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The Impact of Conflict and Political Instability on Banking Crises in Developing Countries

Ali Compaoré, Montfort Mlachila, Rasmané Ouédraogo, and
Sandrine Sourouema[†]

Abstract

While there is an extensive literature examining the economic impact of conflict and political instability, surprisingly there have been few studies on their impact on the probability of banking crises. This paper therefore investigates whether rising conflict and political instability globally over the past several decades led to increased occurrence of banking crises in developing countries. The paper provides strong evidence that conflicts and political instability are indeed associated with higher probability of systemic banking crises. Unsurprisingly, the duration of a conflict is positively associated with rising probability of a banking crisis. Interestingly, the paper also finds that conflicts and political instability in one country can have negative spillover effects on neighboring countries' banking systems. The paper provides evidence that the primary channel of transmission is the occurrence of fiscal crises following a conflict or political instability.

JEL Codes: G01, H56

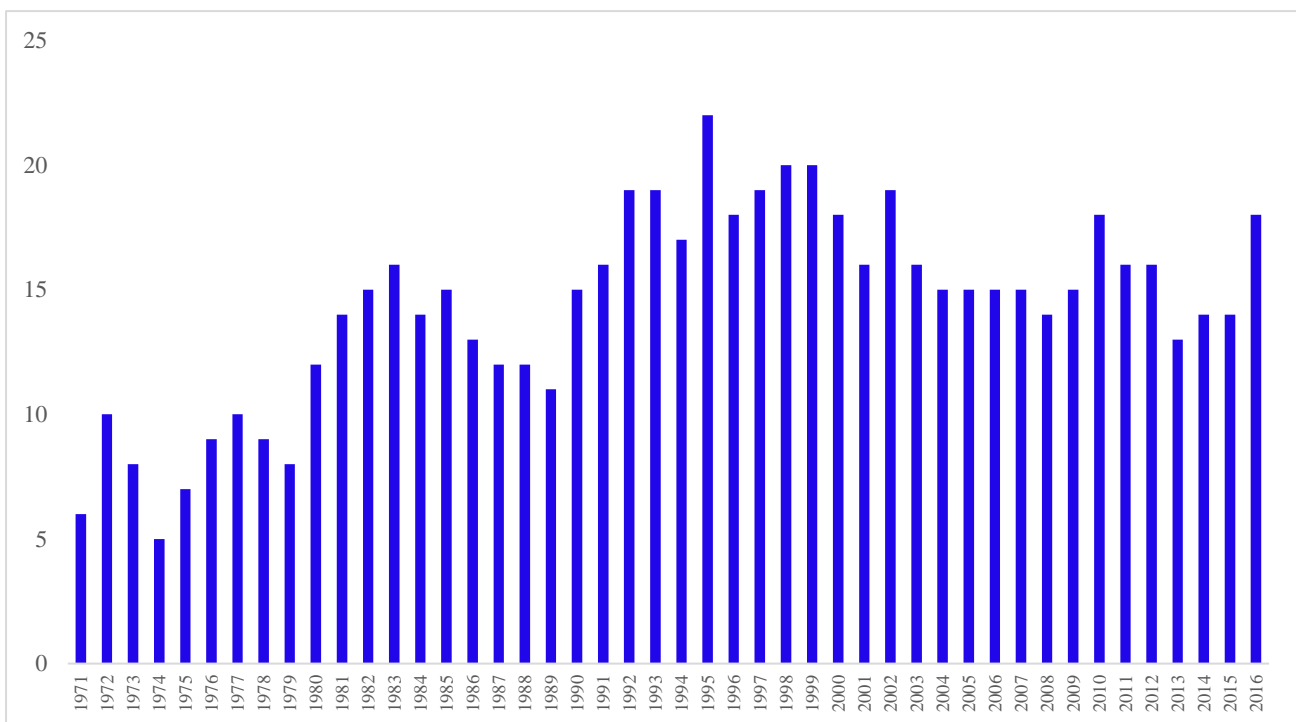
Key Words: Conflict, Political instability, Banking crises, Fiscal crises

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I. INTRODUCTION

There has been a marked proliferation of violence and conflicts across developing countries over the past two decades, especially in the wake of the Arab spring from 2011 (Figure 1). The nature of the violence is diverse and includes ethnic and religious conflicts, terrorism, post-electoral conflicts, civil wars, and, most importantly armed conflicts. Violence has undoubtedly deep socio-economic impact on affected countries and their neighbors. For instance, the World Bank (2017) estimates at more than 400,000 the death toll and US\$200-300 billion the loss in GDP in Syria since the conflict started in 2011.

Figure 1: Number of countries in conflict



Source: Uppsala Conflict Data Program and authors' calculations.

Conflicts and violence have severe negative consequences on the affected economies, which can spill over to their neighboring countries. In addition to the loss of lives, human displacement and the material destruction caused, conflicts can result in deep economic recession stemming from high inflation, worsened fiscal and financial positions, and lower institutional quality (Rother *et al.*, 2016). In addition, internal instability entails a decline in investor and consumer confidence, and trade disruption (Rother *et al.*, 2016). According to the IMF (2019), on average, in conflict-affected countries annual real GDP growth is 3 percentage points lower and the cumulative impact on per capita GDP increases over time. Furthermore, internal conflicts have

negative spillovers on neighboring countries, whose GDP growth typically declines by about 1 percentage point, on average.

In this paper, we explore the impact of conflicts on the probability of banking crises, a channel that has hitherto received little attention in the literature. The literature has largely focused on the potential consequences of risks of instability on other socio-economic outcomes. It is well-documented that instability has adverse effects on countries' long-run economic performance (Alesina *et al.*, 1996; Alesina and Perotti, 1996; Jong-A-Pin, 2009; Aisen and Veiga, 2013; Rother *et al.*, 2016, Murdoch and Sandler, 2002), public investment (Alesina *et al.* 1996, IMF 2019), trade (Qureshi, 2013), tourism (Neumayer, 2004) and fiscal outcomes (IMF 2019). Surprisingly, to our knowledge, there is no empirical study on the potential impact of conflict on banking crises. Although IMF (2019) and Rother *et al.* (2016) allude to the fact that conflicts can lead to lower performance in the banking sector, they do not provide empirical evidence on whether conflicts and political instability can trigger actual systemic banking crises.

Conflicts and political instability can indeed be associated with a greater risk of systemic banking crisis. Conceptually, there are several channels through which conflicts can lead to banking crises. These include lower economic growth, higher non-performing bank loans, lower bank deposits and liquidity, and fiscal channels. Rother *et al.* (2016) emphasized that conflicts weaken the performance of the financial sector and deteriorate banks' ability to sustain financial intermediation and payment systems. A recent study by Huang (2019) found that political instability decreases banks' balances, liabilities and assets. Beim (2005) enumerated several cases of systemic banking crises that occurred in times of conflict and political instability. For instance, in 1995, during the civil war in Sierra Leone, 40 to 50 percent of banking system loans were non-performing (NPLs) and a license of one of the banks was suspended in 1994. Gobat and Kostial (2016) found that the Syrian conflict deeply affected the banking sector by causing deposit and assets runs, and raising NPLs from less than 5 to 35 percent of total loans over 2010-2013.

This paper fills the gap in the literature by rigorously studying the potential impact of conflict and political instability on systemic banking crisis in 92 developing countries over the period 1970-2016. First, it explores this by using various different measures of conflict and political instability on the probability of banking crises. Second, the paper analyzes spillovers of conflict and political instability from one country to another.

Third, it examines whether the duration of conflict and political instability increases the probability of banking crises. Fourth, it explores the channel through which conflict and political instability affect the likelihood of banking crises.

The paper has three main results. First, it shows that conflicts and political instability are indeed associated with higher probability of systemic banking crises. Specifically, it finds that the odds of a banking crisis are 2.5 times greater when a country is affected by a conflict. Second, conflicts and political instability in neighboring countries do increase the likelihood of banking crises in a given country, although the spillover effects are less impactful than primary channels. Third, the duration of a conflict is positively associated with rising probability of a banking crisis. In terms of magnitude of the impact, the probability of experiencing a banking crisis is 25 percent when the conflict lasts 10 years, against 16.4 percent when it lasts two years.

The paper provides evidence that the likely channel of transmission is the occurrence of fiscal crises following a conflict or political instability. The findings are robust to the use of alternative conflict and political instability indicators from 10 different sources, alternative empirical strategy, and the inclusion of additional covariates. This paper contributes to the vast literature on the adverse effects of conflict and political instability. It is the first to provide a comprehensive empirical study about the impact of conflict and political instability on the likelihood of banking crises in developing countries. Previous studies have provided several claims on the specific cases of some countries (Beim, 2005; Rother *et al.*, 2016), but they lacked strong empirical evidence on a large sample of countries to back up or substantiate the claims.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 briefly reviews the literature on the determinants of banking crises and the potential mechanisms through which conflicts can provoke banking crises. Section 3 describes the data and provides some stylized facts, and Section 4 discusses the empirical strategy. Section 5 presents the results from the empirical analysis. Section 6 undertakes an extensive battery of robustness tests. Section 7 provides some concluding remarks.

II. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

There is an increasing literature on the economic consequences of conflicts and political instability, with a particular emphasis on economic growth, income inequality and poverty (Collier, 1999; Murdoch and Sandler, 2004; Lai and Thyne, 2007; Polachek and

Sevastianova, 2012; Mueller, 2013). For instance, Gates *et al.* (2012) showed that armed conflicts led to development gaps and compromised the progress in meeting the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by undermining the efforts to reduce poverty, hunger and infant mortality, improve life expectancy as well as access to potable water. Ghobarah *et al.* (2003) also emphasized the adverse long-lasting effects of conflicts on development outcomes. Beyond the impact on the economy at the aggregate level, some papers looked at the change in the structure of economies affected by conflict. Depetris Chauvin and Rohner (2009) found that the manufacturing sector is the most affected in conflict affected countries, while natural resource sector appears to be over-exploited in times of conflict.

Another wave of the literature has focused on the fiscal implications of conflicts and political instability (IMF 2019; Gupta *et al.*, 2004; Rother *et al.*, 2016). Internal instability impedes on government revenue by disrupting economic activity, destroying the tax base, and lowering the efficiency of tax administration (IMF 2019). Barrett (2018) revealed that the conflict in Afghanistan led to a total revenue loss of about \$3 billion between 2005 and 2016, resulting mainly from a significant decline in revenue collection efficiency. Similarly, Rother *et al.* (2016) emphasized that central government revenue collapsed by about 60 percent following the outbreak of the conflict in Yemen in 2015. They also argued that the decline in both internal revenue collection and external financing combined with the increase in government spending have resulted in worsened fiscal positions in the Middle East and North African countries in conflict.

Focusing on Sub-Saharan Africa, IMF (2019) found that conflicts entail, on average, a loss of tax revenue by about 2 percent of GDP, affect the composition of government expenditures, and worsen the fiscal balance. Using an intertemporal model, Pasten and Cover (2010) highlighted that political instability results in fiscal deficits, and this happens because political instability gives the government an incentive to implement a myopic fiscal policy in order to increase its chances of remaining in office.

However, there is a paucity of studies about the effects of conflicts and political instability on the banking sector. Rother *et al.* (2016) argued that conflicts weaken the performance of the financial sector and deteriorate banks' ability to sustain financial intermediation and payment systems, but they did not provide any empirical findings. Recently, IMF (2019) found that conflicts result in lower credit to the private sector. Huang (2019) investigated the impact of political instability on banking sector development on a panel of 49 countries over 1960-2004. The paper found that political

instability deteriorates banks' balance sheets, generates inefficiencies in the operational management of banks and affects asset and liability allocation. Hasanov and Bhattacharya (2019) explored the effect of political factors on the likelihood of a banking crisis using a sample of OECD countries. They shed light that countries with higher government stability tend to have lower likelihood of a banking crisis. Gobat and Kostial (2016) asserted that the Syrian conflict deeply affected the banking sector by causing deposit and assets runs, and rising NPLs from less than 5 to 35 percent over 2010-2013.

