An Administrative Note on UCDP for 2020

During 2020, Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) could maintain the same staff and hire three additional research assistants; Bruno Della Salla, Tania Estrada, and Triveni Chand. UCDP also hired two assistants over the summer; Anna Svedin and Amanda Lönström. During the fall semester, UCDP had one full-time intern, Marta Pitino. UCDP, together with ViEWS, hired a programmer, Jim Dale.

Magnus Öberg served as the UCDP Director during 2020. In December 2020, the UCDP Council had its second meeting.

The UCDP Update Alert was sent out two times during 2020, to more than 570 recipients. UCDP has also promoted its newsletters, publications etc. via social media.

In total, five issues of UCDP Bulletin were published during 2020. The bulletins highlighted and visualized recent patterns in various armed conflicts in a condensed and accessible format.

We have engaged with DEMSCORE (Research Infrastructure for Democracy, Environment, Migration, Social Policy, Conflict, and Representation) and GReVD (Global Registry of Violent Deaths) consortiums as one of the members of these projects.

We updated the UCDP Encyclopedia website in accordance with the accessibility directive (tillgänglighetsdirektivet) on 23 September 2020.

Below follows an outline of UCDP’s activities throughout 2020.

Research Funding

Application submitted

In 2020, UCDP had small roles in two applications to the Norwegian Research Council. While one was the “ESCAPE, a new PRIO Center of Excellence” application regarding to the actor data, the other one was the “Norwegian Political Science Infrastructure” application with Scott Gates from the Department of Political Science at Oslo University, concerning machine coding efforts.

Additionally, UCDP had also a small part in the application for the Center for Nuclear Disarmament which Uppsala University was awarded in December 2020.

Grants received

DEMSCORE was established and began its operations in September 2020. As a member of the consortium, UCDP will be receiving nearly 87 000 SEK per year. This project has made UCDP part
of a national infrastructure and it helped secure 3 MSEK per year from the Vice Chancellor and 2 MSEK per year from the Faculty of Social Sciences for the period 2020-2024.

Margareta Sollenberg received a grant of 3 940 000 SEK from the Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet) for the project “Drivers of Displacement: Accounting for the Variation in Forced Migration from Conflict” (Vad driver människor på flykt? Att förklara variationen i flyktingströmmar från konflikter). The grant is for 3 years and the project involves Sollenberg and Magnus Öberg.

Datasets released during 2020

- UCDP Candidate Events Dataset (UCDP Candidate) version 20.0.X
- UCDP Actor Dataset v.20.1

Press releases
UCDP sent out a press release on 14 June 2020, titled “Våldet ökar i Afrika – fredsforskare rapporterar oroande trend” announcing the release of the annual datasets and the Journal of Peace Research article. The press release is translated into English and Turkish and it was covered by the following platforms (selected).

Press release in Swedish


Press release in English


Press release in Turkish
• Birgun, “Gittikleri yere ölüm görüyorlar”, 24 June 2020. (Daily newspaper)
• Yenicag, “Cihatçı örgütlerin eylem alanı Afrika’ya kayıyor”, 30 June 2020. (Daily newspaper)

Media

Appearances in media
• Peter Wallensteen was interviewed for the Sveriges Radio P1’s Studio Ett program on armed conflicts during the pandemic on 2 April 2020.
• Peter Wallensteen was interviewed for the Syre on armed conflicts and arms exports on 20 April 2020.
• Peter Wallensteen was interviewed for the SVT2’s Aktuellt program about “The Nile: Rivers, Conflicts and Solutions” on 22 July 2020.
• Peter Wallensteen was interviewed for the Sveriges Radio P1 on conflict trends in West Sahara on 28 July 2020.
• Peter Wallensteen was interviewed for the Sveriges Radio P1’s God Morgon Världen program on how authoritarian regimes fall on 14 August 2020.
• Therese Pettersson was interviewed for the Kvartal magazine on conflict trends which was published online on 22 September 2020.
• Shawn Davies was interviewed for the P4 Uppland radio station on the security situation in Nagorno-Karabakh twice on 29 September 2020 and 5 October 2020.
• Garoun Engström was interviewed for Yle Radio’s Swedish-speaking section Yle Vega on the drug-related violence in Mexico on 9 October 2020.
• Therese Pettersson was interviewed for the Arbetaren magazine on the security situation in Afghanistan which was published online on 4 November 2020. She also talked to Arbetaren’s podcast on the same week.
• Shawn Davies was quoted in the SVT Nyheter’s article on the security situation in Mozambique on 13 November 2020.
Documentaries referring to UCDP


