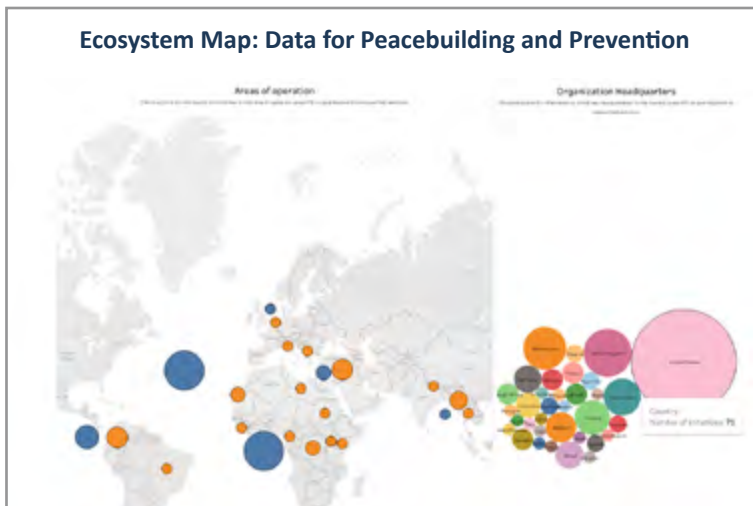


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# Annual Report 2020-2021





Top: (Back, left to right): Mark Malloch-Brown (President of Open Society Foundations), Pedro Sánchez (Prime Minister of Spain), Stefan Löfven (Prime Minister of Sweden), Winnie Byanyima (Executive Director, UNAIDS); (Front, left to right): Carlos Alvarado (President of Costa Rica), Sanda Ojiambo (CEO & Executive Director of UN Global Compact), Julius Maada Bio (President of Sierra Leone), Alicia Bárcena (USG & Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) at the Pathfinders Grand Challenge on Inequality & Exclusion flagship report launch event, September 2021. Bottom left: Data for Peacebuilding and Prevention Ecosystem Map. Bottom right: “Halving Global Violence with Innovative Coalitions and Resources” at the 2021 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development with Pathfinders Director Liv Tørres, Fiorella Salazar (Minister of Peace and Justice, Costa Rica), Óscar Escobar (Mayor of Palmira, Colombia), and Amb. Rüdiger Bohn (Deputy Federal German Government Commissioner for Disarmament Arms Control), May 2021.

# Letter from the Director

The past year at the Center on International Cooperation (CIC) has been one of ongoing disruption and dislocation as the COVID-19 pandemic continued to transform the social and economic landscape. While the emergence of COVID-19 vaccines provided a relief for some, it also exposed the deep inequalities both within and between countries through unequal vaccine access and distribution. Beyond the health implications, increasing debt, lack of access to recovery financing in the developing world, and a breakdown in the global supply chain suggest that the social and economic effects of COVID-19 are not just far from over but will have long-lasting effects. A shifting geopolitical landscape, including rising contestation between the US and China, has created new challenges for a multilateral system that is already struggling to cope with global challenges.

More than ever, strengthening multilateralism is vital. We therefore especially welcomed the UN secretary-general's ambitious new framework for action, *Our Common Agenda*, which is the UN's most important policy document this year. It rightly places strengthening the social contract at national and global levels and engagement with the next generation at the center of the multilateral system's efforts. And it deftly weaves strategic foresight, crisis prevention, and the Sustainable Development Goals across the entire UN system.

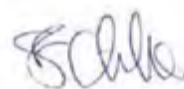
CIC continues to pivot our work in response to the new normal brought on by COVID-19. We are engaging with national partners and the international policy community through inputs on the secretary-general's new agenda. This includes hosting a series of briefings to discuss areas for strengthened UN–World Bank–IMF collaboration, providing new analysis on financing for peacebuilding, and training to support the resident coordinator system. Our staff has also made significant contributions to reimagining our world through the lens of a new social contract—

launching a flagship report and convening world leaders on solutions for delivering equality and inclusion; and mobilizing leaders across government, civil society, and the private sector to pursue justice for all through the Justice Action Coalition and the Legal Empowerment Network.

