

Integrated Conflict Analysis (ICA) + Conflict

Introduction

The Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) is a collaborative, data-driven, map-based, national level programming tool. Linked with partner consultations the ICA helps identify geographic areas where different combinations of programme themes such as safety nets, disaster risk reduction, preparedness and early warning are appropriate. It categorises areas based on differing levels of overlap between the recurrence of historical food insecurity and natural shock risks. The ICA also includes other layers – land degradation, nutrition, seasonality, livelihoods, food insecure population estimates – that provide lenses to inform programming more deeply. The ICA can also highlight geographic areas where further in-depth analyses could inform programming.

An ICA+ is a module of additional data layers added to the core ICA¹, along with supporting guidance on how WFP and its partners can use each layer for programmatic decision-making.

This document describes how an ICA+ Conflict – an ICA+ with layers designed to support conflict-related programmatic decision-making – can support geographic planning, and ensure that conflict-related activities are in harmony with national strategies related to safety nets, DRR, preparedness and early warning

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¹ See http://pgm.wfp.org/index.php/Using_the_3PA#Integrated_Context_Analysis_28ICA.29

Conflict Programming Themes

The following are the main programme themes related to conflict that the ICA+ Conflict could help place geographically by showing where conditions are appropriate.

Conflict Sensitive Programming

Conflict sensitive programming is programming that recognises that WFP's food assistance can have positive and negative impacts on local tensions or conflict. With this understanding, thoughtful programme design can ensure WFP does no harm by eliminating any negative effects while accentuating the positive effects of WFP's assistance on conflict/tensions. Conflict sensitivity is applicable to most programme themes, and includes using conflict analysis to influence programme design as well as training staff to understand conflicts in more depth and act in accordance with their knowledge.

Conflict sensitive programmes do not contribute to starting, worsening, or prolonging conflict. This can occur because of unintended consequences via numerous pathways, including but not limited to inadvertently providing material support to warring parties, stoking resentment or jealousy between population groups, or supporting actors benefiting from war economies.

Peacebuilding

A more intensive form of conflict sensitivity can include contribution to local reconciliation and national-level peacebuilding efforts, aligned with UN objectives and priorities, and always focusing on WFP's core mandate.

We can think of WFP's engagement with peacebuilding as going beyond avoiding negatively affecting conflict dynamics, to actively trying to have a positive effect. In other words, peacebuilding tries to contribute to varying degrees to preventing, de-escalating or shortening violent conflict.

WFP always maintains a hunger focus, but it is still possible to have positive effects on local conflict dynamics if we design our safety net type activities or other forms of longer-term food security focused programming with this secondary objective in mind. Incorporating post-conflict peacebuilding elements into WFP programmes is most logical in areas where conflict intensity has been high but is now low. Because conflict dynamics typically vary across a country, peacebuilding can proceed in peaceful areas even if fighting continues elsewhere in the country.

ICA+ Conflict Overview

An ICA+ Conflict consists of three "lenses" (data layers; described below) overlaid on top of the ICA Categories, allowing planners to understand which areas most need programmes to be conducted in a conflict sensitive manner, after the broad thematic strategy has been established. It can also help to identify areas that may be suitable for peacebuilding as part of WFP programming.

A CO can do an ICA+ conflict at any time if an ICA is already in place, or parallel to the development of a new ICA. A CO should consider doing an ICA+ Conflict if there is ongoing violent conflict in the country, or if the country is in a process of transitioning out of conflict.

In addition to the development of ICA+ maps, conflict and related programmatic themes may be included in the consultation process. The ICA process involves a Programme Consultation wherein WFP and its partners consider the ICA maps and data tables, combine this information with local knowledge of the country, and develop a broad national level strategy recommendation comprising combinations of programme themes that are appropriate in different parts of the country.

Mapping and discussing conflict issues may be politically sensitive in some countries. Country Offices should assess how widely such analysis should be shared, erring on the side of caution so as not to do harm to WFP's objectives. The ICA+ Conflict can stand alone from the main ICA process if prudent.

ICA+ Conflict Programme Questions and Lenses

The following section presents programmatic questions and data lenses that can provide answers.

Where does WFP need to be most careful not to worsen conflict?

All programming, particularly in areas with high or medium levels of conflict intensity, should be conflict sensitive. At a minimum, WFP should always apply Do No Harm principles and avoid negatively affecting conflict dynamics with our activities. At the same time, we should be acutely aware of our potential to do harm in areas where conflict is relatively more intense. The following table suggests some appropriate measures in response to different levels of conflict intensity. The following text describes lenses that can identify areas that have seen differing levels of conflict intensity.

	Areas with high or medium conflict intensity	Areas with low conflict intensity
Conflict analysis	Detailed conflict analysis including effects of programme implementation on conflict dynamics, updated annually or semi-annually	Basic conflict analysis (e.g. half-day session), including effects of programme on conflict dynamics
Training of staff on conflict sensitivity	All programme staff trained, including at relevant sub offices	At least one trained CO staff member (CS focal point)
Risk management	Conflict risks included in CO risk register, with mitigating actions	Include conflict in risk register if relevant
SLP and CBPP	Include discussion of conflict dynamics in SLP and CBPP	N/A