As described above, several papers have found that conflict and political instability often lead to a deterioration of government fiscal positions. We draw on the literature about the transmission of crises from the government fiscal positions to the banking sector (Von Hagen and Ho, 2007; Reinhart and Kaminsky, 1999; Dornbusch *et al.*, 1995). According to this literature, banking crises happen often after a fiscal crisis. In fact, worsened fiscal positions can trigger a banking crisis due to the balance-sheet linkages and banks' direct portfolio exposures (Caprio and Honohan, 2008; Caruana and Avdjiev, 2012) and the potential impact of debt defaults on the economy (lower growth, high non-performing loans, etc.) (Gertler and Kiyotaki, 2010). Budgetary pressures erode the government's ability to pay its bills, which can cause an accumulation of arrears to commercial enterprises and banks and increasing banks' non-performing loans. Moreover, sovereign debt is often used by banks as collateral to secure wholesale funding. Higher sovereign risk can reduce the eligibility of collateral, and hence banks' funding capacity and increase bank vulnerabilities (Popov and Van Horen, 2013).

III. DATA SOURCES AND STYLIZED FACTS

A. Data Sources

The dataset consists of yearly data for 92 emerging and developing countries during the period 1970–2016. The selection of the sample is exclusively based on data availability.

We first focus on the dependent variables. The data on systemic banking crisis are from Laeven and Valencia (2018). The authors define a banking crisis as an event that meets two conditions: (i) significant signs of financial distress in the banking system (as indicated by significant bank runs, losses in the banking system, and/or bank liquidations); (ii) significant banking policy intervention measures in response to

significant losses in the banking system. On the second condition, Laeven and Valencia (2018) consider policy interventions in the banking sector to be significant if at least three out of the following six measures have been used: (a) deposit freezes and/or bank holidays; (b) significant bank nationalizations; (c) bank restructuring fiscal costs (at least 3 percent of GDP); (d) extensive liquidity support (at least 5 percent of deposits and liabilities to nonresidents); (e) significant guarantees put in place; and (f) significant asset purchases (at least 5 percent of GDP). Our sample covers 191 episodes of banking crises.

Regarding the data on conflict and political instability, we collected a range of indicators from several sources, covering most of those that have been used in the literature. First, we extract the data on civil war from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) provided by the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. In this database, internal armed conflicts are defined as a contested incompatibility concerning government and/or territory with the use of armed force between two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state. The database provides an intensity-scaled measure of internal armed conflicts, which takes the value of 1 if the internal conflict's related death toll in a given year is 25–999, 2 if it is 1000 or more, and 0 otherwise. Based on this definition, we also construct an additional binary variable equal to 1 if a civil conflict happens in the country and 0 otherwise as in Miguel et al. (2014) and Holder and Raschky (2014).

Second, we extract some indicators of political instability from Banks and Wilson (2019)'s Cross-National Time-Series Data Archive. We use 6 indicators from this database that have been widely used in the literature as proxies of political instability (see Alesina et al. 1996; Aisen and Veiga, 2013; Neumayer 2004):

- (i) *Government cabinet changes*. Represents the number of time in a year that a new premier minister is named and/or 50 percent of the cabinet posts are assumed by new ministers;
- (ii) *Changes in effective executive*. Measures the number of times in a year that effective control of executive power changes hands. Such a change requires that the new executive be independent from its predecessor. This variable addresses one of drawbacks of the indicator related to major government changes as some cabinet changes may not entail change in executive power;
- (iii) *Anti-government demonstrations*. Captures any peaceful public gathering of at least 100 people for the primary purpose of displaying or voicing their opposition to government policies or authority, excluding demonstrations of a distinctly anti-foreign nature;

(iv) *Major government crises*. Denotes any rapidly developing situation that threatens to bring the downfall of the present regime—excluding situations of revolt aimed at such overthrow;

(v) *General strikes*. Measures any strike of 1,000 or more industrial or service workers that involves more than one employer and that is aimed at national government policies or authority; and

(vi) *Political assassinations*. Represents any politically motivated murder or attempted murder of a high government official or politician.

These indicators are the most used in the literature and we will use them in our baseline estimates. Appendix Table A1 presents the correlations between the different conflict and political variables. While some variables are highly correlated, the vast majority of them have low degrees of correlation (less than 0.3), providing some comfort that they provide additional information when used in different equations. This also allows us to cover several dimensions of conflict and political instability.

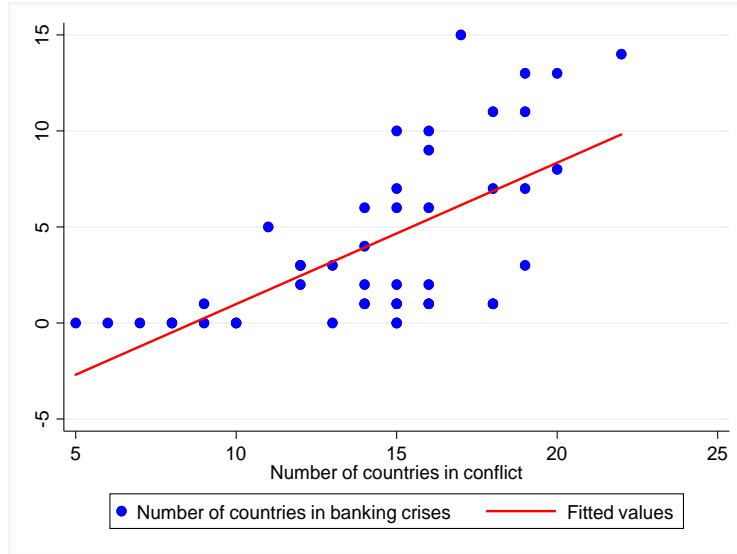
Third, in robustness checks, we use several other sources including: the International Country Risk Guide (ICRG), Correlates of Wars (COW), the Political Terror Scale of Amnesty International, the Global Terrorism Database (GTD), The Major Episodes of Political Violence Database (Marshall, 2017), the Coup d’Etat Events Database (Marshall and Marshall, 2018) and the State Fragility Index (Marshall and Marshall, 2017) (see appendix A2).

Regarding the remaining control variables, they are from different sources. We extract the real exchange rate, inflation rate, external debt in percentage of GDP, GDP per capita, real GDP growth, and terms of trade from the IMF’s *World Economic Outlook* database. The data on M2/reserves and credit growth are from the World Bank’s *World Development Indicators*. We finally draw the data on the degree of democracy from the Polity IV Project (Marshall and Gurr, 2018).

B. Stylized Facts

Figure 2 displays the relationship between the number of countries in banking crises and in conflict. It shows a positive relationship between the occurrence of conflict and banking crises and provides evidence that major waves of conflict tend to be associated with a higher rate of occurrence of banking crises.

Figure 2: Number of Countries in Conflict and Experiencing Banking Crises



Source: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, Laeven and Valencia (2018) and authors' calculations.

Table 1 presents the unconditional and conditional probabilities of a banking crisis for all conflict and political instability variables included in our baseline estimates. For each variable, we present the number of observations, the number of banking crises and the probability of a banking crisis. Column (3) considers the sample for all country-year observations and describes the unconditional probability of a banking crisis, which is the proportion of country-year observations identified with a start of a banking crisis. In columns (4) and (5), we report the conditional probability of a banking crisis, which is the proportion of country-year observations during which a banking crisis occurred in the absence of conflict and political instability (column 4), and the proportion of conflict and political instability that ended up in a banking crisis (column 5). In column (6), we compute the difference in the conditional probability of a banking crisis in years without a conflict and political instability and years of conflict and political instability, while the p-value of the T-test about the significance of the difference is reported in column (7). In the last column, we report the Pearson chi-squared statistic about the independence of the occurrence of banking crises and conflict or political instability. The Pearson test shows that there is a statistically significant relationship between banking crises and conflict or political instability.

Table 1: Banking crises in years with and without conflict and political instability

[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]
		All	No. conflict or political instability	Conflict or political instability	Difference ((5)-(4))	T-test p-value	Pearson Chi2
Conflict	Observations	3026	2364	662			
	Number of banking crises	191	125	66			19.17***
	Probability of a banking crisis	6.3	5.3	10.0	4.68	0.00	
Cabinet change	Observations	2975	1768	1207			
	Number of banking crises	191	88	103			17***
	Probability of a banking crisis	6.4	5.0	8.5	3.56	0.00	
Change in effective executive	Observations	2975	2532	443			
	Number of banking crises	191	151	40			8.08*
	Probability of a banking crisis	6.4	6.0	9.0	3.07	0.02	
Anti-government demonstrations	Observations	2994	2160	834			
	Number of banking crises	191	115	76			54.61**
	Probability of a banking crisis	6.4	5.3	9.1	3.79	0.00	
Government crises	Observations	2994	2679	315			
	Number of banking crises	191	158	33			16.03***
	Probability of a banking crisis	6.4	5.9	10.5	4.58	0.00	
General strikes	Observations	2994	2689	305			
	Number of banking crises	191	153	38			27.69***
	Probability of a banking crisis	6.4	5.7	12.5	6.77	0.00	
Assassinations	Observations	2994	2636	358			
	Number of banking crises	191	149	42			46.19***
	Probability of a banking crisis	6.4	5.7	11.7	6.08	0.00	

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively.

As can be observed, the conditional probability of a banking crisis is higher when conflict and political instability occur than in the absence of conflict and political instability. For instance, the conditional probability of a banking crisis in a year without a conflict is 5.3 percent; that probability almost doubles in years of conflict (10 percent). The difference is even stronger if we consider general strikes and political assassinations: the probability of a banking crisis increases from 5.7 percent in years without general strikes and political assassinations to 12.5 and 11.7 percent, respectively, in years of general strikes and political assassinations. The t-test in column (7) shows that the differences are statistically different. The unconditional probability of a banking crisis is around 6.4 percent regardless of the variable considered.

Table 2 presents the statistics about the occurrence of banking and fiscal crises following a conflict or political instability. In column (3), we report the conditional probability of a banking crisis following a conflict or political instability, which is closely similar to what we reported in column (5) of Table 1 (the small differences are due to missing data). In column (4) and (5), we have the conditional probabilities of a banking crisis following a conflict without the occurrence of fiscal crisis (column 4) and with the occurrence of a fiscal crisis (column 5).

Table 2: Banking and fiscal crises in years of conflict and political instability

[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]
		All	No. fiscal crisis	Fiscal crisis	Difference ((5)-(4))	T-test p-value	Pearson chi2
Conflict	Observations	641	330	311			
	Number of banking crises	66	14	52			26.98***
	Probability of a banking crisis	10.3	4.2	16.7	12.48	0.00	
Cabinet change	Observations	1176	583	593			
	Number of banking crises	102	24	78			32.05***
	Probability of a banking crisis	8.7	4.1	13.2	9.04	0.00	
Change in effective executive	Observations	425	232	193			
	Number of banking crises	39	9	30			19.06***
	Probability of a banking crisis	9.2	3.9	15.5	11.66	0.00	
Anti-government demonstrations	Observations	783	441	342			
	Number of banking crises	75	20	55			29.52***
	Probability of a banking crisis	9.6	4.5	16.1	11.55	0.00	
Government crises	Observations	308	146	162			
	Number of banking crises	33	5	28			16.02***
	Probability of a banking crisis	10.7	3.4	17.3	13.86	0.00	
General strikes	Observations	295	153	142			
	Number of banking crises	38	8	30			16.82***
	Probability of a banking crisis	12.9	5.2	21.1	15.90	0.00	
Assassinations	Observations	353	161	192			
	Number of banking crises	42	6	36			19.65***
	Probability of a banking crisis	11.9	3.7	18.8	15.02	0.00	

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively.