Complementary to *Our Common Agenda's* action to improve digital cooperation, data-driven approaches continue to play a crucial part in our work. We have deepened a cross-sector community of practice for data-driven approaches for peacebuilding and prevention. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, we have mapped violence by state security forces and armed groups, and also created a one-stop resource on parliamentary activities. In Syria, we continue to support documentation of human rights abuses. We also launched a new analysis of gender parity of senior appointments at the UN.

Finally, despite continued restrictions on international travel for most of this year, CIC has found ways to continue its country-level work. This has included travel, where possible, in Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, virtual consultations for people-centered justice in Ukraine, and working with UN Women and BRAC to conduct a large-scale study on the impact of COVID-19 on families who migrated back to rural areas in Bangladesh. We have also proposed options for preventing violent extremism in northeast Syria and advocacy for vulnerable groups in the wake of the growing humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

CIC remains deeply grateful to our partners and donors who support us in this critical work.



**Sarah Cliffe**  
Director, CIC



# Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

In 2020-21, the Pathfinders welcomed new member states, consolidated growth, and launched groundbreaking initiatives for peace, justice, and inclusion.



*Prime Minister of Sweden Stefan Löfven (right) greets President of Sierra Leone Julius Maada Bio (center) and Minister of Planning and Economic Development of Sierra Leone Francis Kai-Kai (left) at the Pathfinders Grand Challenge on Inequality & Exclusion flagship report launch event, September 2021.*

CIC hosts the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, a group of UN member states, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society, and private sector actors working to accelerate the delivery of the SDG targets for peace, justice, and inclusion (SDG16+).

This year, the number of Pathfinder countries rose to 39—despite numerous challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We intensified our external communications and continued our strategic and external advocacy work. This included launching the ministerial-led Task Force on Halving Global Violence and the Justice Action Coalition—established to bring partners together around national action, international support, and increased ambitions in core areas for post-pandemic recovery—as well as publishing the Grand Challenge on Inequality and Exclusion’s

flagship report. The Pathfinders provided valuable input to the UN secretary-general’s report, *Our Common Agenda*, with key policy suggestions in the areas of justice, violence reduction, and inequality and exclusion. Lastly, the Pathfinders played an active part in mobilizing the SDG16+ community to put SDG16+ at the heart of COVID-19 recovery and response, as well as the UN’s Decade of Action for the SDGs, through major events and conferences, and continued fostering dialogue with national partners.

## Pathfinders for Justice and the Shared Strategy for Justice for All

The Justice team at Pathfinders worked to promote justice for all through national, regional, and global engagement, including national stakeholder consultations held in Ukraine and Indonesia and regional gatherings for West Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, organized jointly with partner organizations. A centerpiece of efforts was the 2020 Global Week for Justice, hosted by Justice Canada, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and Open Government Partnership (OGP), which brought together stakeholders and organizations working towards access to justice for all for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. It included the first Global Dialogue of Justice Leaders, which was attended by 22 ministers. Currently, the program is working to organize the next Global Week for Justice in December 2021 and building the Ibero-American Justice Alliance, a group of organizations that represent key actors from across the justice sector in Latin American countries, Portugal, and Spain.

Early in 2021, Pathfinders partnered with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the G7+ secretariat, and The Elders to co-organize a ministerial meeting where participants agreed to create a Justice Action Coalition to join efforts to achieve SDG16's promise of equal access to justice for all. Building on that meeting, 37 countries endorsed a joint letter to the UN secretary-general: "Reimagining social contracts: A call to put people at the center of justice." In *Our Common Agenda*, the secretary-general referred to the letter and vowed to promote a new vision for the rule of law in support of efforts to put people at the center of justice.

The program published the third and last Justice in a Pandemic briefing, *Justice for All and the Social Contract in Peril*, co-authored with a global group of experts. Additional publications included an in-depth case study produced on the Argentina Access to Justice Centers and eight Champions of Change interviews showcasing the experiences of individuals demonstrating that change is possible when we put people at the heart of justice.

