

UCDP Non-state Actor Dataset Codebook

Version 1-2009

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When using the data, please cite the UCDP Non-state Actor Dataset, and, when appropriate this codebook. Always include the version number in analyses using the dataset.

1. Introduction

This document describes the UCDP Non-state Actor Dataset, a project within the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.

The unit of analysis in the UCDP Non-state Actor Dataset is a unique non-state actor. The dataset is constructed so as to be compatible with all UCDP's datasets on organised violence (the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, the UCDP Dyadic Dataset, the UCDP One-sided Dataset and the UCDP Non-state Dataset) and thus contains all non-state actors included in the former. As such, it functions as an inventory of non-state actors in UCDP data, but its scope is broader than that. The UCDP Non-state Actor Dataset also ascribes unique actor IDs to all non-state actors, identifies which types of organised violence the actor has been involved in (state-based, non-state and/or one-sided) and, more particularly, in *which* conflicts and dyads of state-based and /or non-state. Furthermore, the dataset contains information about the name history of the actor, outlining the most current name (which is also the name used in the data), the original name (i.e. the name the group had when it entered UCDP data for the first time) and any possible name changes between the two. In addition, information is given about whether the non-state actor was created by splintering off from another actor recorded in UCDP data, and, if so, which actor. The dataset also includes data on whether the non-state actor ever entered into an alliance with another recorded non-state actor in UCDP data (which would beget a new non-state actor), as well as the name of said alliance. Finally, the location of the non-state actor is given, as is the region where the location is situated.

Version 1-2009 of the UCDP Non-state Actor Dataset corresponds to the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset v. 4-2009; the UCDP Dyadic Dataset v. 1-2009; UCDP Battle-deaths Dataset v.5-2009 ; the UCDP Non-state Dataset v.2.1-2009; and the UCDP One-sided dataset v.1.3-2009 This means that all non-state actors included in these datasets are included in the UCDP Non-state Actor Dataset.

The dataset will be updated annually. As UCDP is currently in the process of creating longer time series for the data on non-state conflicts (we presently have data for the 2002-2007 period), future versions of this dataset will contain all non-state actors included in this data for the entire time-period from 1989.

2. UCDP's three categories of organised violence

Below follows a brief introduction to the three types of organised violence that UCDP collects information on, and that make up the datasets to which the UCDP Non-state Actor dataset corresponds.

2.1 Armed conflict

An armed conflict is defined as 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.

Data on this category of organised violence is found in the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict dataset (presently covering 1946-2008), in the UCDP Dyadic Dataset (1946-2008) and in the UCDP Battle-deaths Dataset (2002-2007). For more information, see the codebooks for these datasets, at http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/UCDP/data_and_publications/datasets.htm.

2.2 One-sided violence

One-sided violence is defined as the use of armed force by the government of a state or by a formally organized group against civilians which results in at least 25 deaths. Extrajudicial killings in custody are excluded.

Data on this category of organised violence is found in the UCDP One-sided dataset (1989-2007). For more information, see the codebook for the dataset, at http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/UCDP/data_and_publications/datasets.htm.

2.3 Non-state conflict

A non-state conflict is defined 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.

Data on this category of organised violence is found in the UCDP Non-state dataset (2002-2007). For more information, see the codebook for the dataset, at http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/UCDP/data_and_publications/datasets.htm.

3. Definition of Non-state actor

The UCDP Non-state Actor Dataset contains information on all actors/groups/organisations that appear in UCDP's three categories of organised violence. Both the terminology and the type of organisations included in the three categories vary to some degree. The UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset and the UCDP Dyadic Dataset includes "opposition actors" and "opposition organisations", defined as any non-governmental group of people having announced a name for their group and using armed force to influence the outcome of the stated incompatibility. The UCDP One-sided Dataset contains "formally organised groups", similarly defined, apart from the

requirement of an incompatibility. Lastly, the UCDP Non-state Dataset includes both “formally organised groups” and informally organised groups”. While the former is the same category as the one used in the One-sided data, the latter is defined as any group without an announced name, but who uses armed force against another similarly organized group, where the violent activity meets at least one of the following requirements: 1) there is a clear pattern of incidents that are connected, *or* 2) there is evidence that the violent activity was planned in advance. The informally organised group category mainly includes ethnic groups and clans, whilst the formally organised group category encompasses actors such as unrecognized states, rebel groups, members/supporters of political parties, and others.