Table 2 shows that the conditional probability of a banking crisis following the simultaneous occurrence of a conflict or political instability and a fiscal crisis is at least three times higher than the conditional probability of a banking crisis following a conflict or political instability but without the occurrence of a fiscal crisis. For instance, the conditional probability of a banking crisis after a joint occurrence of a conflict and a fiscal crisis is 16.7 percent, while that probability declines significantly to only 4.2 percent if a fiscal crisis does not materialize following the conflict. Furthermore, the conditional probability of a banking crisis following the occurrence of a conflict or political instability is higher than the conditional probability of a banking crisis after a conflict when a fiscal crisis does not occur (column 3, Table 2) and the unconditional probability of a banking crisis (column 3, Table 1).

IV. EMPIRICAL STRATEGY

The empirical specification used in this paper consists of a binary outcome model given that the dependent variable equals to 1 for all observations in the data for which a banking crisis happens, and 0 for the remaining ones (non-occurrence of a banking crisis). The binary response model is written as follows:

$$\Pr(Y_{it} = 1|X_{it-1}, C_i) = F(X_{it-1}\beta + C_i) = X_{it-1}\beta + C_i + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (1)$$

where Y_{it} is a binary response variable taking the value of 1 if there is a banking crisis in a given country i at time t ; X_{it-1} is a vector of observed explanatory variables including conflict and political instability; β is a vector of parameters, C_i is an unobserved time-invariant country fixed effect, and ε_{it} is the error term with a zero-mean residual uncorrelated with all the terms on the right-hand side. We lag all control variable by one year to avoid the problem of simultaneity and endogeneity.²

The composite error term in (1), $C_i + \varepsilon_{it}$, is an important feature of panel data models. C_i , also called country-specific heterogeneity, includes historical factors that can affect the probability of experiencing a banking crisis. The key issue is whether the unobserved heterogeneity can be assumed to be independent, or at least uncorrelated, with the observed covariates X_{it} . A usual assumption is that the set of explanatory variables X_{it} is contemporaneously exogenous conditional on C_i : $E(\varepsilon_{it}|X_{it}, C_i) = 0$, $t = 1, \dots, T$. However, this assumption is difficult to be proven valid. In fact, country-specific factors such as religion, language, regulatory framework (common or civil law), and ethnic diversity have been widely shown to affect the degree of economic development and growth (see Barro and McCleary, 2003; Campante and Yanagizawa-Drot, 2015; Mahoney, 2001; Alesina and La Ferrara, 2005; Montalvo and Reynal-Querol, 2005). Given that economic growth is among the explanatory variables, thus the uncorrelation hypothesis between the time-invariant factors and the explanatory variables is violated. Moreover, treating the time-invariant factors C_i as parameters to estimate causes inconsistency in β because of the incidental parameters problem (Neyman and Scott, 1948; Lancaster, 2000).

The fixed effects approach could be used to estimate equation (1). The most appealing reason is that by controlling out the time invariant variables, the model accounts for biases that occur with omitted and unobserved variables. Unfortunately, the power of the fixed effects approach results in an undesirable consequence: even where we do have data for time invariant variables, that information is excluded from the model. In addition, as noted by Caballero (2014), Eberhardt and Presbitero (2018), and Kinda *et al.* (2016), all countries that have not experienced banking crises will be excluded from the estimates. In our sample, 40 percent of countries (37 out of 92) have not experienced at all banking crises over our study period 1970-2017. Excluding these countries from the estimates raises the issue of selection bias and inconsistent results. As argued by Bell and Jones (2015), the fixed effects models are only modelling one

² The results remain consistent even if we lag the control variables by up to five years.

part of the data structure, the within-country effects at the expense of between-country effects.

Mundlak (1978) provides a method by which it is possible to incorporate both the time-invariant variables with the demeaned coefficients from the fixed effects model and at the same time use the framework of a random effects model (hence a hybrid model). This method, called the correlated random effects, assumes that the unobserved heterogeneity is a function of the country-level time averages of X_{it} , which we denote as \bar{X}_i . That is, $C_i = \omega + \bar{X}_i\delta + a_i$, where \bar{X}_i is an average of X_{it} over time for country i (hence time invariant); a_i is assumed uncorrelated with \bar{X}_i and normally distributed. Therefore, the random effects-Mundlak (1978) model allows for modeling the distribution of the omitted variable conditional on the means of the strictly exogenous variables, instead of treating the omitted variable as a parameter to estimate. The probability that $Y_{it} = 1$ can now be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr(Y_{it} = 1|X_{it}, C_i) &= \Pr(Y_{it} = 1|X_{it}, \bar{X}_i, C_i) \\ &= F(X_{it}\beta + \omega + \bar{X}_i\delta + a_i) = X_{it}\beta + \bar{X}_i\delta + a_i + \varepsilon_{it} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

In this paper, we employ the random effects-Mundlak model by including the means of all time-varying covariates for the countries in the estimates. These averages have the same value for a given country across years but vary across countries. By including the vector of time-averaged variables, we still control for time-constant unobserved heterogeneity, as with fixed effects, while avoiding the problem of incidental parameters in nonlinear models. At the same time, the Mundlak model allows measurement of the effects of time-constant independent variables, just as in a traditional random effects model (Wooldridge, 2010). Therefore, by taking care of all country-specific and time-invariant characteristics that may affect the likelihood of a crisis or the occurrence of conflict and political instability, or both, the Mundlak model allows for differences within and between-country effects (Caballero, 2014). Contrary to the simple fixed effects model which excludes all countries that have not experienced banking crises from the sample, the random effects-Mundlak model takes into account all these countries in the estimates.

In robust checks, we use the traditional probit and logit models, as well as the probit fixed-effects model of Fernández-Val and Weidner (2016). The approach by Fernández-Val and Weidner (2016) accounts for the bias arising from the inclusion of country fixed-effects and corrects for the incident parameter bias problem by subtracting from the maximum likelihood estimator a plug-in estimator of the bias. As explained above, the main drawback of this method is that it excludes all countries that have not experienced banking crises.

Relying on the extensive literature on the determinants of banking crises, we control for a number of variables:

- *Real effective exchange rate*: the literature shows that a sharp decline in the real exchange rate is associated with a greater risk of banking system distress (De Bock and Demyanets, 2012; Kaminsky and Reinhart, 1999; Reinhart *et al.*, 2000). For instance, De Bock and Demyanets (2012) found that exchange rate depreciation implies increasing rates of NPLs and banking turmoil on a sample of 25 emerging markets over 1996-2010. Hence, we expect a depreciation of the real exchange rate to be positively associated with an increase in the likelihood of a banking crisis.
- *M2/reserves*: it measures banks' exposure to foreign exchange risk and a country's vulnerability to currency crises which often coincide with banking crises (Davis and Stone, 2004; Kinda *et al.*, 2016). Thus, we expect a positive correlation between M2/reserves and banking crises.
- *Inflation*: we include this variable to capture macroeconomic mismanagement as previous studies clearly evidenced that high rates of inflation are associated with banking crises (Demirgüç-Kunt and Detragiache, 1998-2000; Davis *et al.*, 2011; Joyce, 2011). High inflation tends to undermine the long-run economic growth and distorts macroeconomic and financial stability. Therefore, a positive correlation between inflation and banking crises is expected.
- *Credit growth*: an important body of the literature argues that high credit growth is conducive to banking sector problems (Cihák, 2007; Joyce, 2011; Acosta-Gonzalez *et al.*, 2011). For instance, Beck *et al.* (2006) underline that a credit boom could induce an asset price bubble that may cause a crisis when it bursts. Moreover, Büyükkarabacak and Valev (2010) provided evidence that a rapid credit boom generates vulnerabilities that increase the probability of a banking crisis. However, a few studies including Von Hagen and Ho (2007) and Rose and Spiegel (2011) do not find evidence that a boom in the credit-to-GDP ratio is associated with greater probability of a banking crisis.
- *External debt*: high debt-to-GDP ratio indicates greater tighter financial conditions and reduced fiscal space (Kinda *et al.*, 2016) and is likely to lead a banking crisis. In countries where banks are the main holders of government debt, worsened financial conditions or sovereign debt defaults would undoubtedly weaken banks' balance sheets. Moreover, heavily-indebted economies are more likely to face high risk premiums in international capital markets. As a result, government capacity to intervene in case of banking

liquidity shortage become very limited. We expect a positive correlation between external debt and the likelihood of a banking crisis.

- *GDP per capita*: it captures the level of development in a country. Some studies (Demirgüç-Kunt and Detragiache, 2000-2005; Kinda *et al.* 2016) found that banking crises are negatively associated with real GDP per capita.
- *GDP growth*: according to the literature, deteriorating growth prospects are associated with greater risk of banking crisis as lower economic growth negatively affects banks' balance sheets by increasing the share of non-performing loans (Klomp, 2010). Some studies found that in most cases, banking crises followed an episode of growth slowdown (Demirgüç-Kunt and Detragiache, 1998-2005; Von Hagen and Ho, 2007; Angkinand and Willett, 2011). We thus expect a negative association between economic growth and banking crises.
- *Terms of trade*: a deterioration of the terms of trade reduces the ability of banks' customers to service their financial commitments, leading to an increase of NPLs and rendering banking crises more likely (Goldstein and Turner, 1996; Caprio and Klingebiel, 1999). Hence, we expect a negative correlation between terms of trade and banking crises.
- *Degree of democracy*: it refers to the quality of the politico-institutional environment and is expected to be negatively associated with the occurrence of a banking crisis. Countries with good institutions and governance tend to implement sound financial regulations to promote banking system stability that can potentially in turn reduces the probability of banking crises (Francis, 2003; Beck *et al.*, 2006). In addition, financial fraud and excessive risk-taking in weak institutional countries increase the vulnerability of the banking sector and result in bank collapses (Kinda *et al.*, 2016). A negative correlation between the degree of democracy and the likelihood of a banking crisis is expected.

V. EMPIRICAL RESULTS

A. Baseline Results

The baseline evidence on the relationship between conflicts, political instability and banking crises is reported in Table 3. We present in each column the results obtained through the estimates of equation (2) employing the random effect model of Mundlak (1978) and using several indicators of conflicts and political instability. The first two columns are about the effects of conflicts, while the remaining columns deal with the

effects of political instability. In column (1), we use a binary variable taking the value of 1 if the country experiences a conflict and 0 otherwise. The results show that the coefficient associated with this binary variable is positive and statistically significant at the 1 percent level. This finding suggests that being in conflict affects positively the likelihood of occurrence of banking crises.

The test statistics suggest that the Mundlak (1978) approach used in the estimates is accurate and that the model classifies properly the group of countries that experienced banking crises and those that did not experience banking crises. We report at the bottom of the table the area under the ROC curve (AUROC) statistics and their standard errors to test the goodness of fit of the model. The AUROC statistic is between 0 and 1, with higher values representing a strong performance of the model. In Table 3, the AUROC statistic is above 0.73 in all the columns.

To give an idea about the magnitude, we follow Caballero (2014) in analyzing our results in terms of odds ratios. Given that we are using a logit model, the odds ratios are the exponentiated values of the coefficients reported in Table 3. Therefore, based on the results in column (1), the odds of a banking crisis are 2.5 times greater when a country is affected by a conflict. The probability of experiencing a banking crisis raises from 6.3 percent (unconditional probability) to 13.5 percent when a country is in conflict.³ In column (2), we use the intensity of conflict instead of the binary variable used in column (1). The results remain consistent as the coefficient associated with conflict is positive and significant at the 1 percent level.

Turning to the effects of political instability, we present in column 3 the results when we use the change in government cabinet as an indicator of political instability following Alesina *et al.* (1996) and Aisen and Veiga (2013). We find that the coefficient associated with the variable cabinet changes is positive and highly significant at the 1 percent level. That said, political instability is correlated with a higher occurrence of banking crises. Quantitatively, an increase in the number of cabinet changes from zero to four (which is the maximum observed in the sample) is associated with an increase in the likelihood of banking crises to 21.17 percent, from the unconditional probability of experiencing a banking crisis of 6.3 percent.

