UCDP Managing Intrastate Conflict (MIC) Africa

Codebook

Version 2.1-2013

Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP)
www.ucdp.uu.se

this version compiled by

Marcus Nilsson & Mihai Croicu

Marcus.nilsson@pcr.uu.se; mihai.croicu@pcr.uu.se

Citation for the dataset: Melander, Erik and Nina von Uexkull, 2011. "Sustained Third Party Engagement and Conflict Termination: An Introduction of the UCDP Managing Intrastate Conflict (MIC) Dataset", Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, 16-19 March 2011.

Latest presentation of the dataset: Croicu, Mihai, Erik Melander, Marcus Nilsson and Peter Wallensteen, "Mediation and Violence: Searching for third party intervention that matters", Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, USA, 3-6 April 2013.

This codebook describes the Managing Intrastate Conflict (MIC) Dataset, a dataset produced by the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. The dataset covers all conflict dyads in Africa listed in the UCDP Dyadic Dataset v.1 2010 for the years 1993-2007. All third party intervention in conflict dyads are included for active years, as well as for three years of inactivity following conflict termination.[1]

The UCDP MIC dataset is thus an extension of the Managing Intrastate Low-Level Conflict (MILC) dataset and uses the same key definitions, but differs in structure and some variables. The MILC dataset was developed by Frida Möller (Uppsala Conflict Data Program) in collaboration with Birger Heldt (Folke Bernadotte Academy). The MILC dataset covers only conflicts of minor intensity, but with global coverage (Melander et al. 2009).

Basic definitions

As a product of the Uppsala Conflict Data Program, the MIC dataset uses the key definitions of the UCDP. The following list highlights some of these key concepts and definitions.[2]:

Armed Conflict	A contested incompatibility that concerns government and/or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in one calendar year.
Conflict Intensity	Intensity is coded in three categories: *Minor*: At least 25 battle-related deaths per year and fewer than 1,000 battle-related deaths during the course of the conflict. *War*: at least 1,000 battle-related deaths per year. *Not active*: less than 25 battle-related deaths per year.
Dyad	A conflict dyad is two conflicting primary parties of which at least one is the government of a state. In conflict dyads in intrastate conflicts the non-governmental primary party is an organised opposition organisation.[3]
Incompatibility	The stated (in writing or verbally) generally incompatible positions: *Incompatibility concerning government:* Incompatibility concerning type of political system, the replacement of the central government or the change of its composition. *Incompatibility concerning territory:* Incompatibility concerning the status of a specified territory, e.g. secession or autonomy

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[1]   If, for example, a conflict dyad is active in 1993 and 1996, the period 1993 to 1999 is coded.

[2]   For these and other UCDP definitions, see http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/definitions/

[3]   See Harbom et al. (2008) and Harbom (2010) for details.

	(intrastate conflict).
Third party	A third party is a party that is involved in either helping the warring parties to regulate the incompatibility, the conflict behaviour or to regulate other conflict issues and work as an intermediary between the two. The consequences of the involvement of a third party may be to the benefit of one of the warring parties, or, in the extreme case, the third party may even become militarily involved against one of them, such as UN operations. If a party, most often the forces of a peacekeeping or a peace enforcement operation – more likely the latter – becomes involved in violence, this does not necessarily mean that it is being treated as a warring party. It is the behaviour and the incompatibility combined, that decides who is a warring party and who is not. See UCDP database definitions for how to distinguish between third party and warring party.
Warring Party	A warring party is an actor who uses armed force to promote its position in the incompatibility.
Monadic Event / Monadic Period	The UCDP MIC dataset includes not only years where dyads are engaged in active armed conflict, it also includes up to three years following the cessation of armed violence. In the post-conflict period rebel groups may be dissolved, have been defeated, or become (part of) the government. One possible situation where this rule applies is victory by the rebel side.

Structure of the UCDP MIC dataset

The MIC dataset notes events of third party measures in conflict dyads. A third party measure is simply defined as the action taken by a third party to regulate the incompatibility, the conflict behaviour or to regulate other conflict issues and work as an intermediary between the two.

Each third party measure identified in relation to one or more specific third parties that is continuous in time is coded as one event. If there are, for example, mediated *direct talks* that are suspended for several days, the talks are coded as two events. One occurrence of third party activity (i.e. an occurrence of *indirect talks*) is disaggregated into several rows if there are several *conflict dyads* concerned by this event. Each row in the dataset represents, thus, one action of one (or more) third party (-ies) in one conflict dyad.

Variables in the UCDP MIC Dataset

row_id

A unique numeric identifier for each entry in the dataset.