### The Grand Challenge on Inequality & Exclusion



Prime Minister of New Zealand, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, speaking at the virtual launch of the Pathfinders Grand Challenge on Inequality and Exclusion's flagship report, September 2021.



Justice in a Pandemic Briefing Series: Briefing Three - Justice for All and the Social Contract in Peril, July 2021.

This past year has been an extremely productive time for the Grand Challenge on Inequality & Exclusion, with over twenty research papers written and published, ten events, and over seventeen thousand members of the public polled in eight countries. These outputs, as well as the last three years of work since the Grand Challenge was launched under the leadership of the Advisory Council, culminated in the launch of a flagship report, *From Rhetoric to Action: Delivering Equality and Inclusion*, in September 2021.

Seven heads of state and government—representing Costa Rica, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, New Zealand, Ireland, and Bangladesh—alongside regional and civil society leaders from Oxfam, International Trade Union Confederation, CIVICUS, OGP, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), experts including Nobel Prize Laureate Professor Joseph Stiglitz, Academy Award-winner Forest Whitaker, and chef and humanitarian philanthropist José Andrés, among others joined the Pathfinders to discuss how to build a more inclusive and equal world. The event, co-hosted with The Leaders Network Reinforcing Multilateralism Together, attracted global media attention and over 800 registrants.

*From Rhetoric to Action* is a reminder that change is possible, highlighting that almost half of all countries did witness a reduction in inequality or exclusion in the past thirty years. Although some of these countries saw this progress subsequently reversed, countries that have reduced inequality and exclusion over time have acted to create visible material change, build solidarity across groups, and secure credibility by tackling corruption. As the public demands action to back up the slogan “build back better,” the report serves as a policy toolkit for those wanting to enact progressive change. Moving forward, the program will focus on working with countries, civil society, and multilateral partners to implement policy change.

## The Grand Challenge on Violence Reduction

After laying down the research and strategic cornerstones of the Halving Global Violence efforts, Pathfinders convened its “architects”—political leaders and world-renowned violence reduction experts—in the Halving Global Violence Task Force in 2020–2021. Meeting virtually for the first time “at” Wilton Park, the Task Force is spearheaded by ministerial-level co-chairs from Costa Rica, Liberia, South Africa, and Switzerland, with members and advisors including city leaders, NGO leaders, activists, and prominent researchers in violence prevention. The Task Force reflects a broad coalition in which different communities of practice and knowledge can connect, engage, and act—aiming to identify evidence-based solutions and bridge the silos across fields to tackle conflict, urban violence, and interpersonal violence.

September 2021 marked several key moments, including the public unveiling of the Task Force during the global Peace One Day Live event, and the two-year anniversary celebration for the Peace in Our Cities initiative. With a handful of new members, Peace in Our Cities now boasts over twenty cities and two dozen partners united in a platform for knowledge exchange and policy support for urban violence reduction.

This year also saw further consolidation of the Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC)—for which Pathfinders serves as a secretariat—congregating members from the Western Balkans, Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean to advance gender-responsive small arms control, particularly through policy publications and advocacy around major international gatherings, including side events at the UN’s seventh Biennial Meeting of States (of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms Light Weapons) and Seventh Conference of States Parties (CSP7) to the Arms Trade Treaty.



*New GENSAC website launched in 2021.*

# CIC in the Media

CIC's expertise has been increasingly profiled in the global media. Over the last year, our staff and fellows were featured in dozens of television, broadcast, and digital media platforms, covering Afghanistan, the DRC, the UN General Assembly, and rising global inequalities, among other urgent issues.



Senior Fellow Rina Amiri (left) discussing the future for Afghan women under Taliban rule on PBS NewsHour, August 2021.



Director Sarah Cliffe (right) providing live commentary to ABC News on expectations for UNGA 2021, September 2021.



Senior Fellow and Congo Research Group Founding Member Jason Stearns (right) providing political commentary for TV5Monde, May 2021.