As outlined above, the UCDP Non-state Actor Dataset thus contains information on a broad spectrum of non-state actors. The smallest common denominators are that the non-state actor is an entity comprised of several individuals and that it has some form of organisational structure (be it formal, as in e.g. rebel groups or more traditional, as in e.g. ethnic groupings). Non-state actors included in the dataset hence range from small, informal ones such as the Dizi ethnic group in Ethiopia, numbering some 20 000 individuals, to large, state-like formations such as the self-declared Republic of Croatia (before it was recognised as an independent state).

4. Rules guiding the differentiation between actors

To differentiate between non-state actors is at times problematic.¹ When is a non-state actor completely new and when is it simply a continuation of an already registered non-state actor, only slightly altered? Some actors tend to be fractious, splitting into different sub-groups while others join larger coalitions or umbrella groups. UCDP follows four main rules:

- However many times a group changes its name, it still retains the same ActorID (for exceptions, see below).
- When an actor splits into two or more actors, the splinter group/groups is considered a completely new non-state actor.

Comment: It is sometimes difficult to determine which of the actors should be viewed as the splinter and which should be seen as the original one, as both factions tend to claim to be the “original” actor. This is most typically the case concerning rebel groups. UCDP deals with this by tracing the main part (i.e. the most numerous) of the actor, which is then coded as the original one. Should this be problematic to determine, a second option is to trace the original leader of the non-state actor in order to identify which actor to code as the original one.

¹ This problem is mainly associated with the formally organised non-state actors.

- When two or more already registered non-state actors join together under a new name in a tight coalition with joint military operations, the new coalition is regarded as a new actor.
- When an already registered non-state actor is joined by another actor that has previously not been coded as active in the dataset, the new alliance is simply viewed as a continuation of the former, previously coded, actor. This applies even when the name of the actor is changed.

Comment: It should be noted that while this rule is applied in most cases in the datasets conventional logic made it necessary to make some exceptions. Whereas the rule works well in e.g. the case of NRA in Uganda, which was originally called PRA but changed its name when it was joined by the much smaller and militarily insignificant UFF, the logic is less clear in the case of e.g. the Independent Nasserist Organisation in Lebanon (a.k.a. al- Mourabitoun), which was active in fighting the government of Lebanon in 1958 and also resurfaced as part of the Lebanese National Movement in 1975. In this case it is intuitively and factually incorrect to characterise the LNM as being a simple continuation of al- Mourabitoun, and the actor is thus characterised as being an entirely new one.

5. Variables in the dataset

Variable	Label	Brief description
ActorID	Actor identifier	The unique identifier of all non-state actors
Name_Data	Name in data	The name that is used for the non-state actor in UCDP datasets.
Name_Orig	Original name	The name of the non-state actor when it was first included in a UCDP dataset.
Name_Orig_Full	Full original name, mother tongue	The full original name of the non-state actor, in mother tongue.
Name_Orig_FullEng	Full original name, English	The full original name of the non-state actor, in English
NameChange	Name change	Dummy listing whether non-state actors have changed their names.
NewName	New name	The new name of the non-state actor
NewName_Full_mt	Full new name, mother tongue	The full new name in mother tongue
NewName_FullEng	Full new name in English	The full new name in English
Org	Level of organisation	Lists whether a non-state actor is formally or informally organised
ConflictID	Conflict identifier	The unique identifier of all armed conflicts (i.e. conflicts included in the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset and the UCDP Dyadic Dataset) in which the actor has been recorded.
DyadID	Dyad identifier	The unique identifier of all dyads active in armed conflicts (i.e. dyads included in the UCDP Dyadic Dataset) in which the actor has been recorded.

