

**Friday, March 4, 2022 | 23:00-24:00 (JST)** led by Yuika Iwabuchi and Zihao Liu  
A session with Mr. [Philip Barrett](#) and Ms. [Sophia Chen](#), Research Department, and Ms. [Nan Li](#), African Department, IMF  
¶ Philip Barrett will speak on behalf of the team.

## **Social Repercussions beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic—Challenges and Reconciliations**

Historically, pandemics have resulted in social repercussions, and the COVID-19 pandemic is not an exception. As an IMF blog "[COVID's Long Shadow: Social Repercussions of Pandemics](#)" describes, social unrest may not show up immediately after COVID-19, but may appear in the long run. Such threats may be greater if they are interlinked with underlying social problems. Governments are urged to respond to such unrest. Furthermore, desirable policies and actions may differ by country, considering the differences in political situations or stage of economic development. After reading the blog, we are keen to deepen our understanding on the following issues by discussing with experts at IMF.

1. How should we interpret the unrest? Are there any implicit commonalities or explicit differences for the unrest between countries of different development levels? Our tentative hypothesis is that the pandemic has caused significant stress on the global macroeconomic conditions, and the impacts on individual domestic economies of such stress in turn have provoked dissatisfaction and people's reactions. However, we consider such a narrative as too simplistic because it does not take into account the social fabric and economic development levels. Therefore, it can hardly give plausible and universal explanations to different situations, such as those in Kazakhstan as opposed to those in the US.
2. How should the governments respond to mitigate risks of unrest? While governments are taking policy actions and utilizing different remedial measures at their disposal, most of the actions nevertheless might not work well and eventually end up with conflicts and chaos. What preventive policy measures should the government take in anticipation of delayed social unrest spikes in the longer term?
3. There might be a gap between government intention reflected for example in administrative orders and people's understanding. Or the pursuit of policy goals may either address people's needs insufficiently or ironically hinder people's welfare instead. What are the key elements of any successful government communication strategy in the face of risks of unrest?

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**Friday, March 18, 2022 | 23:00-24:00 (JST)** led by Alexandra Sinicki and Franz Willeit  
A session with Messrs. [Rasmane Ouedraogo](#) and [David Stenzel](#), African Department, IMF

### **The Impact of Domestic Violence on Economic Development**

Before the pandemic, one in three women suffered from physical or sexual violence. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, helplines in many countries reported an increase in calls for domestic violence. This increase in physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of women amid the current health crisis was labelled a “shadow pandemic.” More precisely, the IMF has found that an increase in violence by 1% can reduce economic activities by up to 8%, based on a drop in female employment. Ms. Sinicki has experience in female education for entrepreneurship while Mr. Willeit worked on economic empowerment. Based on an IMF blog “[The COVID-19 Gender Gap](#),” we acknowledge that the increase of domestic violence is connected to both female education and economic empowerment. After reading another IMF blog “[How Domestic Violence is a Threat to Economic Development](#),” the following questions remain unanswered:

1. Since laws and regulations differ by country, we are interested in the role that international organizations can play, such as establishing international standards, creating more work opportunities for women, and lessening domestic violence. What role can IMF play?
2. The blog reveals female employment as the mechanism explaining the reduction of economic activities if domestic violence increases. At the same time, however, education has an impact on female employment too. Accordingly, we are eager to investigate the reciprocal relationship between education, domestic violence, and female employment. We are convinced that education can have a significant positive impact on female empowerment on the global stage. The blog states that increasing women’s access to education may help them be “less influenced and controlled by men.” We are wondering whether this statement refers to education in its quantitative value or qualitative-social value. Another question is what if we distinguish between households with and without children.
3. While the blog highlights a correlation between domestic violence and economic development, we have found [a study by Lenze and Klasen \(2017\)](#) to suggest that this correlation may not apply to some countries under certain conditions. We are thus wondering if the blog authors have by chance encountered similar counter-examples in their research as we believe these could be of great help when framing adequate policies.

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