



Community Vulnerability Scorecard

Created by students at Georgetown's Conflict Resolution Program, this scorecard is meant to be used by The Sentinel Project to assess a community's vulnerability to violence or atrocities committed by state or non-state actors. Each indicator should be scored from 0 to 1. While this is generalizable, some indicators may be different depending on specific contexts. This scorecard is meant to determine how vulnerable a community is to violence or atrocities, not whether or not it will be targeted.

Geographic considerations (scored out of _2_)			
Indicator	Definition	Score	Notes/ Additional Observations
Percent change in number of cross border attacks	<p>Percent change in number of subnational or national cross border attacks over a six month period compared to the six months preceding</p> <p>Cross border attacks include all violent actions by individuals or groups residing in another state or region.</p> <p>Violent actions include destruction of property and physical bodily harm.</p>	—	
Percent of target population that is composed of people who have been displaced	Percent of the total regional population that is made up by refugees.	—	

Potential Perpetrator Actions and Capacity (scored out of __5__)

Indicator	Definition & Unit of Measure	Score	Notes/ Additional Observations
Percent change in incidence of fatalities by state and state sponsored forces	<p>Percent change in the number of recorded incidents of fatalities by state forces over the past six months compared to the previous six months.</p> <p>State forces include groups acting at the behest of the state including military, police, militias, and paramilitary.</p>	<p>_____</p>	
Has the group in power repressed protests in the region over the past six months	<p>Group in power is defined as the actor that maintains the empirical functions of the state.</p> <p>Repression includes action that stops protests, harrasses protestors, or arrests protestors; can include violence against protestors.</p>	<p>Y=1 / N=0</p> <p>_____</p>	
Changes in restriction of movement over evaluation period	<p>Changes in amount of women in public spaces over a two-week period.</p> <p>Public spaces include markets, on streets, public transportation, at water collection points, etc.</p>	<p>Increase in # of women =0 Stay the same = 0 Decrease in # of women = 1</p> <p>_____</p>	
Change in number of government office in the region over a six months	<p>Percent increase or decrease in the total number of government offices present within the region over six months compared to the six months preceding</p> <p>Government offices include administrative buildings, police stations, post offices, schools, court houses, etc.</p>	<p>Increase in # of offices =1 Stay the same = 0 Decrease in # of offices = 1</p> <p>_____</p>	
Change in number of state forces in the region over a six month period	<p>Percent increase in the total number of state forces present within the region over six months compared to the six months preceding.</p> <p>State forces includes groups acting at the behest of the state including military, police, militias, and paramilitary, proxy groups funded by external backers.</p>	<p>_____</p>	

Group Exclusion (scored out of _5_)

Indicator	Definition & Unit of Measure	Score Y=1 / N=0	Notes/ Additional Observations
Has the group been targeted with hate speech over the past six months	<p>Have there been recorded incidents over the past six months where an individual, individuals, or group were the subject of hate speech?</p> <p>Hate speech includes abusive or threatening speech or writing that expresses prejudice against a particular group.</p>	<p>(Y=1 / N=0)</p> <p>_____</p>	
Has the group been targeted with harassment over the past six months	<p>Have there been recorded incidents over the past six months where an individual, individuals, or group were the subject of harassment?</p> <p>Harassment includes offensive, belittling, threatening, or otherwise unwelcome behavior directed at individuals or the group.</p>	<p>(Y=1 / N=0)</p> <p>_____</p>	
Has the group been targeted with protests over the past six months	<p>Have there been recorded incidents over the past six months where an individual, individuals, or group were the subject of protests?</p> <p>Protests include public expressions of objection, disapproval or dissent towards individuals or the group.</p>	<p>Y=1 / N=0</p> <p>_____</p>	
Has the group been targeted with destruction of property over the past six months	<p>Have there been recorded incidents over the past six months where an individual, individuals, or group were the subject of property destruction?</p> <p>Destruction includes graffiti, burning, harming or otherwise attempting to destroy property.</p> <p>Property includes a thing or things that belong to individuals or the group.</p>	<p>Y=1 / N=0</p> <p>_____</p>	
Has the group been targeted with violence over the past six months	<p>Have there been recorded incidents over the past six months where an individual, individuals, or group were the subject of violence?</p> <p>Violence includes any physical bodily harm.</p>	<p>Y=1 / N=0</p> <p>_____</p>	

