

Annex 1 - Codebook for NPWJ conflict mapping report

This codebook describes how military events can be obtained from No peace Without Justice (NPWJ) preliminary conflict mapping report from 2004. The rules ensure reproducibility.

The NPWJ report is based on fieldwork in Sierra Leone right after the conflict. It contains mainly confidential information as well as crosschecked information from media and NGO reports during the war. To protect informant identity, the NPWJ report is purposively vague. Therefore, this author made a number of rules in order to code the original report and approximate underlying data. The rules were crosschecked with the authors of NPWJs conflict report.

I kept a conservative estimate of events and was specifically interested in five types of activity:

1. Violence between Government (and allies) - RUF violence
2. Violence between CDF and SLA
3. Violence between AFRC and RUF (after May 1997)
4. Violence against civilians by RUF/CDF and SLA (AFRC) *not being collateral damage*.
5. Subsistence activities by warring parties

This codebook starts with describing the coding options and the design of a data-line (1). Second, it discusses two sets of coding rules (2) and highlight differences with ACLED-v4 (3). Subsequently, some FAQ's are highlighted (4) and finally the meaning of color-coding in the online report is explained (5).

1. Coding options and data-design

VARIABLE NAME	DESCRIPTION	EXPLANATION
GWNO	Unique ID_CODE Prio	See UCDP codebook
EVENT DATE	Date of the event	See set 1b for additional coding rules
YEAR	Year of occurrence	Year
TIME PRECISION	Indication the precision of the event_date	1. If sources included an actual date, 2. If sources noted a week, first date of week was used, 3. When sources noted only that an activity took place within a particular month, the month mid-point was chosen unless the beginning or end of month was given. <i>Or when the source was more general than a month. In that case see set1a-coding rules for specification.</i>

EVENT TYPE	What kind of event occurs?	<p>1. No change. <i>When it was impossible to ascertain who won the battle.</i></p> <p>2. Rebel Win. When rebels (actor 2) gained territory. This code (and the previous code) was also used to note the transfer of control from one rebel group to another by violence.</p> <p>3. Government Win. When government (or Actor 1) gained territory.</p> <p>4. Establishment headquarter An armed group established a base or headquarters. This event could be non-violent, but was coded when a permanent or semi-permanent base was established. When reinforcements arrived I used the same code but noted this in the remarks. <i>DDR camps are included as well as are bases for government.</i></p> <p>5. Non-violent Activity. <i>Often subsistence activity.</i> I included recruitment, destruction property and looting. The incident was <u>not coded</u>, when it occurred during battles. <i>I also included food finding missions (raids) and ambushes, unless armed confrontations occur. I did not include instances where people are forced to carry loads.</i></p> <p>7. Civilian violence. Violence against civilians was defined as deliberate violent acts perpetrated by an organized political group. Although the victims could be combatants in a different context, here they were UNARMED and NOT ABLE to defend themselves. It included inflicting significant physical harm (e.g. bombing, shooting, torture, rape, mutilation etc.) or accosting victims (e.g. disappearances). The incident was <u>not coded</u>, when they occurred during battles. <i>Harassments/beatings are not included.</i></p> <p>8. Non-Violent Take-Over. <i>When rebels (briefly) took over village/town without engaging in fighting with government forces/allies. Also; reinforcements / troop movements/ Patrols / Disarmament.</i></p>
ACTOR I	Name of actor	Open slot (other than ACLED actor list)
ALLY_ACTOR_1	Name of actor	Open slot (other than ACLED actor list)
INTER1	Actor nr.	1. Government or mutinous force