CONFLICT AND DYAD INFORMATION

conflict_name
The name of the UCDP/Prio conflict as used in the UCDP/Prio Conflict Dataset v. 4-2012, the UCDP Dyadic Dataset v. 1-2012 and the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset v. 1.5-2012.
If the conflict concerns a certain territory, the name of that territory in given parenthesis.
For **monadic events**, the conflict name is that of the last conflict the country was involved in.

conflict_id
The unique UCDP/PRIO conflict ID as used in the UCDP/Prio Conflict Dataset v. 4-2012, the UCDP Dyadic Dataset v. 1-2012 and the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED) v. 1.5-2012.
For **monadic events**, the conflict ID is that of the last conflict the country was involved in.

country_id
Numeric country code as used by UCDP in the UCDP/Prio Conflict Dataset v. 4-2012.
For the purpose of this dataset, the codes are identical with the Correlates of War country codes and the Gleditsch and Ward country codes.

incompatibility
The incompatibility in a conflict dyad, per the UCDP definition is the stated (in writing or verbally) generally incompatible position. These positions can be divided into two main categories:

- *Incompatibility concerning government:* Incompatibility concerning type of political system, the replacement of the central government or the change of its composition.
- *Incompatibility concerning territory:* Incompatibility concerning the status of a specified territory, e.g. secession or autonomy (intrastate conflict).

The incompatibility variable in the UCDP MIC dataset comes from the UCDP Dyadic Dataset v. 1-2010, 1946 – 2009, where the conflict is assigned one of three values:

0 – inactive dyad-year, thus no incompatibility recorded in other UCDP datasets. Monadic events also have an incompatibility of 0.
1 – the incompatibility concerns territory.
2 – the incompatibility concerns government.
3 – the incompatibility concerns both government and territory.

dyad_name
The name of the UCDP dyad.

Follows the standard UCDP naming convention of "Side A - Side B" where Side A is always the governmental side (e.g. Government of Algeria – AQIM).

For **monadic events**, the dyad_name is set to 0.

dyad_id
Identification number of the dyad as used in the UCDP Dyadic Dataset v. 1-2012 and the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED) v. 1.5-2012.

For **monadic events**, the dyad_id is set to 0.

unclear_dyad
When an event, such as a set of talks, is referring to the whole conflict and not specific dyads, all relevant dyads will be coded. E.g. when the government of Burundi and mediators talk about "Hutu rebels", all relevant Hutu dyads are coded for. *Unclear dyad* is a binary variable coded "1" for these events as to signal that it is not certain that the coded dyads were explicitly referred to.

monadic_event
A binary variable coded "1" if the event is taking place during a monadic period.

intensity
Intensity refers to the number of battle related deaths that took place in the conflict dyad in a particular calendar year. Intensity can take 3 values:
0 – "Inactive". The conflict dyad results in less than 25 battle-related deaths in that year.
1 – "Minor". Between 25 and 999 battle-related deaths occur in the dyad-year.
2 – "Major" (war). 1,000 or more battle-related deaths occur in the dyad-year.

If an event spans over more than one calendar year, the maximum intensity of the dyad during the period covered by the event is taken into consideration.

The intensity number is calculated on the basis of the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED) v. 1.5-2012.

TEMPORAL DIMENSION

start_event
Date when event begins, given in the standard ISO format (YYYY-MM-DD), e.g., *2004-08-30*.

end_event
Date when event ends, given standard ISO format (YYYY-MM-DD), e.g. *2004-10-11*. If the end-date is unclear it is estimated, based on the amount of information that can be found about the event. The level of precision is indicated by the *temporal precision* variable.

temporal_precision
These rules essentially follow the coding rules of the UCDP Georeferenced Event Dataset (GED) v. 1.5-2012 and are adapted to the context of third party peacemaking activities.

- Temporal Precision 1 – High Precision of Time
  1. If start and end dates for single-day events or continuous events are precisely specified in the news source, either by dates, day names, hours or other specific temporal concepts, this qualifies for temporal precision 1. Only when the event spans over several years it is coded "6".
     a. "14th January", "today", "yesterday", "last Tuesday" = date for specified day
     b. "Monday night" = date for Monday
     c. "last night" = date for preceding day of reporting
     d. "overnight" = date for the latter part of the night, from 00.00 onwards