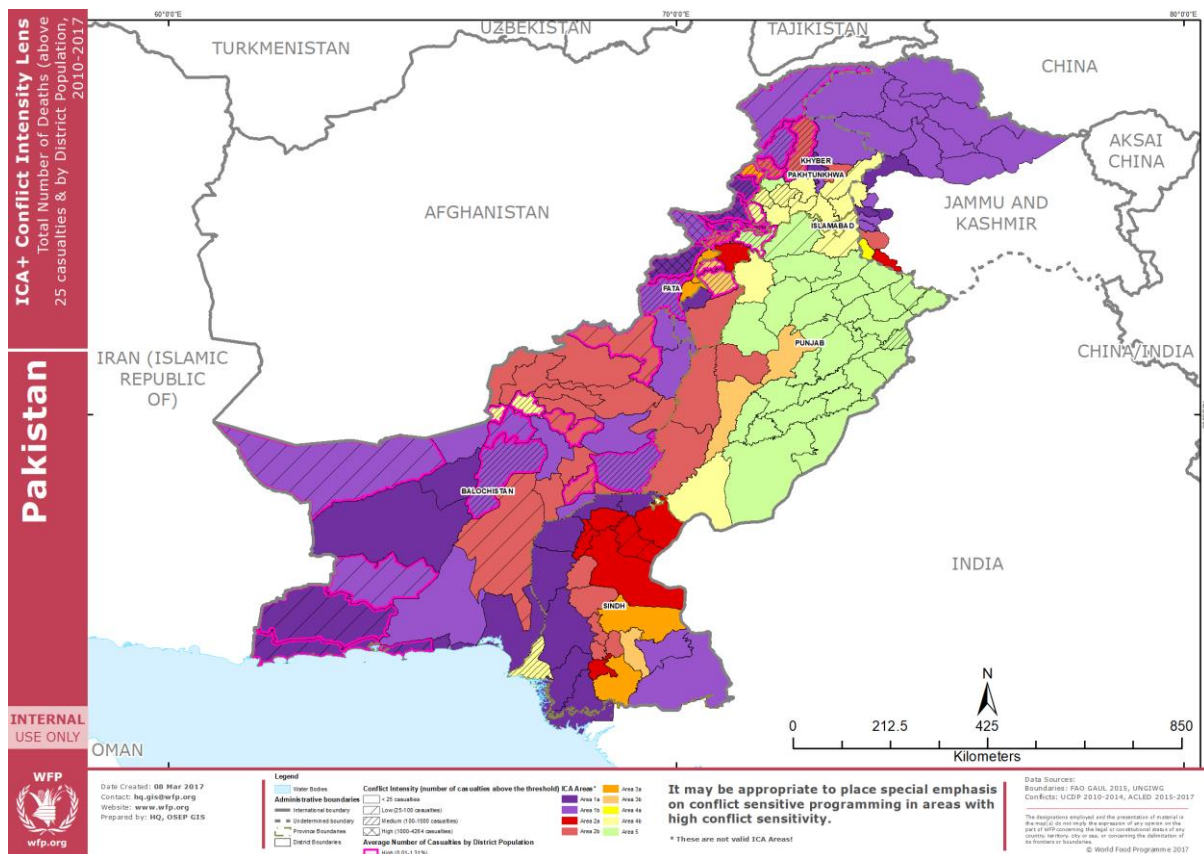
Violence Levels Lens

The level of violence speaks to the intensity of conflict. The Violence Levels Lens maps the number of battlefield deaths as a simple proxy for conflict intensity in a given area. This indicator is widely availability from free, public sources, and is a standard in the field of study. It does not measure the impact of conflict per se, but follows the logic that more deaths generally point to more intense conflict. It is good practice to complement the Violence Levels Lens with the Displacement Sources Lens, as the latter indicator speaks more to impact.

The time-period of analysis depends on context; five years is a useful starting point for longer running conflicts, but more or less years may be practical in different contexts.

The Violence Levels Lens map shows two different versions of this indicator:

1. The raw number of battlefield deaths in second level administrative regions (2LAR), classed as low/medium/high, excluding areas which have less than 25 battlefield deaths (a common academic threshold)
 - This highlights which 2LAR have been seen higher conflict intensities than others, and can support conflict sensitivity prioritisation accordingly
 2. The number of battlefield deaths as a percentage of a 2LAR population, classed low/high
 - This can act as a check against the previous layer (raw numbers) to identify 2LAR that have had high numbers of deaths in large versus small populations.
- **Indicator:** Battlefield deaths
 - **Time Series:** Length of conflict, up to five years
 - **Resolution:** Second level administrative region is desirable
 - **Sources:** ACLED

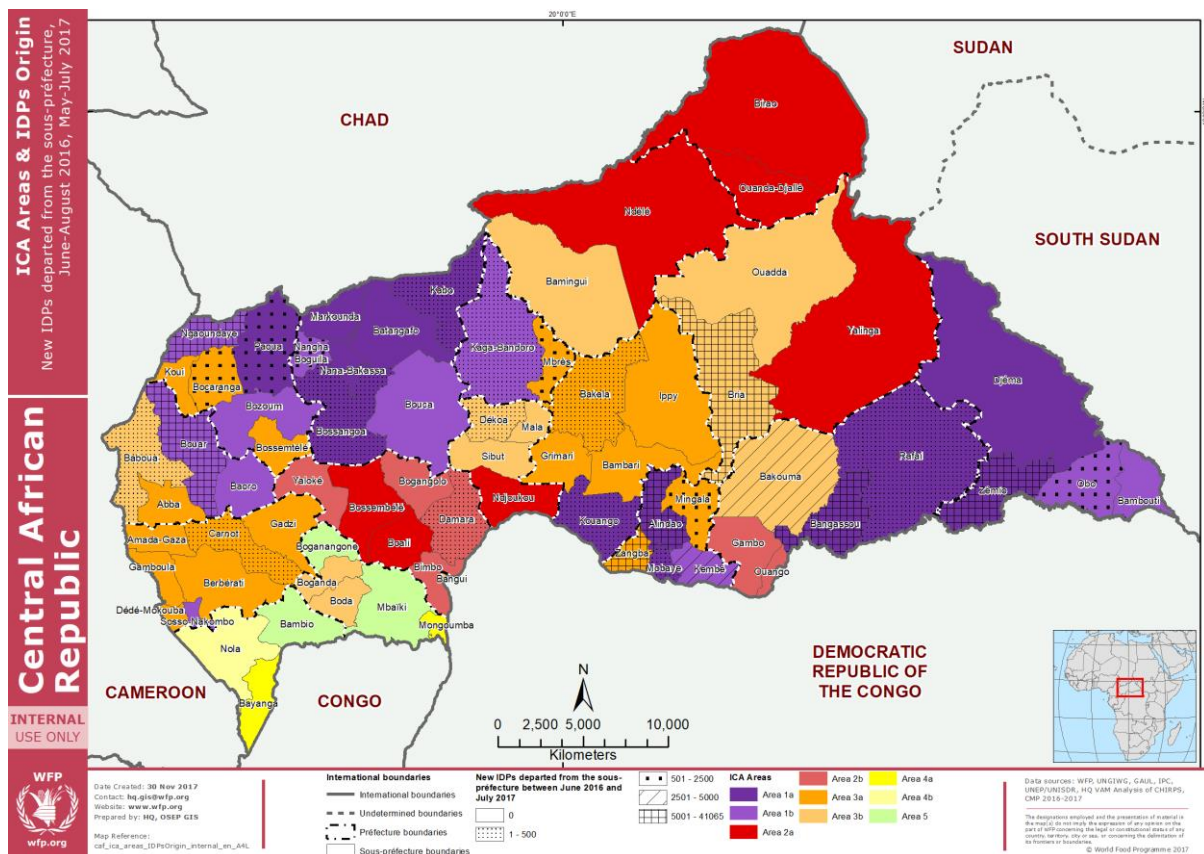


Displacement Origins Lens

The Displacement Origins Lens speaks to the humanitarian impact of conflict. Whilst displacement is not the only humanitarian impact of conflict, it is a significant negative effect. As an indicator of conflict intensity, the number of people leaving an area has the potential to capture situations where fear – along with or even rather than outright violence – is a major factor. This in turn can speak to communal tensions in a way that battle-related deaths cannot. Regardless of the cause, conflict affected areas that are sources of displacement should be focus areas for conflict sensitivity.

