The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

Security Incidents

Africa

Central African Republic

3 December 2015: Five rebels from the Seleka militia attacked a camp for the internally displaced in Ngakobo, Ouaka Province, killing eight civilians and wounding one United Nations (UN) peacekeeper who was defending the site at the time of the attack. Source: VOA News.

9 December 2015: Three humanitarian organisations were attacked in the town of Bossangoa, Ouham Province. More than 20 aid workers were unlawfully detained and supplies stolen. Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

9 December 2015: Members of an armed group attacked three relief workers in the neighbourhood of PK9, Bangui City, and stole their belongings. Source: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Update 17 December 2015: In early November, an American aid worker from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) was kidnapped near the town of Kitchanga, North Kivu Province. She was safely released on 17 December 2015. The identity of the perpetrators has not been disclosed. Source: My Dayton Daily News.

15 December 2015: Two MSF staff were robbed and kidnapped on the road between Kitchanga and Mweso, Masisi Territory, North Kivu Province. No information about the assailants is available. Source: RFI.

Somalia

14 December 2015: A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official and a staff member from a UNHCR partner organisation was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen whilst travelling in a private car in the district of Hodan, Mogadishu, Somalia's capital. Sources: International Business Times and UNHCR.

26 December 2015: A driver and three national staff of a vaccination programme were abducted by members of the militant group al Shabaab during a vaccination campaign in the rural areas of Gedo Region, Southern Somalia. They were freed 27 hours later, after intervention by local elders. Source: ShabelleNews.

South Sudan
4 December 2015: Two UN agency staff members were attacked and robbed in their residence by approximately five men. The assailants left with the UN car. No further information available.

6 December 2015: An INGO staff member was killed by a stray bullet on the road outside his residence. No further information available.

Asia
Afghanistan
19 December 2015: Two national INGO demining staff were killed in an ambush by anti-government forces. The intended target may have been ANSF. No further information available.

20 December 2015: An American female aid worker was gunned down for unknown reason after leaving the gym at her apartment complex in Kabul. Afghan police have arrested a mullah suspected of killing her, and he is believed to have links to terrorist groups. Sources: CNN and USA Today.

28 December 2015: A female anti-polio campaigner was shot dead by a pair of gunmen on a motorcycle in Kandahar. The victim's granddaughter was severely injured in the same incident. Nobody has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. Source: Reuters.

Europe
Turkey
27 December 2015: A Syrian activist from the human rights group *Raqa is Being Slaughtered Silently*, and who had produced anti-Islamic State documentaries, was shot in the head and killed as he was walking down a street in the city of Gaziantep, near the Turkey-Syria border. No information about the perpetrator is available. Source: Yahoo News.

Middle-East
Lebanon
22 December 2015: Unknown assailants fired shots at a vehicle belonging to the Norwegian Refugee Council whilst traveling on Maqneh's road, Bekaa Governorate. The perpetrators searched for valuables, but found none. The passengers were then released. Source: Naharnet.

Syrian Arab Republic
14 December 2015: Truck drivers for the Maram Foundation had to abandon their vehicles on the way to Latkia for an hour due to Russian air strikes. Middle East Eye.

Yemen
1 December 2015: Two humanitarian workers from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were abducted from their car by unknown gunmen in the rebel-held capital Sanaa. Several hours later, one of them was released unharmed. The second remains held captive at an unknown location at time of publication. As at the time of writing, the identity of the assailants and their intentions remain unknown. Sources: ICRC Yemen on Twitter, News Republic (I), News Republic (II), Reuters, The Middle

East Online, TRUST, Yahoo News and Xinhuanet.

2 December 2015: A MSF mobile clinic was hit by Saudi-led coalition airstrikes in the district of Al Houban, Taiz City, Southern Yemen. Nine people were wounded, including two staff members. The health centre was badly damaged. Sources: MSF, Anti War, BBC and Salon.

Security-related access restraints

Africa

Central African Republic

9 December 2015: Following the attacks on 9 December, one of the affected agencies temporarily suspended its operations in Bossangoa and Bouar Regions, where many armed groups are present. Sources: UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Chad

8 December 2015: Agencies have difficulties reaching people on the island of Koulfoua in Lake Chad following restrictions aimed to prevent further attacks by the militant group Boko Haram who recently carried out a series of suicide bombings. Source: Reuters.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

3 December 2015: Heavy fighting in North Kivu Province is preventing vulnerable communities from accessing humanitarian aid. The Norwegian Refugee Council, for instance, reports that access to affected areas in the northeastern city of Beni, North Kivu Province, is blocked.

15 December 2015: MSF temporarily suspended its operations in Mweso, Masisi Territory, North Kivu Province, following the kidnapping of staffers. Source: RFI.

Uganda

15 December 2015: Lawmakers in Uganda have passed a bill that rights group say will give the state authorities the ability to severely stifle the efforts of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), particularly those working on controversial issues, such as abortion advocacy and GLBT rights. Sources: Daily Mail and VOA News.

Asia

Afghanistan

11 October 2015: The UN evacuated all of its local and foreign personnel from four of its 13 provincial offices (Kunduz, a city in Kunduz Province; Puli Khumri, the capital of Baghlan Province; Faizabad, a city in Badakhshan Province; and Maimana, the capital of Faryab Province) against the backdrop of mounting Taliban insurgency across the country. Many aid groups have been forced to pull out of the same areas. Source: The New York Times.

29 December 2015: Access for health care workers is difficult in many remote regions under the control of Islamic militants, such as the Islamic State. In a recent four-day vaccination campaign across 14 eastern and southern provinces in Afghanistan, around 100,000 children could not receive vaccines due to threats from militants. Sources: Independent and VOA News.

