

Codebook UCDP Non-state Conflict Issues and Actors Dataset¹

Version 1.0.

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Please cite: von Uexkull, Nina, and Therese Pettersson. 2018. "Issues and Actors in African Nonstate Conflicts: A New Data Set." *International Interactions*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03050629.2018.1493478>.

¹ The data collection on issues and actor characteristics in non-state conflict was funded by research grant SWE-2010-063 by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). We thank numerous colleagues at Uppsala University and the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) for crucial feedback during the development of the data project. For questions about the data contact therese.pettersson@pcr.uu.se or nina.von_uexkull@pcr.uu.se. The data can be accessed at <http://pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/ucdp-data/>

A dyad-year dataset containing information on conflict issues and key actor characteristics in non-state conflict. The data builds on and extends the UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset. The dataset covers non-state conflicts in Africa, 1989-2011, and is compatible with the UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset v. 2.5-2016.

A description of the scope of the data collection and descriptive statistics can be found in: von Uexkull, Nina, and Therese Pettersson. 2018. "Issues and Actors in African Nonstate Conflicts: A New Data Set." *International Interactions*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03050629.2018.1493478>. (open access)

More detailed information on the coding process and a sample coding for the dataset can be found in the [Supplementary Material](#) to the article.

More detailed information on the coding of non-state conflict can be found in Sundberg, Ralph, Kristine Eck, and Joakim Kreutz. 2012. Introducing the UCDP Non-State Conflict Dataset. *Journal of Peace Research* 49(2):351–362. doi:10.1177/0022343311431598.

Information on specific sources used for specific coding decision is available upon request.

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

Codebook

Variables in the UCDP Non-state Conflict Issues and Actors Dataset

Variable name	Content	Type
dyad_id	The identifier of the Non-state conflict. This version of the UCDP Non-state Conflict Issues and Actors Dataset is compatible with the UCDP Non-state Conflict Dataset v.2.5-2016. In 2017 the ID system for conflicts, actors and dyads was changed in order to make it unique across all UCDP core datasets and all UCDP types of violence. This variable corresponds to the Dyad ID reported in the v.2.5-2016 Dataset. For the Dyad ID according to the new ID system, please consult the dyadid_new variable.	Integer
dyadid_new	The unique identifier of the Non-state conflict. This version of the UCDP Non-state Conflict Issues and Actors Dataset is compatible with the UCDP Non-state Conflict Dataset v.2.5-2016. In 2017 the ID system for conflicts, actors and dyads was changed in order to make it unique across all UCDP core datasets and all UCDP types of violence. This variable contains information on the Dyad ID according to the new ID system. To download a conversion table containing new and old IDs, visit http://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/ .	Integer
org	This variable indicates the organizational level of the warring sides. The level of organization is determined	Integer

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

year	The year of observation.	Integer
gwno_location	The Gleditsch and Ward code for the countries where fighting took place in the dyad-year. Comma-separated if multiple.	string

side_a_name	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	Integer
side_a_id	<p>The ID of the groups that make up Side A. For conflicts with multiple actors fighting together a temporary coalition ID has been assigned.</p> <p>This version of the UCDP Non-state Conflict Issues and Actors Dataset is compatible with the UCDP Non-state Conflict Dataset v.2.5-2016. In 2017 the ID system for conflicts, actors and dyads was changed in order to make it unique across all UCDP core datasets and all UCDP types of violence. This variable corresponds to the Side A ID reported in the v.2.5-2016 Dataset. To download a conversion table containing new and old IDs, visit http://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/.</p>	Integer
side_a_live	<p>Side A Livelihood: 1=Agropastoralist, 2=Pastoralist, 3=Farmer, 4=Other/Unknown, 5= N/A</p> <p>For all communal groups that mobilize along the lines of particular livelihoods this variable notes that livelihood. This variable is only coded for organizational level 3 groups (informally organized groups). For groups of organizational level 1 and 2 this variable takes the value of 5.</p>	Integer
side_a_rel	Side A Religious (dummy variable). This variable notes where religion is salient in the mobilization of the armed group involved in non-state conflict. If not, this variable takes the value of 0.	Integer
side_b_name	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.	Integer
side_b_id	<p>The ID of the groups that make up Side B. For conflicts with multiple actors fighting together a temporary coalition ID has been assigned.</p> <p>This version of the UCDP Non-state Conflict Issues and Actors Dataset is compatible with the UCDP Non-state Conflict Dataset v.2.5-2016. In 2017 the ID system for conflicts, actors and dyads was changed in order to make it unique across all UCDP core datasets and all UCDP types of violence. This variable corresponds to the Side B ID reported in the v.2.5-2016 Dataset. To download a conversion table containing new and old</p>	Integer