		2. Rebel force 3. Political militia (CDF [from June 1997], Kamajors from 03-1996) 4. Ethnic militia (Kamajors etc. until march 1996) 7. Civilians 8. Outside/external force (e.g. UN, ECOMOG)
ACTOR2	Name of actor	Open slot (other than ACLED actor list)
ALLY_ACTOR_2	Name of actor	Open slot (other than ACLED actor list)
INTER2	Actor nr.	See INTER1
INTERACTION	Actor 1 and Actor 2 nr.	Combination of INTER1 and 2
COUNTRY	Country name	Sierra Leone
ADM_LEVEL_1	Region	Western, East, South, North
ADM_LEVEL_2	District	Western Area, Port Loko, Kambia, Bombali, Tonkolili, Koinadugu, Kono, Kenema, Kailahun, Bo, Moyamba, Bonthe, Pujehun
ADM_LEVEL_3	Chiefdom	149 Chiefdoms, 5 Western Area
LOCATION	Town or village	As stated
LATITUDE	Coordinates	Provided by ACLED
LONGITUDE	Coordinates	Provided by ACLED
GEO_PRECISION		The highest precision level (1) was for towns and villages (including their vicinity). If the source material noted a chiefdom the chiefdom HQ with geo- referenced coordinates to represent that area was chosen received a '2'. If there was only information on the district level I used the district capital '3'. A '3' was used when the location was more general and the NPWJ rules below applied.
SOURCE	What is the source?	Page nr of NPWJ report
NOTES	Open slot	Used for details location/type base/reinforcements Also used to indicate when event takes more than one day (not included in this dataset)
FATALITIES	Open slot	Not included in the dataset.

2. NPWJ Coding rules

Two sets of coding rules were created to deal with the NPWJ data. The first was a set of rules specifying how to code dates (a) and frequencies (b) in the NPWJ report. The second set described miscellaneous situations. Both sets of rules were cross-checked with the NPWJ authors.

SET Ia: Coding frequency's		
	Occurrence	Rule
1	Plural civilian violence (eg. raping, killing and looting)	Was coded as <u>one</u> incident unless the violence stretches out over more than one day – each type was counted independently
2	When mentioning plurality, eg: Attacks: TownS, VillageS/` a number/ unspecified number of villages/a few/ constantly attacking”	3 instances for each utterance
	Civilian violence: rapeS/ marriageS, killings, mutilations, rape of women and girls (plural), marriages, looting, conscription of men, boys.	3 instances for each utterance
3	When mentioning of double plural. <i>E.g. Numerous attacks/many villages/a series of battles/constant patrol etc.</i>	5 instances for each utterance
4	Towns came under attack including NAME, NAME and NAME	1 extra (4 attacks in this case)

SET Ib: Coding dates		
	Occurrence	Rule
1	When ‘early A YEAR’, ‘in the first months of a YEAR’ or ‘beginning of the year’	February
	Mid Year’	July
	‘Late YEAR’	November
	‘end of the Year’	December
2	‘between DATE and DATE’ (singular)	The first month
	‘between DATE and DATE’ plural	Tte first month and the last month
3	‘throughout the year’	Each month
	‘from time to time’	First, last and middle month (Jan/June/Dec)
4	When no reference at all or ‘in the same year’ ‘across YEAR’, ‘at one point in YEAR’ ‘during their stay’	Preceding reference of a month in the report
5	When referring to an open source	Collected the original source and code d accordingly

SET III: Miscellaneous rules

	Occurrence	Rule
1	When the RUF attacks a town while the report does not mention SLA troops	Assumed that the SLA is not present.
2	When rebels attack a town and (one) day(s) later the SLA arrives and fights.	Two battles were coded instead of one.
3	Raids.	These were attacks on towns for food-finding and stealing rather than territorial control.
4	When after an attack, the attackers stay for some time and perpetrate hostilities.	The subsequent day was used for violence against civilians.
5	“Capture all the main towns on the highway”	GoogleMaps was used (level 500 m) and all towns on the road were added.
6	The use of occasionally	Implied ¼ of the instances.
7.	Geo-precision. Often the report notes that groups have been active in villages close to a chiefdom town not being the headquarter.	In that case I included the town name and gave a precision code 2.
8.	“ The RUF forces were mainly controlling the far east of Kailahun district ”	These were coded as non-violent take-overs. In a small number of instances this may have led to double entries.
9.	Over the period (e.g. 6 months) killings and rapes were frequent.	Included in this case were 6 (six!) entries, three for killing and three for rapes, unless they took place on the same day in which case 1 entry was included.