Bangladesh

2 December 2015: Over the last two months, several priests and Christian charity workers have received death threat messages on their mobile phone or by post from individuals claiming to belong to Islamist militant groups, mainly the Islamic State and the Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh. Voice of America (VOA) News.

India

8 December 2015: Humanitarian assistance has not reached poor low-caste families in flood-hit Chennai, Tamil Nadu State, as a result of state-sponsored discrimination, according to an NGO study. Government officials deny systematic discrimination. Source: Thomas Reuters Foundation.

Kazakhstan

4 December 2015: Parliamentarians have ratified a controversial bill that gives the Government the right to decide which NGOs can receive funding. Human rights activists warn that the law will allow the Government to extend its control over charity groups in the country, and impede the ability of NGOs to access funding. Source: Institute for War & Peace Reporting.

Nepal

8 December 2015: Trucks are being prevented from importing medical supplies and fuel into Nepal due to unrest along the country's southern frontier with India, leaving at least three million children at risk of illness in winter months. The Nepalese Government accused India of blocking such deliveries, a claim that the latter denies. Sources: UN News Centre, IRIN (I), IRIN (II), ReliefWeb and ABC.

Middle-East

Syrian Arab Republic

7 December 2015: Relief aid to more than half a million people in Aleppo Governorate has been paralysed due to mounting violence in the region. MSF has warned that it may be forced to close down its hospital in the district of Azaz, Aleppo Governorate, as fighting in the area continues to intensify.

3 December 2015: The Norwegian Refugee Council has suspended parts of its activities in the northern parts of the country as a result of the current intensification of fighting. Source: Norwegian Refugee Council.

18 December 2015: The Azaz Corridor, an insurgent-held territory stretching from the Turkey-Syria border to the city of Aleppo, has become increasingly dangerous due to attacks from Russian warplanes and several aid groups have been forced to suspend or scale back operations after airstrikes hit vehicle convoys and civilian infrastructure, among them IMC and the Maram Foundation. Sources: Chicago Tribune, Huffington Post and Middle East Eye.

Visit Fair Observer to read about the dangers faced by a group of local volunteers, known as the White Helmets, working in the midst of civil war.
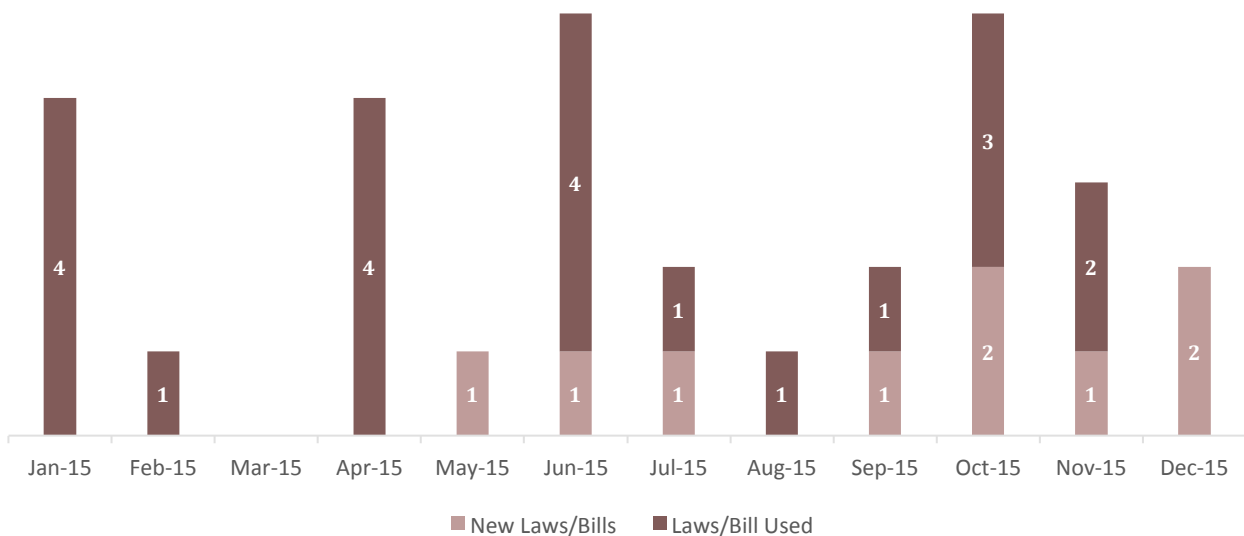
Yemen

18 December 2015: No aid had reached the city of Taiz, Southern Yemen, despite an agreement between warring parties on 17 December 2015 to immediately allow aid into the besieged city, to which Houthi rebels control access. The delivery of supplies into other parts of the country, such as the port city of Aden, is being delayed and, at times, blocked by armed checkpoints. Sources: IRIN (I) and IRIN (II).

4 December 2015: The ICRC suspended all of its field movements in the country and evacuated 12

foreign employees. Food and medical aid continue to be delivered. Sources: Yahoo News.

Over the past year, open sources reported 30 times on laws or administrative decisions regulating non-governmental activities. 21 of them were reports of how existing laws were used to interfere with the independent work of international humanitarian agencies or their local partners. 9 of the reports covered newly passed laws or regulations and observers expressed fears that they could be used to potentially restrict the ability of local charities or international humanitarian organisations to work or to address specific concerns. New laws were mainly passed in the second part of the year.

For more information on administrative decisions in 2015, see the Insecurity Insight's Aid Security Monthly Incidents Statistics for December. These counts only represent the open source reported incidents. For trend reporting that includes confidential agency reported events, please see the Quarterly Aid Security Analysis. All reports can be found at: http://www.insecurityinsight.org/aidindanger/digests/