- Temporal Precision 2 – Fuzzy and Delimited Precision of Time (2-6 days)
  1. If start and end dates for single-day event are of unspecified character, spanning more than one day though no longer than 6 days (shorter than a week).
     a. "recently/recent talks" = dates for 3 days preceding and not including the day of reporting
     b. "past/last few days" = dates for 3 days preceding and not including the day of reporting
     c. "around 2 July" = dates for three days, 1-3 July, with the stated date +/- one calendar day.
     d. "over the weekend" = dates for Saturday and Sunday, if source does not include Friday in the concept of weekend and unless specific dates/days for the weekend are provided in the source.
     e. "since the beginning of the week", "this week" = dates from Monday to the day of reporting
     f. "night between Sunday and Monday" = dates for the two days
     g. "past 24 hours" = dates for day of reporting and preceding day
     h. "past 48 hours" = dates for day of reporting and 2 preceding days
     i. "past 72 hours" = dates for day of reporting and 2 preceding days
     j. "past two days" = dates for 2 days preceding and not including the day of reporting
     k. "since Thursday" until day of reporting
     l. "Negotiations starting today"= day mentioned and following day unless later reports specify the end-date of the talks.

- Temporal Precision 3 – Weekly Precision of Time
  1. If the time for an event is specified to a certain week, but specific dates are not provided.
     a. "last week" = dates for Monday-Sunday

b. "past week" = dates for 7 days including the day of the reporting, unless text indicates that past week refers to an ongoing week (starting Monday)

c. "last six days of January" = dates for 25-30 January, including final date of month

- Temporal Precision 4 – Monthly Precision of Time
  1. If time is specified to a certain month or sections of a month, but specific dates are not provided.
     a. "first week of August" = dates for 1-7 August
     b. "middle of March" = start date 15, end date latest possible or final of specific month
     c. "early September" = start date 1, end date 15 or latest possible date within the same month as based on the date of reporting
     d. "end of March" = same as above
     e. "a number of weeks" or "recent weeks" = estimated dates for 3 weeks ending on date of reporting
     f. "earlier this month" = start date first day of month and end day same as the day of reporting

- Temporal Precision 5 – Annual Precision of Time
  1. If time is specified to a certain calendar year but specific dates are not provided
     a. "1995" - 1995-01-01 to 1995-12-31;
     b. "Last year" - dates covering the year, YYYY-01-01 to YYYY-12-31;
     c. "Early 1999" – 1999-01-01 to 1999-04-30;
     d. "Mid 1999" – 1999-05-01 to 1999-08-31;
     e. "Late 1999" – 1999-09-01 to 1999-12-31;
     f. "Past 3 months" - dates for 3 months counting backwards from the day of reporting;
     g. "Past few months" – dates for 3 months counting backwards from the date of reporting.

- Temporal Precision 6 – Events spanning over several calendar years
  1. If an event spans over several calendar years (typically peacekeeping missions) it has been assigned the temporal precision 6. This allows you to easily exclude these events from your analysis or to split them, if your unit of analysis is the calendar year. Note that temporal precision 6 is not used by the UCDP GED.

Source

Formatted string containing the reference to the source of the coding.

It is a formatted string, containing at minimum the origin of the source (name of a news agency/newspaper, author of a book, originator of a report), the title of the source, and the date of publication. Multiple sources are separated by commas.

Note that these dataset uses short forms to reference news agencies' names (AFP for Agence France Presse, AP for Associated Press, R for Reuters, etc.). Newswire reporting constitutes the majority of sources in the dataset.

THIRD PARTY IDENTITY

The third party can be either a *state*, an international governmental organisation (*IGO*) or fall under the category "*other*".

A *state* is defined by UCDP as either an internationally recognised sovereign government controlling a specified territory, or an internationally unrecognised government controlling a specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally recognised sovereign government previously controlling the same territory.

This dataset uses the same identification codes for states as all other UCDP projects. In practice, for the purpose of this dataset, these identification codes are identical to those found in the Gleditsch and Ward lists (2007) as well as those produced by the Correlates of War project (COW) (2010).

An *IGO* is defined as an organization formed by a group of states that possesses formal statutes and a formal name.
*IGO*s are assigned identification numbers as an extension of the unified UCDP actor ID numbering sequence, as described in the UCDP Actor Dataset v.2.1-2012. The ID numbers for IGOs range between 11000 and 11999.

The category *other* is used for e.g. non-governmental organisations (NGO:s) or individuals.

Other actors are assigned identification numbers as an extension of the unified UCDP actor ID numbering sequence, as described in the UCDP Actor Dataset v.2.1-2012. The ID numbers for such actors range between 12000 and 12999, unless the said actors have been active as conflict parties in UCDP data, in which case they are assigned their corresponding actor ID in the UCDP Actor Dataset v.2.1-2012.