³ The odds are the ratio of the probability of a positive outcome to the probability of no positive outcome: $\text{odds} = p/q$, where $q=1-p$ and $p = Pr(Y = 1|X)$. In our sample, the unconditional probability of a crisis is 6.3 percent (191 crises out of 3,026 observations), implying that the $\text{odds}(\text{crisis})$ is 0.0631. In column 1 of Table 3, the odds of a crisis, conditional on the occurrence of a conflict, increase by 2.5 times (this is the exponential of the coefficient associated with conflict: 0.9097). Then, the estimated conditional probability of a crisis is $0.1355 = (2.5 * 0.0631) / [1 + (2.5 * 0.0631)]$. All analyzes in the subsequent sections follow this methodology.

Table 3: Baseline results

VARIABLES	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]
	Conflict (binary)	Conflict (intensity)	Cabinet changes	Changes in Effective Executive	Anti- Government Demonstrations	Government Crises	General Strikes	Assassinations
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.9097*** (0.245)	0.4483*** (0.167)	0.3620*** (0.126)	0.3277** (0.150)	0.0295* (0.017)	0.2894** (0.134)	0.2211** (0.094)	0.0788* (0.042)
Exchange rate, t-1	-0.0903** (0.039)	-0.0892** (0.039)	-0.0931** (0.039)	-0.0959** (0.039)	-0.0910** (0.039)	-0.1024** (0.040)	-0.0987** (0.039)	-0.0899** (0.039)
M2/reserves, t-1	0.5660*** (0.124)	0.5531*** (0.124)	0.5605*** (0.123)	0.5658*** (0.123)	0.5691*** (0.123)	0.5675*** (0.123)	0.5666*** (0.123)	0.5675*** (0.123)
Inflation, t-1	1.0096*** (0.172)	1.0140*** (0.173)	1.0163*** (0.169)	1.0224*** (0.172)	1.0509*** (0.170)	1.0638*** (0.172)	1.0106*** (0.172)	1.0148*** (0.172)
Credit growth, t-1	0.4867* (0.293)	0.3878 (0.286)	0.3468 (0.281)	0.2923 (0.281)	0.3007 (0.280)	0.3571 (0.283)	0.2995 (0.280)	0.3088 (0.281)
External debt, t-1	0.7992*** (0.144)	0.7981*** (0.145)	0.8284*** (0.144)	0.8410*** (0.144)	0.8267*** (0.144)	0.8388*** (0.144)	0.8137*** (0.144)	0.8282*** (0.144)
GDP per capita, t-1	-0.3966 (0.315)	-0.3913 (0.317)	-0.3530 (0.318)	-0.3983 (0.316)	-0.4916 (0.317)	-0.3989 (0.316)	-0.4452 (0.313)	-0.4245 (0.317)
Economic growth, t-1	-0.0324* (0.019)	-0.0312 (0.019)	-0.0257 (0.019)	-0.0277 (0.019)	-0.0324* (0.019)	-0.0289 (0.020)	-0.0331* (0.019)	-0.0340* (0.019)
Terms of trade, t-1	0.0286 (1.206)	0.0910 (1.207)	-0.1673 (1.218)	-0.0626 (1.218)	0.0235 (1.206)	-0.0540 (1.210)	0.0422 (1.204)	-0.0172 (1.210)
Degree of democracy, t-1	-0.0460** (0.019)	-0.0469** (0.019)	-0.0524*** (0.019)	-0.0540*** (0.019)	-0.0466** (0.019)	-0.0514*** (0.019)	-0.0518*** (0.019)	-0.0483*** (0.019)
Observations	3,026	3,026	2,972	2,972	2,991	2,991	2,991	2,991
Number of countries	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Log likelihood	-598.7	-602.1	-599.5	-600.6	-603.3	-602.4	-602.2	-603.1
Wald chi2	326.9	323.8	335.6	333.5	327.5	328.1	335	323.8
Rho(LR)	0.482	0.484	0.460	0.457	0.471	0.469	0.465	0.476
P-value(Rho)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
AUROC	0.751	0.744	0.742	0.739	0.734	0.734	0.740	0.737
seAUROC	0.0174	0.0174	0.0175	0.0183	0.0181	0.0178	0.0177	0.0177

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively. Standard errors are reported in brackets.

In columns 4, we use the number of changes in effective executive as a proxy of political instability (Alesina *et al.* 1996). We find a positive correlation between the number of changes in effective executive and the occurrence of banking crises. In the remaining columns, we use the number of anti-governmental demonstrations, government crises, general strikes and political assassinations as proxies of political instability. We still find that the coefficients associated with these variables are positive and significant, although the level of significance differs between columns.

Figure 3 presents the predicted values of the likelihood of banking crises for different levels of conflict probability and intensity, and political instability. The predicted values are obtained from the regressions in Table 3. The blue lines represent the predicted probability of a banking crisis given the probability of a conflict (panel 3.A), the intensity of conflict (panel 3. B) or the intensity of political instability (panel 3. C-H). The dashed lines indicate the 95 confidence intervals. Figure 3 shows clearly that the higher the likelihood or intensity of conflict and political instability, the higher the likelihood of experiencing a banking crisis.

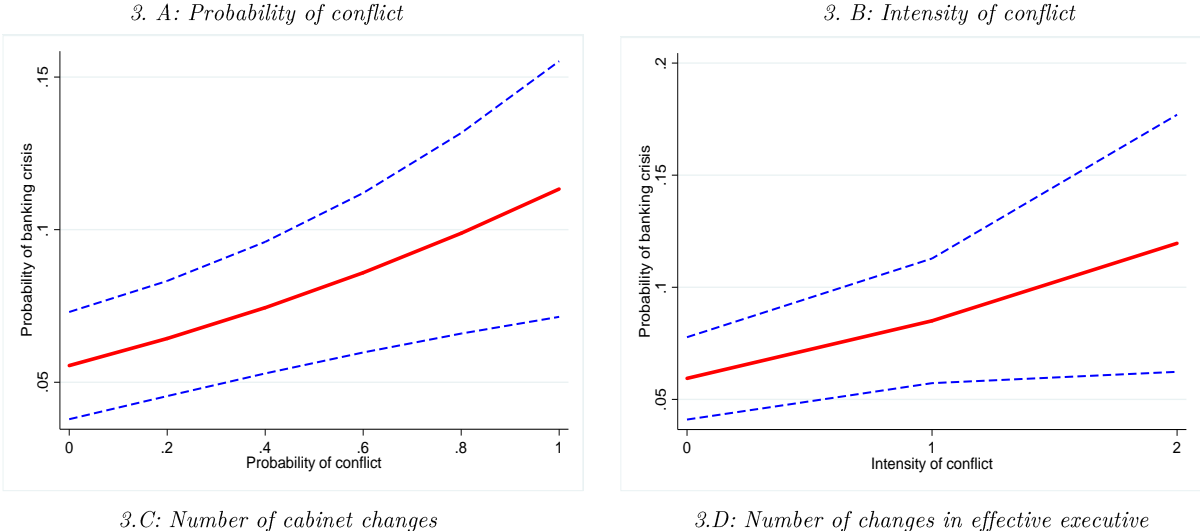
Regarding the remaining control variables, with a few exceptions, they are significant and consistent with the literature. We find that the coefficients associated with M2/reserves, inflation, credit growth, and external debt are all positively correlated

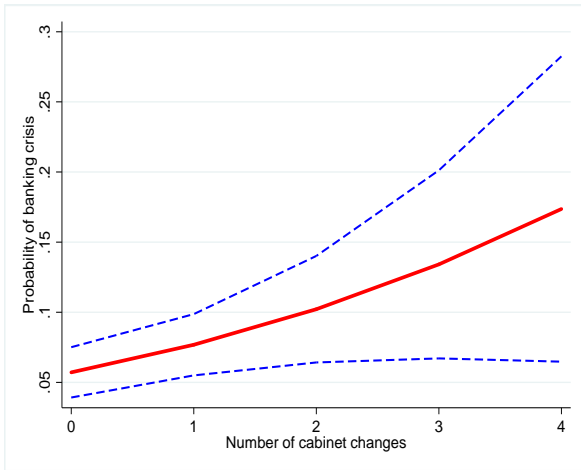
with banking crises. It has been shown that an increase in broad money compared to the level of reserves positively is positively associated with a high occurrence of banking crises (Demirgüç-Kunt and Detragiache, 2000-2005; Davis and Stone, 2004; Von Hagen and Ho, 2007; Kinda *et al.*, 2016). High inflation rates negatively affect the banking sector stability (Davis *et al.*, 2011 and Joyce, 2011), while amounting debt level is often considered as a predictor of banks failures.

On the other hand, the coefficients associated with exchange rate, economic growth, and the degree of democracy are negatively associated with banking crises. As shown in the literature, a depreciation of the exchange rate can potentially lead to a banking crisis (Reinhart *et al.*, 2000; Duttagupta and Cashin, 2011; De Bock and Demyanets, 2012). A sound politico-institutional environment is less favorable to the occurrence of banking turmoil (Beck *et al.*, 2006; Kinda *et al.*, 2016). However, as in Demirgüç-Kunt and Detragiache (2000), the level of development measured by the GDP per capita is not statistically significant. Similarly, the terms of trade are found to be a non-significant determinant of banking crisis.

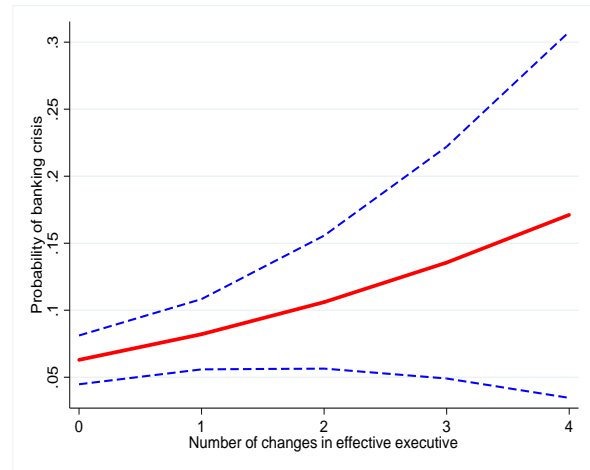
Table 4 reports the results when we split the sample into two subsamples: emerging markets and low-income countries, following the IMF classification of countries. The results show that conflict and political instability are a predictor of banking crises in both emerging economies and low-income economies. However, the results differ slightly between the two group of countries. For emerging markets, the coefficients associated with conflict and political instability variables are all positive and significant in all columns, except for government crises and political assassinations. For low-income countries, all coefficients are positive and significant, except those associated with effective changes in the executive, anti-government demonstrations, and general strikes.

