

July 17, 2020



We invite you to explore our new format for the Peace Pulse ! In addition to sharing articles related to the focus areas, approaches, and contexts in which Conflict Dynamics International (CDI) works each edition will now feature a set of articles that align with a focused and relevant theme. This edition's theme is *Peacebuilding during COVID-19*.

The COVID-19 pandemic is profoundly affecting lives at the global and personal levels. The likely political, economic, and social impacts will be long-lasting, including increasing inequality, transforming geopolitical relationships, and contributing to changes in countries' leadership, to name a few.

In this edition you will find articles that discuss the peace and conflict implications of the pandemic, including effects on local peacebuilding, migrants and refugees, gender-based violence, polarization, and the wildlife trade.

In our own work, CDI finds that the pandemic is intensifying divisions, inequality, and exclusion, which could lead to an increase in violent conflict. However, it also provides an opportunity to work across differences to develop coordinated responses and to allow community leadership to flourish. Last week, our Somali Team [published a piece](#) on Medium about the need to double down on local peacebuilding in Somalia. COVID-19 has not only had significant health impacts in Somalia, but it also has exacerbated conflict drivers and violence, resulting in an increase in gender-based violence, crime, tensions between communities and security forces, and attacks by Al-Shabab. Local peacebuilding structures, which are communities' preferred and most trusted conflict resolution mechanism, need to be supported now more than ever so they can successfully continue their critical roles in conflict management and humanitarian response.

We are pleased to showcase some of the other articles related to COVID-19 and peacebuilding published within the last couple of months as well. While cases of domestic and gender-based violence have increased significantly during the pandemic, data from South Africa shows a reduction in reported cases; and Chandré Gould explores potential reasons for this phenomenon in her Institute for Security Studies [article](#). USIP's compilation of articles, "[Prioritizing Peace During the Pandemic](#)," examines the effects of the pandemic on peace efforts. Also, Aimée-Noël Mbiyozo highlights the many risks that migrants and refugees in Africa face due to the virus in her Institute for Security Studies [article](#).

CDI [remains committed](#) to ensuring that inclusive peace and humanitarian engagement remain a priority during this crisis. As people mobilize around the common objective to address the pandemic, we can offer guidance on supporting parties to conflict in resolving their differences, promoting inclusivity and participation, and minimizing effects of COVID-19. We hope that these articles will support you in your work during these challenging times.

If you have suggestions for themes that you would like to see featured in future editions of the Peace Pulse, please send them to [peacepulse@cdint.org](mailto:peacepulse@cdint.org).

## Peacebuilding under COVID-19

How do peacebuilding and the pandemic interact? This section highlights articles that explore this question, including an article by our own Somali Team on the importance of supporting local peace efforts during this time.

- [Bracing for coronavirus in Syria's battered northwest](#), Muhammad Al Hosse, Madeline Edwards, The New Humanitarian, 26 March 2020
- [Can the Coronavirus Heal Polarization?](#) Ashley Quarcoo and Rachel Kleinfeld, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1 May 2020
- [COVID-19, Armed Conflict, and the Wildlife Trade](#), Colin Walch, International Peace Institute, 14 May 2020
- [COVID-19 responses in Africa must include migrants and refugees](#), Aimee-Noel Mbiyozo, Institute for Security Studies, 8 April 2020
- [COVID-19 border closure cuts off Idlib cancer patients from treatment](#), Muhammad Al Hosse, Madeline Edwards, The New Humanitarian, 20 May 2020
- [Could the Pandemic Jump-Start National Reconciliation in Palestine?](#), Zaha Hassan and Nathan J. Brown, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 20 May 2020
- [Don't Ignore the Need for Peacebuilding in the Midst of COVID-19 in Somalia](#), Rukiya Abdulrahman, Conflict Dynamics International, Medium, 2 July 2020
- [Examining the Longer-Term Effects of COVID-19 on UN Peacekeeping Operations](#), Cedric de Coning, International Peace Institute, 13 May 2020
- [Gender-based violence during lockdown: looking for answers](#), Chandré Gould, Institute for Security Studies, 11 May 2020
- [Harnessing Coronavirus for a Peaceful and Prosperous Africa](#), Middle East and Africa Center, USIP, 27 May 2020
- [The Impact of Sanctions on Humanitarian Response to COVID-19](#), Agathe Sarfati, International Peace Institute, 27 April 2020
- [Prioritizing Peace During the Pandemic](#), USIP, 2020
- [UN Peacekeeping and the Protection of Civilians in the COVID-19 Era](#), Namie Di Razza, International Peace Institute, 22 May 2020 COVID-19
- [UN Peacekeepers Must Stay the Course](#), Atul Khare and Jean-Pierre Lacroix, International Peace Institute, 23 April 2020

