UCDP Non-State Conflict Codebook

Version 2.5-2016

Uppsala Conflict Data Program
Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University

This version compiled and updated Therése Pettersson (2014)
Replacing the earlier versions by Marcus Nilsson & Therése Pettersson (2013), Therése Pettersson (2012), Ralph Sundberg (2010) and Joakim Kreutz & Kristine Eck (2005)

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Sundberg, Ralph, Kristine Eck and Joakim Kreutz, 2012, "Introducing the UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset", Journal of Peace Research, March 2012, 49:351-362
(When appropriate) also cite this codebook. Always include the Version number in analyses using the dataset.

Introduction

This document describes the Non-State Conflict Dataset, a project within the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. The UCDP Non-State conflict project has been developed with support from the Human Security Report Project, Simon Fraser University, in Vancouver, Canada.

In the development of the definition of non-state conflict, the input from Kristine Eck, Peter Wallensteen, Margareta Sollenberg, Lotta Harbom, Ralph Sundberg, Stina Högbladh, Therése Pettersson and Johan Brosché, have been instrumental. The UCDP non-state conflict project is also grateful for additional advice and feedback from Andrew Mack, Zoe Nielsen, Ole Magnus Thiesen, and others.

Case-specific information about the cases of non-state conflict is available at www.ucdp.uu.se/database. Questions regarding the definitions and the content of the dataset can be directed to therese.pettersson@pcr.uu.se.

Definition of Non-State conflict

A non-state conflict is defined by the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) as *"the use of armed force between two organized armed groups, neither of which is the government of a state, which results in at least 25 battle-related deaths in a year."*

The separate elements of the definition are operationalized as follows:

(1) *Use of armed force*: the use of arms, resulting in deaths.
> *(1.1) Arms*: any material means, e.g. manufactured weapons but also sticks, stones, fire, water, etc.

(2) *25 deaths*: a minimum of 25 battle-related deaths per year
> (2.1) *battle-related deaths:* deaths directly related to the use of armed force between the warring groups

(3) *Organized groups*: consists of either
> (3.1) formally organized groups: any non-governmental group of people having announced a name for their group and using armed force against another similarly formally organized group, *or*
>
> (3.2) informally organized groups: any group without an announced name, but who uses armed force against another similarly organized group, where the violent activity meets the following requirement:
>> (3.2.a.) there is a clear pattern of violent incidents that are connected and in which both groups use armed force against the other

(4) *State*: a state is
> (4.1) an internationally recognized sovereign government controlling a specified territory, *or*
> (4.2) an internationally unrecognized government controlling a specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally recognized sovereign government previously controlling the same territory.

(5) *Government*: the party controlling the capital of the state

Modifications from the 2010 version of the Non-state Conflict Dataset

(1) Level of organization
The major modification in the 2010 version of the codebook and the dataset was an alteration to the operational definition of *organized groups*. In order to make the non-state conflict and one-sided violence categories mutually exclusive some changes have been made in the definition and how it is operationally applied. Changes have also been made so as to include conflict between very broad groups such as religious collectives.

The major changes are as follows:

(1) The organizational level of warring groups has been more narrowly defined so as to ensure that one-sided violence and non-state conflict events do not overlap. Groups may now fight only groups within their own level of organizational capacity, at the same time as the level of organization has been transformed from the dichotomous variable of 0 and 1 to contain more steps (1 to 3). This change eliminates significant overlap between the non-state conflict and one-sided violence categories.

(2) Organized rebel groups may no longer be coded as participants in non-state conflicts in which their ethnic brethren partake if the levels of organization differ. Violence by rebel groups against civilians of a differing ethnicity/identity/political affiliation is coded as one-sided violence, even if the rebel group's ethnic brethren are at the same time involved in a non-state conflict with the rivaling group[1]. In other words, a formally organized rebel group may not 'assume' an overarching ethnic or other identity and subsequently partake in that identity's non-state conflict. This is done since the level of organization between the two antagonists is uneven and removes further overlap between one-sided violence and non-state conflict.

(3) The dataset now contains records of what is commonly referred to as 'communal violence'; i.e. violence between very broad categories of identification (for instance Hindus versus Muslims in India). This is a result of the slackening of the organization criteria and its classification along a broader hierarchy than formally and informally organized groups. These collectives are identified country by country and there can thus not exist a global conflict between Hindus or Muslims or other such broad identity groups.

(2) Levels of organization
Organizational level 1 (formally organized groups): Rebel groups and other organized groups that have a high enough level of organization so as to be possible to include in the

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[1] For instance, even if Naga tribals are attacking Kuki tribals in Northeast India and killing unarmed civilians from the other group, the violence against civilians carried out by the Naga rebel group NSCN – K will be coded as one-sided violence.

state-based armed conflict category. These include rebel groups with an announced name, as well as military factions (Forces of…). This level of organization captures fighting between highly organized rebel groups.