Pathfinders Program Lead on Inequality & Exclusion Faiza Shaheen discussing standing up to racism as a public figure and how to build a more inclusive global society after COVID-19 on Al Jazeera English, April 2021.

BUSINESS INSIDER

BBC

CNN

Le Monde

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

PBS NEWSHOUR

The Guardian

MOROCCO WORLD NEWS

The New York Times

Bloomberg

ALJAZEERA

FP

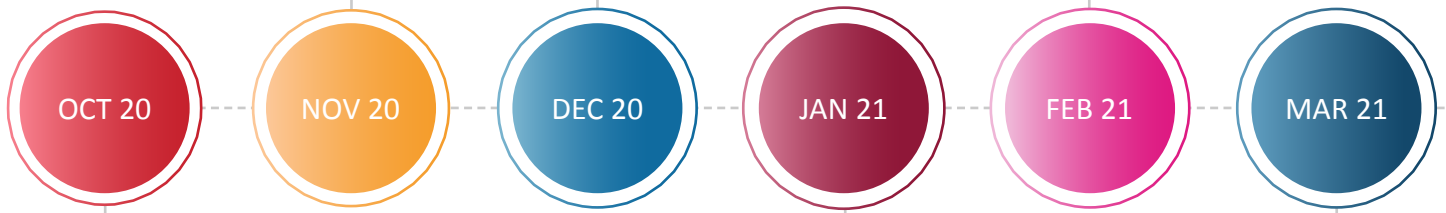
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

# This year at CIC

**Pathfinders** and partners convene national consultation in Ukraine on people-centered justice  
**Pathfinders** and the World Bank co-host “Mind the Gap” event on urban inequality

**Defending Multilateralism** publishes recommendations for greater UN-IFI coherence  
**Prevention and Peacebuilding and Pathfinders** present at PeaceCon 2020  
**Pathfinders** publishes policy recommendations on justice for new Biden administration

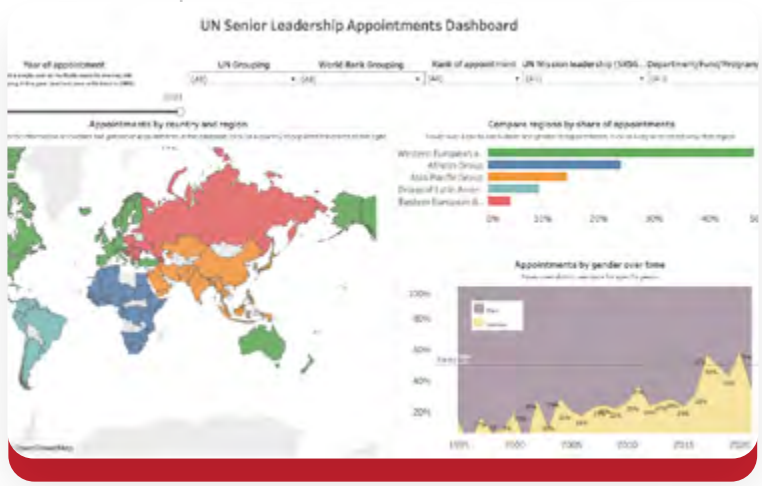
**Syria program** co-hosts virtual consultation for Syrian activists and families on civil documentation/identity papers  
**Pathfinders** publishes op-ed in *The Guardian* on need for hazard pay for essential workers



**Pathfinders** hosts first-ever Global Week of Justice with OECD, OGP, and Justice Canada  
**Defending Multilateralism** launches the UN Senior Leadership Appointments Dashboard  
**Pathfinders** inaugural Legal Empowerment Summit in West Africa

**Prevention and Peacebuilding** publishes an analysis of the 2020 UN peacebuilding architecture review  
**Pathfinders** first meeting of the Business Leaders for Justice Coalition  
**Humanitarian Crises** co-publishes report on COVID-19, conflict and risks in the Arab region

**Syria program** launches *Preventing the Reemergence of Violent Extremism in Northeast Syria* report  
**Pathfinders** co-hosts the Leading the Fight Against Corruption: UNGASS and Beyond briefing sessions with Open Government Partnership  
**Pathfinders** hosts Women at the Frontline of Reducing Gun Violence with the SDG Action Campaign  
**CRG** launches parliamentary tracker Talatala



UN Senior Leadership Appointments Dashboard, October 2020.



