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Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.2

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This weekly Covid-19 Conflict and Governance Evidence Summary aims to signpost DFID and other UK government departments to the latest evidence and opinions on Covid-19 (C19), to inform and support their responses.

This week, key focus issues and themes include: the impact of C19 in Latin America, as it now appears to be the epicentre of C19 cases; how C19 is deepening existing conflicts and crises in Yemen and South Sudan; and a range of organised crime topics – from the emboldening of criminal groups in Brazil to increased deforestation and organised crime.

This week's addition features papers on: the specific vulnerabilities of youth and the need to include them in C19 responses, how West African states are exploiting C19 to repress opposition and manipulate elections, and a checklist for policy responses to target violence against healthcare workers, patients and facilities.

The summary uses two main sections – (1) literature: – this includes policy papers, academic articles, and long-form articles that go deeper than the typical blog; and (2) blogs & news articles. The articles in section (1) that are journal articles, or that explicitly state having been peer reviewed, are highlighted in yellow. See the end of this report for details on the method taken for this rapid summary. It is the result of one day of work, and is thus indicative but not comprehensive of all issues or publications.

LITERATURE

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Covid-19: Working with and for young people	Compact for Young People in Humanitarian	How can humanitarian actors work with and for young people in the wake of Covid-19? This guidance note explains: the specific vulnerabilities some youth face; significant impacts in the areas of health, safety and protection, education, economic,

	Action; Guidance Note	and civic space and participation; and how young people are mobilising. It argues for responses to be youth-inclusive and youth-focused, with recommended actions in the areas of: services (promote inclusive access for youth); participation (engaging youth as partners in the Covid-19 response); capacity (empower and support local youth-led initiatives); resources (increase funding for those affected or working in the response); and data (disaggregating according to age).
COVID-19 in South Sudan's Borderlands: A view from Northern Bahr el-Ghazal	Joseph Diing Majok & Nicki Kindersley; Rift Valley Institute; Briefing paper	How is C19 affecting South Sudan's borderland with Sudan? This report finds that the partial shutdown of the border due to C19 has become part of the borderland political economy, stimulating the development of new and profitable forms of local taxation and smuggling. While such an economy is able to operate without major obstacles, it is doubtful that lockdown measures will be effective in containing the spread of C19 in the borderlands.
Southern Africa Key Message Update: Impacts of Covid-19 and associated restrictions increase assistance needs, especially in urban areas	USAID; Report	What has been the impact of C19 and its associated restrictions in Southern Africa? This report finds it to have: led to a slowdown in economic activity (especially in urban areas, and affecting petty trade and informal employment); increased urban food insecurity; and mixed trends regarding staple food prices. It forecasts that: in mid- to late 2020, household food availability is likely to remain seasonally stable in the post-harvest period, while purchasing power for many households is likely to be below average.
Nigeria: Vulnerabilities to Covid-19 and Containment Measures	ACAPS; Report	How is C19 affecting Nigerians? This report documents C19 and its containment measures' significant impacts on wellbeing, and socioeconomic and living conditions.
Food systems and Covid-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean: How to increase resilience	Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations; Bulletin	What can be done to increase the resilience of food production and livelihoods in Latin America and the Caribbean to C19 impacts? This bulletin sets out a range of recommendations to ensure availability and stabilising access to food.

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Crossfire and Covid-19: Double crisis for displaced civilians	Norwegian Refugee Council; Report	How can displacements be reduced in the wake of the C19 pandemic? This report finds that armed conflict displaced at least 661,000 people in 19 countries globally between 23 March and 15 May 2020, and makes recommendations for the UN and conflict parties.
States, not jihadis, exploiting corona crisis in West Africa	Kars de Bruijne & Loïc Bisson; ACLED & Clingendael; Brief	How is C19 affecting state authority and legitimacy in West Africa? This brief finds that it has strengthened the position of states as governments subtly exploit the crisis to repress opposition and manipulate elections, while the lack of genuine opposition risks fueling violent extremism throughout the region. It concludes that: the EU – West Africa's largest trading partner – has to push for inclusive governance. It is in its self-interest.
Safer Covid-19 Response: Checklist For Health-care Services	International Committee of the Red Cross; Checklist	How can the impact of violence against healthcare workers, patients and facilities during C19 be reduced? This checklist recommends: support health-care workers with high exposure to stress and violence; assess the risks and implement preparedness measures; understand and promote the rights and responsibilities of staff to provide respectful and ethical care; engage, listen and communicate with the public; coordinate with security forces and other services; and document and monitor violent incidents.
Yemen Risks-Update 21 May 2020	ACAPS; Update	How is C19 affecting Yemen? This update on conflict in Yemen documents some C19 actual and possible impacts. E.g. one finding is that increased public discontent at the inability of the Transitional Council (STC) to improve life in Aden and effectively manage C19 is likely to be used by the government as justification for taking the city by force.