Organizational level 2 (informally organized groups): Groups composed of supporters and affiliates to political parties and candidates. These are commonly not groups that are permanently organized for combat, but who at times use their organizational structures for such purposes. In addition to supporters of political parties and candidates, included in this category is also fighting between groups composed of supporters of other organizations such as the supporters of al-Ahly football team fighting against the supporters of al-Masry football team in Egypt 2012.

Organizational level 3 (informally organized groups): Groups that share a common identification along ethnic, clan, religious, national or tribal lines. These are not groups that are permanently organized for combat, but who at times organize themselves along said lines to engage in fighting. This level of organization captures aspects of what is commonly referred to as 'communal conflicts', in that conflict stands along lines of communal identity. Battle-related deaths are recorded according to section 3.2.a of the definition of non-state conflict.

(3) Battle-related deaths[2]
Some minor modifications have also been made to the way the coding records battle-related deaths. The coding now records somewhat differing phenomena according to the level of organization of the fighting groups.

For formally organized groups (organizational level 1) the recording of battle-related deaths follows the exact same criteria as in the state-based armed conflict category. i.e. the warring groups must target representatives of the other formally organized group. Targeting of civilians, even if those civilians are of, for example, the same ethnicity as a group's rivals, is coded as one-sided violence.

For informally organized groups (organizational level 2-3) the battle-related deaths criteria is somewhat slackened. Instead of coding deaths according to the state-based criteria the dataset records patterns of violent (lethal) interaction between informally organized groups, regardless of whether the targets are civilians or armed. For a non-state conflict to be recorded within these levels of organization both parties must attack each other.

These modifications have been made as it was obvious in the earlier versions of the dataset that significant amounts of overlap between the non-state conflict and one-sided violence categories occurred. It was also obvious that the dynamics involved in fighting between rebel groups and between more loosely organized groups were quite different. The coding has thus been modified so as to correspond more closely to these dynamics.

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[2] For a more in-depth discussion on the definition of battle-related deaths, see http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/definitions/

Variables in the Non-State conflict Dataset

DyadID. This variable makes it possible to follow the conflict activity between two parties over several years, regardless of possible changes in name of the actors. Thus, each dyadic relationship in the dataset is given a unique ID. For all non-state conflicts a 2- is added before the dyad ID to separate them from other categories of UCDP violence (i.e. 1-state-based and 3-one-sided).

Org. This variable indicates the organizational level of the warring sides. The level of organization is determined according to the following categories:

Organizational level 1 (formally organized groups): Rebel groups and other organized groups that have a high enough level of organization so as to be possible to include in the state-based armed conflict category. These include rebel groups with an announced name, as well as military factions (Forces of…). This level of organization captures fighting between highly organized rebel groups and fatalities are recorded according to the criteria set for battle-related deaths in the state-based conflict category.

Organizational level 2 (informally organized groups): Groups composed of supporters and affiliates to political parties and candidates. These are commonly not groups that are permanently organized for combat, but who at times use their organizational structures for such purposes. In addition to supporters of political parties and candidates, included in this category is also fighting between groups composed of supporters of other organizations such as the supporters of al-Ahly football team fighting against the supporters of al-Masry football team in Egypt 2012. Battle-related deaths are recorded according to section 3.2.a of the definition of non-state conflict.

Organizational level 3 (informally organized groups): Groups that share a common identification along ethnic, clan, religious, national or tribal lines. These are not groups that are permanently organized for combat, but who at times organize themselves along said lines to engage in fighting. This level of organization captures aspects of what is commonly referred to as 'communal conflicts', in that conflict stands along lines of communal identity. Battle-related deaths are recorded according to section 3.2.a of the definition of non-state conflict.

SideA. The party that constitute Side A in the conflict. For each conflict the parties are listed in alphabetical order, using the latest known names of the parties involved.

SideAID. The ID of the groups that make up Side A. These IDs are taken from the UCDP Actor Dataset (Pettersson, 2015). For conflicts with multiple actors fighting together a temporary coalition ID has been assigned. A list of coalition IDs can be found below.

SideAComponents[3]. For conflicts with multiple actors fighting together, the actors' separate Actor IDs, taken from the UCDP Actor Dataset, are listed in this variable and separated by a comma.

SideB. The party that constitute Side B in the conflict. For each conflict the parties are listed in alphabetical order, using the latest known names of the parties involved.

SideBID. The ID of the groups that make up Side B. These IDs are taken from the UCDP Actor Dataset (Pettersson, 2015). For conflicts with multiple actors fighting together a temporary coalition ID has been assigned. A list of coalition IDs can be found below.

