
UCDP Drones in GED Codebook

Uppsala Conflict Data Program

Department of Peace and Conflict Research
Uppsala University

This version compiled by Therese Pettersson (2022)

When using this data, please always cite:

Davies, Shawn, Therese Pettersson & Magnus Öberg, 2022, "Organized violence 1989-2021 and drone warfare", *Journal of Peace Research*, 59(4).

Data extracted from UCDP systems on 2022-05-23

Contents

1. Introduction	3
2. Variables in the UCDP Drones in GED	3
Appendix 1 UCDP definitions	6
Definition of State-based Armed Conflict	6
Definition of Non-State conflict	7
Definition of One-sided violence	8

1. Introduction

This document describes the UCDP Drones in GED, a project within the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.

UCDP Drones in GED is a global dataset and covers the world between 2001-01-01 and 2021-12-31. It is a sub-set of the UCDP Geo-referenced Events Dataset.

Only events linkable to a UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict, a UCDP Non-State Conflict or a UCDP One-Sided Violence instance are included. Events are included for the entire period, i.e. both for the years when such conflicts were active and for the years when such conflicts were not active.

See the UCDP Geo-referenced Events Dataset Codebook for definitions, <https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/ged/ged221.pdf>

2. Variables in the UCDP Drones in GED

Note that the release of UCDP Drones in GED is not synchronized perfectly with the other UCDP datasets, thus data discrepancies may appear due to data revisions.

Variable name	Content	Type
id	A unique numeric ID identifying each event in the UCDP GED	integer
relid	Used in older versions of the dataset	
year	The year of the event	integer
type_of_violence	Type of UCDP conflict: 1: state-based conflict 2: non-state conflict 3: one-sided violence	integer
conflict_new_id	<p>A unique conflict identification code for each individual conflict in the dataset.</p> <p>UCDP Conflict ID for state based, non-state conflicts and one-sided violence as per the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset and UCDP Non-State Dataset and UCDP One-Sided dataset version 22.1.</p> <p>Fully compatible with UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, UCDP Non-State Dataset and UCDP One-Sided Violence Dataset versions 17.1 and later.</p> <p>This identifier is unique across the dataset (i.e. a non-state conflict cannot have the same identifier as a state-based conflict or a one-sided instance), irrespective of type of violence, and may be used for filtering and aggregation</p>	integer

	Warning: Not compatible with pre-17.1 versions of any UCDP datasets.	
conflict_name	Name of the UCDP conflict to which the event belongs. For non-state conflicts and one-sided violence this is the same as the dyad name.	string(9999)
dyad_new_id	<p>A unique conflict identification code for each individual dyad in the dataset.</p> <p>UCDP Dyad ID for state based conflicts, non-state conflicts and one-sided incidences as per the UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, UCDP Non-State Dataset and UCDP One-Sided Violence Datasets versions 22.1.</p> <p>Fully compatible with UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset, UCDP Non-State Dataset and UCDP One-Sided Violence Dataset versions 17.1 and later.</p> <p>This identifier is unique across the dataset (i.e. a non-state conflict cannot have the same identifier as a state-based conflict or a one-sided instance), irrespective of type of violence, and may be used for filtering and aggregation</p> <p>Warning: Not compatible with pre-17.1 versions of any UCDP datasets.</p>	integer
side_b	The name of Side B in the dyad. In state-based always the rebel movement or rivalling government. In one-sided violence always “civilians”.	string(9999)
adm_1	Name of the first order (largest) administrative division where the event took place	string(9999)
adm_2	Name of the second order administrative division where the event took place	string(9999)
latitude	Latitude (in decimal degrees)	numeric(9,6)
longitude	Longitude (in decimal degrees)	numeric(9,6)
country	Name of the country in which the event takes place.	string(999)
date_start	The earliest possible date when the event has taken place.	Date YYYY-MM-DD
date_end	The last possible date when the event has taken place.	Date YYYY-MM-DD
deaths_a	The best estimate of deaths sustained by side a.	integer
	Always 0 for one-sided violence events.	
deaths_b	The best estimate of deaths sustained by side b.	integer
	Always 0 for one-sided violence events.	
deaths_civilians	The best estimate of dead civilians in the event.	integer
	For non-state or state-based events, this is the number of collateral damage resulting in fighting between side a and side b. For one-sided violence, it is the number of civilians killed by side a.	

deaths_unknown	The best estimate of deaths of persons of unknown status.	integer
best	The best (most likely) estimate of total fatalities resulting from an event. It is always the sum of deaths_a , deaths_b , deaths_civilians and deaths_unknown .	integer
high	The highest reliable estimate of total fatalities	integer
low	The lowest reliable estimate of total fatalities	integer
operator	The actor operating the drone. This could be a primary party or a secondary warring party to the conflict.	string(9999)

Appendix 1 UCDP definitions

Definition of State-based Armed Conflict

UCDP defines state-based armed conflict 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 in a calendar year.”