	IDs, visit http://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/ .	
side_b_live	Side B Livelihood: 1=Agropastoralist, 2=Pastoralist, 3=Farmer, 4=Other, 5= N/A For all communal groups that mobilize along the lines of particular livelihoods this variable notes that livelihood. This variable is only coded for organizational level 3 groups (informally organized groups). For groups of organizational level 1 and 2 this variable takes the value of 5.	Integer
side_b_rel	Side B Religious (dummy variable). This variable notes where religion is salient in the mobilization of the armed group involved in non-state conflict. If not, this variable takes the value of 0.	Integer
dyadic_live	Dyadic Livelihood. The livelihood of both groups involved in conflict, always in numerical order (i.e. if Side A has livelihood 3, and Side B has livelihood 2, dyadic_live will always be 23, never 32).	Integer
issue_territory	Territorial conflict issues (dummy variable). This category includes all territorial issues that are claimed by both groups e.g. border demarcation, access to grazing land, wells or arable land. It is distinguished from the authority category in that the groups are not fighting about whose decisions will be impose upon the other group through the local or national government, but over a piece of land.	Integer
issue_authority	Authority conflict issues (dummy variable). This category includes all conflicts related to the formal administration of the state (e.g. control of the local administration, influence in the state administration). Also electoral violence between supporters of candidates of different political parties falls into this category. Alternatively, authority can be informal such as chiefdom/kingdom within an ethnic group or leadership struggles within a rebel groups.	Integer
issue_other	Other conflict issue (dummy variable). Residual other issue cluster for all issues that fit neither the authority or territorial categories.	Integer
subissue_agland_water	Agricultural land and/or water conflict issues (dummy variable). Land-use conflicts where water or agricultural lands are the bones of contentions. Subissue of territory cluster	Integer

of issues.

subissue_religious	Religious conflict issue (dummy variable). At least one side in the conflict-dyad has made demands that are explicitly referring to religion. For instance, if a group fights for the application of Sharia law within a certain territory, the conflict issue will be coded as religious (cf. Svensson and Nilsson 2017). Subissue of residual other issue category.	Integer
subissue_formal_authority	Formal authority conflict issue (dummy variable). Conflict issue is a source of formal authority – such as control state apparatus, or particular government representatives. Subissue of authority category.	Integer
subissue_livestock	Livestock conflict issue (dummy variable). This category will include all conflicts where the main aim is to appropriate livestock from the other group. For example, violent cattle raids are very common among pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in the Sahel region. Subissue of residual other category.	Integer
subissue_informal_authority	Informal authority conflict issue (dummy variable). Conflict issue is not control of the state apparatus, but leadership within a group or a community. Sub-cluster of the authority category.	Integer
subissue_territory	Territory conflict issue (dummy variable). This category includes all territorial issues that are claimed by both groups e.g. border demarcation that do not fall into agricultural land/water subissue category. Subissue of territory.	Integer
subissue_other	Sub-issue other (dummy variable). Indicates all conflicts that have issue_other but neither are over livestock nor religion.	Integer
primary	Indicates the quality of primary source, i.e. statements from the conflicting parties themselves about what they fight over, for information on the conflict issue (max value). 5=both groups agree, 3=contradictory statements, 1=one group statement, 0=no	Integer
secondary	Indicates the quality of secondary source for information on the conflict issue (max value). 5=many, 1=few, 0=no	Integer

timeref

Indicates the quality of time reference for information on the conflict issue (max value). Integer

5=immediate AND background, 3=immediate, 2=background, 0=no

This variable indicates how close in time to the relevant conflict episode a statement was made or the secondary source was found. This allows users to distinguish between sources that indicate general issues of contention between conflicting parties and information that refers explicitly to a particular outbreak of fighting.