Figure 3: Predicted probability of a banking crisis

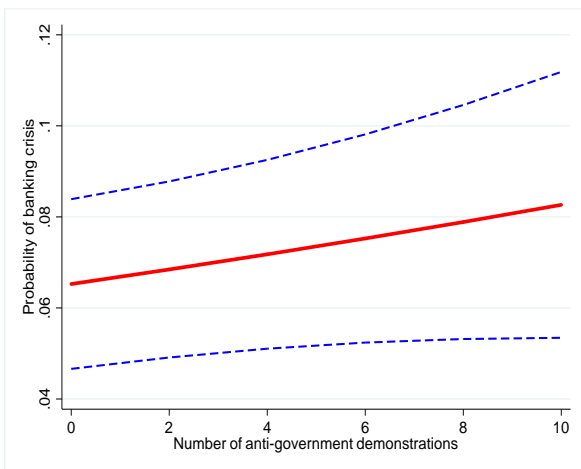




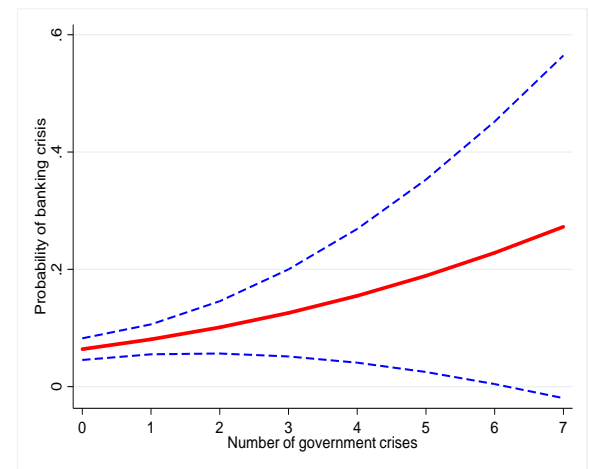
3.E: Number of anti-government demonstrations



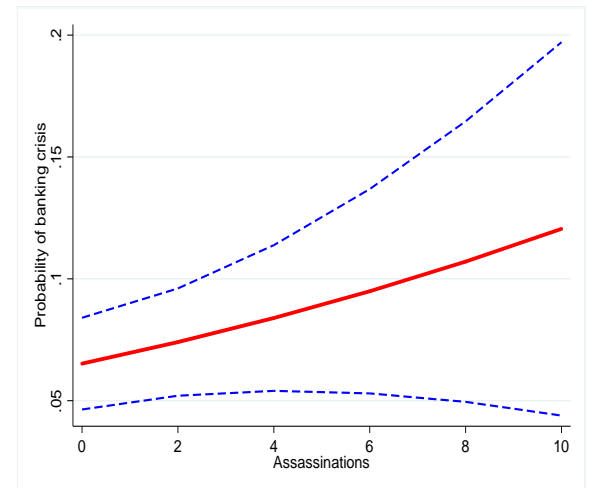
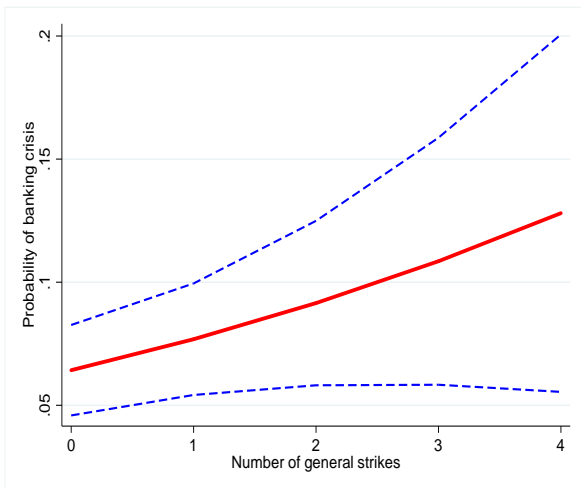
3.F: Number of government crises



3.G: Number of general strikes



3.H: Number of assassinations



Considering the case of conflict, its effect on banking crises is higher in low-income countries than in emerging markets. The probability of experiencing a banking crisis increases to 14.12 percent when an emerging market is hit by a conflict, while that probability jumps to 17.15 percent in a low-income country.

Table 4: Baseline Results, by Income Group

VARIABLES	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]
	Conflict (binary)	Conflict (intensity)	Cabinet changes	Changes in Effective Executive	Anti-Government Demonstrations	Government Crises	General Strikes	Assassinations
Emerging countries								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.9573*** (0.347)	0.5454** (0.230)	0.3021* (0.163)	0.3582* (0.190)	0.0551* (0.030)	0.1899 (0.153)	0.2515** (0.111)	0.0412 (0.053)
Observations	1,638	1,638	1,637	1,637	1,637	1,637	1,637	1,637
Number of countries	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49
Log likelihood	-366.1	-367.2	-368	-367.9	-368.5	-368.6	-367.5	-369.6
Wald chi2	196.7	193.4	209.1	203	200.2	202.5	211.7	196.2
Rho(LR)	0.438	0.444	0.403	0.421	0.424	0.411	0.407	0.430
P-value(Rho)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
AUROC	0.743	0.737	0.727	0.734	0.727	0.726	0.729	0.730
seAUROC	0.0173	0.0171	0.0176	0.0178	0.0174	0.0174	0.0174	0.0174
Low-income developing countries								
Variable in column (X), t-1	1.1874*** (0.368)	0.4909* (0.272)	0.4627** (0.211)	0.2014 (0.270)	0.0478 (0.043)	0.7460** (0.341)	0.2996 (0.207)	0.2972*** (0.089)
Observations	1,306	1,306	1,253	1,253	1,272	1,272	1,272	1,272
Number of countries	43	43	43	43	43	43	43	43
Log likelihood	-210.5	-213.8	-209.1	-213.6	-213.8	-212.2	-213.4	-210.4
Wald chi2	139.2	135.4	145	134.3	134.9	138.8	135.3	139.4
Rho(LR)	0.474	0.477	0.400	0.452	0.458	0.452	0.458	0.460
P-value(Rho)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
AUROC	0.656	0.642	0.642	0.648	0.638	0.645	0.646	0.651
seAUROC	0.0213	0.0215	0.0216	0.0211	0.0213	0.0213	0.0213	0.0213
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively. Standard errors are reported in brackets.

B. Do Conflicts and Political Instability in Neighboring Countries Matter?

In this subsection, we assess whether conflicts and political instability in neighboring countries affect the likelihood of experiencing a banking crisis in a given country. Such spillover effects can occur as banks perform their activities in bordering countries in search of portfolio diversification and the last two decades have been marked by an increase in financial globalization (Mishkin, 2007; Kose *et al.* 2006). Previous studies have shown that conflicts in bordering countries matter. For instance, Qureshi (2013) found a significant negative effect of both intrastate and international conflicts on the bilateral trade of neighboring countries that may not be directly involved in any conflict. Murdoch and Sandler (2004) and De Groot (2010) highlighted that conflicts have negative spillover effects on neighboring countries by inducing a significant decline on output growth in the short-run.

We define the variables of conflicts and political instability in neighboring countries as follows. For conflict, we define two variables: one being the number of bordering countries in conflict and another being the simple average of conflict intensity in bordering countries. For political instability variables, we generated the simple average of the number of cabinet changes, changes in effective executive, anti-government

demonstrations, government crises, general strikes and political assassinations in bordering countries. We then run the same regressions as in Table 3.

The results are reported in Table 5. We find that the coefficients associated with our variables of interest are positive and statistically significant in columns 1-4, although the spillover effect is generally lower than the direct one.

Table 5: Effect of Conflict and Political Instability in Neighboring Countries

VARIABLES	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]
	Conflict (number of states)	Conflict (intensity)	Cabinet changes	Changes in Effective Executive	Anti- Government Demonstrations	Government Crises	General Strikes	Assassinations
Neighbor at war or pol. instability, t-1	0.2077*** (0.060)	2.2675*** (0.735)	0.4742** (0.235)	0.7325*** (0.262)	-0.0171 (0.038)	0.1919 (0.156)	0.1633 (0.146)	-0.0210 (0.064)
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.7820*** (0.238)	0.3618** (0.163)	0.3983*** (0.132)	0.3027* (0.160)	0.0300 (0.019)	0.2480* (0.138)	0.1869* (0.099)	0.0785* (0.043)
Exchange rate, t-1	-0.1035** (0.041)	-0.1013** (0.041)	-0.0899** (0.039)	-0.0924** (0.039)	-0.0878** (0.039)	-0.0989** (0.040)	-0.0955** (0.039)	-0.0855** (0.039)
M2/reserves, t-1	0.5593*** (0.130)	0.5543*** (0.129)	0.5673*** (0.130)	0.5758*** (0.130)	0.5707*** (0.130)	0.5724*** (0.131)	0.5705*** (0.130)	0.5772*** (0.131)
Inflation, t-1	0.9740*** (0.173)	0.9838*** (0.173)	0.9887*** (0.172)	0.9884*** (0.176)	1.0153*** (0.172)	1.0432*** (0.176)	0.9819*** (0.175)	0.9900*** (0.177)
Credit growth, t-1	0.3985 (0.294)	0.3132 (0.287)	0.3431 (0.290)	0.2536 (0.288)	0.2684 (0.288)	0.3222 (0.291)	0.2480 (0.287)	0.2771 (0.289)
External debt, t-1	0.6859*** (0.151)	0.7398*** (0.148)	0.7800*** (0.152)	0.8003*** (0.152)	0.8266*** (0.152)	0.8257*** (0.152)	0.7702*** (0.151)	0.8081*** (0.151)
GDP per capita, t-1	0.2945 (0.367)	0.3251 (0.380)	-0.3198 (0.349)	-0.3818 (0.345)	-0.4205 (0.350)	-0.3571 (0.348)	-0.4468 (0.342)	-0.4374 (0.348)
Economic growth, t-1	-0.0352* (0.019)	-0.0327* (0.019)	-0.0219 (0.020)	-0.0243 (0.020)	-0.0322 (0.020)	-0.0290 (0.020)	-0.0337* (0.020)	-0.0342* (0.020)
Terms of trade, t-1	-0.0879 (1.218)	-0.0942 (1.217)	-0.0264 (1.291)	0.0804 (1.273)	0.2944 (1.244)	0.2047 (1.272)	0.2899 (1.251)	0.2313 (1.262)
Degree of democracy, t-1	-0.0422** (0.019)	-0.0384** (0.019)	-0.0514** (0.021)	-0.0513** (0.021)	-0.0495** (0.021)	-0.0513** (0.021)	-0.0519** (0.021)	-0.0496** (0.021)
Observations	2,775	2,775	2,627	2,626	2,633	2,633	2,633	2,633
Number of countries	91	91	80	80	80	80	80	80
Log likelihood	-570.3	-575.1	-520.5	-521.8	-525.5	-525.1	-524.9	-526.1
Wald chi2	321.4	316	287	280.3	279.5	274.4	282.3	269.3
Rho(LR)	0.471	0.475	0.479	0.484	0.479	0.494	0.486	0.502
P-value(Rho)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
AUROC	0.756	0.745	0.756	0.752	0.746	0.741	0.748	0.741
seAUROC	0.0178	0.0177	0.0183	0.0185	0.0185	0.0188	0.0182	0.0185

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively. Standard errors are reported in brackets.

This suggests that conflicts and political instability in neighboring countries increase the likelihood of banking crises in a given country. More specifically, for a given country, an increase in the number and intensity of conflict, and the number of changes in government cabinet and effective executive and the number of general strikes in bordering countries are associated with an increase in its probability to experience a banking crisis.

For instance, if we focus on column (1), a rise in the number of bordering countries affected by conflict from 0 to 3 (which is the median number of bordering countries in conflict) would result in an increase of the likelihood of banking crises from 6.3 percent to 11.2 percent. On the other hand, we find the coefficient associated with

the number of anti-government demonstrations, government crises and political assassinations in bordering countries have no significant spillover effects.

C. Duration of Conflict and Political Instability

We explore whether the duration of conflict and political instability matters. For each variable, we redefine a new variable taking the value of 1 if the conflict or political instability lasts 1 year, or at least 2 years, 3 years, and up to 10 years. We then estimate equation (2) using the Mundlak (1978) estimator. The results are reported in Table 5. We find that conflict and political instability that last only one year has no significant effect on the occurrence of banking crises. However, when the conflict lasts longer, its impact on the occurrence of banking crises become apparent and stronger.

Table 6 shows that the coefficient associated with conflict is positive and significant at the 1 percent level when the conflict lasts at least two years. We can also observe that the coefficient is higher when the conflict lasts 10 years than when it lasts only 2 years. In terms of magnitude of the impact, the probability of experiencing a banking crisis is 25 percent when the conflict lasts 10 years, against 16.4 percent when it lasts two years. This finding can be explained by the fact that when the conflict is becoming prolonged, its adverse impact on the economy and the banking sector intensifies. We find similar results in columns 3, 4, 6 and 8, suggesting that the probability of a banking crisis increases when political instability persists. The coefficient associated with anti-government demonstrations and general strikes become insignificant when they last more than 2 and 3 years, respectively, due to the significant reduction in the number of cases.

D. Transmission Channels

In this subsection, we explore the channel through which conflict and political instability influence the likelihood of banking crises. As outlined above, we assert that conflict and political instability affect the likelihood of banking crises by creating some fiscal pressures, which in turn transmit to the banking sector. To test this hypothesis, we extract the data on fiscal crises from Gerling *et al.* (2017). Fiscal crises are defined as episodes of extreme fiscal distress. Our variable fiscal crisis is a binary variable taking the value of 1 if the country is under tight budgetary conditions and 0 otherwise. We then include an interactive variable between conflict or political instability and fiscal crisis and the latter itself as additional variables.