The separate elements of the definition are operationalized as follows:

- (1) *Use of armed force*: 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 and per dyad (see Item 3.3 in this definition) in an incompatibility.¹
- (3) *Party*: A government of a state or any opposition organization or alliance of organizations. UCDP distinguishes between primary and secondary parties. Primary parties are those that form an incompatibility by stating incompatible positions (see Item 5 in this definition). At least one of the primary parties is the government of a state.

Secondary parties are states that enter a conflict with troops to actively support one of the primary parties. The secondary party must share the position of the primary party it is supporting in the incompatibility.

 - (3.1) *Government*: The party controlling the capital of a state.
 - (3.2) *Opposition organization*: 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 (see Item 5 in this definition). The UCDP only deals with formally organized opposition. The focus is on armed conflict involving consciously conducted and planned political campaigns rather than spontaneous violence.
 - (3.3) *Dyad*: A dyad consists of two conflicting primary parties. At least one of the primary parties must be the government of a state. In interstate conflicts, both primary parties are state governments.² In intrastate and extrasystemic conflicts, the non-governmental primary party includes one or more opposition organization(s). A conflict can include more than one dyad. If e.g. a government is opposed by three rebel groups over the same incompatibility, the conflict is made up of three dyads. Note that secondary parties (i.e. intervening states supplying troops to one of the primary parties) do not lead to the formation of additional dyads.
- (4) *State*: A state is an internationally recognised sovereign government controlling a specific territory or an internationally unrecognised government controlling a

¹ Note that an incompatibility involving two opposition groups, each involved in clashes with the government resulting in 20 deaths, would not be recorded as a conflict (neither dyad reached the minimum casualty threshold), whereas an incompatibility involving a single opposition group that caused 25 battle-deaths would be included in the dataset.

² With three exceptions, the primary parties in interstate conflicts consist of only one actor on each side (and thus only constitute one dyad). See description of Location (Section 4.1) below for further information on these cases.

specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally recognized sovereign government previously controlling the same territory.

(5) *Incompatibility concerning government or territory*: The incompatibility, as stated by the parties, must concern government and/or territory.

(5.1) *Incompatibility*: The stated general incompatible positions.

(5.2) *Incompatibility concerning government*: Incompatibility concerning type of political system, the replacement of the central government, or the change of its composition.

(5.3) *Incompatibility concerning territory*: Incompatibility concerning the status of a territory, e.g. the change of the state in control of a certain territory (interstate conflict), secession or autonomy (intrastate conflict).

As a country can experience several simultaneous conflicts, it is essential to differentiate between them, UCDP collects information on conflicts where the incompatibility, i.e. the general incompatible positions, concerns either government or territory or both. Note that the incompatibility expressed in terms of government or a specific territory is crude in the sense that possible underlying incompatibilities are not considered. In other words, the stated incompatibility is *what* the parties are (or claim to be) fighting over, but it says nothing about *why* the parties are fighting. However, classifying incompatibilities as stated manifestations of possible underlying incompatibilities or goals allows for the intersubjective compilation of the list of armed conflicts.

While a state can only experience one intrastate conflict over government in a given year, that same state can simultaneously be a primary party to one or more interstate conflicts over government and/or territory. In the case of intrastate territorial conflicts, multiple conflicts can be recorded over different territories in a state in a given year.

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

Definition of One-sided violence

One-sided violence is 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.

The separate elements of the definition are operationalized as follows:

(1) *Use of armed force*: use of arms in order to exert violent force, resulting in death

(1.1) Arms: any material means, e.g. manufactured weapons but also sticks, stones,
fire, water, etc

(2) *25 deaths*: a minimum of 25 civilian deaths per year and per actor

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

(4) *Formally organized group*: any non-governmental group of people having announced a name for their group and using armed force

(5) *State*: a state is

(5.1) an internationally recognized sovereign government controlling a specified territory, or

(5.2) an internationally unrecognized government controlling a specified territory whose sovereignty is not disputed by another internationally recognized sovereign government previously controlling the same territory.

(6) *Civilians*: unarmed people who are not active members of the security forces of the state, or members of an organized armed militia or opposition group. Government

officials, such as members of parliament, governors, and councilors, are also excluded and are instead seen as representatives of the government of a state.

Note that the UCDP definition of civilian does not refer to the definition of civilian under international law.

(7) *Extrajudicial killings in custody*: when the government of a state kills a person in its custody

(7.1) *custody*: when the person is located in a prison or another type of governmental facility