News outlets and blogs referring to UCDP (selected)

- Articles in Swedish
- Articles in English

- Articles in French

- Articles in Spanish

- Articles in Ukrainian

- Articles in Turkish

- Articles in Italian

Lectures, presentations, visits and teaching
- Gabrielle Lövquist presented UCDP and the recent trends in armed conflicts for the Grillska gymnasiet on 21 January 2020.
- Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP and the recent trends in armed conflicts for Institute of Ethnic Studies in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 5 February 2020.
• Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP and the recent trends in armed conflicts for University of Colombo on 7 February 2020.
• Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP in a seminar titled “Resolution 1325 (2000): How was it created?” for the Embassy of Canada to Sweden on 4 March 2020.
• Lotta Themner presented UCDP and the recent trends in armed conflicts for the Scifest 2020, Vetenskapsfestival i Uppsala on 7 March 2020.
• Stina Högladh made a presentation about how UCDP views the situation in DR Congo for the Embassy of Sweden in Kinshasa on 14 May 2020.
• Peter Wallensteen gave a lecture on the recent trends in armed conflicts at the International Training on Dialogue and Mediation on 12 June 2020.
• Therese Pettersson gave a lecture on UCDP and conflict trends in the Middle East at the University of Beirut for a course on Public Health and Armed Conflict on 18 September 2020.
• Therese Pettersson gave a lecture on conflict strategies at the American University of Beirut on 25 September 2020.
• Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP and the recent trends in armed conflicts for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on 9 November 2020.
• Therese Pettersson and Magnus Öberg presented UCDP and the recent trends in armed conflicts at Diplomatic Forum on 10 November 2020.
• Stina Högladh gave a lecture on what is war/conflict to the VIVES University College’s Department of Public Safety during the university’s CONRIS Winter School on 17 November 2020.
• Stina Högladh gave a lecture on UCDP for Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIK) on 25 November 2020.
• Gabrielle Lövquist presented UCDP and the recent trends in armed conflicts for the Master’s Programme in Peace and Conflict Studies at Uppsala University on 3 September 2020.
• Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP during a lecture on conflict resolution with conflict data for the Master’s Programme in Peace and Conflict Studies at Uppsala University on 9 December 2020.
• Peter Wallensteen presented UCDP during a seminar titled “Quality Peace in an Age of Discord: Global Challenges and the Case of Nagorno-Karabakh” at Ozyegin University on 17 December 2020.

National & international cooperation
• The first meeting with the project leaders of the subgroups in DEMSCORE (Research Infrastructure for Democracy, Environment, Migration, Social Policy, Conflict, and Representation) was held on 12 October 2020. Stina Högladh, on behalf of UCDP, attended the meeting.
• The first online discussion on GReVD (Global Registry of Violent Deaths) was held on 19 May 2020. Magnus Öberg, on behalf of UCDP, attended the meeting.
2020 employees

- Marie Allansson
- Garoun Engström
- Triveni Chand
- Jim Dale
- Shawn Davies
- Bruno Della Salla
- Ugur Amber Deniz
- Tania Estrada
- Helena Grusell
- Nanar Hawach
- Stina Högbladh
- Amanda Löfström
- Gabrielle Löväquist
- Therese Pettersson
- Margareta Sollenberg
- Anna Svedin
- Lotta Themnér
- Mert Can Yilmaz
- Herman Wieselgren
- Per Asberg
- Magnus Öberg

Publications (by members of UCDP)


The UCDP Bulletin was sent out 5 times during the year:


  http://files.webb.uu.se/uploader/1576/UCDP-Bulletin---India.pdf

Publications, using UCDP data (selected)

Books


Journal Articles


• Cordell, Rebecca, Thorin Wright and Paul F. Diehl. (2020) Extant commitment, risk, and UN peacekeeping authorization. International Interactions 47(1).


• Döring, Stefan. (2020) Come rain, or come wells: How access to groundwater affects communal violence. Political Geography 76.


• Josha, Madhav and Louise Olsson. (2020) War termination and women’s political rights. Social Science Research.
• Lundgren, Magnus and Isak Svensson. (2020) The surprising decline of international mediation in armed conflicts. Research & Politics.

Reports