The Displacement Origins Lens shows two different versions of this indicator:

1. The raw number of people displaced in 2LAR, classed as low/medium/high
 2. The number of people displaced as a percentage of a 2LAR population, classed low/medium/high
 - o This can act as a check against the previous layer (raw numbers) to identify 2LAR that have had high displacement numbers in large versus small populations.
- **Indicator:** Number of persons displaced by origin district/province
 - **Time Series:** Length of conflict, up to five years
 - **Resolution:** Second level administrative region is desirable; place name / lat-long is best
 - **Sources:** local national figures, UNHCR, IOM, IDMC

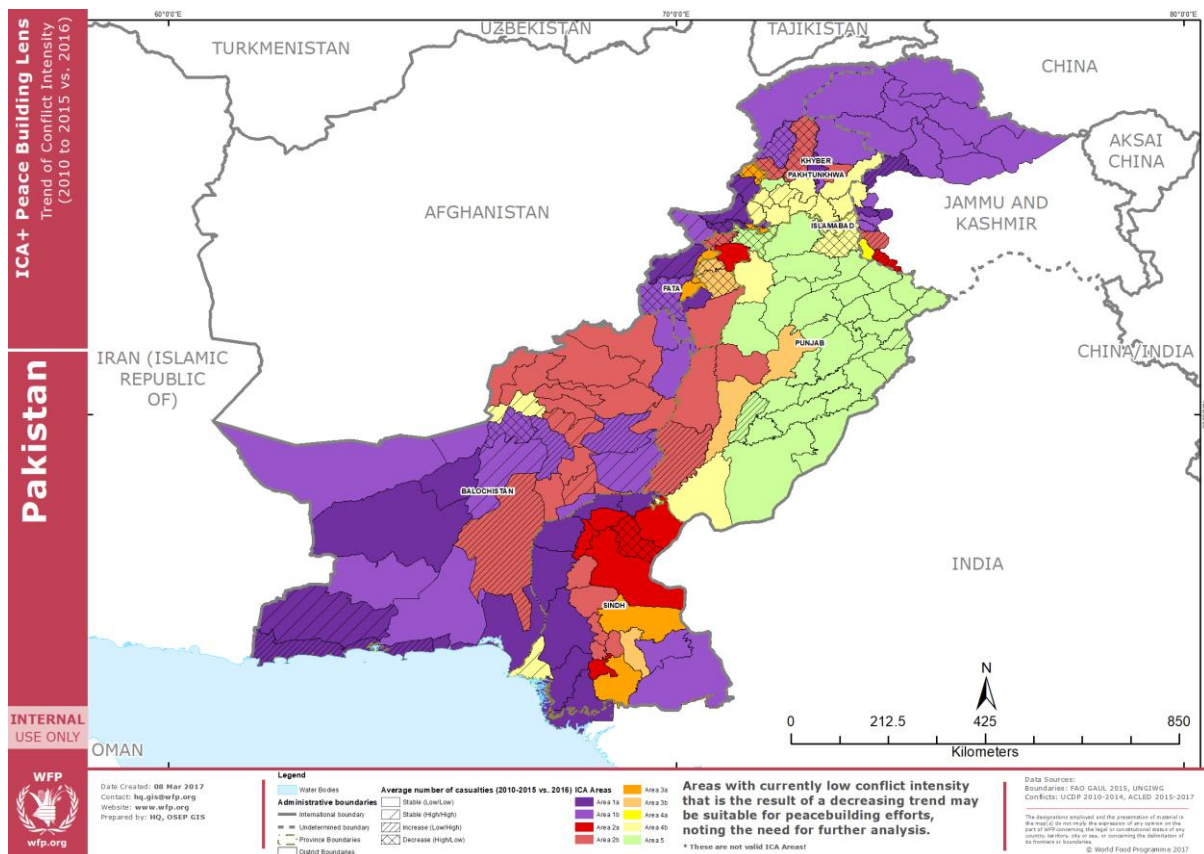


Where can WFP most effectively reinforce peace?

Post-Conflict Peacebuilding Focus Lens

The Peacebuilding Focus Lens is a variation on the Conflict Intensity Lens above, and focuses on the year-over-year trend to identify areas that have been peaceful for the most recent 2-3 years but were previously heavily conflict-affected. These areas are may be well suited to post conflict peacebuilding efforts that work to strengthen fragile peace.

- **Indicator:** Battlefield deaths
- **Time Series:** Length of conflict, up to five years
- **Resolution:** Second level administrative region is desirable
- **Sources:** ACLED