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
The authoritarian temptation	Sandra Weiss; International Politics Society; Article	Are Latin American leaders taking advantage of C19 to erode democratic principles? This article finds that under the pretext of C19, and embedded in public health measures, authoritarian tendencies are spreading in Latin America in three trends: the role of the security forces is being strengthened, the fundamental and civil rights of individuals are being drastically restricted and data protection is being relaxed.
Immediate Covid-19 support to partners	Norwegian Refugee Council; Article	How can humanitarian agencies support their partners to effectively deal with C19? This article proposes local capacity building as the best way of preventing and preparing partners for future crises.
The hidden toll of lockdown on rainforests	BBC; Article	How is C19 impacting organised crime and tropical rainforests? This article reports that while it's too soon for detailed data on the scale, Conservation International have been receiving reports of increased deforestation from around the world. They analyse two main factors that could be driving these trends: (1) criminal groups and opportunists expanding their activities, taking advantage of lockdown and diminished forest monitoring and government presence; and (2) that people living in these rural areas are facing increased economic pressures and are forced to rely more heavily on nature for food and income.
Covid-19 in Latin America: Organized Crime Gains and States Weaken	Emmanuele Ottolenghi; Foundation for Defense of	How have government responses to C19 in Latin America affected organised crime? This policy brief finds that the inability of states in Latin America to respond effectively has

	Democracies; Policy Brief	created opportunities for organised crime to step into the void left by inadequate government responses and economic downturn.
How the free press worldwide is under threat	Gill Phillips; The Guardian; Long Read Article	From Mexico to Malta, attacks on journalists and publishers have proved deadly to individuals and chilling to broader freedoms. And now C19 is being used as an excuse to silence more voices.
Colombia arrests two mayors, seeks arrest of 8 more over coronavirus corruption	Adriaan Alsema; Colombia Reports; News article	Colombia's prosecutor general announced on Thursday that two mayors have been arrested and another eight would be arrested soon in a crackdown on corruption with C19 emergency funds.
Countering the Corruption Risk Caused by COVID-19	Derek Smith; The Tribune; News article	Corruption and bribery risks, by all indications, increase during a crisis. Over the past decade, a sustained number of corruption and bribery cases have occurred because of entities not fully appreciating the risk attached to their vendors or weak internal anti-bribery regimes. In The Bahamas, I conclude, it is little different.
COVID-19 halts extradition of UK-based suspect in R745m Eskom corruption case	Khaya Koko, IOL; News article	The staggering R745 million Eskom fraud-and-corruption case is being delayed by a UK-based accused, whom the State is struggling to extradite amid C19.
COVID-19, lockdown and new charges of corruption lead to delay in Zuma corruption trial	Ferial Haffajee; Daily Maverick; Analysis	Less than a week after former president Jacob Zuma pegged the country's judiciary alongside that of the apartheid state, the former president is attempting to direct when his corruption trial should be heard.
India cannot expect to beat coronavirus without tackling systematic hate and deep-rooted corruption	Meenakshi Ganguly; Scroll In; Article	The authorities have made a tremendous effort to contain the spread of C19 in India. Shutting down a country of nearly one-and-half billion people for two months was always going to be a challenge. But now that the lockdown restrictions are being lifted and with economic packages to kickstart the economy announced, the government should also recognise that its C19 response has exposed longstanding concerns.