## Defending Multilateralism

hosts two briefings for UN resident coordinators on the World Bank

## Prevention and

**Peacebuilding** hosts ministerial-level event on Good Peacebuilding Financing at the Stockholm Forum

## Humanitarian Crises

and **Prevention and Peacebuilding** launch workshops at UN on conflict sensitivity across HDP nexus

**Pathfinders** publishes the third briefing in its pandemic series, *Justice for All and the Social Contract in Peril*

**Pathfinders** launches the Bahasa Indonesia translation of the *Justice for All* report

**Prevention and Peacebuilding** launches interactive Data for Peace Ecosystem Map

## Defending Multilateralism

hosts discussions of IMF and World Bank executive directors and UN ambassadors on multilateral coherence

**Pathfinders** publicly launches the Halving Global Violence Task Force

**Pathfinders** publishes flagship report for the Grand Challenge on Inequality and Exclusion

APR 21

MAY 21

JUN 21

JUL 21

AUG 21

SEP 21

## Pathfinders

Sixteen UN Member States endorse a joint letter to the UN secretary-general at a Ministerial meeting on putting people at the center of justice

**Prevention and Peacebuilding** publishes a policy briefing on peacebuilding, mental health, and psychosocial support

**Pathfinders** hosts roundtables on renewing social contracts and inclusive urban development

**Pathfinders** hosts Halving Global Violence Task Force's first meeting virtually "at" Wilton Park

**CRG** holds its first town hall meeting in Kinshasa on electoral governance in DRC

**Humanitarian Crises** co-hosts international dialogue on pandemic migration in Bangladesh with BRAC and UN Women

**CRG** begins broadcasting audio clips about its work via 43 community radio stations across the DRC

**CRG** publishes *Rebels, Doctors and Merchants of Violence: How the Fight Against Ebola Became Part of the Conflict in Eastern DRC*



Panel on Demographic and Socioeconomic Changes Induced by the COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh. Top row (left to right): Leah Zamore, Program Lead, NYU Center on International Cooperation, Shoko Ishikawa, Country Representative, UN Women Bangladesh, Daniel Naujoks, Interim Director, International Organization and UN Studies Specialization at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Bottom row: KAM Morshed, Senior Director, BRAC, and Adam Schwartz, Director of Health, BRAC USA.



# Defending and Promoting Multilateralism

As the pandemic continued to place enormous pressure on multilateral institutions, CIC redoubled its efforts to defend and promote multilateralism, focusing on the impact of and recovery from the pandemic, strengthening partnerships between the UN and international financial institutions (IFIs), and supporting gender parity and other forms of diversity among UN senior officials.

The Defending and Promoting Multilateralism program continued to focus on inclusive, results-oriented multilateral reform. Additionally, as the program continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the strategy has been to mobilize member state coalitions (often middle powers), to undertake specific and timely collective-action efforts such as equal access to COVID-19 vaccines and socioeconomic targets for a transformative pandemic recovery.

CIC has sent analysis on a monthly basis to close partners that provides a timely breakdown of relevant issues, such as the trust crisis in the multilateral system, commentary on *Our Common Agenda*, UN General Assembly news coverage and takeaways, global economic recovery, and a range of others.

Following support to the elaboration of the UN75 declaration last year, the program provided analysis and inputs through draft proposals to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General that fed into *Our Common Agenda*, the secretary-general's blueprint for a revitalized multilateral system. The program also continues to support discussions between the UN and its main partners on the financing of the resident coordinator and development system, and broader financing for development issues.

