

READ ME: GAARD (November 2020-11-02)

Thank you very much for your interest in using the Government and Armed Actors Relations Dataset (GAARD), Version 2020_02. Before using GAARD, please carefully read the following information.

1. GAARD Group IDs

GAARD is based on the UCDP data of 2012 as compiled by the UCDP Actor Dataset, Version 2.1 – 2012. The UCDP Actor Dataset can be found here: <https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/olddw.html>.

GAARD is based on 2012 UCDP Actor IDs. If you would like to merge GAARD with more recent UCDP datasets, we recommend using the 2012 version. Alternatively, users may want to use the UCDP ID translation tables, which can be found here: <https://ucdp.uu.se/downloads/index.html#idtranslation>.

Please note that due to coding revisions not all Actor IDs might fully match.

2. Information on date variables

GAARD provides users with two sets of date related variables. These sets are:

formation + formation_add
start + start_add
end + start_add

We report these variables because sources may report different dates. We consider the “_add” date variables to be more reliable. To ensure reliability, users should either use the set consisting of the variables “formation, start and end” **or** the set consisting of “formation_add, start_add and start_add.”

3. Number of unique actors coded in GAARD

GAARD reports 536 unique IDs. In our *Research & Politics* article “Capturing Group Alignments: Introducing the Government and Armed Actors Relations Dataset (GAARD)” we report 506 unique actors. The difference results from missing information.

GAARD includes 30 groups recorded by UCDP for which no information could be retrieved to code relevant variables in GAARD. These groups are recorded in GAARD for transparency reasons. We recommend dropping the groups when running analysis.

For any further questions please contact: sabine.otto@pcr.uu.se