Understanding Political Violence in Ethiopia

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Last Updated on 2023-12-08

Objectives

- This project conducts an in-depth Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA) using the ACLED dataset to gain valuable insights into political violence in Ethiopia.

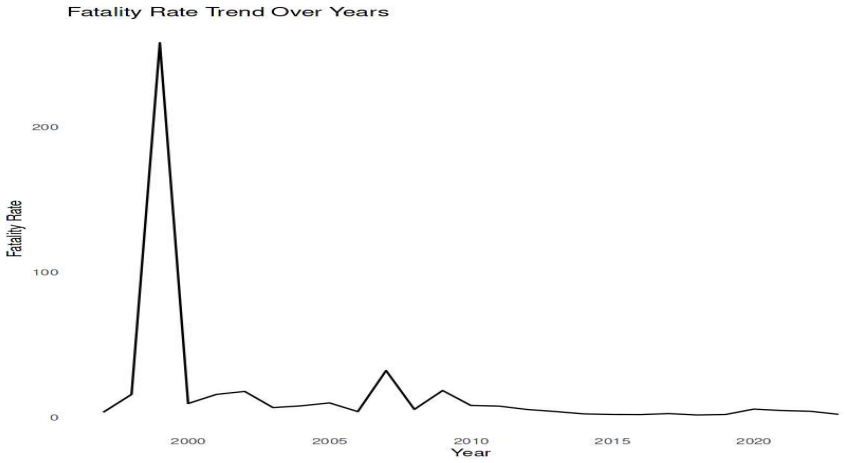
Dataset Highlights:

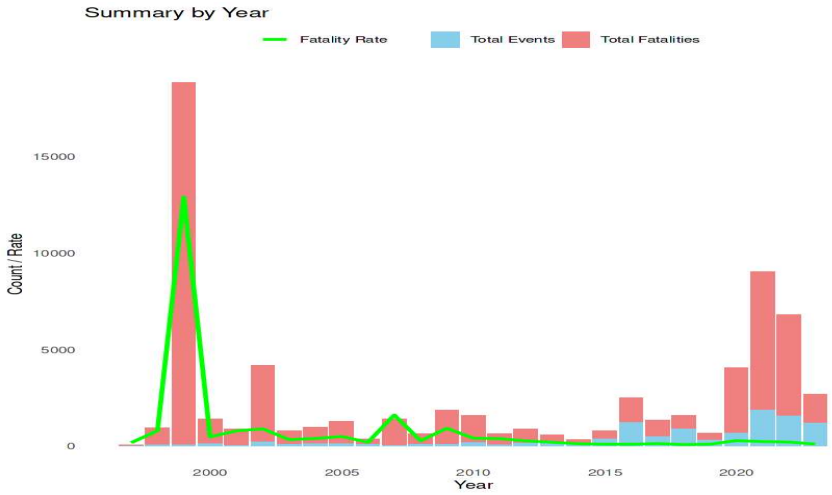
- Comprehensive information on conflict events.
- Details include actors, event types, locations, and fatalities.

Purpose:

- Our goal is to enhance our understanding of political conflicts in Ethiopia.
- The analysis aims to provide valuable insights that contribute to a comprehensive view of the dynamics and contexts surrounding these events.

Fatality Rate Over Years



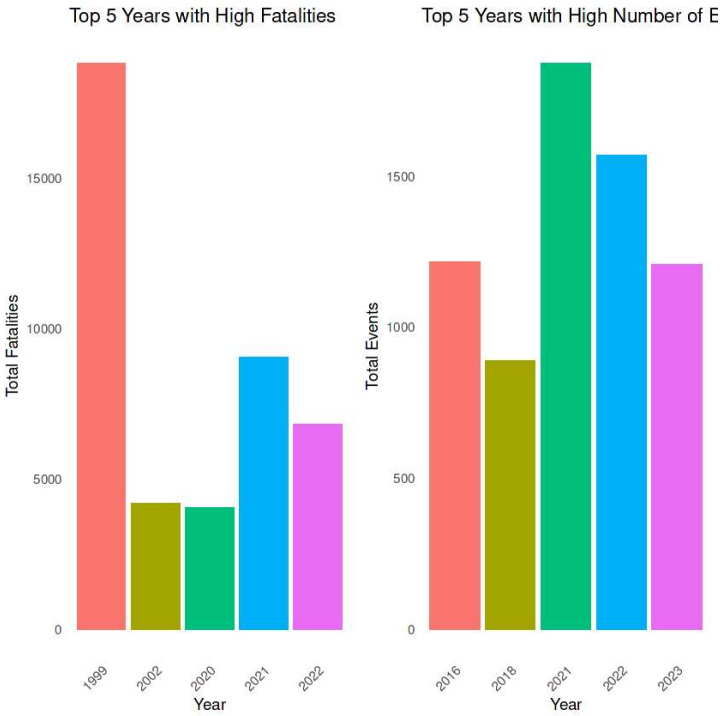


- Total number of fatalities varies significantly across the years, with notable peaks in 1999, the reason there is an outlier during 1999 due to the Eritrean--Ethiopian War.