3. Differences with ACLED v-4

SET III: Different coding compared to ACLED (Raleigh et. al., 2014)			
1	Events	coded differently for: 5. Non-violent activity , <i>also used for kidnappings</i> 6. Riots , <i>not included</i>	
2	Duration	SLL-LED coding of duration of a campaign (e.g. “they fought for three days”)	Indicated in notes
3	Date Precision	When middle of the month was used and a subsequent attack occurred the first Monday of the next week was used	No indication
4	Headquarters	The first mentioning of the base or headquarter which might not have been the actual establishment date. When a base was attacked and mentioned for the first time the establishment date was set two weeks before. All bases were included	No indication
5	Events	Non-violent activity other than looting and kidnapping (5) were not included.	No indication
6	Fatalities	No inclusion of fatality rates	No indication

4. Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Sometimes the report talks about control in general terms, e.g. “Towards the end of the year the RUF was still to be found at Bendu Cha (p 437)” or “the Kamajors had been deployed since 1996 in all the villages along the river from Mattru down to York Island. The RUF was thus surrounded. ” (p. 442), do you include these instances?**

As I was interested in troop movements and attacks and generally I did include these instances. Yet the context matters; often the towns and villages have been coded before (sometimes a few years before) and duplication should be avoided.

Yet, in the former example there is no fighting of any kind reported while the RUF has been fighting in the preceding months in the chiefdom. In the second example, some of the kamajors' deployment in the area is noted in the previous coding. As a result, I did not include both examples, as they are (likely to be) captured by preceding entries.

2. **How did you deal with the establishment of checkpoints, are these temporal deployments/bases and/or shall I use the looting category?**

I did not include these instances in the dataset, neither by using the looting label nor the codes for deployment or bases. Although it is likely that fighters deployed around checkpoints will almost certainly extort money, I only included explicit mentioning of looting, taxation and deployment.

3. **At checkpoints sometimes passes are issued for a very small amount (e.g. 10 cent, p. 240) are these instances of looting?**

No. On the one hand, it remains unclear from the record whether violence or the threat of violence is used to extort money, although this is likely. On the other hand, the pass system served as a means to control movement of civilians and the leaking of information, the small amount of money seems to indicate this as well. Looting would be inappropriate.

4. **Around March 1998 many villages are attacked in Operation Pay Yourself. How were these coded?**

Operation Pay Yourself was a massive looting operation for the RUF and AFRC and very often the attacks carried out during this time frame intended looting. Whereas the report often notes that the non-violent take over territory was meant for looting, use the non-

violent activity category rather than the non-violent take-over category for attacks carried out under 'pay yourself' banner.

- 5. Very often attacks are carried out from a town or a direction. E.g. “the village of Masiba (Gbendembu Ndowahun Chiefdom) was attacked by RUF/FRC forces from the direction of Karina (Biriwa Chiefdom p. 136)” How did you deal with these instances?**

When the town and/or direction mentioned are not previously recorded as being under control of one of the warring parties we do also include these instances. I assigned a time precision code 3 to the location (as we do not exactly know when the forces gathered there). When the report mentions “from the direction of Town” I included the town (it is a rare event) but also assigned a 2 for geo-precision as I did not know for sure whether the forces were in the town.

- 6. A particular problem with the establishment of bases is the difficulty in knowing the exact time the base was established. Often we only know that forces from a certain base attack a particular town. In addition to the attack we know that there was a base, were these included?**

I included these bases in the set and used the time precision code 3 as I did not know the exact time of establishment.

- 7. During the post-processing phase we encountered the problem of identical data lines while it was sure that these were not identical events. How did you deal with this?**

I spread the events equally over the month. If there were still similar events I added or subtracted one day to make the data line unique as we were sure event took place on separate days.

5. Coding Procedure

