



ACLED Data Sources

July 2012

ACLED relies on a variety of sources to produce its dataset. These include news reports, NGO and governmental agency publications, security alerts and published texts or books. Sources include international, regional and national contents. The twenty most common sources in ACLED inform over 82.4% of events. The top ten make up 72.5% of events; and the top five make up 57.5%.

Overall, Violence against civilians makes up 42.3% of violence reported in ACLED; Riots/Protests make up 15.7%; Non-violent activity makes up 7.3% of events; and Battles constitute 42.3% of events. Some sources diverge from this significantly. The top ten sources and breakdown by event reporting are listed below.

Source	Battles	VAC	Riots/Protests	Non-violent
BBC	53.5%	35.7%	6.8%	3.9%
Reuters	50.6%	29.8%	14.9%	4.5%
Agence France Presse	43.9%	32.8%	19.5%	3.6%
Local Source Projects	57.2%	30.3%	8.4%	3.8%
All Africa	35.6%	44.2%	16.8%	3.2%
Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum	0.7%	92.28%	4.7%	2.1%
Associated Press	42.5%	32.8%	18.1%	6.5%
Xinhua	56.1%	32.8%	6.5%	4.4%
IRIN	53.1%	28.3%	13.6%	4.8%
Africa Research Bulletin	57.8%	30.1%	5.9%	6.1%

Over the fifteen years of the dataset, the number of discrete sources has increased significantly, an increase which is highly correlated to the number of events.

Year	Number of sources	Number of events
1997	70	2279
1998	72	3078
1999	80	4204
2000	84	3775
2001	92	3313
2002	66	4157
2003	79	3459
2004	88	2683
2005	88	2741
2006	77	2390
2007	123	3076
2008	164	4246
2009	110	3432



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2010	176	4234
2011	203	5481
2012	232	3921

The number of records and number of sources are highly correlated:

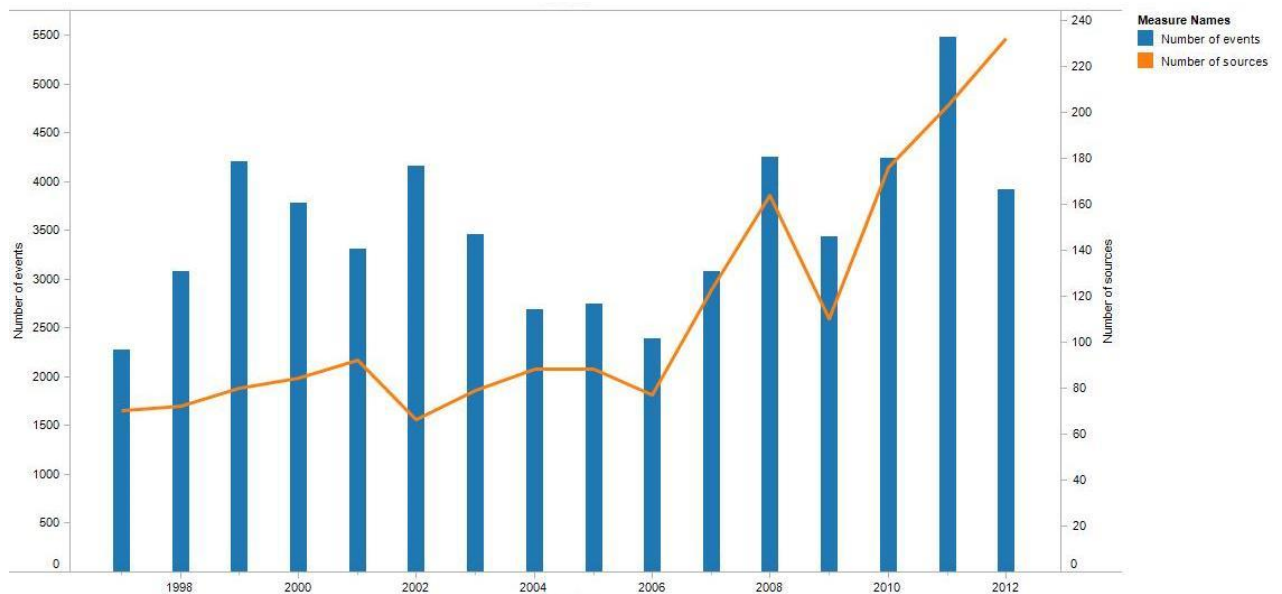


Figure 1: Number of events and number of discrete data sources, 1997 - 2012.

The top ten countries with the highest and lowest number of discrete sources are listed below.

10 countries with most discrete sources	10 countries with least discrete sources
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Djibouti
Somalia	Equatorial Guinea
Nigeria	Botswana
Libya	Gabon
Egypt	Guinea-Bissau
Kenya	Benin
Sudan	Eritrea
Zimbabwe	Lesotho
Algeria	Malawi
South Africa	Swaziland

The number of discrete sources per country is represented in the map below. As is clear, North, East and Central Africa have a higher number of discrete sources than West and Southern regions of the continent.

