



Sourcing

ACLED collects information from a variety of primary and secondary sources. By aggregating local and international news sources using various databases, ACLED coders track reporting on events concerning political violence and protest in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Coders use local, state, and international media sources, plus private reports, to capture events ranging from protests to battles.

Overall, ACLED sources material in three ways: (1) information from local, regional, national and continental media is reviewed daily; (2) NGO reports are used to supplement media reporting in hard to access cases; (3) regionally focused news reports and analyses are integrated to supplement daily media reporting. The result is the most comprehensive and wide-reaching source material presently used in disaggregated conflict event coding.

Every ACLED event is composed from at least one source. The name, acronym, and/or website are noted in the source column. The publication details are sufficient to enable a data user to find the original source with ease. If more than two sources are used, the most thorough report is cited or both are noted in the source column.

ACLED also codes the “Source scale” of the source; whether it is local, regional, national or international. One scale over another does not guarantee more direct information, accuracy, or legitimacy, but ACLED supports gathering and using local sources whenever possible. ACLED has arrangements and partnerships with many local organizations for data exchange in pursuance of this goal.