



FAQs: ACLED Registration System and Access Model

Over the past few years, ACLED has expanded to cover more than 150 countries and territories, collecting data on almost a million political violence and demonstration events around the world. While we are fast approaching global real-time coverage, ACLED remains a small NGO, requiring us to take new steps to strengthen our impact as a non-profit public good and lay the groundwork for continued success and sustainability. Therefore, as a first step towards ensuring that ACLED data and analysis remain widely available for years to come, we have launched the [ACLED Access Portal](#), a new registration system designed to maintain free public access to ACLED data while providing greater oversight and tailored support.

Q: What is the registration system?

A: ACLED users are now required to register through the [portal](#) before gaining access to the data. When registering, each person will be asked to provide their name, a contact email, and to classify their use into one of the following categories: academic; for profit/private business/commercial; foundation/charity; government; intergovernmental/multinational organization; media; military; and NGO/INGO/think tank. Users will also be asked for a brief summary of their use case (*How will you be using ACLED data?*). Once registered, users will generate a unique access key to use when downloading data (see this [guide](#) for further instructions on how to register and manage your account). For any questions, please contact us at access@acleddata.com.

Q: Why is ACLED requiring registration?

A: The core motivation behind the registration system is to better understand our users and use cases. Through the system, we will gain a much better understanding of our user communities and their needs. In turn, this will help us to forge new partnerships which will ensure the sustainability of ACLED into the future.

Q: What is the new ACLED access model?

A: In addition to the new registration system, ACLED will soon introduce a new access model. The core motivation behind the new access model is to prohibit misuse and resale of ACLED data, and to lay the foundation for a more sustainable access model. In this new model, ACLED data will remain free to the public for extensive, though not unlimited, use. Those who wish to gain further access will be able to contact us to discuss their needs on a case-by-case basis. ACLED will provide more information and resources around the registration system and new access model in the coming weeks and months to ensure a smooth transition for all users. If you wish to receive these updates, along with other announcements and content, please [subscribe](#) to our mailing list. In the meantime, please send any questions to access@acleddata.com.

Q: Is ACLED still a nonprofit?

A: Yes. Nothing about ACLED's legal structure has changed. ACLED remains a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Q: Is access to ACLED data still free and public?

A: Yes. All users who abide by ACLED's [Terms of Use & Attribution Policy \(TOU\)](#) may access ACLED data for free once they have registered. ACLED's TOU are presented during the registration process and must be accepted by all users before downloading data via the website or API. However, as noted above, ACLED will soon implement a new access model which will mean all access is not unlimited. For questions, please contact access@acleddata.com.