SideBComponents[4]. For conflicts with multiple actors fighting together, the actors' separate Actor IDs, taken from the UCDP Actor Dataset, are listed in this variable and separated by a comma.

StartDate. The first time there is a recorded event in a given dyad that results in at least one fatality. This date is the same for all years in which the conflict has been active, regardless of whether the conflict has been active in several episodes or not.

StartPrec. The Startdate is coded as precisely as possible. For certain conflicts we can pinpoint the start of the conflict down to a single event, taking place on a specific day. For other conflicts, this is not possible, due to lack of precise information. The Startprec (start precision) is coded to highlight the level of certainty for the date set in the Startdate variable.

1. Day, month and year are precisely coded; there is good information on the event.
2. Day is assigned; month and year are precisely coded. This precision score is assigned if the first event which causes at least one fatality takes place within a period of 2-6 days.
3. Day is unknown; month (or a period of 30 days, not necessarily a calendar month) and year are precisely coded. The day is known to be in a given period of 30 days. The date is set to the last date of the period.
4. Month is assigned, year is precisely coded. The date is set to the last day of the assigned month.
5. Day and month are assigned, year is precisely coded. Day and month are set as precisely as possible. For example, if an event is known to have taken place between March and July, the date is set to 31 July with precision score 5.

StartDate2. StartDate2 gives the date, as precise as possible, when a given episode of conflict activity reached 25 battle-related deaths.

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[3] In the 2.5-2016 version of the non-state dataset we have coded different so-called operation rooms (i.e. the organizational structure that is formed by a set of warring parties before launching a joint offensive) in Syria as temporary coalitions. In other cases, all actor names within a temporary coalition are listed, but this is not the case here. While the SideAComponents and SideBComponents columns in the dataset contain the IDs for all actors in an operation room the SideA and SideB column only contain the name of the operation room. The operation rooms in Syria in some cases contain more than 30 participating actors. One actor is often participating in more than one operation room at the same time.
[4] See footnote 3.

StartPrec2. Coded according to the criteria stated for Startprec.

EpEnd. EpEnd is a dummy variable that codes whether the conflict is inactive the following year and an episode of the conflict thus ends. If the conflict is inactive the following year(s), this variable is coded as 1. If not, a 0 is coded.

EpEndDate. This variable is only coded in years where EpEnd has the value 1. If a conflict year is followed by at least one year of conflict inactivity, the EpEndDate variable lists, as precise as possible, the last date of recorded combat.

EpEndPrec. Coded according to the criteria stated for Startprec.

Year. The year of observation of the non-state conflict

Yearly Best, Low and High fatality estimates.

The general rule for UCDP's estimation of fatalities is moderation. All incidents are ideally verified by two independent sources, and all estimates reported are grounded in UCDP's expertise of each particular country. Due to the varying certainty of fatality reports, the project provides three estimates concerning battle-related deaths for each year.

(a) *Best estimate*. The best estimate is constructed by aggregating the best estimates for each individual event. If reports provide conflicting estimates, an examination is made as to what source is most reliable. If no such distinction can be made, UCDP employs the lower figure given.

(b) *Low estimate*. The low estimate is constructed by aggregating the low estimates for each individual event. If different reports provide different estimates and a higher estimate is considered more reliable, the low estimate is also reported if deemed reasonable.

(c) *High estimate*. The high estimate is constructed by aggregating the high estimates for each individual event. If different reports provide different estimates and a lower estimate is considered more or equally reliable, the high estimate is also reported if deemed reasonable. If there is uncertainty about exactly which party was involved in a given incident, it may also be included in the high estimate.

Location. The geographical location of the activity in the non-state conflict. Location is a string variable, listing all countries in which the conflict is active.

GWNOLoc. This field contains the country code(s) for the state(s) listed in the Location variable. Thus, it lists the country codes for the primary party/parties in the conflict. GWNoloc is a string variable, where the numbers are separated by a comma (','). A full

list of country codes is available in the UCDP Dyadic Dataset Codebook (Themnér, 2015).

Region. Region of location.
1 Europe
2 Middle East
3 Asia
4 Africa
5 Americas

Version. The version number is a combination of a number and a year. The number is increased when the structure of the dataset is significantly changed. The year refers to when the dataset is updated with new observations. If there are changes in the data between yearly updates, a letter is used behind the year.

This codebook corresponds to version 2.5 of the UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset. We recommend that whenever this dataset is used, the version number should be cited.