## Peacebuilding & Governance

### Peacebuilding

CDI's peace action work focuses on preventing conflict, peacemaking and building sustainable peace. Our main strategy for this is political accommodation - a method for enabling users to develop their own approaches to reconciling divergent interests equitably.

- [Afghan Leaders End Political Impasse](#), Andrew Watkins, International Crisis Group, 20 May 2020
- [Afghan Women's Views on Violent Extremism and Aspirations to a Peacemaking Role](#), Haseeb Humayoon and Mustafa Basij-Rasikh, USIP, 3 February 2020
- [Crisis Crunching: What CrisisWatch Says about Today's Conflicts - and Tomorrow's](#), Amelia Branczik, International Crisis Group, 26 February 2020
- [Finding the UN Way on Peacekeeping-Intelligence](#), Sarah-Myriam Martin-Brûlé, International Peace Institute, 9 April 2020
- [Integrating Human Rights into the Operational Readiness of UN Peacekeepers](#), Namie Di Razza and Jake Sherman, International Peace Institute, 29 April 2020
- [Placing People at the Center of UN Peace Operations](#), Cedric de Coning and Linnéa Gelot, International Peace Institute, 29 May 2020
- [Peace in Afghanistan? Watch the militias](#), Astri Suhrke and Antonio De Lauri, The New Humanitarian, 26 May 2020
- [Roundup: Peace deals, political stalemates, and Afghanistan's overlapping](#)

- [crises](#), The New Humanitarian, 2 March 2020
- [Sustaining Peace in Burkina Faso: Responding to an Emerging Crisis](#), Christian Lara and Gabriel Delsol, International Peace Institute, 19 May 2020
- [Syrian refugee women face new COVID-19 battleground](#), Sam Mednick, The New Humanitarian, 12 May 2020
- [What Is Behind the Leadership Tensions Inside Syria?](#), Michael Young, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 14 May 2020
- [With or Against the State? Reconciling the Protection of Civilians and Host-State Support in UN Peacekeeping](#), Patryl I. Labuda, International Peace Institute, 29 May 2020
- [Climate Change Is Shaping the Future of Conflict](#), Robert Malley, International Crisis Group, 5 May 2020
- [Conflict, Health Cooperation and COVID-19 in Myanmar](#), International Crisis Group, 19 May 2020

## Governance

Governance arrangements and political dialogue processes provide structure to a political system and help guide whether or not it is inclusive and participatory. CDI's governance and process frameworks support groups from different backgrounds to identify drivers of conflict in the system and develop creative solutions for addressing them.

- [Benin's local elections further reduce the political space](#), Ella Jeannine Abatan and Michael Matongbada, Institute for Security Studies, 27 May 2020
- [Beijing Legislation Reignites Hong Kong Protests](#), Patricia M. Kim, Rachel Vandenbrink, USIP, 28 May 2020
- [Could elections lead to another political crisis in Burundi?](#) Liesl Louw-Vaudran, Institute for Security Studies, 18 May 2020
- [The Coronavirus Challenges Myanmar's Transition](#), Kyi Kyi Seinn, USIP, 26 May 2020
- [The Fragility of Northern Syria](#), International Crisis Group, 26 May 2020
- [Idlib Between September 2015 and May 2020: A Timeline](#), International Crisis Group, 15 May 2020
- [Lessons from the Global Counterterrorism Forum for International Cooperation on Pandemics](#), Eric Rosand and Steven Weine, International Peace Institute, 28 May 2020
- [Religious Landscape Mapping in Conflict-Affected States](#), USIP, 2020

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## Peacebuilding Contexts

### Somalia and Somaliland

Since 2009, CDI has worked with local partners in Somalia to support dialogue among and between Somali leaders and communities to help reconcile different interests and build lasting peace.