- Years like 2021, 2022 also stand out with both exceptionally high fatality rate and number of events.

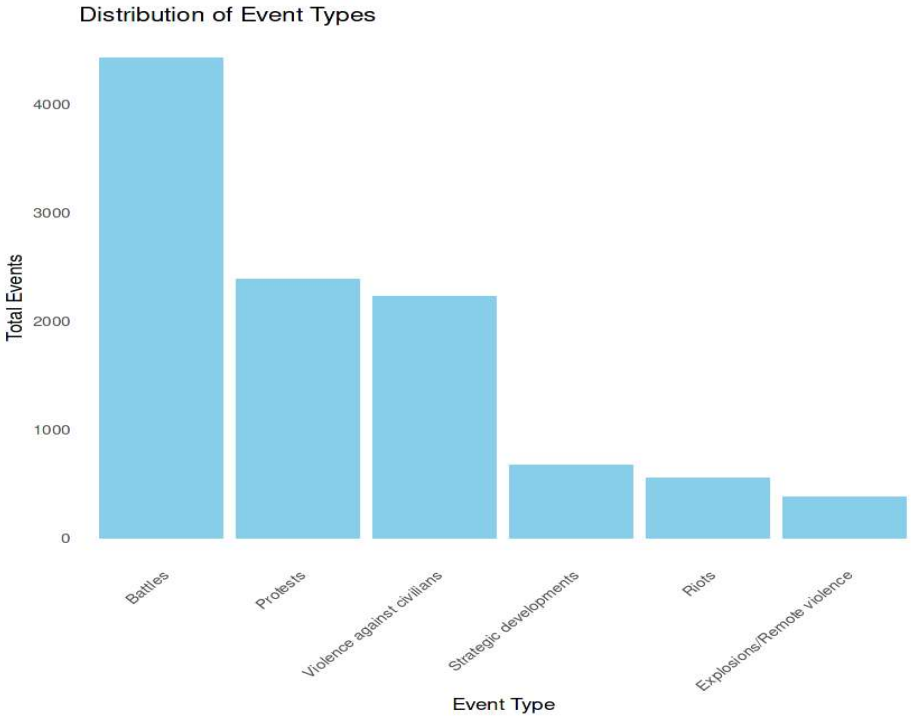
Fatality Rate Over Years Continued….

Top 5 Years by Total Events and Fatalities:



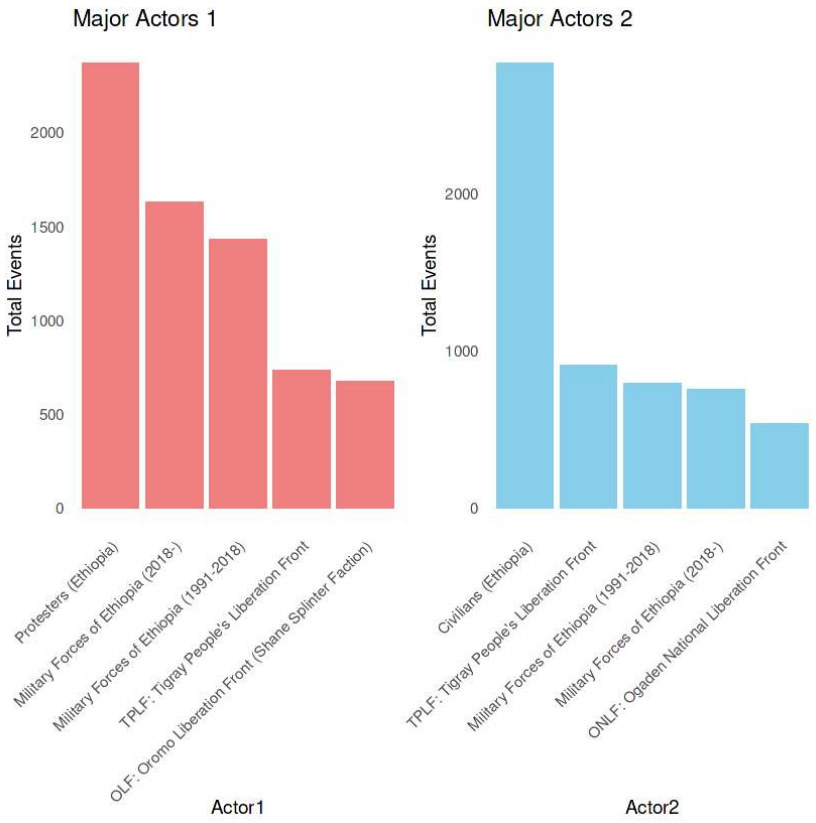
- The year 2021 records the highest number of total events.
- Notably, 1999 stands out as the year with the highest total fatalities, succeeded by 2021, 2022, 2002, and 2020.

