Mapping Conflicts in North and West Africa

The security situation in North and West Africa is deteriorating. 2019 is likely be the deadliest year recorded in the region, with more than 7,300 killed through June. This is due to the proliferation of extremist violent organizations across the Sahara and Sahel, itself a result of repetitive episodes of conflict since the beginning of the 2010s. While violence remains on the increase, it remains unclear if it is intensifying in particular localities, spreading insecurity across state boundaries, or relocating spatially under the pressure of government forces. To answer these questions, our research team has developed a new metric called the Spatial Conflict Dynamics indicator (SCDi). The development of the SCDi and some initial findings about the geography of violence will be discussed.