

Dataset Typology Overview between Select Event Datasets- April 2012

Dataset	ACLED	SCAD	UCDP-GED
Dataset Source	Armed Conflict Location and Event Dataset (ACLED) www.acleddata.com	Social Conflict in Africa Database Version 2.0 http://ccaps.strausscenter.org/scad/pages/sp-using	UCDP Geo-referenced Event Dataset (GED) Codebook Version 1.0 http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/datasets/ucdp_ged/
Coverage Details:	Coverage from 1997-2012 In: African States 6 Asian States Lebanon Haiti Balkans	Coverage: 1989-Nov 2010 In: African States	Coverage: 1989-Nov 2010 In: African States
Event Totals:	Over 60,000 Events from 1997-2012 42% Battles (over 25,000) 38% Violence Against Civilians (23,000) 14% Riots and Events (Over 8400) 6% Non Violent Events (3,600)	7,300 Events from 1989-2010 32% Protests (2319) 19% Riots (1392) 14% Strikes (1071) 12% Extra Government Activity (882) 4% State Repression (294) 3% Anti-Government Activity (205) 1% Intra Government Activity (78)	21,860 from 1989-2010 31% State-based (11,833) 21% Non-State (8022) 48% One Sided Violence (18,048)
Unit of Analysis:	A politically violent event is a single altercation where often force is used by one or more groups for a political end, although some instances- including protests and non-violent activity- are included to capture the potential precursors or critical junctures of a conflict. ACLED codes events as occurring at a specific date (day), location (town) and involving specific groups engaged in a defined action.	An act of social violence- defined as a disturbance- occurring for one or more days (e.g. a single recorded events can occur across several years) in a location (e.g. a single event can be recorded as occurring in the entire country) between actors which include organized and non-organized or general groups (e.g. "Groups of Men"- Event number 4330070)	An act of organized violence between or across state groups, non state groups and/or civilians. An event can occur across one or more days (e.g. a single recorded events can occur across several years) in a location (e.g. a single event can be recorded as occurring in the entire country). The event must result in at least one fatality.

Actors	<p>ACLED recognises a range of actors including governments, rebels, political militias, ethnic group militias, political organizations and civilians. Governments, military and police forces are recorded by duration of regimes. In addition, ACLED recognises ‘unidentified conflict actors’ as agents in relevant events when the actor cannot be identified.</p> <p>e.g. Lord’s Resistance Army Military Forces of DR-Congo (1997-) Pokot Ethnic Militia</p>	<p>SCAD records the political or group identity of up to three actors directly involved in the event. It also records the political or group identity of up to two actors targeted by the event. A scale of 1 – 7 is used to indicate total number of participants in the event (<10 - >1,000,000). Unidentified conflict actors are not recorded.</p> <p>e.g. “Groups of Men” “Blacks” “France”</p>	<p>UCDP-GED recognises governments of independent states, as well as organized groups as relevant actors. UCDP does not record events in which one of the actors is an unidentified conflict group engaging in state based, non-state and one sided violence.</p> <p>e.g. Government of Algeria ANC supporters</p>
Events	<p>ACLED records political conflict events between designated actors which occur at specific locations on specific days. Fatality numbers are not a criterion for inclusion.</p> <p>Event types Include:</p> <p>Battles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Battles: No Change of Territory Battle: Rebels Overtake Territory Battle: Gov’t Regains Territory <p>Non-Violent Conflict Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Violent Activity Non-Violent Transfer of Territory Headquarters or Base Establishment; <p>Riots</p> <p>Protests</p> <p>Violence Against Civilians</p>	<p>SCAD records social disturbances in Africa. Event types include:</p> <p>Demonstrations Riots/ strikes Pro- and Anti-Gov’t Violence, Extra- and Intra-Government Violence.</p> <p>SCAD includes a primary, secondary and tertiary ‘cause’ designation based on reports. This includes elections, economic issues, and ethnic discrimination, among others.</p>	<p>UCDP-GED records violent events by an organized actor resulting in at least one direct fatality.</p> <p>Types of violence include:</p> <p>State-based; Non-state One-sided.</p> <p>Violent attacks and those resulting in or presenting a risk of serious injury (campaigns of eviction, arson or rape) by conflict actors are not recorded; neither are non-violent events such as protests or riots in which no person is killed.</p>
Time	<p>ACLED includes three types of temporal information: the specific date of an</p>	<p>SCAD allocates each event a start date, an end date and duration in</p>	<p>UCDP distinguishes events by their duration, temporal precision and continuity in armed</p>