What kinds of events are the frequent reasons for conflict?



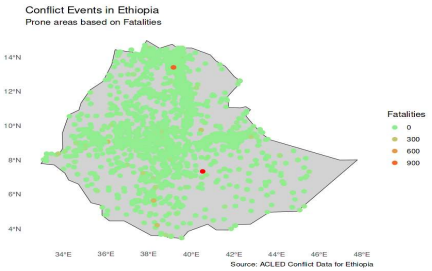
- Battles emerge as the predominant event type in the conflict, surpassing other categories in frequency.

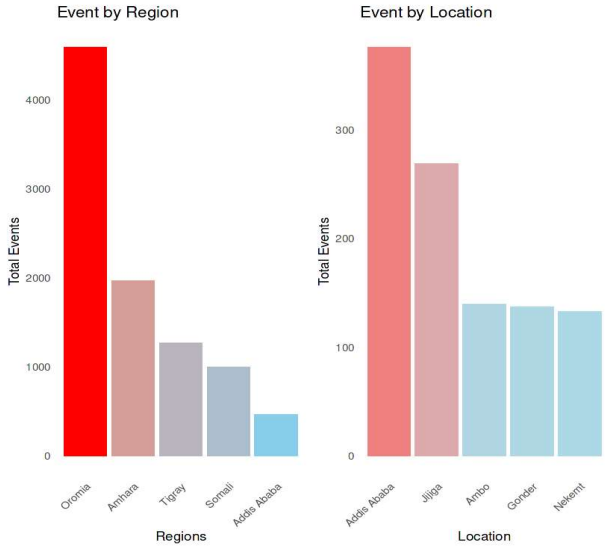
Who are the major actors?



- Protesters, categorized under Actor1, and Civilians, represented by Actor2, emerge as the primary actors in the dataset.

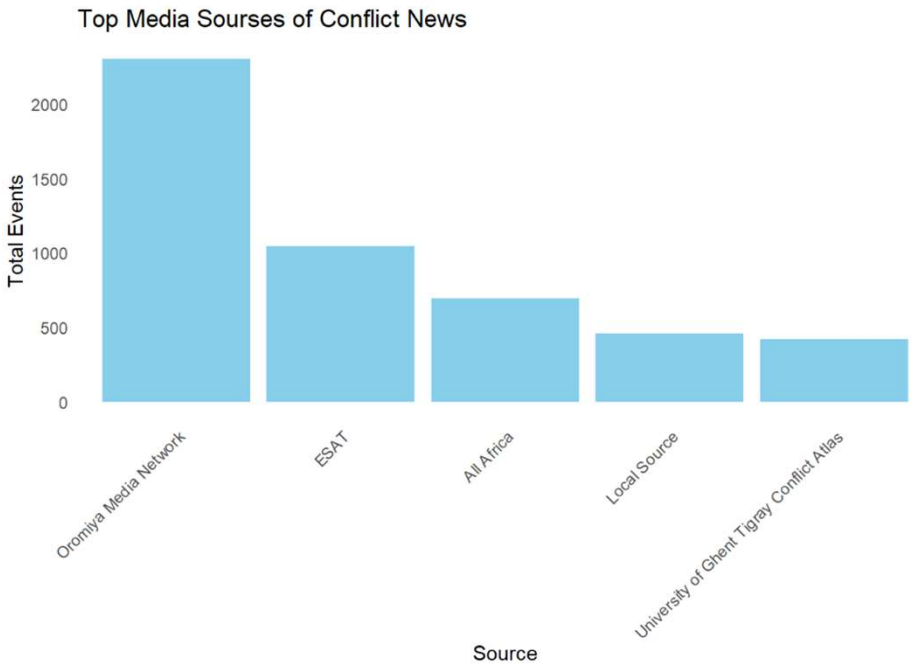
Which places are most prone to conflict?