Conflict Factors Lens

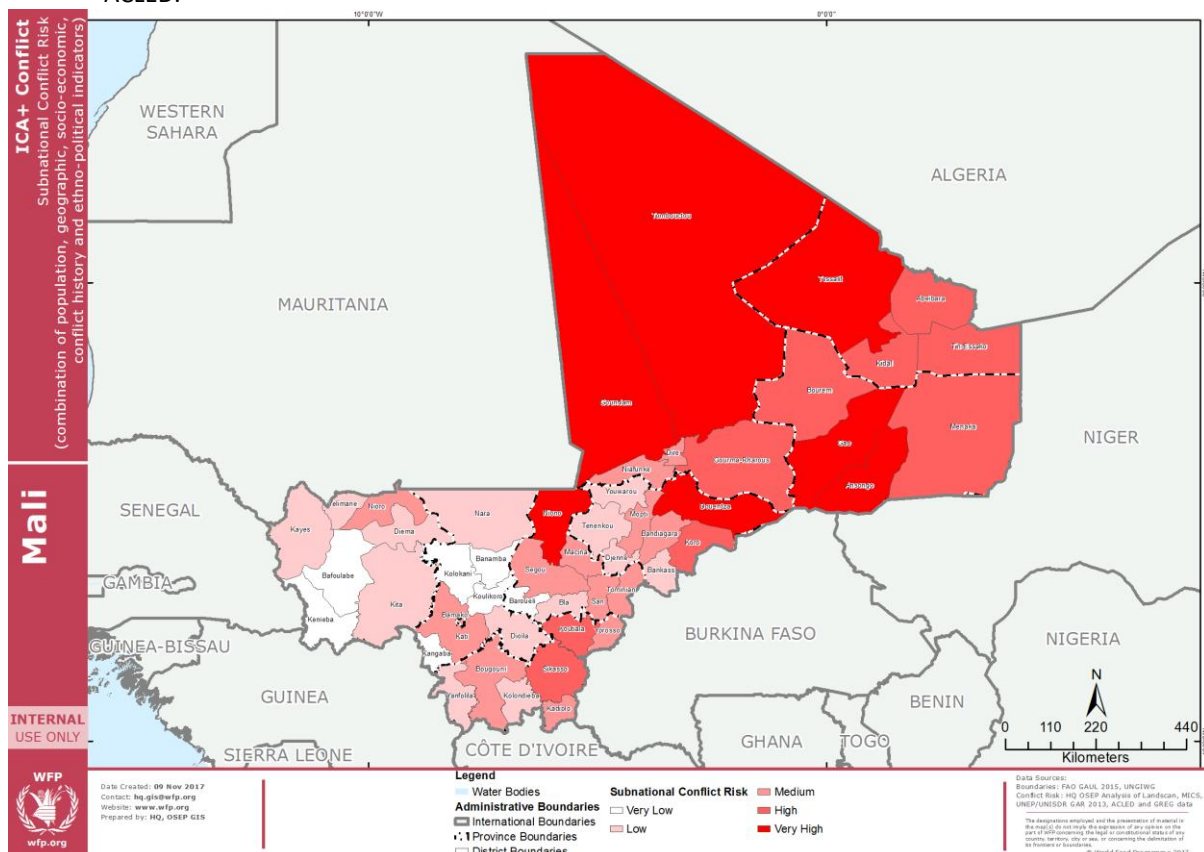
It is possible to combine and map a number of indicators identified in academic research as relevant to the likelihood of future violent conflict; the map below shows the results of recreating one such model for Mali.² This model does not provide a probabilistic assessment of conflict in a defined period; rather, it aggregates factors that have significant statistical associations with conflict, and compares districts along these dimensions to identify which districts rate higher in these indicators than do others.

Indicator:

- **Population Index:** 2LAR population is normalized with the population living in the 2LAR containing the capital city and then broken down to a 5-point scale).
- **Geographic Index:** two variables forming a 3-point scale are assigned to the 2LAR:
 - The first one indicates whether the 2LAR is located further away from the capital city than the average distance measured across the entire country;
 - The second one indicates whether the 2LAR is located on a different island or along an international border.)
- **Socioeconomic Index:** health, financial, education indicators that, in critical conditions, could be conflict triggers (for example, infant mortality, economic inequality/poverty, secondary school education, GDP per capita etc.) are broken down to a very low-very high classification and then crosstabbed and reclassified with a 5-point scale.
- **Ethno-political Exclusion Index:** two variables forming a 5-point scale when combined are assigned to the 2LAR:
 - The first one indicates whether the dominant ethnic group has access to national power (0 for ethnic groups in power, 1 for ethnic groups being junior partners in the administrative areas, 2 for ethnic groups excluded);
 - The second one indicates the share of surface area occupied by the largest ethnic group (with a 3-point scale).
- **Conflict History Index:** to account for the conflict history, two variables forming a 5-point scale are assigned to the 2LAR:

² <https://www.prio.org/utility/DownloadFile.ashx?id=752&type=publicationfile>

- The first one, aimed to simulate the conflict intensity, indicates the number of fatalities, recorded by ACLED in the period of interest, broken down to a 5-point scale;
- The second one, aimed to simulate the conflict frequency, indicates the total number of conflict events recorder by ACLED in the period of interest, including non-violent events to highlight possible hotspots of riots and protests.
- **Time Series:** Most recent available
- **Resolution:** Second level administrative region is desirable
- **Sources:** WFP RB/COs, Landscan, Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys (MICS), Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), Global Assessment of Risk (GAR) 2013, Geo-Referenced Ethnic Groups (GREG) 2014, ACLED.



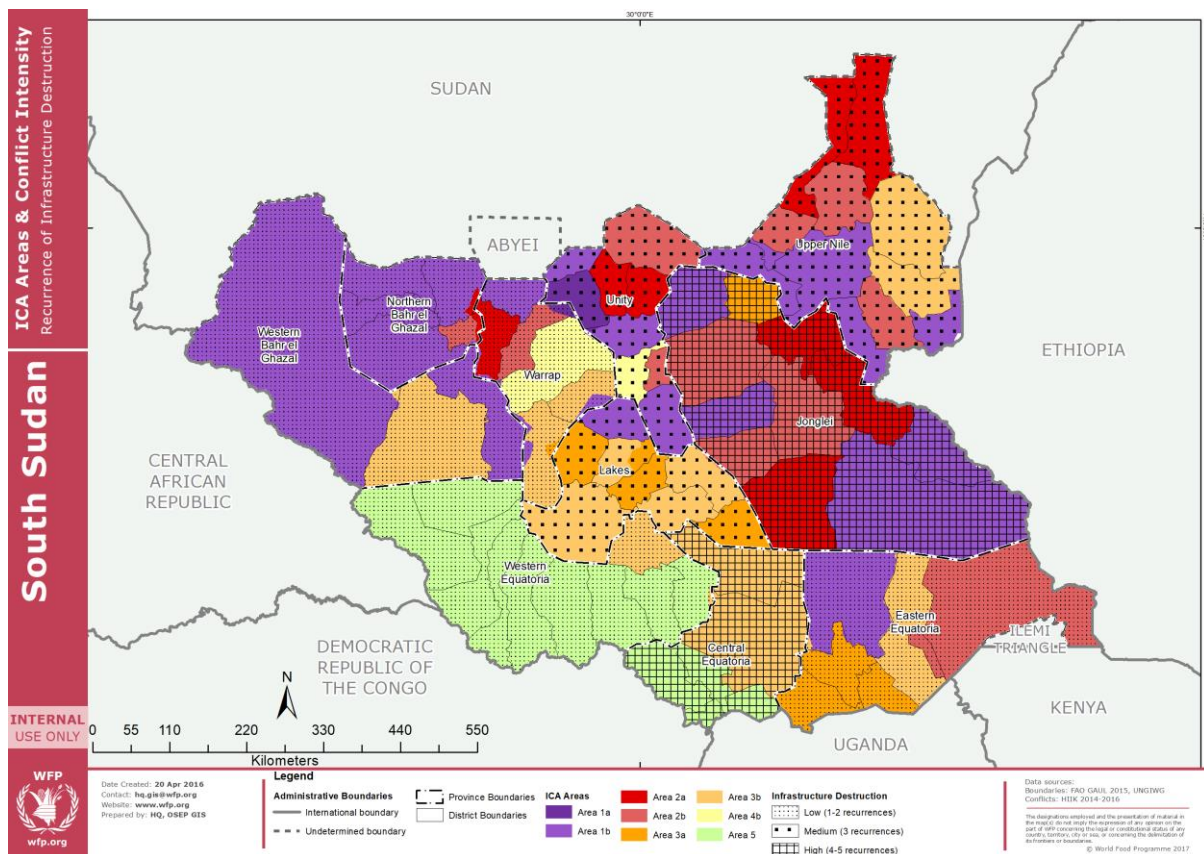
Where can WFP focus post-conflict efforts to rebuild assets?