Table 6: Duration of conflict and political instability

VARIABLES	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]
	Conflict (binary)	Conflict (intensity)	Cabinet changes	Changes in Effective Executive	Anti-Government Demonstrations	Government Crises	General Strikes	Assassinations
Panel A: Lasting only one year								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.0402 (0.380)	-0.0610 (0.349)	0.0215 (0.158)	0.1698 (0.173)	0.0277 (0.087)	0.0368 (0.185)	0.1251 (0.191)	0.0772 (0.273)
Panel B: Lasting at least two years								
Variable in column (X), t-1	1.1330*** (0.286)	0.4942*** (0.172)	0.4795*** (0.142)	0.5990** (0.238)	0.0291* (0.017)	0.4784*** (0.157)	0.2162** (0.099)	0.0902** (0.042)
Panel C: Lasting at least three years								
Variable in column (X), t-1	1.2874*** (0.298)	0.5474*** (0.174)	0.3223* (0.176)	0.6230* (0.337)	0.0260 (0.018)	0.6454** (0.272)	0.2094** (0.104)	0.0934** (0.042)
Panel D: Lasting at least four years								
Variable in column (X), t-1	1.1588*** (0.302)	0.4514** (0.183)	-0.0168 (0.238)	0.6500 (0.595)	0.0258 (0.019)	1.2352*** (0.432)	0.1421 (0.125)	0.1883*** (0.060)
Panel E: Lasting at least five years								
Variable in column (X), t-1	1.0238*** (0.306)	0.3308* (0.191)	-0.0762 (0.317)	1.1809* (0.699)	0.0263 (0.020)	1.4419*** (0.470)	-0.0577 (0.213)	0.4256*** (0.106)
Panel F: Lasting at least six years								
Variable in column (X), t-1	1.3089*** (0.311)	0.4562** (0.191)	-0.1093 (0.384)	1.3174* (0.743)	0.0188 (0.025)	1.6203** (0.782)	-0.2888 (0.462)	0.5313*** (0.156)
Panel G: Lasting at least seven years								
Variable in column (X), t-1	1.4018*** (0.324)	0.5400*** (0.197)	0.0460 (0.426)	1.4833* (0.810)	0.0070 (0.035)	0.8735 (1.129)	0.0235 (0.394)	0.6380*** (0.202)
Panel H: Lasting at least huit years								
Variable in column (X), t-1	1.5458*** (0.337)	0.6565*** (0.211)	0.3641 (0.397)	1.4833* (0.810)	-0.0107 (0.051)	0.9207 (1.112)		1.5646*** (0.572)
Panel I: Lasting at least nine years								
Variable in column (X), t-1	1.6883*** (0.350)	0.6740*** (0.214)	0.9237** (0.451)	1.4833* (0.810)	-0.0490 (0.079)			1.1000* (0.573)
Panel J: Lasting at least ten years								
Variable in column (X), t-1	1.6462*** (0.375)	0.6257*** (0.223)	1.0215** (0.448)	1.4833* (0.810)	-0.0764 (0.094)			0.5283 (0.402)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively. Standard errors are reported in brackets.

This allows us to test whether the effect of conflict and political instability on banking crises partly or totally transmit through the occurrence of fiscal crises. If the coefficients associated with conflict and political instability remain highly significant and their magnitudes do not change, thus conflict and political instability influence the likelihood of banking crises even in the absence of fiscal crises. However, if the coefficients associated with conflict and political instability become insignificant when the interactive term and fiscal crisis are included, then the effect of conflict and political instability on banking crisis can be assumed to operate through a simultaneous occurrence of fiscal crises.

The results are reported in Table 7. They show that the effect of conflict and political instability operates mainly through a simultaneous fiscal crisis. Indeed, the coefficients associated with the different variables of conflict and political instability become insignificant in all columns when the interactive term and fiscal crisis are included,

suggesting that the budgetary constraints are key determinants of banking crises, and that some fiscal crises take place simultaneously with the occurrence of conflict and political instability. The coefficient associated with fiscal crisis is positive and significant in all columns. This finding is in line with our main hypothesis.

Table 7: Transmission channels

VARIABLES	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]
	Conflict (binary)	Conflict (intensity)	Cabinet changes	Changes in Effective Executive	Anti- Government Demonstration	Government Crises	General Strikes	Assassinations
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.5134 (0.340)	0.3031 (0.256)	0.3006 (0.190)	-0.0032 (0.296)	-0.0903 (0.086)	-0.5423 (0.429)	-0.0607 (0.254)	0.0495 (0.060)
Fiscal crisis, t-1	0.3734** (0.190)	0.4307** (0.188)	0.4307** (0.192)	0.4179** (0.185)	0.3953** (0.185)	0.3967** (0.183)	0.4514** (0.183)	0.4510** (0.183)
Variable in column (X)*fiscal crisis, t-1	0.5597* (0.338)	0.1554 (0.255)	0.0733 (0.212)	0.4469 (0.326)	0.1528* (0.087)	1.1221** (0.449)	0.3469 (0.256)	0.0589 (0.080)
Exchange rate, t-1	-0.0787** (0.038)	-0.0783** (0.038)	-0.0815** (0.039)	-0.0827** (0.039)	-0.0794** (0.039)	-0.0988** (0.041)	-0.0890** (0.038)	-0.0771** (0.038)
M2/reserves, t-1	0.5483*** (0.125)	0.5362*** (0.124)	0.5416*** (0.123)	0.5502*** (0.123)	0.5565*** (0.123)	0.5679*** (0.124)	0.5493*** (0.123)	0.5493*** (0.123)
Inflation, t-1	0.9128*** (0.169)	0.9217*** (0.170)	0.9223*** (0.167)	0.9156*** (0.169)	0.9529*** (0.168)	0.9344*** (0.172)	0.9043*** (0.171)	0.9048*** (0.171)
Credit growth, t-1	0.5211* (0.295)	0.4208 (0.287)	0.3800 (0.282)	0.3317 (0.281)	0.3045 (0.280)	0.4215 (0.284)	0.3154 (0.281)	0.3570 (0.282)
External debt, t-1	0.6656*** (0.148)	0.6769*** (0.148)	0.7102*** (0.147)	0.7141*** (0.147)	0.7036*** (0.146)	0.6954*** (0.147)	0.6952*** (0.147)	0.7031*** (0.147)
GDP per capita, t-1	-0.3676 (0.323)	-0.3679 (0.322)	-0.3278 (0.323)	-0.3554 (0.321)	-0.3619 (0.326)	-0.4238 (0.323)	-0.3938 (0.320)	-0.3983 (0.322)
Economic growth, t-1	-0.0321* (0.019)	-0.0321* (0.019)	-0.0267 (0.019)	-0.0251 (0.019)	-0.0298 (0.019)	-0.0229 (0.019)	-0.0336* (0.019)	-0.0355* (0.019)
Terms of trade, t-1	-0.0412 (1.204)	0.0720 (1.208)	-0.1641 (1.219)	-0.0686 (1.221)	0.0289 (1.218)	0.0669 (1.224)	0.0202 (1.211)	-0.0491 (1.214)
Degree of democracy, t-1	-0.0441** (0.019)	-0.0452** (0.019)	-0.0498*** (0.019)	-0.0515*** (0.019)	-0.0416** (0.019)	-0.0520*** (0.019)	-0.0492*** (0.019)	-0.0465** (0.019)
Observations	2,986	2,986	2,934	2,934	2,953	2,953	2,953	2,953
Number of countries	92	92	92	92	92	92	92	92
Log likelihood	-592.5	-597.3	-594.8	-594.5	-595.5	-592.3	-595.8	-598
Wald chi2	344.8	341.8	355.5	360.1	353.3	354.5	359.3	345.5
Rho(LR)	0.459	0.457	0.432	0.424	0.435	0.442	0.434	0.445
P-value(Rho)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
AUROC	0.759	0.752	0.749	0.747	0.747	0.749	0.750	0.747
seAUROC	0.0173	0.0172	0.0172	0.0178	0.0177	0.0179	0.0176	0.0175

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively. Standard errors are reported in brackets.

VI. ROBUSTNESS CHECKS

We now estimate a set of different specifications to test the robustness of our results.

A. Use of Alternative Data Sources

As highlighted in Section 3, several indicators of conflicts and political instability have been used in the literature. In this robustness exercise, we use multiple indicators in an attempt to test the different indicators used so far in the literature to capture the occurrence of conflict and political instability. In Table A2 in the appendix, we use the indicators of country risk from the International Country Risk Guide (ICRG) as in Neumayer (2004). These variables include the risks of internal conflict (civil war, civil

disorder and terrorism), external conflict (cross border conflict, interstate war and foreign pressures) and political risk which is an aggregate index combining both internal and external conflict. The results reported in Table A2 are in line with our baseline findings as the coefficients associated with the different indicators are positive and highly significant.

Table A3 presents the results obtained using various indicators of conflict and political instability from multiple sources. In column (1-4) we use some data from the Marshall (2017)'s Major Episodes of Political Violence (MEPV) dataset as in Quereshi (2013) and IMF (2019). In this database, the minimum threshold to be qualified as conflict (500 related deaths) is higher than in our baseline database (25 related deaths). We use a binary variable taking a value of 1 if the country experiences a civil war and 0 otherwise in column (1). Marshall (2017) also defines some scores reflecting the intensity of civil war and civil violence based on an eleven-point scale score (0-10), with higher values representing extreme civil war and violence. In column (2), we use the score of civil war, while the score of civil violence is used in column (3). In column (4), we use the aggregate index of total violence, which is the simple average of civil war and civil violence scores. The results show that all four variables are positive and strongly significant at the 1 percent level. Therefore, our baseline findings remain unchanged.

In column (5), our indicator of conflict is from the Correlates of Wars (COW) dataset. In this database, the threshold to be considered as civil war is high as the minimum of conflict-related deaths is 1000 deaths, compared to only 25 in UCDP database used in our baseline specification. The COW database is used in some papers (Bazzi and Blattman, 2014). Table A3 shows that using this data source does not change our findings. The coefficient associated with conflict is highly significant and higher than that of column (1) in Table 3. With this database, being in conflict raises the probability of a banking crisis from 6.3 percent to 17.7 percent.

In the baseline results in Table 3, we used the number of political assassinations as proxy indicator of political instability. We now use a very similar indicator from Marshall and Marshall (2018) in column (6), which focuses on the assassinations of the ruling executives. This variable takes the value of 1 if the ruling executive is assassinated and 0 otherwise. We still find that the coefficient with our variable of interest is positive and strongly significant, suggesting that the assassinations of the ruling executive is a predictor of banking crises.

We now look at the cases of terrorism. One data source widely used to capture the occurrence of terrorism attacks is the Global Terrorism Database (Asongu and Nwachukwu, 2017; Lis, 2018). Recent years have been marked by an increase in terrorism attacks in the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa (see IMF 2019), leading to severe macroeconomic consequences as infrastructure and human capital are being damaged businesses delay investment decisions and increase unemployment (Rother et al. 2016). In columns (7) we use a binary variable taking the value of 1 if a terrorist attack occurs in the country and 0 otherwise. The results show that terrorism related attacks are positively associated with higher occurrence of banking crises. The coefficient associated with the variable is strongly significant at the 1 percent level.

As in Neumayer (2004), we use the indicator of political terror from the Political Terror Scale (PTS) database in column (8). This variable captures the violations of basic human rights and includes torture and cruel treatment and punishment, killings and unlawful use of deadly force, political assassinations, kidnappings, forced disappearances, and many other forms of treatments. Given that the source of this database is Amnesty International, the database provides an assessment of political instability made by the humanitarian community, which is very important as they often work closely with the conflict affected populations. The coefficient associated with the variable PTS is positive and significant at the 10 percent level.