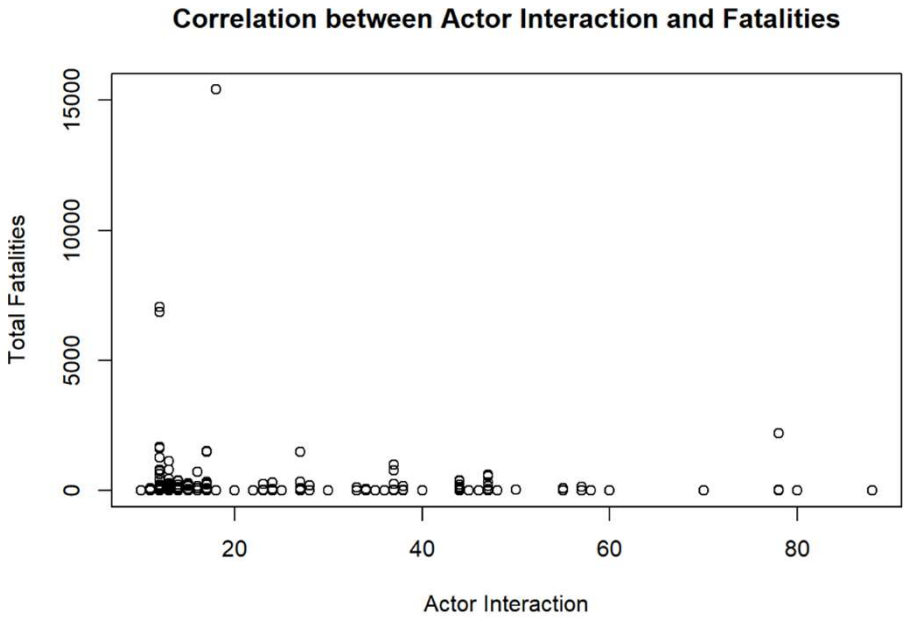
- **Oromia**, with a total of **4594 events**, stands out as the region with the highest incidence of political violence.
- **Amhara** and **Tigray** follow with **1970** and **1271 events**, respectively.
- **Addis Ababa** is a specific location with a noteworthy **468 events**, indicating a concentration of political events in the capital city.
- **Jijiga**, with **269 events**, is a notable hotspot outside the major regions.

Which media(s) has been the main source(s) of the conflict news?



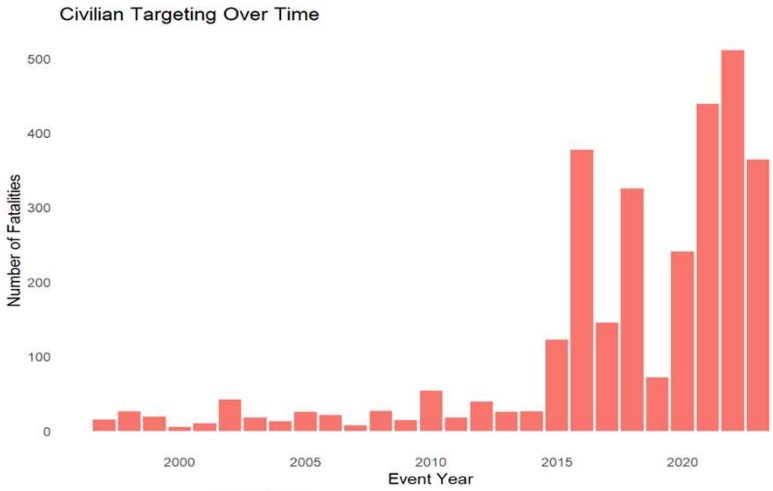
- **Oromiya Media Network** is the number one source of conflict news as we can observe from the above graph.