OSID	One-sided violence identifier	The unique identifier of all actors listed in the UCDP One-sided Dataset. Corresponds to the ActorID of a given actor.
NSID	Non-state conflict identifier	The unique identifier of all non-state conflicts (i.e. conflicts included in the UCDP Non-state Dataset) in which the actor has been recorded.
Splinter	Splinter	Dummy listing whether a non-state actor was created by breaking away from another actor listed in UCDP data
Name_Prev	Name of the previous actor	Name of the actor that a given non-state actor broke away from
ActorID_Prev	Actor identifier of previous actor	The unique identifier of the actor that a given group broke away from
Alliance	Alliance	Dummy listing whether a non-state actor entered into an alliance with another non-state actor, also registered in UCDP data
Name_Alliance	Name of the alliance	Name of the alliance created by the merger of two or more non-state actors.
ActorID_Alliance	Actor identifier of the alliance	The unique actor identifier of the new non-state actor (alliance) created by the merger of two or more non-state actors
Location	Location	For non-state actors registered in the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset and the UCDP Dyadic Dataset, this is the location of the incompatibility. For actors registered only in non-state conflict or one-sided violence the location given is the one where the group's bulk of violent activity has been recorded.
GWNO_Loc	Gleditsch and Ward number(s) of the location(s)	Gleditsch and Ward numbers of all location countries, separated by a comma
Region	Region of location	Identifies the region of the location

5.1 ActorID

The identifier of the actor. Each actor in the dataset is ascribed a unique actor ID.

5.2 Name_Data

The name used for a non-state actor in UCDP data is either its current one or the last name it had when registered in a UCDP dataset. For instance, the Algerian rebel group that was called Groupe Salafiste pour la prédication et le combat (GSPC) when it was founded in 1998 changed its name to al-Qaida Organization in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) in January 2007, a name that it still retains. As the group has been registered in the UCDP Dyadic Dataset and the UCDP One-sided Dataset for 2007 and 2008, the name listed under Name in data is thus AQIM. In contrast, if a non-state actor is registered in a UCDP dataset for some years and then, some years after its last entry, changes its name, the name listed under Name in data will still be the name that it had when it was active.

For formally organised actors, such as militias or rebel groups, the names listed in this field are by default acronyms when applicable.

5.3 Name_Orig

The name of the non-state actor at the point in time that it entered a UCDP dataset for the first time.

For formally organised actors, such as militias or rebel groups, the names listed in this field are by default acronyms when applicable.

5.4 Name_Orig_Full

The full original name, in mother tongue.

5.5 Name_Orig_FullEng

The full original name in English.

5.6 NameChange

NameChange is a dummy variable that indicates whether a non-state actor has changed its name during the time period that it is listed in UCDP data.

1 Indicates that it has, while 0 indicates that it has not.

5.7 NewName

If the dummy variable NameChange is given the value 1, the new acronym for the group is listed under NewName.

5.8 NewName_Full_mt

This variable contains the full name, in mother tongue, of the non-state actor listed under NewName.

5.9 NewName_FullEng

This variable contains the full name, in English, of the non-state actor listed under NewName.

5.10 Org

This field indicates the level of organisation of a non-state actor. As expanded upon in section 3, the dataset includes a wide range of different types of non-state actors, all of which can be placed in one of two broad categories: formally- and informally organised actors.²

1 indicates that the non-state actor is formally organised, while 0 indicates that it is informally organised.

5.11 ConflictID

If the non-state actor is part of one or more of the conflicts included in the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, the ConflictID (conflict identifier) of that conflict is listed in this field.

ConflictID is a string variable, where the numbers are separated by a comma (',').

5.12 DyadID

If the non-state actor is part of one or more of the dyads included in the UCDP Dyadic Dataset, the DyadID (dyad identifier) of that dyad is listed in this field.

DyadID is a string variable, where the numbers are separated by a comma (',').