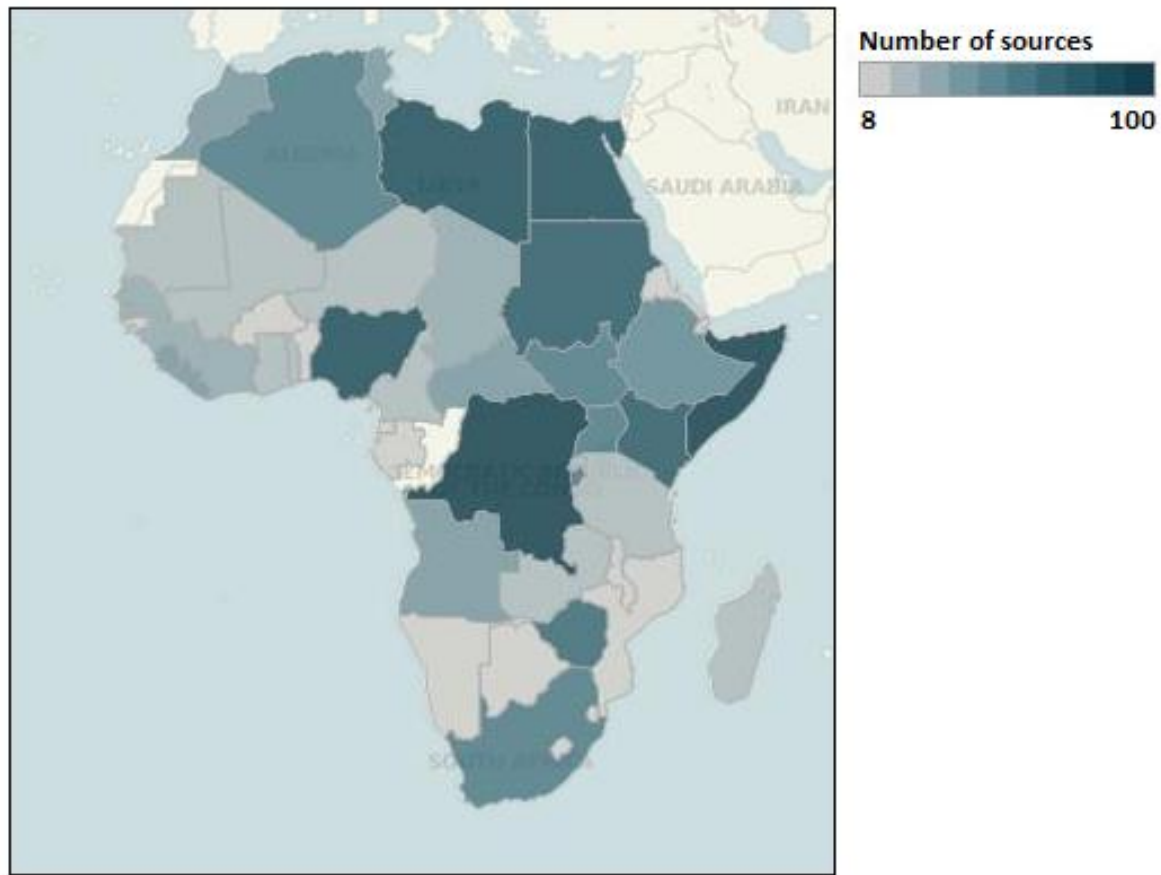


Figure 2: Countries by discrete number of sources (8 - 100), all years.

When organised by type, international sources – including international press wire services, global news agencies, and national sources published outside the country in question – clearly constitute the majority of ACLED sources, although the proportion these sources represents ranges from 41.6% in 2008 to 78.5% in 1999. National sources have constituted a growing proportion of sources over the fifteen years of the dataset’s coverage, reaching 34.4% of data sources in 2011. Regional sources – including Africa-specific news and analysis sources – have constituted approximately 8.1% of sources over the course of the dataset.

In all years, news sources make up the largest share of sources. The proportion they make up, however, varies from 56.5% in 2008 to 86.2% in 2003. The relevance of NGO reports, and security reports from dedicated security analysis organisations has grown over the course of the dataset’s coverage.



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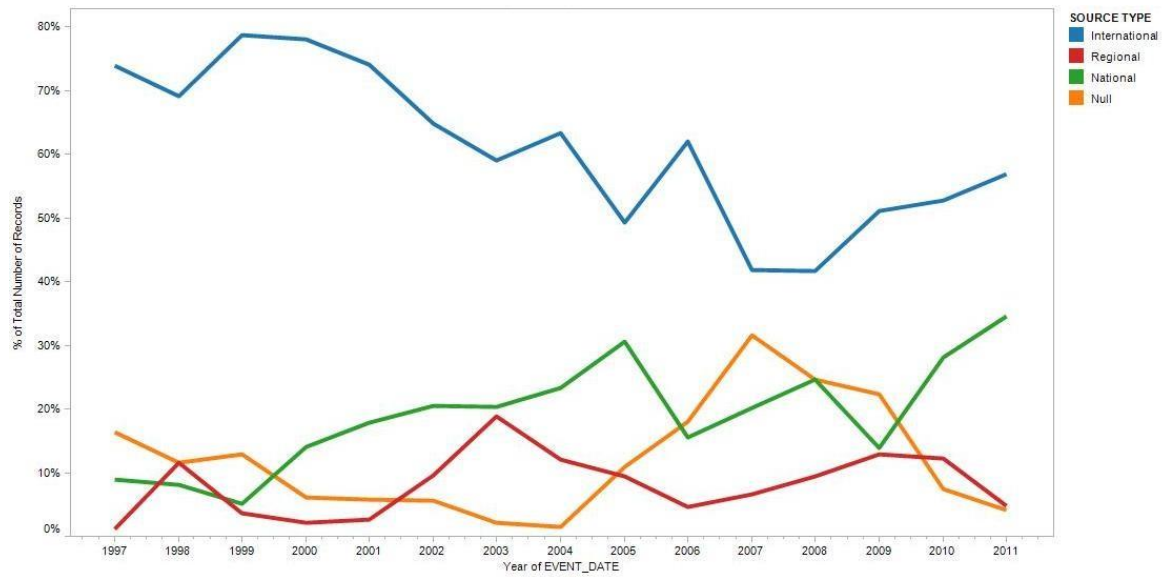


Figure 3: Source type, 1997 - 2011.