CONIAS Subnational Resilience Index (SURE)

CONIAS Risk Intelligence's dataset on political instability and conflict is ideal for all specialized applications of digital geography. Its foundation is the CONIAS database comprising more than 1,800 political conflicts world-wide and for several years, DAX-listed companies use it to complement and enrich existing supplier evaluation and rating systems. The MBI team of experts and analysts ensures high quality standards in data gathering and analysis so that reliable updates are possible up to twelve times per year.

For the specification subnational resilience data (SURE), MBI researchers combine information of socio-economic well-being and development with insights on a region's conflict history to develop a specific resilience value for more than 3,800 distinct first level administrative division of any state. Hence, SURE data is especially well suited for applications for strategic market entry planning as well as for the evaluation of production sites, suppliers and supply chain networks.

THE CONIAS
SUBNATIONAL
RESILIENCE
INDEX (SURE)

GENERAL INFORMATION AND USE CASE

Military operations, terrorist attacks, mass protests and strikes, protectionist laws or corrupt authorities: For multinational and globally active companies, political risks rank among the most important challenges. Particularly dangerous are forms of political violence such as **war, terrorism** and **major unrest,** as they can cause significant damage to companies in all sectors, unsettle investors and reduce the availability of qualified local workers. Political stability and resilience are manifest location advantages! Corruption, protests, and strikes, **affect the efficiency of administrative institutions negatively,** and complicate market entry substantially. Strikes and blockades, but also attacks on critical infrastructure can **disrupt or even interrupt production and lines of communication.** Conflict poses a risk to site and machine security – yet much more importantly, to the physical well-being of employees and local partners, who might have to reckon with extortion, kidnapping or even injuries and death. The good news is, political violence does not appear from nowhere – research has shown that their occurrence and escalation can be predicted quite well. Moreover, conflicts are much more dynamic than we think, both in terms of escalation and de-escalation cycles as well as geographical spread and spillover. Based on CONIAS conflict and risk data, and on the grounds of reliable and well-tested research methods, we identify in any country those areas, where the physical safety of employees as well as the entire supply chain network are at risk in the medium and the long-term.
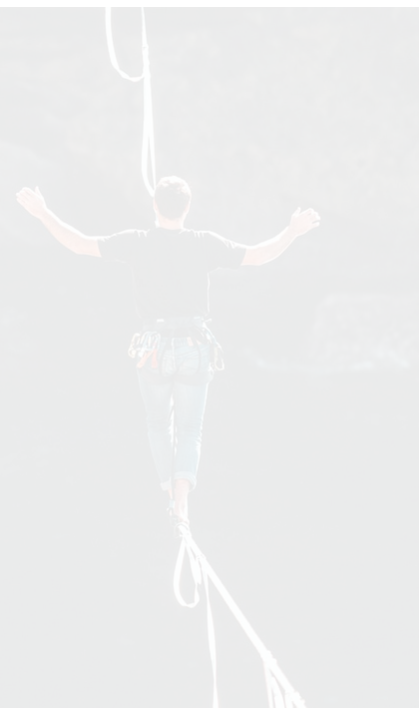
Our experts and analysts come from a background of political science and conflict research and monitor more than 800 non-violent and violent political conflicts in over 3,800 sub-state units worldwide. They continuously and systematically assess the dynamics of each conflict in each region every month employing our unique method of data evaluation, developed over a time-span of two decades in research projects on conflict analysis and early warning at the Department of Political Science at the University of Heidelberg.

THE SURE DATASET IS CHARACTERIZED BY THE FOLLOWING FEATURES:

- SURE gathers and evaluates data at the subnational level (worldwide > 3,800 subnational units)

- SURE assigns specific risk values to any region each month (45,600 regional values/year)

- SURE provides a full picture as it evaluates all ongoing, violent and non-violent, conflicts in a region

- SURE indicates where current and anticipated political tensions pose a significant risk to investment security

- SURE indicates which regions did not or only to a minor extent experience political violence in the recent past

- SURE places the regions on a scaled spectrum (0-10) and distinguishes between those with very good, solid, limited or very poor resilience conditions to indicate, where the current level of instability renders adjustments to supply chain networks highly advisable

In contrast to official, annual or intermittently published risk assessments, CONIAS measures the security situation on the ground every month – data-driven, comparably and on the basis of scientific research. In addition, the evaluation of political security risks at the subnational level provides a much more detailed picture than one focusing only on the national level. This is especially the case when it comes to information on events in peripheral areas of larger states or regarding local specifics. Taking a closer look makes a clear difference! With CONIAS, users are well informed when it comes to the mid- and long-term strategic planning of site and supplier selection and evaluation. Our data also helps identifying trends in local resilience and in-form clients both about growing risks affecting existing sites and networks as well as new opportunities in yet unconquered territories.