Over the past year, CIC has strengthened its work on UN-IFI collaboration, convening multiple briefings for resident coordinators to introduce them to the workings and structures of the World Bank and the IMF. We also supported an informal discussion among executive directors of the World Bank, the IMF, and permanent representatives of the UN. These briefings and discussions aim to encourage cooperation and demystify the structure and mandates.

Lastly, CIC remains committed to gender equality and broader diversity issues in this work. In October 2020, during Women, Peace and Security week at the UN, we launched the UN Senior Leadership Appointments Dashboard, garnering media coverage from *Politico*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Devex*. We continue to update the data and are working on a new dashboard on the educational pathways of UN senior leadership.



H.E. Alhaji Fanday Turay, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations (top left), Sarah Cliffe, Director, NYU CIC (top right), Mr. Merza Hasan, Executive Director and Dean of the World Bank Board (bottom left), and Mr. Masood Ahmed, President of the Center for Global Development (bottom right) at an event with IMF, World Bank, and UN representatives, September 2021.

# Prevention and Peacebuilding

The Prevention and Peacebuilding program has brought attention to the need for a sustaining peace approach to COVID-19 response and also made significant strides in building a global community of practice for data-driven approaches to prevention.

Since 2017, the program has worked to strengthen the operationalization of the UN prevention agenda. The ongoing effects of the pandemic have limited the in-person, country-level engagement that has been a cornerstone of our work. But it has also brought new opportunities to reach across the UN system globally.

We started a series of workshops to bring people working across the humanitarian-development-peacebuilding nexus into a common discussion about making their work more sensitive to conflict (in partnership with CIC’s Humanitarian Crises program)—especially in light of new risks resulting from the pandemic. We also worked with the Pathfinders Grand Challenge on Violence Reduction to bring together actors working on different forms of violence at the UN. Finally, we have supported discussions to bring mental health and psychosocial support into peacebuilding efforts. All of these will continue through the coming year and have resulted in policy briefings on practical options.

The Data for Prevention and Peacebuilding project aims to harness the power of ongoing revolutions in data and information in support of improved preventive, early action that can deliver ground-level benefits for people living in conflict-affected countries. Over the last year, we have built out a community of practice across governments, private sector, multilaterals, civil society, and academia through monthly Data for Peace dialogues and international convenings. Our three-day workshop on Early Warning/Early Action in May 2021 drew more than 1,000 participants globally, and in July 2021 we launched an interactive, online Ecosystem Map to show the myriad efforts in this space.



*Ms. Meena Syed, Political Coordinator, Permanent Mission of Norway (left), Paige Arthur, CIC Deputy Director and the Director of the Prevention and Peacebuilding program (middle), and Ambassador Maritza Chan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Costa Rica (right) at a workshop hosted by the Permanent Mission of Norway in July 2021.*

In addition to strengthening the community, over the next year we will focus on capacity building support and knowledge sharing. We are working with DataKind on direct support to organizations in the Global South, and with Oxford University, American University, and Folke Bernadotte Academy to bring advanced quantitative modeling on peace operations’ impact to staff working on the data strategy at the UN Department of Peace Operations.

# Humanitarian Crises

Building on CIC's prior work to strengthen collaboration between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding (HDP) actors in countries grappling with chronic or repeated crises, the Humanitarian Crises program has focused on the added challenges and new opportunities created by the global pandemic.

The Humanitarian Crisis program aims to provide an evidence-base of ideas for improving responses on the ground for HDP actors, while also contributing meaningfully to policymaking in support of collective action at global, regional, and national levels.

The global pandemic has only reinforced the necessity (and difficulty) of collaborative action for HDP actors, given the interlocking health, humanitarian, economic, and political repercussions of COVID-19. For instance, together with CIC's Prevention and Peacebuilding program, we organized a set of dialogues among HDP actors on the challenges of mainstreaming conflict sensitivity in humanitarian and development interventions. The program has also launched an initiative with CIC's Pathfinders for Justice program aimed at improving collaboration between refugee protection organizations and the justice sector in host countries.

