Knowledge, evidence
and learning for
development

Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.7

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03 July 2020

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, features resources on: democratic backsliding under C19; how C19 is increasing gender inequality in conflict affected contexts, and is increasing domestic violence and child maltreatment, with lifelong consequences; and how C19 is affecting the world of work, public budgeting and food markets.

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: C19-related corruption; and how exisiting inequalities exacerbate the unequal burdens and risks of C19, e.g. regarding vulnerable youth and socioeconomic inequalities.

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. 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
An update on Pandemic Backsliding: Democracy Four months After the Beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic	Amanda Edgell, Sandra Grahn, Jean Lachapelle, Anna Lührmann & Seraphine Maerz; V-Dem Institute; Policy brief	How is C19 affecting democracy? This policy brief draws on a new dashboard by V-Dem that tracks the effects of C19 on democratic standards in 146 countries. It finds: • Most democracies have addressed C19 with no or only minor violations of democratic standards. • There are concerning developments in 89 countries. Most were already autocratic before the pandemic. • The Pandemic Backsliding Index identifies the risk that a government is using the pandemic to erode already weak democratic institutions. The areas of most concern are: media freedom, limitations on the legislature, and the discriminatory and abusive enforcement of emergency measures.
ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Fifth edition Updated estimates and analysis	International Labour Organisation; Report	How is C19 affecting the world of work? This report finds: • 93% of workers globally live in countries with some workplace closure measures. • C19 is disproportionately affecting women workers as they are more likely to work in the service sector and in front-line occupations, and to do unpaid care work. Gains made in addressing gender inequality in the labour market over the past few decades may be lost. • The actual labour market outcomes in the remainder of 2020 will be shaped by policy choices and actions as well as by the pandemic's future trajectory.

		• ILO projections suggest that the labour market recovery during the second half of 2020 will be uncertain and incomplete. • Moving to a job-rich recovery requires: (a) finding the right policy balance; (b) sustaining interventions at scale; (c) supporting vulnerable and hard-hit groups and generating fairer labour market outcomes; (d) securing international solidarity and support; and (e) strengthening social dialogue and respect for rights at work.
Budgeting in a Crisis: Guidance for Preparing the 2021 Budget	Teresa Curristine, Laura Doherty, Bruno Imbert, Fazeer Sheik Rahim, Vincent Tang, and Claude Wendling; IMF; Note	This note discusses budget preparation and how to address the unprecedented challenges and uncertainties of C19. It focuses on budgeting processes, not fiscal policies.
Food Markets during COVID-19	Tewodaj Mogues; IMF; Note	How is C19 affecting food markets? This note explores how rising hunger and malnutrition due to C19 threaten primarily low-income countries, but also advanced economies, and implications for expenditure policies. It focuses on: (1) the food supply at the stage of agricultural production; (2) midstream and downstream components of food supply chains; (3) the demand side, price developments, and food security; (4) trends and policy recommendations with regard to international trade in food products; and (5) existing and proposed policies and interventions to strengthen food access.
Power and Social Control of Youth during the COVID-19 Pandemic	Myra Gayle Gabriel, Aishia Brown, Maria León & Corliss Outley;	How are C19 responses and inequality affecting youth? This journal article explores how C19 is exposing multiple injustices and forms of oppression experienced by the most vulnerable, including young people experiencing poverty, incarceration, foster care, homelessness, and those with marginalised identities. E.g. leisure

	Leisure Sciences; Journal article	activities are important for youth to support healthy growth and development, mental health, building social skills, and reducing disease later in life. Yet vulnerable youth are less likely to have access to limited leisure activities during C19. And power exerted through policy enactment is often used to practice social control on marginalised youth and their communities.

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Gender & the Covid-19 Crisis in Conflict-Affected Context	Search for Common Ground (SFCG); Discussion Paper	How is C19 affecting gender in conflict affected contexts? This discussion paper, based on consultations with 30 SFCG teams, finds: most people left out of public information campaigns will be women; women reject protection and prevention measures because of mistrust and fatalism; in many places, women and girls have fewer options to protect themselves (e.g. lacking autonomy and resources); women and girls face increased risk of gender-based violence; as lockdown means people consume more media at home, the media will have an outsized impact on gender norms; women will suffer more from the economic disruption; C19 creates challenges and opportunities for women's political participation; government responses discriminate against vulnerable women and girls; and stricter security enforcement puts women civilians at risk.
Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment during COVID-19	Professor Siddhartha Bandyopadhyay; University of Birmingham; Report	How is C19 affecting domestic violence and child maltreatment in the UK? This report finds a marked increase in domestic violence and child maltreatment related to C19, with both having large lifetime cost to the victims and the public health system due to the

increased likelihood of mental illness and chronic diseases. There is an urgent need to improve health surveillance through: routine enquiry of domestic violence or child maltreatment exposure; repurposing of active surveillance methods; linking data between police, health and social care; using data (e.g. through twitter and language analysis) to understand better the scale of the problem; and providing secure access to anonymised hospital and police datasets.