In post-conflict situations part of WFP's peacebuilding focused activities may focus on rebuilding assets related to livelihoods that war has damaged or destroyed.

Infrastructure Damage Lens

The Infrastructure Damage Lens highlights areas where buildings, bridges and other assets have been damaged to a high degree relative to other parts of the country. In situations where violence continues in some parts of the country but not others, the Infrastructure Damage Lens can pair with the Post-Conflict Peacebuilding Focus Lens to identify areas currently peaceful (i.e. where programming is more likely to be possible), but with a recent history of conflict and asset damage.

- **Indicator:** Level of infrastructure damage, classed low/medium/high
- **Time Series:** Length of conflict, up to five years
- **Resolution:** Second level administrative region is desirable
- **Sources:** Heidelberg HIIK, other conflict specific sources



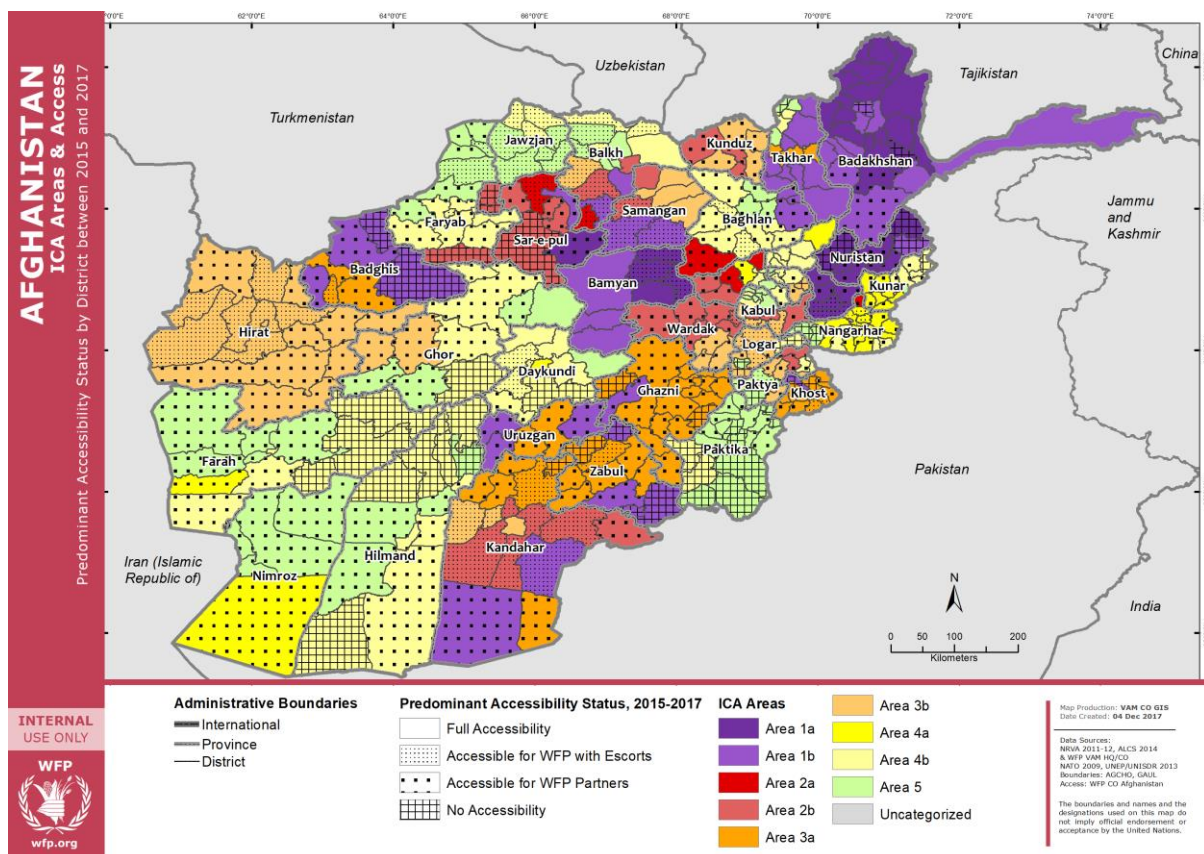
Where are access constraints most likely to limit longer-term programming?

A programme access lens can help to understand potential access constraints that could limit programming in areas that the ICA might otherwise show as being suited to different interventions. For example, an area might show consistent levels of high food insecurity over a five-year period, and thus be on paper suitable for a safety net approach, but implementation may be difficult or impossible because of a lack of access.

Access History Lens

Operationally, to match the ICA's longer term planning objectives, an access lens (or lenses) needs to move beyond single-point snapshot data and take a longer-term view. The objective is not to identify where is inaccessible today, because this may change tomorrow, but rather places that have been consistently inaccessible over time, and thus can be expected to remain challenging in the future. As a rule, it is to best to combine at least the last two years of data (ideally with multiple data points inside years, e.g. quarterly), and identify consistent patterns. Of course, each country context is different, and products should match the reality on the ground and specific decision-support needs.