Note that in cases where the third party has dual characteristics (e.g. the Dutch Prime Minister representing the European Union) the third party is coded in line with the formal representation (in this case: the Prime Minister is coded as the EU, not the Netherlands).

third_states_no
Indicates number of individual states involved in the third party event.

third_igo_no
Indicates number of international governmental organisations involved in the third party event.

third_other
Indicates number of third parties involved in the third party event, which are neither a state nor an IGO, e.g. private person, NGO, religious denomination.

third_faith_based
This is a binary variable coded "1" if at least one third party involved is based on religious values.

third_name
Indicates the name(s) of the third party. If more than one party then names are separated by comma.

third_id{1..20} (i.e. third_id1, third_id2 etc.).
Identification numbers for the third parties as stated above.
If the third party is a country, the Gleditsch/Ward (1999) identification numbers are used. For IGO:s and other, the numbers described above are used. A list is provided with the dataset.

third_total
The number of third parties engaged in the event.

THIRD PARTY MEASURE

warring_party
The Warring party variable identifies which of the warring parties take part in the third party measure. The variable can be assigned one of four values:

0 – Not applicable (if good_offce, fact_finding, permanent_observer or peace_keeping variables are coded as 1).
1 – The government is the only warring party taking part in the third party measure.
2 – The rebel group is the only warring party to take part in the third party measure.
3 – Both government and rebel group take part in the third party measure.

E.g. *direct talks* between RUF and the government of Sierra Leone are coded as "3" as both parties take part. *Bilateral talks* between a mediator and a rebel leader are coded "2".

Type_of_talks:

Type of talks refers to the way in which the talks were conducted. The variable can take on four different values:

0 –Not applicable (if good_offce, fact_finding, permanent_observer or peace_keeping variables are coded as 1).
1 – Direct talks. These talks take place face to face between the two primary parties of the dyad in the presence of the third party.
2 – Indirect talks. Talks are ongoing between the two primary parties in the dyad and the third party is present. Compared with direct talks, warring parties are not face to face. Instead the third party meets each party separately. Shuttle-diplomacy is a classic example of indirect talks.
3 – Bilateral talks. Talks take place between <u>one</u> of the primary parties in the dyad and a third party. Bilateral talks differ from indirect talks in that there is no credible reason to believe that the third party is passing along information between the primary parties. Bilateral talks may include situations where a third party simply explores the positions of the parties. Sometimes a third party may, for political reasons, only meet the government side of a conflict. This is maybe more likely in the first phase of mediation process.
4 – Unclear talks. When the circumstances surrounding the talks are unclear and thus, it not possible to know if the parties met directly or indirectly.

TYPE OF TOPICS

Type of topics refers to what was discussed in the talks. It contains a number of dummy variables that are assigned a 1 if the condition of the variable is met and a 0 if it is not met.

Incompatibility
Incompatibility is coded 1 if the talks concerned the incompatibility of the conflict as defined by the UCDP.

Conflict behaviour
If talks concern the conflict behaviour of the warring parties (e.g. ceasefires, demilitarized zones/withdrawing troops, talks over violence), conflict behaviour is coded as 1.

Other conflict issues
Talks regarding other conflict related topics (e.g. refugees, preparatory talks ["talks about talks"], disarmament, security, etc.) other conflict issues is assigned 1.

Unknown topic
If there is no reference to what the exact topic of the talks was, unknown topic is assigned 1.

Good office
The third party does not actively engage in direct talks with the parties but only facilitates talks (provides venue, facilities, etc.). The third parties are other than the ones

participating in the talks. E.g. *Direct talks* mediated by South Africa in Tanzania are coded as *good office* for Tanzania. This is a binary variable coded "1" for events classified as good office.

Fact finding
Officials having the purpose of establishing the facts of a matter, e.g., whether human rights abuses, instances of violence, or violations of cease-fires have taken place. Is only coded as fact-finding when referred to as such in the source. Start date is when the officials arrive on the ground, i.e., are deployed. This is a binary variable coded "1" for events classified as fact finding missions.

Permanent observers
A mission with a permanent office, carried out by the UN, IGOs or individual states, with the stated purpose to observe and/or support a peace process or conflict situation, but without any operational duties involving uniformed personnel having an official status as military troops, military observers or civilian police. This is a binary variable coded "1" for events classified as permanent observer missions.

Peacekeeping
Coded according to definition by Heldt and Wallensteen (2005).
A third-party state intervention that:
   a) involves the deployment of military troops and/or military observers and/or civilian police in a target state;
   b) is, according to the mandate (as specified in multilateral agreements, peace agreements, or resolutions of the UN or regional organisations), established for the purpose of separating conflict parties, monitoring ceasefires, maintaining buffer zones, and taking responsibility for the security situation (among other things) between formerly, potentially, or presently warring parties; and
   c) is neutral towards the conflict parties, but not necessarily impartial towards their behaviour.
This is a binary variable coded "1" for events classified as peacekeeping missions.

References

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