Some authors use coups d'état as an indicator of political instability (Fosu, 2002). Several countries have been subject of repetitive military coups, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa (Fosu, 2002; McGowan, 2003). Following these studies, we use the number of coups d'état in column (9). We find that the coefficient associated with this variable is statistically not significant.

Finally, we use the index of state fragility from Marshall and Marshall (2017) and the share of deaths caused by conflict in columns (10) and (11). The state fragility index captures to degree to which a country is vulnerable to political violence. The use of the proportion of the population killed during conflict aims at taking into account the size of countries, in line with IMF (2019). As shown in column (10) and (11), the coefficients associated with these two variables are positive and significant at the 5 percent level, and thus our core finding still holds.

B. Including More Covariates

To avoid the problem of omitted variables, we include several additional control variables in Table A4. In the first two panels, we check whether controlling for the global conditions will change our results. To this end, we include the S&P 500 index in panel A and the US 3-years bond yields in panel B. Given the dominance of the US economy and financial sector in the world, there is no doubt that what is happening in the US affect developing countries. Previous literature on the contagion effects and market transmission from US markets shows that what happens in US markets affect the markets in other countries (Bekaert et al., 2011). The results in panels A and B show that the coefficient associated with conflict and political instability remains broadly positive and strongly significant even if we control for global conditions.

We control for the role of natural resource endowments in panels C and D. Kinda et al. (2018) and Eberhardt and Presbitero (2018) have found that commodity price fluctuations can lead to banking crises. To capture this potential effect, we include in panel C the index of commodity prices as in Kinda et al. (2018) and in panel D the total rents from natural resources as percentage of GDP. The results in these two panels are consistent with our baseline findings in Table 3.

In panel E, we include portfolio investment and net inflows, as percentage of GDP, while in panel F we include the real interest rate. Some studies have found that short-term flows (such as portfolio flows) (Caballero, 2014; Ghosh et al., 2016) are positively associated with the likelihood of a banking crisis. Furthermore, an increase in the real interest rate is a proxy for a tightening of financial conditions which is likely to squeeze banks' balance sheets and increase the probability of a banking crisis (Dutttagupta and Cashin, 2011). After controlling for these important covariates, we still find that conflict and political instability increase the likelihood of banking crises, even if the level of significance drops when interest rate is included. This is due to the significant reduction in the number of observations because of the lack of data on real interest rates.

Finally, we include control of corruption, the degree of export diversification and financial development in panels G, H and I, respectively. Previous studies stress the importance of institutions that enforce and secure property rights for financial development and the probability of financial fragility being positively associated with weaker institutions (Demirgüç-Kunt and Detragiache 1998). Barth et al. (2009); and

Beck et al. (2006) have shown that when bank supervisors or bank controlling shareholders abuse their power and get involved in corrupted activities, the likelihood of bank failure increases. Regarding exports diversification, some studies have found that countries with relatively low export diversification are more susceptible to banking crises (Kinda et al. 2018; Hausmann and Rojas-Suárez, 1996), other studies found that the level of financial development matters (Mathonnat and Minea, 2018). We find that controlling for these variables does not alter our baseline findings.

C. Alternative Econometric Methods

In this section, we use the simple probit and logit models, and the profit fixed effects model as robustness checks. As we underlined in Section 4, although the random-effects of Mundlak (1978) is our preferred econometric method, the other methods are also used in some papers either as baseline specification or as robustness check (Caballero, 2016; Ghosh et al., 2016). We estimate equation (2) using these three empirical estimators. The results are reported in Table A5. We find that the coefficients associated with our variable of interest (conflict and political instability) are all positive and significant in all panels. Therefore, our baseline results still hold regardless of the econometric method used.

VII. CONCLUDING REMARKS

Against the background of rising conflict and political instability over the past several decades, the paper investigates whether this phenomenon has led to increased occurrence of banking crises. While there is an extensive literature examining the economic impact of conflict and political instability, surprisingly there have been few studies on their impact on the probability of banking crises. This paper has attempted to fill this void.

The paper has provided strong evidence that conflicts and political instability are indeed associated with higher probability of systemic banking crises. Unsurprisingly, it also finds that the duration of a conflict is positively associated with rising probability of a banking crisis. Interestingly, the paper finds that conflicts and political instability in one country can have negative spillover effects in neighboring countries, by raising the probability of banking crises, albeit with lower likelihood.

The paper finds that the primary channel of transmission is the occurrence of fiscal crises following a conflict or political instability. Conflicts and political instability can have a negative impact on the productive capacity of a country and this in turn can

reduce government revenue and increase military or other unproductive spending, leading to fiscal crises. More generally, this can generally lead to government dysfunctionality and weakening of institutions.

In terms of policy implications, it is obvious that conflict and political instability have deleterious and far-reaching socio-economic impacts. We concur with Aisen and Veiga (2013) that governments facing conflict and/or political instability need to address their root causes and try to mitigate their negative effects with the appropriate design and implementation of economic policies. Creating adequate fiscal space in normal times can reduce the likelihood of fiscal crises and in turn lower the probability of systemic banking crises. Our results also suggest that policy makers should pay attention to conflicts in neighboring countries even if they themselves are not conflict-afflicted as their banking systems may suffer negative spillovers from their neighbors.

APPENDICES

Table A1. Correlations among Conflict and Political Instability Variables

	Conflict (binary)	Conflict (intensity)	Cabinet changes	Changes in effective executive	Anti-gov. demonstrations	Government crises	General strikes	Assassinations
Conflict (binary)	1							
Conflict (intensity)	0.9311*	1						
Cabinet changes	0.1139*	0.1143*	1					
Changes in effective executive	0.0560*	0.0560*	0.4969*	1				
Anti-government demonstrations	0.1116*	0.1082*	0.0567*	0.0643*	1			
Government crises	0.1137*	0.1065*	0.2234*	0.2469*	0.1118*	1		
General strikes	0.0960*	0.0843*	0.0617*	0.0818*	0.4531*	0.1330*	1	
Assassinations	0.2287*	0.2390*	0.0683*	0.0814*	0.0866*	0.1504*	0.0800*	1

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively.

Table A2. Robustness checks: using ICRG data

VARIABLES	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]
	Civil war	Civil disorder	Terrorism	Internal conflict	Cross border conflict	Interstate war	Foreign pressures	External conflict	Aggregate index
Variable in column (X), t-1	3.0991*** (0.444)	4.6497*** (0.664)	3.2275*** (0.524)	3.6649*** (0.530)	3.0990*** (0.472)	2.7336*** (0.388)	3.3649*** (0.513)	3.0938*** (0.451)	3.3785*** (0.486)
Exchange rate, t-1	-0.2234*** (0.072)	-0.2238*** (0.073)	-0.2074*** (0.071)	-0.2224*** (0.072)	-0.2042*** (0.069)	-0.2233*** (0.073)	-0.2124*** (0.072)	-0.2167*** (0.072)	-0.2207*** (0.072)
M2/reserves, t-1	0.5673*** (0.161)	0.5663*** (0.162)	0.5826*** (0.161)	0.5743*** (0.163)	0.5416*** (0.157)	0.5591*** (0.160)	0.5794*** (0.161)	0.5570*** (0.160)	0.5657*** (0.161)
Inflation, t-1	0.9080*** (0.218)	0.9188*** (0.218)	0.9192*** (0.220)	0.9085*** (0.218)	0.9090*** (0.217)	0.9305*** (0.221)	0.9355*** (0.221)	0.9262*** (0.220)	0.9194*** (0.220)
Credit growth, t-1	0.5585 (0.401)	0.5326 (0.399)	0.6598* (0.401)	0.5623 (0.401)	0.5260 (0.400)	0.5108 (0.399)	0.5542 (0.401)	0.5318 (0.400)	0.5434 (0.400)
External debt, t-1	0.6255*** (0.198)	0.6075*** (0.197)	0.6346*** (0.197)	0.6243*** (0.198)	0.5963*** (0.196)	0.5850*** (0.198)	0.6137*** (0.198)	0.5942*** (0.197)	0.6086*** (0.198)
GDP per capita, t-1	1.8020*** (0.589)	1.8420*** (0.583)	1.2280** (0.546)	1.7393*** (0.582)	1.4614*** (0.563)	1.7248*** (0.579)	1.5160*** (0.564)	1.6287*** (0.573)	1.7091*** (0.579)
Economic growth, t-1	-0.0480* (0.026)	-0.0488* (0.026)	-0.0475* (0.026)	-0.0488* (0.026)	-0.0493* (0.026)	-0.0498* (0.026)	-0.0480* (0.026)	-0.0492* (0.026)	-0.0488* (0.026)
Terms of trade, t-1	-0.2272 (1.627)	-0.2700 (1.641)	-0.1309 (1.648)	-0.2496 (1.636)	-0.2605 (1.629)	-0.3036 (1.633)	-0.2713 (1.634)	-0.2847 (1.633)	-0.2834 (1.635)
Degree of democracy, t-1	0.0009 (0.027)	-0.0017 (0.027)	-0.0064 (0.027)	-0.0006 (0.027)	0.0040 (0.027)	0.0020 (0.027)	0.0007 (0.027)	0.0031 (0.027)	0.0019 (0.027)
Observations	1,847	1,847	1,847	1,847	1,847	1,847	1,847	1,847	1,847
Number of countries	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71	71
Log likelihood	-362.1	-361.6	-371.4	-363.9	-367.5	-363.4	-367.6	-365.3	-364.2
Wald chi2	252.4	250.5	252.6	251.8	252.4	251.4	249.3	251.6	251.9
Rho(LR)	0.376	0.380	0.389	0.384	0.385	0.390	0.399	0.391	0.388
P-value(Rho)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
AUROC	0.816	0.820	0.803	0.814	0.808	0.816	0.809	0.812	0.813
seAUROC	0.0171	0.0180	0.0190	0.0178	0.0183	0.0178	0.0187	0.0181	0.0179

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively. Standard errors are reported in brackets.

