Electoral Violence Prevention Intervention Database
Codebook¹

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This database includes data on electoral violence interventions undertaken by the United National Development Program between 2003 and 2015 inclusive. The units of analysis are elections held during this period; 101 of these elections benefited from UNDP electoral assistance.

The UNDP electoral assistance reports, accessed from the UNDP’s public repository of program documents at http://toolkit-elections.unteamworks.org/?q=node/174, cover the period from 2003. All reports in national-level elections during this period were coded (including reports in English, French, Spanish and Russian). Each report was coded independently by two trained coders. Krippendorff alpha scores for each coded variable are reported below. These scores exceed the conventional threshold of .67 for all variables save Judiciary and Other; caution should be exercised when using these variables.

Variables:

Country: Country abbreviation


Full country name


Year: year of election

Mmdd: month and day of election

Electtype: Type of election

1 Presidential
2 Legislative

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3 Concurrent

UNDPassist: dummy variable for whether there was a UNDP electoral assistance programme designed to improve electoral integrity in the election in question

0 No
1 Yes

Types of intervention

I1 Training: Training in techniques designed to enhance security, avoid incitement of violence, etc.

0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 0.920

I2: Monitoring: Monitoring of election violence incidents, mapping of election violence incidents, security diagnostics, early warning systems and forecasting of election violence incidents.

0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 0.800

I3: Security: Election security planning and security administration: Election security planning; coordination mechanisms for election security, command and control centres related to election security, Quick Reaction Forces, use of force and crowd control

0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 0.717

I4: Messaging: Messaging, discussion, mediation and pacting: Peace messaging, anti-violence public events, codes of conduct designed to prevent violence, dialogue fora designed to prevent violence, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms

0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 0.683

Target body/group whose behaviour the intervention is designed to influence

T1: EMB: Electoral management body
0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 0.838

T2: Security: Security sector

0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 0.822

T3: Judiciary

0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 0.636

T4: Parties: Political parties and candidates

0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 0.770

T5: Leaders: Local/traditional leaders

0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 0.755

T6: Civil society organizations (CSOs)

0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 0.711

T7: Media

0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 0.806

T8: Faith groups

0 No
1 Yes
Krippendorff’s alpha = 1.000
Appendix: Notes for coders

The documents you are coding are electoral assistance documents. Most are not designed specifically to address electoral security, so you should not be surprised if some of the assistance programming described in these documents does not include any activities designed to combat electoral violence. In this case you should just record that an electoral assistance programme was implemented (a ‘1’in the ‘UNDPassist’ column), and 0s for all the rest of the categories.

You are to code elections, not reports. Some elections are covered in more than one report, and some reports cover more than one election (in rare cases, reports cover elections in more than one country). If the report does not specify the elections it is designed to cover, you are to assume that these include any national-level elections that take place during the term of the programme, or the election(s) that immediately follow(s) the programme.

When coding electoral violence prevention interventions, you should be guided by the stated aim of the programming. If the report identifies a particular activity as having been undertaking in the aim of improving electoral security, preventing electoral violence or preventing conflict during elections, then it should be coded as an electoral violence prevention activity. There are some types of intervention where this is implicit – e.g. electoral security plans – but in most cases the reports link the activities to specific aims. Most of the relevant information in these documents is contained in the section labelled ‘strategy’; there is also useful detail in tables at the end of most programme documents where ‘activities’ are listed; in many cases the tables of activities include the greatest amount of detail on target groups and interventions. Note that electoral ‘dispute resolution’ is typically a legal process and need not have any link to violence.

Many of the programme documents include details of how the security of those implementing the electoral assistance programme will be ensured. You should disregard this, as your focus should be on strategies designed to enhance the security of the electoral actors in the country in question.