- [The Gaboye of Somaliland: transformations and historical continuities of the labour exploitation and marginalisation of hereditary groups of occupational specialists](#), Elia Vitturini, Journal of Eastern African Studies, 4 May 2020
- [In the news: Somalia clashes displace thousands](#), Philip Kleinfeld, The New Humanitarian, 6 March 2020

### South Sudan

CDI has supported South Sudanese to construct a "House of Governance" that equitably serves all citizens and provides a framework for sustainable peace. We currently are exploring ways to support South Sudanese women's participation in governance and processes and the promotion of women's rights.

- [Born to Lead: Recommendations on increasing women's participation in South Sudan's peace processes](#), Oxfam and Born to Lead, 30 January 2020
- [The COVID-19 Pandemic Vulnerability Factors in South Sudan](#), Abraham

- Awolich and Nhial Tiitmamer, [The Sudd Institute](#), 15 May 2020
- [Enhancing the Educational Outcomes for South Sudanese Refugee Youth: Laying the Groundwork for International Comparative Research](#), Reuben Garang, South Sudan Peace Portal, 17 March 2020
- ['No one can stay without someone': Transnational networks amongst the Nuer-speaking peoples of Gambella and South Sudan](#), Freddie Carver, South Sudan Peace Portal, 2 March 2020
- [Return pressure builds as COVID-19 hits South Sudan displacement camps](#), Joshua Craze, *The New Humanitarian*, 1 June 2020
- [South Sudan's peace deal reveals flaws in Pretoria's approach to mediation](#), Peter Fabricius, 24 February 2020
- [Violence in flood-hit state deepens aid needs in South Sudan](#), Okech Francis, *The New Humanitarian*, 26 May 2020

## Sudan

CDI works to prevent conflict and build sustainable peace in Sudan by supporting all stakeholders to develop inclusive frameworks, policies, and systems that will form the foundation of a new era of governance in Sudan.

- [A year after al-Bashir's ouster, cash-strapped Sudan too broke for peace](#), Philip Kleinfeld, *The New Humanitarian*, 16 April 2020
- [China's Response to Sudan's Political Transition](#), Laura Barber, USIP, 8 May 2020
- [COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for Sudan](#), UNDP Sudan, 17 May 2020
- [Exploring Big Data for SDGs in Sudan](#), UNDP Sudan, 19 March 2020
- [Sudan does an about-turn in US relations](#), Peter Fabricius, Institute for Security Studies, 29 May 2020
- [Sudan, One Year After Bashir](#), Manal Taha, Payton Knopf and Aly Verjee, USIP, 1 May 2020
- [Sudan \(Darfur\), June 2020 Monthly Forecast](#), Security Council Report, 29 May 2020
- [Sudan: Managing COVID-19 Pandemic During a Time of Transition](#), Ezzan Kunna, Arab Reform Initiative, 9 May 2020
- [VIOLENCE IN DARFUR, FEBRUARY - MAY 2020: A compendium of reports from Radio Dabanga](#), Eric Reeves, Sudan Research, Analysis and Advocacy, 17 May 2020

## Books

- [Communication and Peace, Celebrating Moments of Sheer Human Togetherness](#), Cees J. Hamelink, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020
- [Externalising Migration Governance Through Civil Society](#), Sabine Dini, and Caterina Giusa, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020
- [Transition beyond Denuclearisation, A Bold Challenge for Kim Jong Un](#), Chan Young Bang, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020
- [Women's Everyday Lives in War and Peace in the South Caucasus](#), Edited by Ulrike Ziemer, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020

The Peace Pulse seeks to inform readers about recent debates and scholarship related to peacebuilding and governance, and CDI's peacebuilding contexts: Somalia and Somaliland, South Sudan, and Sudan. Conflict Dynamics' peacebuilding initiatives aim to prevent and resolve violent conflict and to foster political stability. In working toward this goal, Conflict Dynamics supports people and their representatives to develop, agree upon, and implement practical arrangements for political dialogue processes and governance that accommodate diverse political

interests in a balanced way.

We look forward to seeing you again in September!

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Conflict Dynamics | [info@cdint.org](mailto:info@cdint.org) | <http://www.cdint.org>

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