Potential Tension Points (scored out of _4_)

Indicator	Definition & Unit of Measure	Score	Notes/ Additional Observations
Contested resources	<p>Does the vulnerable group currently reside on, control access to contested resources?</p> <p>And/Or</p> <p>At any point in time has the potential perpetrator had historical claims to the contested resources?</p> <p>Contested resources are resources that are the subject of contention between multiple groups.</p> <p>Resources include land, water, minerals, oil.</p>	<p>(Y=1 / N=0)</p> <p>_____</p>	
Violence against women	<p>Has there been an increase in the number of recorded incidents of violent acts against women over the past six months compared to the previous six months?</p> <p>Violent acts include physical bodily harm.</p>	<p>Y=1 / N=0</p> <p>_____</p>	
Ideology	<p>Do groups have competing, strong, or exclusionary ideologies related to politics, religion, etc.?</p> <p>Ideology is defined as a set of more or less systematic ideas that identify a constituency, the objectives pursued on behalf of that group, and a program of action.</p>	<p>Y=1 / N=0</p> <p>_____</p>	
Ethnicity	<p>Is ethnicity a salient cleavage in the region?</p> <p>Ethnicity is defined as a grouping of people who identify with each other on the basis of shared attributes that distinguish them from other groups such as a common set of traditions, ancestry, language, history, society, culture.</p>	<p>Y=1 / N=0</p> <p>_____</p>	

Attitude toward At Risk Groups (scored out of __4__)

Indicator	Definition & Unit of Measure	Score	Notes/ Additional Observations
Percent change in number of incidences of scapegoating events within the past six months	<p>Percent change in number of incidences of scapegoating events within the past six months compared to the six months preceding.</p> <p>Scapegoating includes when a group uses an unrelated event as a rationale to attack or target the group.</p> <p>Sources used to identify instances of scapegoating include: content analysis of speeches, media, newspapers, “official” social media.</p>	<p>_____</p>	
Percent change in official government statements that denigrate the vulnerable group	<p>Percent change in official government statements that denigrate the vulnerable group over the past six months compared to the preceding six months.</p> <p>Statements that constitute denigrating includes hate speech, expressing prejudice toward, inciting violence, threats of violence, use of stereotypes, use of offensive slurs, exclusionary policies.</p> <p>Official statements include press releases, public statements made by government officials or spokespersons, and official social media accounts.</p>	<p>_____</p>	
Percent change in statements made by informal leadership that denigrate the vulnerable group	<p>Percent change in statements made by informal leadership that denigrate the vulnerable group over the past six months compared to the preceding six months.</p> <p>Statements that constitute denigrating includes hate speech, expressing prejudice toward, inciting violence, threats of violence, use of stereotypes, use of offensive slurs, exclusionary policies.</p> <p>Informal leadership includes community leaders, religious leaders, traditional leaders, etc.</p> <p>Statements include public statements, social media accounts, quoted news articles</p>		
Has there been a history of targeted violence against the vulnerable group in the past	<p>Has there ever been instances where an individual, individuals, or group were the subject of violence in the past? Violence includes physical bodily harm or destruction of property.</p>	<p>Y=2 / N=0</p> <p>_____</p>	

Other Potential Indicators to Consider:

Prevalence of misinformation and disinformation: The Sentinel Project's research on misinformation and disinformation should be considered as a potential source of assessing community vulnerability. More misinformation or disinformation may contribute to increased vulnerability.

Amount of support from external backers: External backers who support a given community (for example, a diaspora) may help decrease the community's vulnerability however perpetrators may also rely on support from external backers to amass the resources necessary to carry out atrocities.

Recent regime change: New regimes may be more friendly to vulnerable groups than previous regimes or the opposite may be true and the new regime may have used negative information about a vulnerable group as part of their campaign.

Recent internet shutdown by the state: The state may use the internet to surveil vulnerable groups or it may shut down the internet to prevent vulnerable groups from sharing information.

Level of internet: Similar to internet shutdowns, throttling the internet or blocking specific apps are ways of controlling vulnerable groups.

Changes in the amount of people gathering in public spaces: Changes in amount of people present in public spaces over the evaluation period. Public spaces include markets, on streets, public transportation, at water collection points, etc. Scored: Increase=1, Stayed the same=0, Decrease=-1.