Federal intergrity commission delayed again amid warnings of coronavirus response corruption risk	Christopher Knaus; The Guardian; Article	The Coalition, an alliance of centre-right political parties, says the C19 crisis has forced it to delay plans for a federal integrity commission, despite critics warning of huge corruption risks posed by Australia's multibillion-dollar pandemic response.
NACC proactively implements preventative COVID-19 Corruption Risk Mapping Project	Bangkok Post; News article	With news reporting an increase in corruption at all levels, Thailand's National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) and other government agencies have outlined preventive measures against corruption during C19 and other crises that may arise.
Brazil police raid Rio governor's residences amid COVID-19 probe	Ricardo Brito & Rodrigo Viga Gaier; Reuters; News article	Brazilian federal police raided the residences of Rio de Janeiro Governor Wilson Witzel as part of a C19 corruption probe, targeting one of President Jair Bolsonaro's political foes as the pandemic sweeps the nation. No arrest warrants were issued, a source said
Report: COVID-19 Emergency Powers Open Door for Corruption in Latin America	Amy Guthrie; Law.com; News article	C19 has led to an unprecedented assertion of power by governments across Latin America and paved the way for abuses in a region already marred by corruption, according to a report released by the Lawyers Council for Civil and Economic Rights of the Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice.
Spread of coronavirus fuels corruption in Latin America	Joshua Goodman; Associated Press; News article	From Argentina to Panama, a number of officials have been forced to resign as reports of fraudulent purchases of ventilators, masks and other medical supplies pile up. The thefts are driven by price-gouging from manufacturers and profiteering by politically connected middlemen who see the crisis as an opportunity for graft.
The African movement tracking coronavirus cash corruption	Linus Unah; The National; News article	As cash flows in to assist African nations with C19, one group of volunteers is tracking the spend. In early April, the northwestern Nigerian state of Kaduna set aside $1.3 million to purchase food packages for vulnerable households amid restrictions on movement due to rising cases of C19 in Nigeria. As distribution began across local councils, Zaliha Lawal and a

	group of over 20 volunteers monitored it closely, taking photos and video and recording instances where officials diverted the items or allowed unfair distribution patterns to favour their friends or relatives.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
How Brazil's COVID-19 response has fallen to community leaders	Catherine Osborn; The New Humanitarian; News article
COVID-19 is increasing the power of Brazil's criminal groups	Ryan Berg & Andrea Varsori; LSE; Blog
Covid-19 and the New Scramble for Africa	Anne Abaho; African Arguments; Blog
This is how the youth is mobilising tech during COVID-19	Melanie Pinet, Ethel Boateng & Phionah Sanyu; African Arguments; Blog
Last month could've been a real turning point for Africa-China ties	Barney Walsh; African Arguments; Blog
Love (from Afar) in the Time of Covid-19: Diaspora Humanitarianism and Pandemic Response	Bashair Ahmed Paul Asquith; African Arguments; Blog
U.S. Support for Combating COVID-19 in Sub-Saharan Africa – Briefing With Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Tibor Nagy	US Embassy in Senegal; Briefing transcript
COVID-19 in Southeast Asia: non-citizens have a right to protection too	Sriprapha Petcharamesree; Open Democracy; Blog
Can we understand COVID-19 fast enough – and well enough – to make a difference?	Lavinia Tyrrel, Linda Kelly, Chris Roche & Elisabeth Jackson; Oxfam (From Poverty to Poverty); Blog

Turning COVID-19 Challenges into Peace Opportunities	Bience Gawanas; Africa Renewal; Address
The 'Crisis' in Coronavirus Crisis Communications: Southeast Asia and the Contest of Narratives	Wendy He & Ian Li; RUSI; Commentary
Kenya and Covid-19: Pandemic Response Risks Excluding Minority Groups	African Arguments; Blog
How Mauritius' unique political culture helped it beat COVID-19	Myriam Blin & Jess Auerbach; African Arguments; Blog

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
A tale of two crises: Conflict and COVID-19 in South Sudan	Saferworld; Comment and analysis	How can South Sudan implement its peace agreement and address rising intercommunal conflicts while responding to Covid-19? This comment highlights attention has been distracted away from implementation of the peace agreement at a critical moment, leaving a power vacuum that has seen intercommunal violence "skyrocket". It makes recommendations for national and international actors, including that donors should continue to invest in peacebuilding (particularly at the sub-national level) despite challenges posed by Covid-19.
Violence against Women and Girls in the Shadow of Covid-19: Insights from Africa	Titilope Ajayi; Kujenga Amani; Blog	How has Covid-19 affected sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls in Africa? This piece highlights data limitations around SGBV; the complexity of understanding the drivers of SGBV; and how gender blind Covid-19 responses are affecting SGBV (e.g. the closure of government bodies and NGOs that support SGBV victims). It