- **Indicator:** WFP access, cooperating partner-only access, no access
- **Time Series:** Length of conflict, up to five years
- **Resolution:** Second level administrative region is desirable
- **Sources:** UNDSS, Risk Intelligence, social and mass media, WFP COs



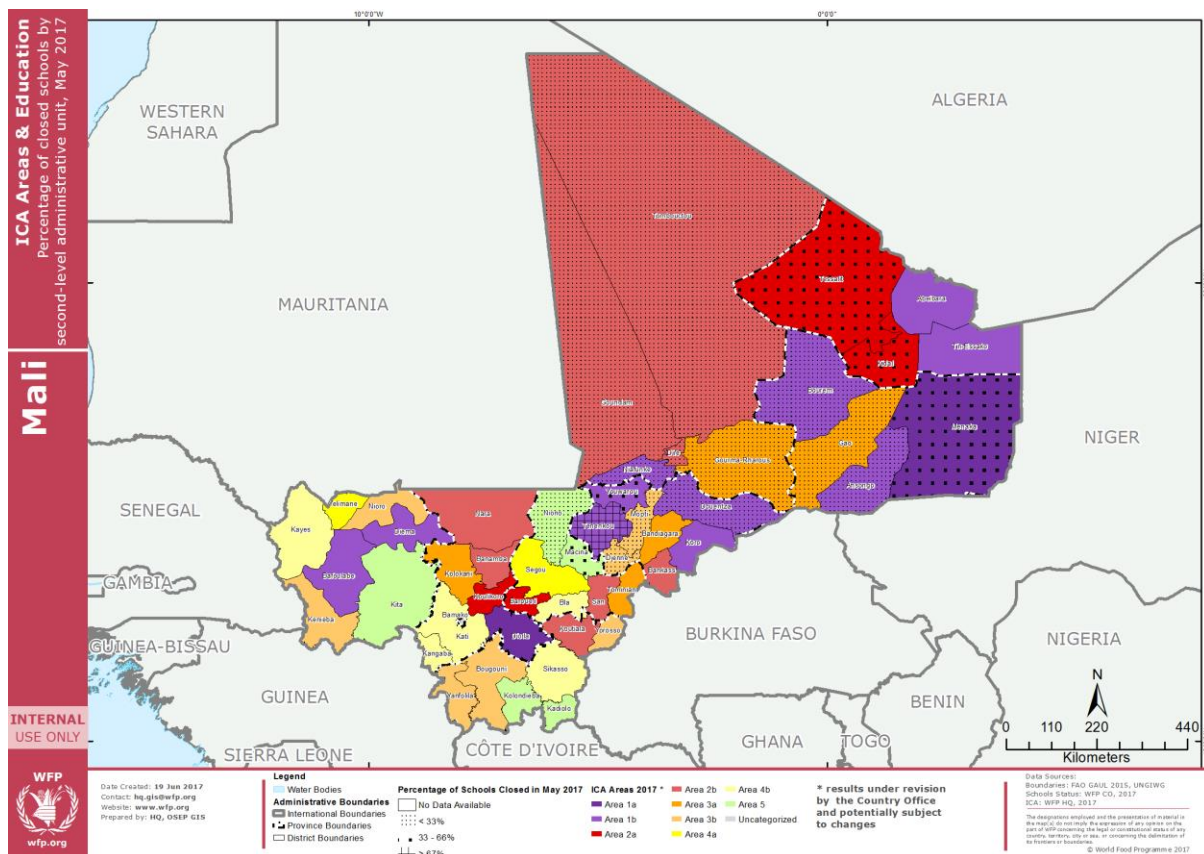
Actor Presence / Control Lens

In addition to past patterns of actual access, a lens showing where different conflict actors have had presence or control over time can contribute to thinking about where access may be problematic in the future, or where access may involve negotiations with non-traditional actors. Data constraints are expected for this indicator; an editorial decision will be needed as to its utility given data availability.

- **Indicator:** Actor presence / control. In some cases, these categories may be separate, in others collapsed.
- **Alternatives:** presence of operational government administration / services, e.g. functional government leadership, health centres, schools
- **Time Series:** Length of conflict, up to five years
- **Resolution:** Second level administrative region is desirable (often it will come at higher resolution)
- **Sources:** no consistent data source exists; ad hoc data from UNDSS, country specific monitoring sources, academic projects, and reputable news sources such as BBC, New York Times and the Economist may contribute to a final result

It may be necessary to engage with the relevant actors to remove or ease access constraints, consider mitigating measures (e.g. third party monitoring, logistical measures, security measures) or temporarily implement programming with simpler relief and recovery objectives in areas where WFP and partners may not have sufficient access to pursue programmes that are more complex.

This example map from Mali shows the percentages of schools closed in different part of the country.

