
	Totals to date			January			February			March		
	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested
Afghanistan	4	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAR	4	2	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0
DRC	4	3	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	2	0	0
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mali	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
Nigeria	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0
Somalia	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
South Sudan	2	8	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	7	0
Syria	38	0	0	3	0	0	12	0	0	23	0	0
Yemen	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other countries	5	4	17	0	2	5	0	0	12	5	2	0
TOTAL	64	23	17	8	6	5	20	4	12	36	13	0

These are the current figure as of 11 April 2018. Data collection is ongoing and data may change as more information is made available.

[Aid in Danger Incident Trends Arrest and Detentions 2017](#) presents information on aid worker arrests and detentions. Total KKA figures for 2017 are available on [HDX](#).

[Aid in Danger Incident Trends KIK 2017](#) presents information on aid worker deaths, kidnappings, injuries and assaults data. Total KIK figures for 2017 are available on [HDX](#).

This document is part of the Aid in Danger project. It is published by Insecurity Insight and funded and supported by European Union Humanitarian Aid, Save the Children and USAID.

Aid in Danger



This report is funded and supported by



European Union
Civil Protection and
Humanitarian Aid



Save the Children

Insecurity Insight is a member of



Working Group on
Protection of
Humanitarian Action

HEALTH CARE IT'S A
MATTER OF LIFE
IN OF LIFE
DANGER & DEATH

SAFEGUARDING
HEALTH
IN CONFLICT

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.