USE CASES

Our CONIAS SURE database is especially suitable

- During all stages of market entry efforts

- For supply chain planning and site selection processes

- For day-to-day supplier evaluation and selection

- To identify alternative suppliers or lines of communication and transport during crisis management efforts

OUR METHOD

The individual subnational resilience value of a specific region (SURE) is measured on a scale from 0 (high level of resilience, no detectable indication of future instability) to 10 (substantial and structural danger to physical safety and well-being) and calculated in a multi-stage process.

1. Systematic collection of country-specific data on political, social and economic development over the past five years. Calculation of an individual country value for political and socio-economic development on a scale from 0 (low) to 10 (high).

2. Systematic state-level assessment of all salient yet non-violent political conflicts and their intensities in the previous five years. Calculation of an individual country value for non-violent political tensions on a scale of 0 to 10, based on the frequency of respective non-violent conflict measures (e.g. protests, strikes, arrests).

3. Systematic assessment of all political conflicts in a country, that had turned violent at least once in the last five years. Classification of the monthly intensity of each conflict at the regional level, determined by the indicators

    a. Type of weapons used,
    b. Number of personnel involved, and
    c. Number of casualties

into violent crises and war-like conflicts. Calculation of two specific regional values for risks from violent (1) and highly violent (2) conflicts, each on a scale of 0 to 10, based on the type and frequency of corresponding conflict measures (e.g. attacks, military operations).

4. Calculation of a specific subnational resilience value (SURE) based on the sum of the country and regional values weighted according to their effect on local security, also scaled from 0 to 10.

MB-International
Worldwide Geodata

CONIAS
RISK
INTELLIGENCE

OUR SOURCES

For the data gathering and systematic assessment of violent and non-violent conflict measures, a specially trained group of experts and analysts continuously and extensively monitors open source data. Our assessments rely primarily on international news agencies as well as English-language quality mainstream media outlets. In order to provide a maximum level of transparency to users and clients, primary sources in other languages are only used if verified independently.

NO MORE BLIND SPOTS: GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

For geo-analysis and planning of both investments and operations abroad, subnational geometries generate significant added value, especially when compatible with well-known boundaries. Unfortunately, existing providers such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) adapt to border changes at times with a delay of several years and inconsistent subdivisions might occur especially regarding overseas territories. Hence, MBI has developed its own data set, which can be easily connected to ISO standards, provides up-to-date data on administrative units to users and makes sure that "blind spots" will disappear from your map.

DELIVERIES/ UPDATES

Formats
csv
json

Geoformats
Shapefile
Geopackage
Spatiallite
Geojson

Deliveries with up to twelve updates (calendar month) per annum are possible

CONTENT		EXPLANATION	DATA TYPE
region	official name of the region	e.g. "Bavaria"	String (255)
region_iso	regional code	regional code (based on ISO), e.g. "DE-BY"	String (5)
country	country name	e.g. "Germany"	String (255)
country_is	country code	ISO-code of country, e.g. "DE"	String (2)
country_st	country value for political and socio-economic developments	scale to measure the development status of the country "DE" from "0" (min.) to "10" (max.)	double
country_so	country value for non-violent political tensions	scale to measure the level of political tensions below the threshold of violence of the country "DE" from "0" (min.) to "10" (max.)	double
region_vio	regional value	scale to measure the level of violent political conflicts below the war threshold of the "DE-BY" region from "0" (min.) to "10" (max.)	double
region_war	regional value for risks from highly violent conflicts	scale for recording the level of violent political conflicts above the war threshold of the "DE-BY" region from "0" (min.) to "10" (max.)	double
sure	subnational resilience value	subnational resilience value	double

HOW TO INTERPRET OUR DATA

The CONIAS subnational resilience data (SURE) is interval-scaled (0-10), which makes data measurable and comparison easy. Together with a specific color code, the scale also functions as a warning system. Hence, SURE data informs clients about looming instability and indicates whether assets and suppliers in the respective areas deserve further attention – and action. As general recommendations grasp neither the complexity of political realities on the ground nor of a supply chain network, the scale provides predominantly an orientation framework. We highly recommend a long-term use of the SURE data through our update services in order to stay informed about local dynamics.

