



ACLED Methodology

ACLED's aim is to capture the forms, agents, dates and locations of political violence and protest as it occurs within developing states. This brief note contains information about how the ACLED team collects, cleans, reviews and checks event data, with a focus on what makes ACLED unique and compatible with other data. The process of ACLED coding assures that it is accurate, comprehensive, transparent and regularly updated. Data are posted as they are complete, although there are ongoing checks to ensure the thoroughness of previously collected events.

ACLED data are coded by a range of experienced researchers who collect information primarily from secondary source information and apply the guidelines outlined in the codebook to extract information from news reports. ACLED data are collected each week after individual researchers have scrutinized the information from reports; they are then aggregated and revised by the first coding reviewer, investigated and cross-checked by the second reviewer and then event notes and details are inspected by the third and final reviewer. The process is designed to assure:

1. Validity through intra- and inter-coder checks;
2. Accuracy to correct mistakes in coding; and
3. Relevance by determining whether each compiled event constitutes an act of political violence or protest.

Details of the review process can be found on the Resources page of the website.

Every event is coded using the same rules on who, what, where, and when, to maximize comparability and validity, thorough information. Additional information, such as event ID numbers, precision scores for location and time, notes to give the context of the event, fatality numbers if reported, codes to distinguish between the types of actors, and additional spatial information are also provided in each row of information. The most recent version of the dataset is available on the Data page of the website.

ACLED data are unique in several ways: ACLED collects and processes information by date, location, agent and event type. This is an 'atomic' unit which means that a battle occurring over the course of a weekend will be recorded as two events, one on each day. Further, if two distinct events (e.g. an act of violence against civilians and a riot) occur in Mogadishu on January 2nd, both events are discrete observations in the dataset. This is useful because events are then directly comparable across time periods, event types, locations, countries, or agents because the same collection and unit rules are used to collect the information.

Further, we aim to capture how disorder occurs within states, so events are included regardless of whether they generate fatalities or not. Finally, the ACLED project often reviews specific periods of conflict or instability to assure that all reported information has been accurately and completely included in our data and analysis. A list of times and



places that ACLED plans to review can be found on the Resources page. All data are immediately processed, cleaned, reviewed and made available for public download as part of the overall data. This means that users may find changes to the data in their selected countries or targeted conflicts throughout the year. We notify users of such changes on the Resource page and the Data page of the website.