References
Themnér, Lotta, 2016, "UCDP Dyadic Dataset Codebook", Uppsala Conflict Data Program, Dept. of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, http://www.ucdp.uu.se/

Pettersson, Therese, 2016, "UCDP Actor Dataset Codebook", Uppsala Conflict Data Program, Dept. of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, http://www.ucdp.uu.se/

IDs for temporary coalitions

Actors	Conflict ID	Actor IDs	Temporary Coalition ID
Fulani, Hausa	2-254, 2-11735	1461, 1462	547520
Gabra, Garre	2-35	1463, 1963	553003
Newiba, Mahariba, Mahamid	2-83	1517, 1520, 1521	562503
Nyangatom, Toposa	2-127, 2-409	1573, 1553	553002
RCD–N, MLC	2-138	1511, 1269	549001
Foulbe, Hausa	2-172	1775, 1462	547101
Hunde, Nyanga	2-184	1783, 1943	549016
Mayi Mayi, CNDD–FDD	2-188	1505, 1280	549010
ALiR, CNDD-FDD, Mayi-Mayi	2-189	2013,1280, 1505	549024
Borana, Guji	2-198	1445, 1467	553001
Forest Brothers, White Legion	2-203	1673, 1674	537201
Nawuri, Konkomba	2-205	1945, 1946	545202
Dagomba, Gonja, Nanumba	2-208	1947, 1948, 1944	545201
Luo, Kisii	2-225	1768, 1796	550104
Orma, Wardei	2-232	1800, 1801	550103

Pokot, Samburu	2-233	1529, 1794	550102
NPFL, ULIMO – K	2-241	1358, 1557	545001
ULIMO – J, AFL, LPC	2-241	1556, 1428, 1496	545002
FIAA, ARLA, FPLA	2-243	1374, 1804, 1803	543201
Anaguta, Afisare, Birom	2-254	1433, 1815, 1443	547510
Ijaw, Urhobo	2-268	1477, 1820	547501
Beni Halba Baggara, Salamat Baggara	2-326	1873, 1872	562501
Jie, Matheniko Karimojong	2-335, 2-437	1489, 1908	550010
Matheniko Karimojong, Turkana	2-337	1908, 1554	550009
Turkana, Toposa	2-339	1554, 1553	550005
Igbo, Yoruba	2-368	1476, 1562	547503
FNI, FRPI	2-398	1460, 1961	549003
Dayak, Malay	2-410	1680, 1970	585001
Jie, Matheniko Karimojong, Turkana	2-412	1489, 1908, 1554	550004
Black Axe, Bush Boys, Deebam, KK, NDV	2-469	2114, 2115, 2054, 2121, 1516	547527
Gontrar, Zintan	2-480	2119, 2118	562001
ALiR, Mayi Mayi	2-484	2013, 1505	549013
Bafulero, Bavira	2-485	2116, 2117	549019
AQIM, Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, MUJAO	2-488	1391, 1935, 2046	543202
MUJAO, Signed-in-Blood Battalion	2-489	2046, 2120	543203
Ghuraba al-Sham, Jabhat al-Nusra li al-Sham	2-498	2101, 2057	565201
FSA, Jabhat al-Nusra li al-Sham	2-499, 2-13772	2015, 2057	565202
FSA, Jabhat al-Nusra li al-Sham, Mish'al at Tammu Brigade	2-13769	2015, 2057, 5538	565280
IS, Jabhat al-Nusra li al-Sham	2-13767	1076, 2057	565281
Burji, Gabra	2-12696	1463, 1446	553080
Awlad Metanin (Misseriya), Awlad Serur (Misseriya)	2-12385	4204, 4531	562580
FSA, IS	2-13794	1076, 2015	565282
Islamic Front, Mujahideen Army, SRF	2-14348	5575, 6012, 6011	565283
IS, Islamic Front, Jabhat al-Nusra li al-Sham	2-14355	1076, 2057, 5575	565284
Islamic Front, Jabhat al-Akrad, Jabhat al-Nusra li al-Sham, Mujahideen Army	2-14361	2057, 5575, 5541, 6012	565285
Islamic Battalions, Jabhat al-Nusra li al-Sham	2-14367, 2-14368	2057, 6023	565286
Islamic Front, Jabhat Al-Kurd brigade, Jabhat al-Nusra li al-Sham, Mujahideen Army	2-14369	2057, 5575, 6035, 6012	565287
Islamic Front, Jabhat al-Nusra li al-Sham	2-14374	2057, 5575	565288
Islamic Front, Mujahideen Army	2-14379	5575, 6012	565289
Islamic Front, Jabhat al-Nusra li al-Sham, Mujahideen Army	2-14393	2057, 5575, 6012	565290

Islamic Front, Mujahideen Army, SRF, PYD	2-14397	5575, 6011, 2100, 6012	565291