SURE	COLOR	RESILIENCE AND STABILITY OUTLOOK*
0 - 2.69	Green	**Very good.** No military violence in the last five years (0.3%) only one out of ten regions in this category has experienced sporadic violence. Over 90% of these regions are above average in terms of their socio-economic development.
2.7 – 5.29	Yellow	**Solid.** In 94% of these regions war-like violence did not occur in the last five years. However, 25 out of 100 of the regions in this category were frequently affected by sporadic and low-level violence in the previous year. About 30% of these regions are below the global average in terms of socio-economic development. Hence, these regions are generally less resilient than those in the "green" category.
5.3 – 7.99	Orange	**Limited.** In all of these regions, violent conflict occurred in the past five years and about half of them were affected by war-like violence in the previous year, even several times. As all of these regions perform below than average in terms of socio-economic development, their situation is unlikely to improve rapidly.
8.0 – 10.0	Red	**Very bad.** All of the regions in this category have been affected several times and almost continuously by armed violence in the past five years. At the same time, violent conflicts below the war-like threshold occurred repeatedly in the past year. Because the socio-economic development of these regions is also clearly lagging behind, it is unlikely that the situation improves in the medium term.

* The percentages are based on an analysis of more than 3,800 individual sub-state units in 2017 (for the period of 2012-2016) and 2018 (2013-2017).
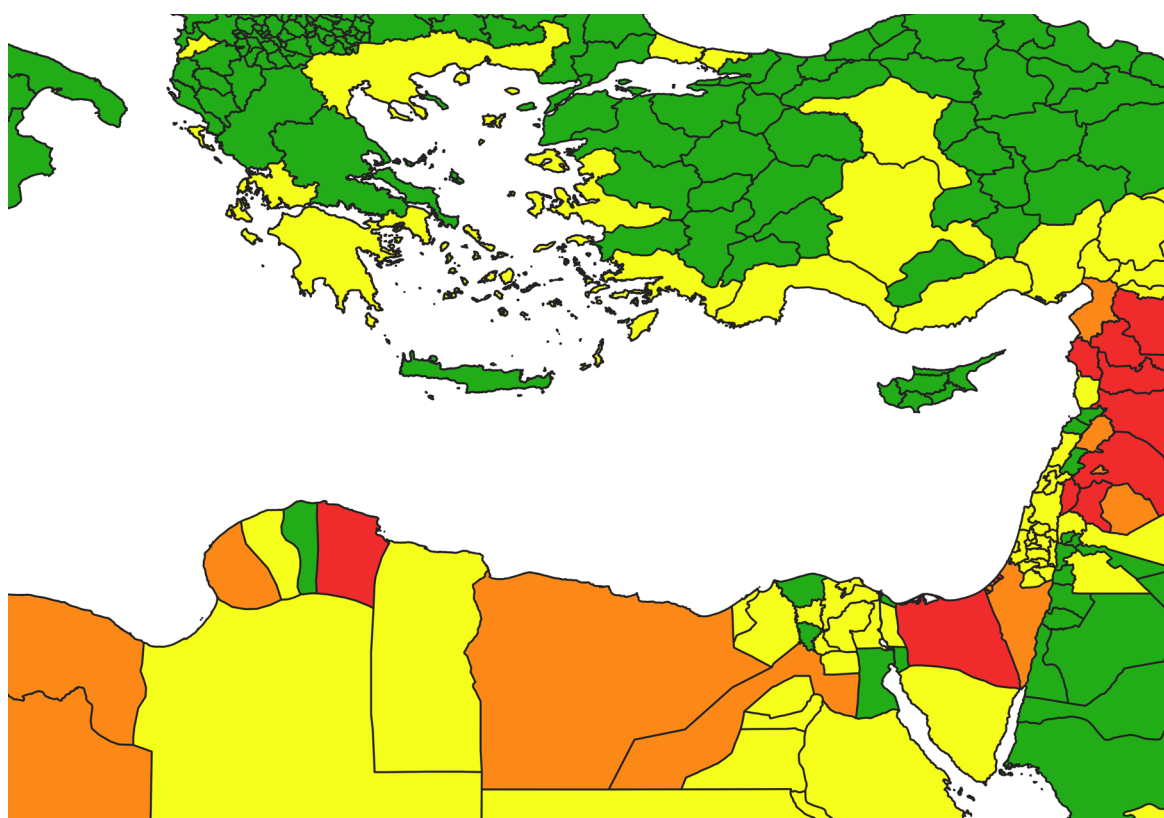

Figure 1: SURE data for the eastern Mediterranean region for the period of March 2019

ABOUT MBI

- Leading global data provider
- Preferred data provider & partner to leading IT & GIS companies
- One of the first global HERE Technologies Distributors
- Standardized data sets, consistent and comparable with a seamless global coverage
- Over 20 years experience in geodata and location intelligence through various industries
- MBI unites passion and scientific know-how to provide globally consistent and comparable geodata
- GDPR compliant
- Part of Michael Bauer Group, market leader for state-of-the-art and innovative market data

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MBI
Worldwide
Geodata

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