

# Food Prices and Conflicts in Low- and Middle Income Countries

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Since 2007 there have been a number of sharp price increases in world food prices, and these are often linked to riots and revolts. E.g. in 2007 there were riots in Mexico over increasing tortilla prices and in that same year violent protests against high food prices occurred in Burkina Faso and India. The objective of this study is to empirically assess the relation between rapidly rising food prices and the occurrence of conflict over the last fifty years. We use the UCDP/PRIO database that contains data on armed conflicts over the period 1946-2008 and combine this with country-level food price indices obtained from FAO in order to test potential relation between food prices increases and the start of a conflict in low- and middle-income countries.



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