	<p>event; the year in which it occurs and the temporal precision of the date. Each event is 'atomic' in that events which take place over multiple days are recorded as consecutive events.</p> <p>Temporal precision between 1 – 3 indicates day-specific, week-specific or month-specific temporal information. Information generalized for over a month is not included.</p> <p>e.g Two days of rioting in Harare are recorded as two events (Event IDs: ZZIM, 3ZIM).</p>	<p>days. No indication of temporal precision is provided. Single events can be recorded as over multiple days or years.</p> <p>SCAD includes whether the event escalated during its duration.</p> <p>e.g.* (1) OLF versus Ethiopian Government from January 1998-December 2009, lasting 4383 days (Event ID -5300026).</p> <p>(2)* EPLF vs. Ethiopian Government recorded as a single event from 1964-1991 lasting 9936 days (Event ID - 5300001)</p> <p>*Both rebel activities, although SCAD does not state it consistently codes rebel actions.</p>	<p>violence. A start and end date is recorded for each event. Temporal precision between 0 – 5 reflects the level of specificity, with 0 indicating a summary event for which no disaggregated data is available, 1 indicating a specific day, and 5 indicating a year in which the event took place.</p> <p>Events are defined either as single-day events; summary events where no temporally disaggregated data is available; and continuous events which last more than one day.</p> <p>e.g. (1) Jan1st-Dec31st campaign of violence against civilians in Darfur, Sudan. Estimate of fatalities 10 (Event ID SUD-2005-3-1316-9).</p> <p>(2) Three weeks of engagement between the government of Burundi and Palipehutu-FNL is coded as a single event (Event ID BUI-2005-1-15-43).</p>
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Location	ACLED includes five types of spatial information: the location name; geographic coordinates of location; three standardized administrative region aggregations and country and a spatial precision code . Geographic precision between 1 – 3 indicates town-specific, area-specific, or region-specific geographic information. A region-notes includes the region mentioned in news reports (not standardized across countries). Administrative units reflect 2012 borders.	SCAD records the nature of the event location, including capital city, rural, and multiple urban areas among others. The name of the event location is also recorded. Events are not geo-referenced.	Data is geo-referenced to the highest level of precision available in source information and in geographic gazetteers. Text-based information on locations is also recorded, including whether the location is a city, town or village. Geographic precision between 1 – 7 indicates greater or lower precision. 1 indicates exact, named locations, while 6 indicates only country-specific locations, and 7 indicates the event can only be located to estimated coordinates at sea or in water.
Fatalities	ACLED records estimates of fatalities when reported by source materials. If an event takes place over several days and only total fatalities are reported, fatalities are divided evenly over the number of days (provided they are higher than 1).	SCAD provides estimates of fatalities using the mean from multiple estimates or the most recent reports. For inexact reports, fatalities are coded as unknown, unknown but probably less than 10, or unknown but probably more than 10.	At least one direct fatality arising from the event is a condition of inclusion in the UCDP-GED dataset. Where fatalities are reported in a range of geographic locations, UCDP-GED utilises a ‘Deathsplitted’ variable, to indicate the total number of fatalities has been evenly split across geographic locations to create multiple events.
Data sources	ACLED uses daily local, regional, national and continental media, NGO and humanitarian agency reporting, and supplementary Africa-focused news reports to provide source materials. Every ACLED event is based on at least one source, the name, acronym or website of which are noted in the source column.	Source information is drawn from Lexis-Nexis using an established search string including protest, strike, riot, violence or attack. Reports are largely drawn from Associated Press and Agence France Presse wire service stories.	UCDP uses news agencies, research reports, monographs, and documents of international and multinational agencies and NGOs for source material. Documents of actors themselves (such as warring parties) are used when available. Global, regional and country-specific sources are used for each country.

There are several examples of how the events included and the details recorded for each event differ across datasets. For instance, UCDP-GED reports a single summary event between 1 January and 21 May 2006 (Event ID UGA-2006-1-151-43) in which the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) engage with the Government of Uganda. The location of this summary event is not specified, but the comments indicate that the coder 'will use Northern Uganda since it's LRA activity area.' Over this same time period, ACLED reports 54 separate conflict events in which the LRA engaged with the Military Forces of Uganda (1986-). These reports include events that took place on 32 distinct dates, and in 20 separate locations. Moreover, 9 of these events are located outside Uganda, as LRA activity was reported in Southern Sudan during this period. The SCAD dataset does not include any LRA events during this time period. In the case of Nigeria events, both ACLED and SCAD report conflict events in the country in the year 2007. ACLED reports 189 events, while SCAD reports 51 events, some of which take place over several days, the longest consisting of a single 285-day event. ACLED reports 270 fatalities resulting from these events, while SCAD report 388. UCDP-GED has no recorded events in Nigeria in this year.