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
COVID-19: Nepal in Crisis	Peter Gill & Janak Raj Sapkota; The Diplomat	C19 is exacerbating a number of weaknesses of the Nepali state, including corruption, as illustrated by the April healthcare procurement-related scandal. Two separate investigations are also underway.
Pandemic Probe: Brazilian Governor Targeted in Police Raid	Associated Press in New York Times; News article	The police raided the governor of Brazil's Amazonas state, with eight people detained, and more than a dozen addresses raided as part of an investigation into alleged fraud in the purchase of ventilators for C19.
Inequality and corruption: Why Peru is losing COVID-19 battle	Teresa Welsh; Devex; Blog	Peru has recorded the third-highest number of C19 cases in the Americas, after the US and Brazil. Public health experts say that the deep inequality of Peru's health system, high levels of informal economic activity, and corruption have contributed to a massive loss of life.

Pharma companies need extra anti-corruption vigilance during a pandemic	Alexandra Wrage; Stat News; Opinion	C19 has exacerbated the risk of transnational corruption for most industries, and especially so for the health care, life sciences, and pharmaceutical industries that are required to quickly develop and deliver solutions.
Coronavirus being exploited to undermine democracies, former world leaders warn	Luke McGee; CNN; News article	Ad open letter signed by more than 500 world leaders and Nobel Laureates claims that C19 has led to an alarming uptick in authoritarian behaviour by both authoritarian and democratic governments using the crisis to silence critics, arrest protestors and sidestep democratic norms.
Covid-19 calls for cross-sectional expansionary reforms in Ghana	Richard Opoku &, JayJay Segbefia; Joy Online; Opinion	C19 provides an opportunity for sweeping cross-sectional reforms for economies like Ghana that when implemented should strengthen the national economy and improve the lives of citizens. Yet corruption and mismanagement of public resources threaten to derail this.
Alleged 'Corrupt' Handling of COVID-19 Funds to be Probed	Massoud Ansar; Tolo News; News article	The president of Afghanistan has assigned the Inspector General of the Presidential Palace to investigate alleged corruption in the C19 response budget, which is allocated from the development budget.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Black Lives Matter protests did not cause an uptick in covid-19 cases	The Economist; Article
How HIV/AIDS changed the world	The Economist; Perspectives
The ABC triangle: Putting the AfCFTA, Brexit, and COVID-19 to work for Africa	Chuku Chuku; Brookings Institute; Blog

Resilience in the face of a pandemic: COVID weighs unevenly across racial lines	Carol Graham et al.; Brookings Institute; Blog
What Do We Mean When We Say "Distance Learning" and Why Does it Matter?	Sarah Kabay et al.; Innovations for Poverty Action; Blog
Covid-19 in Africa: How Youth are Stepping Up	Alcinda Honwana & Nyeleti Honwana; Oxfam From Power to Poverty; Blog
Optimistic or pessimistic about Covid-19? No need to choose	Jordi Vaquer; Oxfam From Power to Poverty; Blog
Domestic violence during COVID-19: are we asking the right questions?	Elizabeth Dartnall et al.; Institute of Security Studies; Blog
Is COVID-19 enabling debt-trap diplomacy?	Peter Fabricius; Institute of Security Studies; Blog
Global Diaspora Coalition: Message of Solidarity with Victims of COVID-19 Related Xenophobia, Discrimination	International Organisation for Migration; Press release
Adapting to COVID-19 in Africa's Extractives Sector	Nelly Busingye; Publish What You Pay; Blog
Southeast Asia's Grim Resilience: Pragmatism Amid the Pandemic	Dan Slater; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Commentary
Let's Not Leave the Youngest Children Behind	Susannah Hares et al.; Centre for Global Development; Blog
Ensuring Women's Access to Cash Transfers in the Wake of COVID-19	Shelby Bourgault & Megan O'Donnell; Centre for Global Development; Blog