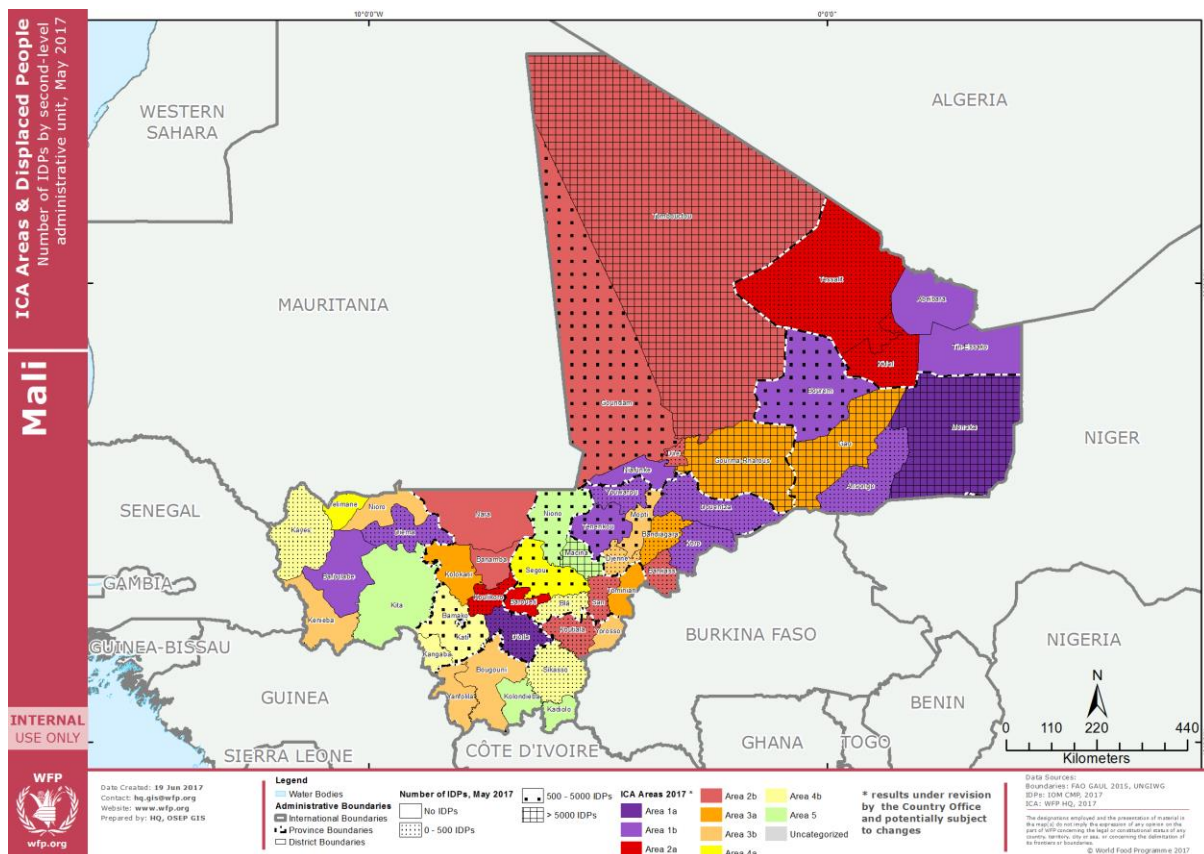


Where (and when) does WFP need to assist displaced persons, in what context?

Displacement Destinations Lens

The Displacement Destinations Lens considers the number of displaced persons who are residing in different areas. This can help identify areas where displacement-related programming will likely be a priority, and – in conjunction with the underlying ICA Areas map – highlight areas where large numbers (absolute or relative) of displaced people coincide with factors such as pre-existing high levels of recurrent food insecurity, or land degradation. The Displacement Destinations Lens shows two different versions of this indicator:

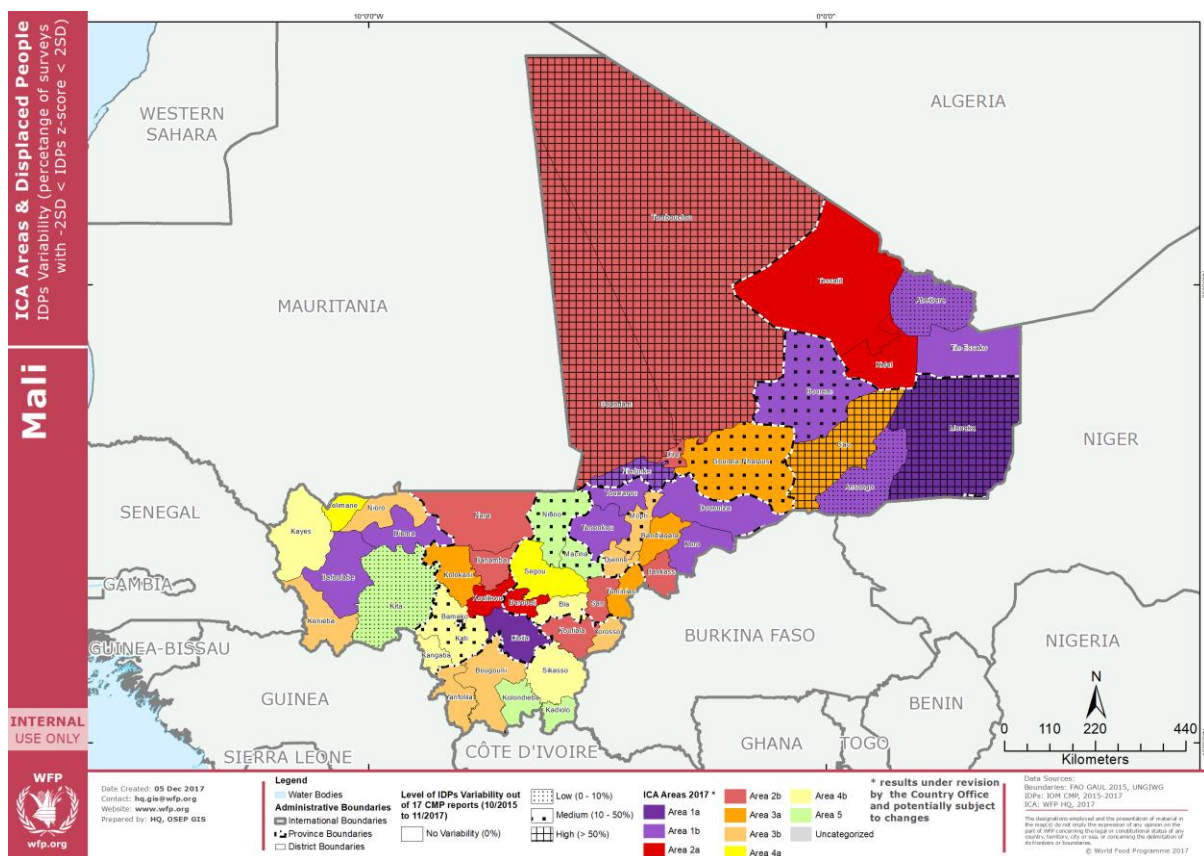
3. The raw number of displaced people in 2LAR, classed as low/medium/high
 4. The number of displaced people as a percentage of a 2LAR population, classed low/medium/high
 - This can act as a check against the previous layer (raw numbers) to identify 2LAR that have high numbers of displaced people in large versus small populations.
- **Indicator:** Number of displaced persons
 - **Time Series:** Length of conflict, up to five years
 - **Resolution:** Second level administrative region is desirable; place name / lat-long is best
 - **Sources:** local national figures, UNHCR, IOM, IDMC



Seasonal Displacement Patterns Lens

Some contexts may display seasonal patterns of conflict-related displacement, both in terms of timing and geographic origins/destinations. If such patterns exist they can help to answer the question of when displacement may occur, in addition to where. Fully identifying both aspects of such patterns requires combining data used in the Displacement Origins and Displacement Destinations Lenses, as well as breaking the data down into seasonal components (e.g. quarterly, or even monthly if appropriate). This effort is most likely to be fruitful in contexts where conflict has a seasonal ebb and flow, for example in places where conflict is associated with seasonal migration patterns, or where inclement seasonal weather significantly slows conflict predictably.