		concludes by reiterating core principles for policy responses: the need for gender analysis and sensitivity; ensure women's participation and leadership; address socioeconomic and gender inequities, norms, etc in the long-term; and support SGBV survivors with safe spaces, economic opportunities, and more equitable representation in decision-making.
Webinar on Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia after COVID-19: From National to Human Security	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict; Online event video	Northeast Asia was the first region to be hit by the COVID-19 crisis, now a global pandemic. In this online video, speakers from China, Japan, Mongolia, the Republic of Korea and the United States share the situation of COVID-19 in each context, the situation of military spending, and proposals for peace on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.
The COVID-19 Crisis: Faith Engagement Between Peace and Conflict in Asia	Berkley Center; Online event video	How are religious beliefs, actors and communities shaping the Covid-19 pandemic and response? This online event explores the responses of religious communities in different countries (including engagement with government authorities), the role of interreligious approaches, whether communities are responding with violence or peace, and how the politics and ethics of environmental challenges are affected by the crisis.
Police Face Backlash Over Virus Rules. Enter 'Violence Interrupters.'	Ashley Southall, New York Times, Article	Groups trained to prevent gun and gang violence are being tapped to persuade New York City residents to follow social-distancing rules.
Italy bribery probe nets Sicily coronavirus response chief	BBC News; News article	Sicily's coronavirus co-ordinator and nine other healthcare officials have been arrested suspected of taking bribes from equipment and services contracts, Italian police say.
Anti-corruption heroes need help too	Transparency International	Major institutions are increasingly recognising the role that Civil Society Organisations can play in supporting government accountability, but without the conditions in which to thrive, civic monitoring can be dangerous or downright impossible.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Fighting continues in Anglophone Cameroon despite COVID-19 concerns	R. Maxwell Bone & Akem Kelvin Nkwain; African Arguments; Blog
South Africa's military is not suited for the fight against COVID-19. Here's why	Craig Bailie; The Conversation; Blog
How is the coronavirus impacting domestic violence?	International Rescue Committee; Blog
A Covid-19 upgrade of EU engagement in the Middle East	Erwin van Veen; Clingendael; Op-Ed
Côte d'Ivoire: Defusing Electoral Tensions Amid Polarised Politics	ICG; Commentary
The Fragility of Northern Syria	ICG; Commentary
Myanmar: Rakhine State Faces a Third Crisis	ICG; Commentary
Watch List 2020 – Spring Edition	ICG; Commentary
From Bad to Worse in Yemen	ICG; Commentary

DASHBOARDS, TRACKERS & RESOURCE HUBS

K4D - Covid-19 Resource Hub

Global Voices - Covid-19: Global voices for a pandemic

ICNL - COVID-19 Civic Freedom Tracker

ECPR Standing Group on Organised Crime - Controcorrente (dedicated Covid-19 blog series)

The Syllabus - The politics of Covid-19 readings

Political Settlements Research Programme - Conflict, development and Covid-19 resources

IDS - Covid-19: the social science response to the pandemic

GI-TOC - Covid Crime Watch

Jorge Mantilla (UC-Chicago) - Twitter thread curating pieces on Covid-19, conflict and crime

CGD - Coronavirus preparedness & response

ODI - Reforms, initiatives and campaigns on migrants' contributions to the Covid-19 response

The New Humanitarian – Covid-19 and aid - weekly roundup

The New Humanitarian – Covid-19 cases data and policy response tracker

ACLED – Covid-19 disorder tracker

Various - Crowd-sourced cross-disciplinary coronavirus syllabus

EVENTS

3 June 16:00 (UK time) - Domestic Violence under Lockdown – Domestic violence has increased exponentially in the UK and Latin America since lockdown measures were announced to combat the coronavirus. How is the situation affecting vulnerable people in Latin America and the UK, and what are organisations working in this area doing to help those experiencing this challenging situation?

Suggested citation

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Methodology

Due to the emerging nature of the Covid-19 crisis, this rapid weekly summary includes blogs, and news articles, in addition to policy and academic literature. The sources included are found through searches of Google Scholar, Google, and ReliefWeb with the keywords:

> ("COVID-19" OR "coronavirus") AND ("developing countries" OR "Africa" OR "Asia" OR "Middle East" OR "Latin America" OR "Pacific") AND ("conflict" OR "peace" OR "violence" OR "resilience" OR "fragility") OR ("authoritarian*" OR "democra*" OR "corrupt*" OR "transparency" OR "state legitimacy" OR "non-state actors" OR "state capacity" OR "state authority" OR "politic*" OR "state institutions")

The searches are restricted to articles published in the previous seven days, in English. This is complemented by: a focussed Twitter search (using just the pages of a small selection of research organisations, and key scholars/thinkers, including those funded by the UK government's Department for International Development (DFID)); and through email recommendations from DFID advisors and leading experts. This is trial and error approach, which will be refined and changed over the coming weeks. If you have literature to include in the weekly summary, please email – s.herbert@bham.ac.uk

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About this report