Table A3. Robustness check: using data from different sources

VARIABLES	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]
	Civil war (binary)- Polity IV	Civil war score-Polity IV	Civil violence- Polity IV	Total violence- Polity IV	COW	Assassinati on of Executive	Terrorism - GTD	PTS	Number of Coups d'Etat	State fragility	Conflict deaths over population
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.8967*** (0.239)	1.2454*** (0.337)	0.2466*** (0.062)	3.2782*** (0.820)	1.2276*** (0.310)	1.9710*** (0.607)	0.8284*** (0.184)	0.1941* (0.103)	-0.0674 (0.423)	5.3679** (2.733)	0.3518** (0.160)
Exchange rate, t-1	-0.0846** (0.038)	-0.0892** (0.039)	-0.0853** (0.039)	-0.0860** (0.039)	-0.1848*** (0.051)	-0.0958** (0.039)	-0.0943** (0.041)	-0.0857** (0.043)	-0.0938** (0.039)	-0.5146** (0.246)	-0.0912** (0.039)
M2/reserves, t-1	0.5684*** (0.123)	0.5555*** (0.123)	0.5603*** (0.123)	0.5536*** (0.124)	0.5007*** (0.141)	0.5763*** (0.124)	0.6137*** (0.128)	0.6528*** (0.131)	0.5646*** (0.122)	0.5459 (0.337)	0.5621*** (0.124)
Inflation, t-1	0.9868*** (0.169)	1.0115*** (0.168)	1.0015*** (0.170)	1.0062*** (0.171)	0.8236*** (0.187)	1.0628*** (0.173)	1.0184*** (0.173)	0.9763*** (0.179)	1.0402*** (0.170)	2.6818*** (0.910)	1.0188*** (0.172)
Credit growth, t-1	0.4463 (0.292)	0.4162 (0.294)	0.3722 (0.289)	0.3741 (0.288)	0.3372 (0.317)	0.3051 (0.282)	0.2782 (0.285)	0.3315 (0.299)	0.2926 (0.281)	0.0636 (0.614)	0.3694 (0.285)
External debt, t-1	0.8192*** (0.146)	0.8288*** (0.145)	0.8222*** (0.146)	0.8368*** (0.146)	0.6302*** (0.164)	0.8286*** (0.145)	0.7155*** (0.146)	0.5986*** (0.158)	0.8507*** (0.144)	0.6295* (0.342)	0.8085*** (0.144)
GDP per capita, t-1	-0.3039 (0.318)	-0.1790 (0.323)	-0.2186 (0.327)	-0.1923 (0.330)	2.1684*** (0.540)	-0.4121 (0.320)	-0.4042 (0.319)	-0.4382 (0.343)	-0.3935 (0.316)	-1.2565 (0.917)	-0.3925 (0.317)
Economic growth, t-1	-0.0320* (0.019)	-0.0365* (0.019)	-0.0271 (0.019)	-0.0265 (0.018)	-0.0345* (0.019)	-0.0251 (0.019)	-0.0324* (0.019)	-0.0316 (0.020)	-0.0350* (0.019)	-0.0154 (0.038)	-0.0324* (0.019)
Terms of trade, t-1	-0.0406 (1.203)	0.0700 (1.193)	-0.0736 (1.212)	-0.1068 (1.210)	-0.3437 (1.269)	-0.0980 (1.224)	0.1038 (1.194)	0.0933 (1.209)	0.0251 (1.201)	-3.5220 (2.742)	0.0445 (1.205)
Degree of democracy, t-1	-0.0457** (0.019)	-0.0391** (0.019)	-0.0422** (0.019)	-0.0434** (0.019)	-0.0202 (0.022)	-0.0468** (0.019)	-0.0541*** (0.019)	-0.0454** (0.019)	-0.0498*** (0.019)	0.0317 (0.048)	-0.0470** (0.019)
Observations	3,026	3,025	3,025	3,025	1,645	3,025	3,026	2,360	2,973	1,769	3,026
Number of countries	92	92	92	92	83	92	92	91	92	91	92
Log likelihood	-598.4	-596.9	-597.2	-597.3	-443.7	-601.7	-594.6	-537.5	-603	-243.2	-603.3
Wald chi2	330.3	345.8	327.8	324.2	216.3	319.8	334.2	294.8	331.1	79.53	322.3
Rho(LR)	0.476	0.454	0.476	0.480	0.478	0.489	0.474	0.424	0.459	0.848	0.484
P-value(Rho)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
AUROC	0.751	0.756	0.752	0.751	0.749	0.736	0.753	0.733	0.740	0.756	0.741
seAUROC	0.0172	0.0174	0.0170	0.0171	0.0189	0.0183	0.0178	0.0193	0.0179	0.0253	0.0177

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively. Standard errors are reported in brackets.

Table A4. Robustness check: Including more covariates

VARIABLES	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]
	Conflict (binary)	Conflict (intensity)	Cabinet changes	Changes in Effective Executive	Anti- Government Demonstrations	Government Crises	General Strikes	Assassinations
Panel A: Adding S&P 500 index								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.9866*** (0.244)	0.5156*** (0.170)	0.3466*** (0.125)	0.2928** (0.147)	0.0412*** (0.016)	0.2916** (0.132)	0.1872* (0.101)	0.0814* (0.044)
S & P 500 index, t-1	-0.0015*** (0.000)	-0.0015*** (0.000)	-0.0014*** (0.000)	-0.0014*** (0.000)	-0.0015*** (0.000)	-0.0014*** (0.000)	-0.0014*** (0.000)	-0.0014*** (0.000)
Panel B: Adding US 3-years bond yield								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.9029*** (0.246)	0.4127** (0.170)	0.3713*** (0.130)	0.3425** (0.152)	0.0262 (0.018)	0.3742*** (0.133)	0.2000** (0.098)	0.0855* (0.045)
US bond yield, t-1	0.2251*** (0.031)	0.2247*** (0.031)	0.2257*** (0.031)	0.2247*** (0.031)	0.2269*** (0.031)	0.2358*** (0.032)	0.2261*** (0.031)	0.2289*** (0.031)
Panel C: Adding commodity price index								
Variable in column (X), t-1	1.0015*** (0.254)	0.3948** (0.175)	0.3450*** (0.130)	0.3978*** (0.154)	0.0323** (0.016)	0.3792** (0.149)	0.1854* (0.100)	0.0637 (0.043)
Commodity prices index, t-1	-0.0229*** (0.004)	-0.0222*** (0.004)	-0.0213*** (0.004)	-0.0217*** (0.004)	-0.0223*** (0.004)	-0.0216*** (0.004)	-0.0220*** (0.004)	-0.0222*** (0.004)
Panel D: Adding natural resource rents (% GDP)								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.9469*** (0.246)	0.4551*** (0.167)	0.3553*** (0.126)	0.3416** (0.149)	0.0279 (0.017)	0.2775** (0.134)	0.2299** (0.094)	0.0723* (0.043)
Natural resource rents, t-1	-0.0356* (0.018)	-0.0330* (0.018)	-0.0322* (0.018)	-0.0337* (0.018)	-0.0330* (0.018)	-0.0336* (0.018)	-0.0316* (0.018)	-0.0336* (0.018)
Panel E: Adding portfolio investment, net flows (% GDP)								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.7540*** (0.258)	0.3123* (0.175)	0.3804*** (0.131)	0.3640** (0.157)	0.0307* (0.016)	0.4046*** (0.144)	0.3382*** (0.100)	0.0808* (0.042)
Portfolio investment, t-1	0.0177 (0.023)	0.0173 (0.023)	0.0180 (0.024)	0.0187 (0.024)	0.0173 (0.023)	0.0146 (0.023)	0.0179 (0.023)	0.0172 (0.023)
Panel F: Adding real interest rate								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.7762** (0.341)	0.2566* (0.131)	0.4334*** (0.166)	0.4262** (0.211)	0.0295 (0.020)	0.6636*** (0.184)	0.1324 (0.146)	0.0587 (0.054)
Real interest rate, t-1	0.0056 (0.009)	0.0054 (0.009)	0.0031 (0.009)	0.0048 (0.009)	0.0038 (0.009)	0.0042 (0.009)	0.0029 (0.009)	0.0044 (0.009)
Panel G: Adding control of corruption								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.9095*** (0.245)	0.4487*** (0.167)	0.3622*** (0.126)	0.3277** (0.150)	0.0295* (0.017)	0.2892** (0.134)	0.2224** (0.094)	0.0788* (0.042)
Control of corruption, t-1	-0.0521 (0.329)	-0.0876 (0.329)	-0.0365 (0.324)	0.0068 (0.319)	-0.0997 (0.320)	-0.1245 (0.324)	-0.1255 (0.315)	-0.1102 (0.326)
Panel H: Adding exports diversification								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.9500*** (0.248)	0.4488*** (0.169)	0.3499*** (0.126)	0.2867* (0.153)	0.0433* (0.024)	0.2890** (0.137)	0.2512** (0.099)	0.0729* (0.042)
Exports diversification, t-1	-0.3619** (0.147)	-0.3471** (0.147)	-0.3754** (0.149)	-0.3715** (0.149)	-0.3403** (0.147)	-0.3586** (0.146)	-0.3568** (0.147)	-0.3415** (0.146)
Panel I: Adding financial development index								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.9353*** (0.256)	0.3809** (0.174)	0.4075*** (0.131)	0.3906** (0.155)	0.0411* (0.024)	0.4576*** (0.152)	0.2380** (0.100)	0.0684 (0.042)
Financial development, t-1	1.4132 (1.304)	1.6558 (1.301)	1.4800 (1.295)	1.5385 (1.284)	1.5286 (1.307)	1.5748 (1.303)	1.6867 (1.291)	1.6488 (1.301)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively. Standard errors are reported in brackets.

Table A5. Robustness check: using alternative econometric method

VARIABLES	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]
	Conflict (binary)	Conflict (intensity)	Cabinet changes	Changes in Effective Executive	Anti-Gov. Demonstrations	Government Crises	General Strikes	Assassinatio ns
Panel A: Using probit model								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.3132*** (0.086)	0.1570*** (0.061)	0.2163*** (0.061)	0.2328*** (0.079)	0.0117* (0.007)	0.1593** (0.066)	0.1246*** (0.044)	0.0538*** (0.021)
Panel B: Using logit model								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.6187*** (0.176)	0.2864** (0.121)	0.4357*** (0.120)	0.4817*** (0.152)	0.0216* (0.011)	0.3167*** (0.120)	0.2200*** (0.077)	0.0985*** (0.035)
Panel C: Using probit fixed effects model								
Variable in column (X), t-1	0.5607*** (0.153)	0.2775*** (0.106)	0.1917** (0.078)	0.2192** (0.095)	0.0167 (0.012)	0.1243 (0.089)	0.1508** (0.064)	0.0610** (0.030)
Control variables	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*, **, and *** denote statistical significance at 10 percent, 5 percent, and 1 percent level, respectively. Standard errors are reported in brackets.

Appendix B1: Definition of Conflict and Political Instability Variables Used in Robustness Checks

- *International Country Risk Guide (ICRG)*. This database contains two important variables that provides an assessment of the risk of instability: internal conflict and external conflict. The index of internal conflict is an assessment of political violence in the country and its actual or potential impact on governance, and comprises three subcomponents: civil war, terrorism, and civil disorder. The index of external conflict is an assessment both of the risk to the incumbent government from foreign action, ranging from non-violent external pressure to violent external pressure. It encompasses three subcomponents: war, cross-border conflict, and foreign pressures. In the paper, we use not only the indices of internal and external conflicts, but also the different sub-indices. We also compute an aggregate index of conflict, which is the simple average of the internal and external conflict indices.
- *Correlates of Wars (COW)*. In this database, civil war is defined as an armed conflict between an internationally recognized state and (mainly) domestic challengers, able to mount an organized military opposition to the state. A war must have caused more than 1,000 battle-related deaths in total and within at least a three-year period. We define a binary variable taking the value of 1 if the condition is met, and 0 otherwise.
- *Political Terror Scale of Amnesty International*. This database provides a measure of political terror defined as violations of physical integrity rights carried out by states or their agents. It refers to state-sanctioned killings, torture, disappearances, and political imprisonment. The data are ranged from 1 to 5, with higher values representing widespread and systemic violations of civil and political rights where murders, disappearances, and torture are a common part of life.
- *Global Terrorism Database (GTD) by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) (University of Maryland)*. Terrorism is defined as the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious or social goal through fear, coercion or intimidation. In order to be considered as a terrorist incident, 3 conditions should be met: (i) the incident must be intentional: the result of a conscious calculation on the part of a perpetrator; (ii) the incident must entail some violence or threat of violence, including violence against property or/and against people; and (iii) the perpetrator of the incident should

be sub-national actors. We use the number of terrorism related incidents per year.

- *Marshall (2017)'s major episodes of political violence database (Center for Systemic Peace)*. Major episodes of political violence are defined by the systematic and sustained use of lethal violence by organized groups that result in at least 500 directly-related deaths over the course of the episode. We define a binary variable taking the value of 1 if such event occurs and 0 otherwise. The database also contains an eleven-point scale score (0-10) providing an assessment of the intensity of civil war and civil violence. We also use these two scores and an additional aggregate score for total violence, which is the simple average of the civil war and civil violence scores.
- *Marshall and Marshall (2018)'s coup d'état events database (Center for Systemic Peace)*. We use two variables from this database capturing whether a military coup occurred in the country and whether the ruling executive was assassinated. A *coup d'état* is defined as a forceful seizure of executive authority and office by a dissident/opposition faction within the country's ruling or political elites that results in a substantial change in the executive leadership and the policies of the prior regime. We generate a binary variable taking the value of 1 if a *coup d'état* occurs and 0 otherwise. We also define a binary variable equal to 1 if the ruling executive is assassinated and 0 otherwise.
- *Marshall and Marshall (2017)'s state fragility index (Center for Systemic Peace)*. The state fragility index is a composite index based on four dimensions: security, political, economic and social and measures the degree to which a country is vulnerable to political and social violence. The variable ranges between 0 and 25, with higher values meaning extreme fragility.

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