- **Indicators:** Internally displaced people's variability at place of destination
- **Time Series:** Length of conflict, up to five years; seasonal values are critical
- **Resolution:** Second level administrative region is desirable; place name / lat-long is best
- **Sources:** local national figures, UNHCR, IOM, IDMC



Links to Qualitative Analysis

The datasets/lenses above do not speak to causal links in either direction between food insecurity and conflict. They also do not provide information as to when, where or with what intensity, future conflict – and associated humanitarian impact – is likely to occur.

Questions related to these issues are of great interest to programming decisions. Data driven approaches may not be the most appropriate sources of answers to such questions; qualitative analysis may be more promising. To provide a full package of support, members of the ICA partnership – Emergency Preparedness and VAM – can assist Country Offices in developing qualitative analysis speaking to the questions above. This assistance can include defining needs, conducting desk research and analysis, in-country information collection as required, and report drafting. Strong communication can ensure products that effectively meet needs and support strong programme design.

Conflict Data

When selecting conflict data sources three principles apply:

1. The data source should be politically neutral and of a good reputation; peer-reviewed academic sources are preferred
2. The data should be freely and publically available; exceptions may be made for analysis that is kept strictly internal
3. The data should have multi-year depth, and regular updates

WFP has an interest in data sources with broad international coverage, and regular updates. The following data sets meet these standards; a table at the end of this document provides more detail. Conflict-specific data sources may also meet the criteria above.

- ACLED – Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project
- UCDP – Uppsala Conflict Data Program

- PITF – Political Instability Task Force
- SCAD – Social Conflict Analysis Database

For access data, suitable products may come from WFP, major international news outlets, or academic projects (NB: ensure principles above are applied)

Conflict Data Sets - Overview

This table provides an overview of data sets that can be useful for the mapping described above.

CONFLICT DATASET	GENERAL DESCRIPTION	SPATIAL & TEMPORAL RESOLUTION	INDICATORS AVAILABLE
ACLED – Armed Conflict Location and Event Project http://www.acledata.com/	<p>Includes non-violent and non-fatal events.</p> <p>Covers Africa and some of the major Asian countries</p>	<p>Latitude and longitude available for every event. Admin1, Admin2, Admin3 and Location are assigned to every event.</p> <p>Data available from 1997 to 2017, updated every 2 weeks</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type of event (violence against civilians, riots/protests, government regains territory with a battle ...) 2. Number of casualties 3. Actors involved (coded by ACLED: governmental forces, rebel forces, political militias, ethnical militias ...) 4. Date (dd/mm/yyyy for every event)
UCDP – Uppsala Conflict Data Program http://www.ucdp.uu.se/downloads/	<p>UCDP has fatality counts and strong geocoding information.</p>	<p>Latitude and longitude available for every event, as well as Admin1 and Admin2</p> <p>Data available from 1989 to 2016, updated once a year (???)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type of event (state-based, non-state, one-sided) 2. Number of casualties for both the parties involved, civilians and combatant 3. Actors involved (strongly affected by the type of event: for example, in state-based conflicts, the side A will always be a government and the side B the rebel movement or the rival government) 4. Date (dd/mm/yyyy for every event)
PITF – Political Instability Task Force http://eventdata.parusanalytics.com/data.dir/atrocities.html	<p>Incidents with five or more casualties (both combatant and non-combatant deaths). Incidents reported by global press only.</p>	<p>Latitude and longitude available. Poor geo-referencing based on three categories: region, district, locality.</p> <p>Data available from 1997 to 2016</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type of event (incidents, meaning atrocities perpetrated by a single or multiple organizations in a single locality within a 24-hour period, and campaigns, meaning a set of related atrocities over a distinct period of time within a single country) 2. Number of non-combatant asserted casualties. 3. Identity of the victims (political, ethnic, religious, socio-economic ...) 4. Type of weapons used 5. Actors involved (coded by PITF) 6. Date (dd/mm/yyyy for every event)
SCAD – Social Conflict Analysis Database https://www.strauscenter.org/scad.html	<p>Protests, riots, strikes and other social disturbances in Africa, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.</p>	<p>Latitude and longitude available. Poor geo-referencing based on two categories: elocal, ilocal (some sort of Admin1 and Admin2)/</p> <p>Data available from 1990 to 2013</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type of event 2. Number of participants and number of casualties 3. Issue 1 (first issue mentioned as the source of the tension/disorder) 4. Actors and targets involved 5. Date (dd/mm/yyyy for every event)
Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIC) https://www.hiik.de/en/	<p>Conflict intensity scores including non-violent, for over 300 conflict worldwide. Conflict intensity breaks down into fatalities, infrastructure damage, weapon types, and displacement. HIIC is not a public data source, but WFP can access informally</p>	<p>Only Admin 1 is available</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type of conflict (infrastate or extrastate) 2. Actors involved 3. Conflict intensity (5-point scale going from dispute to war) 4. Weapons indicator (3-point scale to indicate whether light or heavy weapons were used) 5. Personnel indicator (3-point scale to measure the highest number of participants) 6. Casualties indicator (3-point scale to estimate the overall number of casualties from violent measures or their direct consequences) 7. Refugees & IDPs indicator (3-point scale to evaluate the overall number of cross-border refugees and IDPs) 8. Destruction indicator (3-point scale to estimate the amount of destruction resulting from the conflict, it considers 4 possible dimensions: infrastructure, accommodation, economy and culture)

GREG (Geo-Referencing of Ethnic Groups) https://worldmap.harvard.edu/data/geonode:GREG_0vV	Dataset that employs geographic information systems to pinpoint the location of key conflict parties and project geo-referenced ethnic groups around the world	Group territories are represented as polygons in an ESRI shapefile format. Data is updated to 2014.	1. Name of the ethnic group 2. Political status (discriminated, dominant, senior/junior partner, powerless, self-excluded ...)
MICS (Multiple Indicators Cluster Surveys) http://mics.unicef.org/surveys	UNICEF surveys that assist countries in analysing and collecting data for monitoring the situation of children and women.	Admin1. Data available from 2009 to present	Health, socio-economic, financial and education indicators (infant mortality rates, secondary school attendance rates, number of antenatal care visits ...)