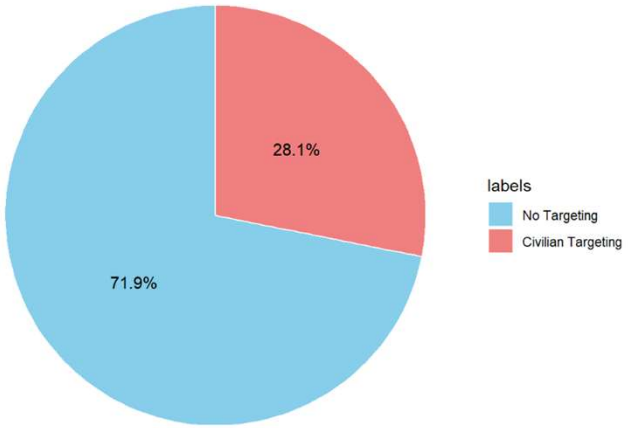
Correlation between specific actor interactions



- A correlation coefficient of **-0.03696** suggests a very weak negative correlation between the specific actor interactions and the level of violence in conflict events.

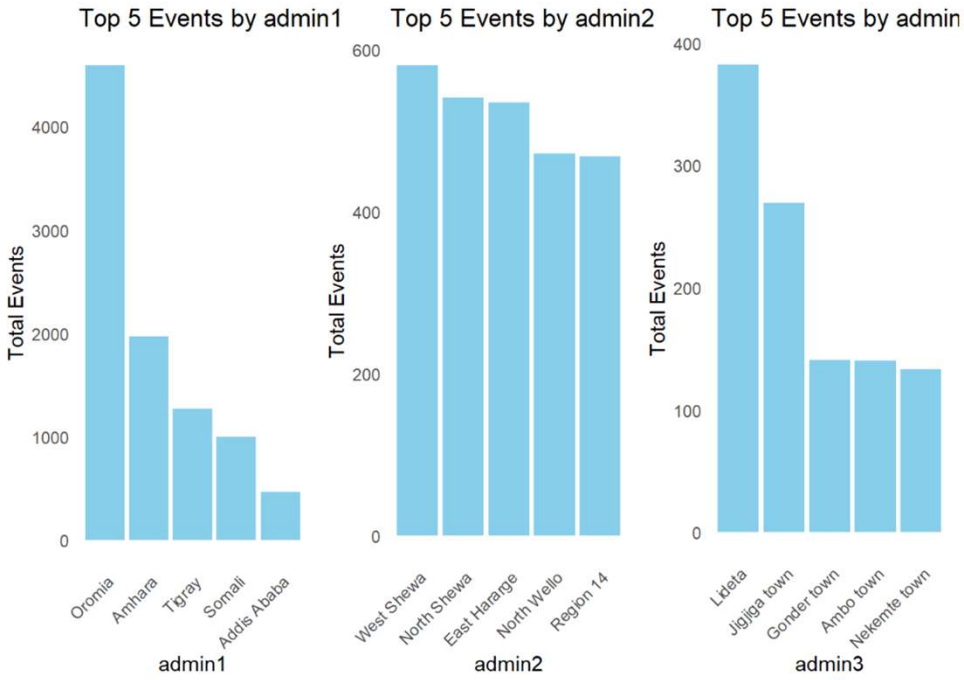
Impacts of civilian targeting in conflict events, and related trends





- Although the overall percentage of events that targeted civilians is **less than one-third**, there is a discernible **upward** trend in civilian targeting incidents over recent years.

How do different administrative divisions relate to the frequency and nature of conflict events?



- **Oromia** and **Amhara**, consistently stand out with high conflict frequencies.
- The capital city **Addis Ababa** and other towns like **Lideta** and **Jigjiga** show concentrated political events.
- **West Shewa, East Hararge,** and **North Shewa** emerge as hotspots at the **ADMIN2** level, emphasizing regional disparities.
- Specific towns like **Gonder**, **Ambo**, and **Nekemte** play noteworthy roles at the **ADMIN3** level.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions:

Regional Disparities:

- Conflict events in Ethiopia show notable regional variations, with higher frequencies consistently observed in regions like Oromia and Amhara.

Urban Concentration:

- Urban centers, including Addis Ababa and specific towns like Lideta and Jigjiga, emerge as significant focal points for political events in the context of conflict.

Temporal Trends:

- Examining temporal trends reveals dynamic fluctuations in conflict events over time, emphasizing the need for adaptive strategies in response to the evolving socio-political landscape.

Recommendations:

Enhanced Monitoring:

- Implement a robust monitoring system, especially in high-conflict regions, to promptly identify and respond to emerging issues for effective conflict prevention.

Community Engagement:

- Foster community engagement and dialogue to address underlying issues contributing to conflict, emphasizing the importance of understanding and addressing local contexts.

Urban Security Measures:

- Implement targeted security measures in urban centers, particularly in capital regions, to mitigate the impact of conflict events and ensure the stability and safety of critical areas.

THANK
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