² It should be noted that there are two notable exceptions to the general rule that formally organised groups have to have announced a name for themselves. All military factions are listed as formally organised actors without having fulfilled this criterion under the logic that these actors, if any, are formally organised, but that circumstances require them to work in silence and to not announce neither intentions nor names. Similarly, the actor "Hutu rebels", registered in the One-sided dataset, is also listed as formally organised without having a specific name. In this case it is because "Hutu rebels" is used as an inclusive term that encompasses more than one formally organised actor (such as Palipehutu and Palipehutu-FNL). It has been difficult, given the chaotic environment of Burundi in the late 1990s to clearly identify the rebel perpetrators of one-sided violence when a large number of rebel movements existed simultaneously. Since this violence was carried out by organised movements -but it has not been possible to establish specifically what group did what- violence perpetrated against civilians by Hutu groups opposing the Tutsi-dominated government has been clustered onto this actor. The UCDP intends to fine-tune this variable further in the future, focusing more on aspects other than having an announced name.

5.13 OSID

If the non-state actor is listed in the UCDP One-sided Dataset, the OSID (one-sided identifier) is listed in this field.

5.14 NSID

If the non-state actor is part of one or more of the dyads included in the UCDP Non-state Dataset, the NSID (non-state identifier) of that dyad is listed.

NSID is a string variable, where the numbers are separated by a comma (',').

5.15 Splinter

Splinter is a dummy variable that indicates whether a non-state actor was formed by breaking away from an actor that has also been registered in UCDP data.

1 Indicates that it was, while 0 indicates that it was not.

5.16 Name_Prev

If the dummy variable Splinter is given the value 1, the acronym for the group from which a given non-state actor broke away is listed under Name_prev.

5.17 ActorID_Prev

The ActorID (actor identifier) of the group, from which a given non-state actor broke away, is listed under ActorID_prev.

5.18 Alliance

Alliance is a dummy variable that indicates whether a non-state actor has entered into an alliance with another non-state actor, also registered in UCDP data, and thus created a new non-state actor (see section 4).

1 indicates that it has, while 0 indicates that it has not.

5.19 Name_Alliance

If the dummy variable Alliance is given the value 1, the name of said alliance in acronymic form, is listed under Name_alliance.

5.20 ActorID_Alliance

If the dummy variable Alliance is given the value 1, the ActorID (actor identifier) of said alliance, is listed under ActorID_alliance.

5.21 Location

For all non-state actors that have at any point been registered in UCDP data on armed conflict (i.e. in the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset or in the UCDP Dyadic Dataset), the location is set to the location of the incompatibility. Hence, if a conflict is fought over governmental power in country A, the location of the non-state actor challenging the government is set to country A, even if most of the fighting is taking place in country B and C. The location variable should thus not be interpreted as the geographical location of the fighting.³

For non-state actors *not* registered in UCDP data on armed conflict, the location variable captures the country in which the bulk of recorded non-state conflict or one-sided activity has been recorded.

5.22 GWNoLoc

This field contains the country code(s) for the state(s) listed in the Location variable.

GWNoLoc is a string variable, where the numbers are separated by a comma (',').

5.23 Region

Region of Location. This variable groups the various conflicts into five geographical categories, dependent on the location of the conflict. Table 2 summarizes these categories:

Region	Name	StartGWNo	EndGWNo
1	Europe	200	395
2	Middle East	630	698

³ In future versions of this dataset the location of the fighting will also be included.

Region	Name	StartGWNo	EndGWNo
3	Asia	700	990
4	Africa	400	625
5	Americas	2	165

6. UCDP datasets compatible with the UCDP Non-State Actor Dataset

- UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset v. 4-2009
- UCDP Dyadic Dataset v. 1-2009
- UCDP Battle-deaths Dataset v.5-2009
- UCDP Non-state Dataset v.2.1-2009
- UCDP One-sided Dataset v.1.3-2009

All of the above datasets, and their respective codebooks, can be downloaded from the UCDP's webpage at:

http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/UCDP/data_and_publications/datasets.htm