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Demonstrations in Sudan	Adam Miller & Dan Watson; ACLED; Infographic	How have demonstration patterns shifted in Sudan since the coup last year and C19? Since the fall of President Omar Al Bashir, protests have declined in frequency and size with some protests related to C19. C19 has compounded an already dire economic situation by reducing tax and oil revenues and suppressing the informal sector. Protestors have demanded access to petrol and medicine, a response to corruption, and faster democratic response.
Demonstrations spike in Tunisia despite Covid-19 pandemic	Elham Kazemi; ACLED; Analysis	How have demonstration patterns changed in Tunisia in the wake of C19? This analysis finds the economic fallout from C19 has exacerbated the economic crisis, leading to a revival of demonstration activity across the country. C19 has heightened socioeconomic inequalities, with demonstrators calling for employment opportunities, government financial assistance and public subsidies to address C19's disproportionate impact on low-income communities and their access to basic services and goods.
"Privilege Violence" or How Governments Use Violence to Maintain Inequality	Margaret Levi; Annual Reviews	Violence against minorities is widespread in strong states, even democracies, as their elites allow politicians and violent non-state actors to protect their privileges. For change to happen, the public needs to recognise and reject the systemic use of violence against citizens, and demand inclusive political institutions and rights.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Gender and COVID-19: responding to violence against women and children in Somalia	Saferworld; Blog
COVID-19 Exacerbating Tensions in Democratic Republic of Congo's Coalition Government, Compounding Humanitarian Woes, Stabilization Mission Head Warns Security Council	United Nations; Press Release
Disasters meet political unrest, displacing millions in East Africa	Clémentine André , Ivana Hajžmanová & María Teresa Miranda Espinosa; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre; Opinion
The challenges and effects of COVID-19 on the DDR process in Mozambique	Osman Cossing & Hermenegildo Mulhovo; ACCORD; Blog

PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Life After COVID-19: challenges and policy response	London School of Economics; Podcast and Video	What should be the policy responses to C19? Former leaders of Australia, Chile, Italy and New Zealand discuss C19 challenges C19 and responses for governments and non-governmental organisations.
The New Authoritarianism: COVID-19 and the challenges facing democracy	London School of Economics;	Is C19 a threat to democracy? This event discusses the rise of anti-democratic forces globally and in the UK that started pre-C19, and a forthcoming paper that argues that a new

	Podcast and Video	state-dependent capitalism is coalescing with authoritarian agendas in response to C19.
Post-COVID-19: Building resilience in Central Asia	Atlantic Council; Video	How can Central Asia build resilience post-C19? In event discusses short and long term policy recommendations for Central Asia.
Latin America after COVID-19: A conversation with OAS Secretary-General Luis Almagro	Brookings Institute; Audio	In this podcast, the secretary general of the Organisation of American States discusses C19 challenges and opportunities.
LGBTI leaders speak out on COVID, US-Europe relations, and the fight for equality	Atlantic Council; Video	In this video three LGBTI European leaders discuss C19 responses, Europe and US relations, and pride month.

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

CGD - Coronavirus preparedness & response

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

OECD - Tackling coronavirus (COVID-19) Contributing to a global effort resource hub

The New Humanitarian – Coronavirus news, data, and policy response tracker

ACLED – Covid-19 disorder tracker

Various - Crowd-sourced cross-disciplinary coronavirus syllabus

African Arguments - Coronavirus in Africa Tracker

Insecurity insight – Covid-19 and security monitoring

Council on Foreign Relations - Peace, Conflict, and Covid-19

KPMG – Covid-19 tax developments

European Council on Foreign Relations - European solidarity tracker

Westminster Foundation for Democracy - Pandemic Democracy Tracker

ACAPS - Covid-19 ACAPS Resources

ReliefWeb – Covid-19 Global Hub

The Economist – Covid-19 news

IPA - RECOVR Research Hub

Dalia research - Democracy Perception Index 2020

V-Dem Institute - Pandemic Democratic Violations Index

EVENTS

7 July - 14:30 (GMT -4) - Reports Launch: Shaping the post-COVID-19 world together, Atlantic Council – This event explores the geopolitical implications of C19, future scenarios for the global order, and strategies for shaping the post-C19 world, launching three papers on those subjects, followed by a discussion between ambassadors from nine OECD countries.

9 July - 14:00-15:30 (GMT +1:00) - The impact of parenting programmes on enhancing adolescent well-being, Gender and Adolescence Global Evidence - This event explores the impact of parenting programmes on adolescent well-being in terms of programme design, delivery and evaluation.

14 July - 13:30-15:00 (GMT) Mediation or Militarization: Resolving Conflicts in the Age of Corona, LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security and the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth – This event explores the experiences of women peacebuilders in how they are mediating and deescalating tensions, and responding to new needs, in the midst of C19.

15 July - 13:00 (GMT) - The Ministry of Defence Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, RUSI. In this speech, James Heappey MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for the Armed Forces) discusses the role of the Ministry of Defence in mitigating C19 and how C!9 will shape the future armed forces. RUSI members only

Suggested citation

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

Thanks to Priscilla Baafi for research assistance support, and Professor Heather Marquette for expert advice.

About this report