The program has also remained closely engaged in specific country and regional contexts, partnering in Bangladesh with BRAC and UN Women to conduct a large-scale survey of Bangladeshi migrant workers who fled en masse from the cities to rural areas when the country locked down. The survey revealed several alarming trends—a surge in child marriages, a fall in remittances far beyond official estimates, skyrocketing debt levels, a mounting mental health crisis, and growing



*COVID-19, Conflict and Risks in the Arab Region: Ending Hostilities and Investing in Peace, co-published with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Peace Research Institute Oslo, January 2021.*

pressure on public services in rural areas—that require a multidimensional response. We have also focused closely on countries in the Middle East/North Africa region, such as our partnership with UN ESCWA and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) to produce an assessment of evolving nexus dynamics in seven conflict-affected Arab countries. This line of work has since fed into bilateral and regional dialogues with governments and their multilateral partners, including several in the lead up to the International Conference on Least Developed Countries taking place in Doha in early 2022.

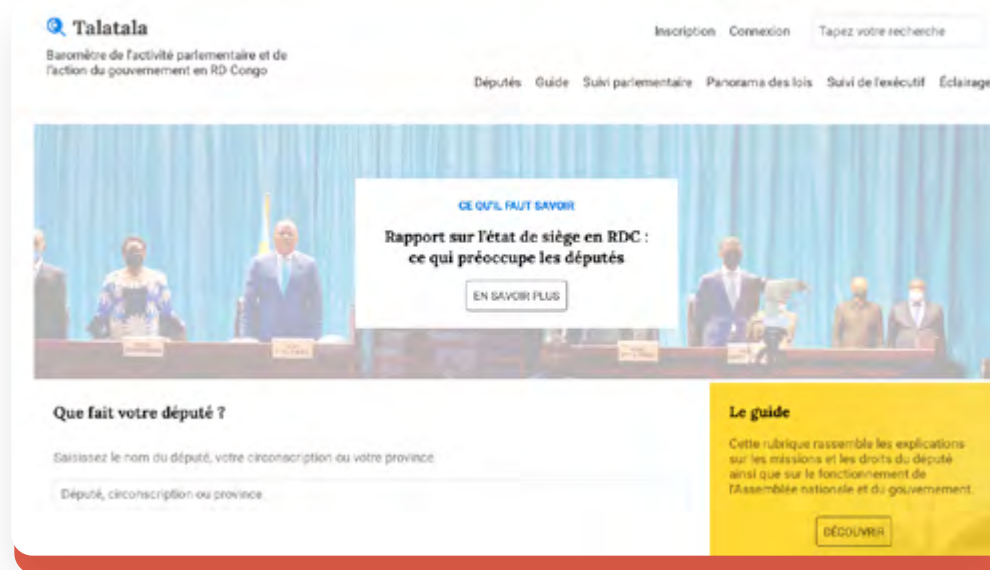
# Congo Research Group

The Congo Research Group (CRG) is dedicated to understanding the violence that affects millions of Congolese and the relationship between politics and governance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

In 2020-2021, CRG continued to expand its team, deepened and reinforced its engagement with the Congolese public and policymakers through new means of communication, and launched a new program on political governance and accountability.

2020 saw the creation of CRG's new program on political governance and accountability, "Mukalenga wa Bantu." One of the major achievements of this project was the launch of a DRC parliamentary tracker, Talatala ("mirror" in Lingala). This culminated in a short report on the March-June 2021 parliamentary session. Additionally, CRG published the first of a series of opinion poll reports in the lead-up to the 2023 elections, assessing Congolese people's views on issues such as security, the popularity of different political figures, and their perceptions of the electoral process. Finally, CRG organized its first town hall forum with local political and civil society actors in June 2021.

CRG also published two reports on the political challenges and management of the Ebola epidemic and COVID-19 pandemic in the DRC with the support of the European Union. The first of these (*Rebels, Doctors, and Merchants*) examined how the Ebola response was affected by violence but also unintentionally contributed to the conflict. The second report, *COVID-19 Business in DRC: Rethinking Epidemic Responses*, demonstrated how the multiplication of structures did not solve



*Talatala parliamentary tracker, launched in early 2021*

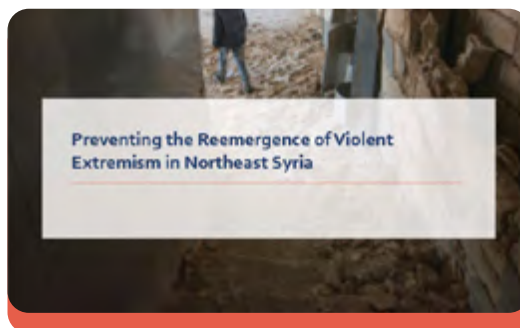
the problems raised by previous responses: poor management of human and financial resources, poor circulation of information, and rivalries between actors.

The past year also saw CRG diversify its means of communicating with the Congolese public and policymakers. The program continued hosting its podcast with special guests on important issues of Congolese public life, "Masolo Ya Kati," while also publishing short audio clips distributed via social media and broadcasted in the DRC's four national languages and French through a network of community radio stations across the country. These broadcasts include a short briefing accompanying each report ("Briefing GEC"), as well as a weekly summary and analysis of a major current event in DRC ("Po na GEC"), and excerpts from public debates organized by CRG in the DRC.

# Syria

Syria remains volatile, with increasing evidence of the resurgence of the so-called Islamic State (IS). CIC's work has focused on analysis and practical options for preventing the rise of extremism.

In March 2021, CIC published a study in collaboration with the National Agenda for the Future of Syria Programme at UN ESCWA looking at the vulnerabilities contributing to the risk of violent extremist groups—including the possibility of the IS regaining a foothold in Northeastern Syria. A key finding is that all the factors that previously allowed for the rise of armed extremist groups—lack of accountability, marginalization, corruption, impunity for the ruling elites, lack of



*Preventing the Reemergence of Violent Extremism in Northeast Syria report, March 2021.*

economic opportunities, poor governance, and conditions for radicalization in detention remain unaddressed and in some cases are more prevalent than before.

The study was published two years after IS lost its last foothold in the Northeast at Baghouz and was launched at the annual Brussels Conference Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region in March 2021.

# Afghanistan-Pakistan Regional Project

As Afghanistan faced mounting crises and ultimately a Taliban takeover across the last year, CIC stayed engaged through track-two convening and extensive commentary in the media.

CIC's long-running Afghanistan-Pakistan Regional Project shifted focus with the retirement of its director, Barnett Rubin. It continued track-two engagement in the region through partnership with the Heart of Asia Society and the Doha Institute.

In August 2021, as the disastrous results of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan were becoming apparent, our non-resident fellows were able to shed light on events through more than 30 engagements in the media, including *Foreign Affairs*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street*



*Former Afghanistan-Pakistan Regional Project Director and Senior Fellow Barnett Rubin on PBS' Amanpour & Company show, August 2021.*

*Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker*, *Time Magazine*, CNN, MSNBC, ABC, BBC, Frontline, PBS Newshour, National Public Radio, and many others. Key issues highlighted were the urgent need for help for Afghans trying to leave, the fragile situation for women and other vulnerable groups under the Taliban, and the looming humanitarian crisis.



*“Peacebuilding financing: Doing more, doing better” panel at 2021 Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development. Speakers from left to right: Sarah Cliffe, Director of NYU’s Center on International Cooperation, Per Olsson Fridh, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden, Mohamed Edrees, Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Niels Annen, Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office, Germany, Ahmed Issa Awad, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Somalia, Elissa Golberg, Assistant Deputy Minister for Strategic Policy, Global Affairs Canada, May 2021.*

## Donor Acknowledgments

Alliance for Peacebuilding

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11.11.11

European Union

German Federal Foreign Office

Heart of Asia Society

The New Venture Fund

The New School

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Open Society Foundations

Rockefeller Philanthropic Advisors

Schmidt Family Foundation

Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

United Nations Office for Project Services

Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

The World Bank

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