



Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.8

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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, features resources on: a [C19 conflict sensitivity tool](#); a [database on ceasefire updates](#); C19 lessons from the [14th century Black Plague](#); and perceptions about [European cooperation](#) related to C19.

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: C19 and increasing [gender based violence](#); the [shifting global order](#); C19-related [corruption](#); and the heightened vulnerability faced by [children](#), [refugees](#) and [internally displaced people](#).

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
COVID-19, Debt and Strategic Competition	Alfred Oehlers; Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies; Report	Can C19 be used to weaken China’s economic and political leverage over debtor nations? This report argues that the US and others should take a multilateral approach to address the urgent debt relief many developing countries need in the face of C19, to reduce China’s global political and economic leverage.
In sickness and in health: European cooperation during the coronavirus crisis; and Coronavirus Special Survey	Claire Busse et al.; European Council on Foreign Relations; Survey	<p>How has C19 affected European cooperation and how has the European Commission performed? Based on a perception survey of 744 policy professionals from EU countries in March and April, responses indicate that during C19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A majority of respondents in most EU countries said there has been less overall cooperation between member states than they would have been expected. With exceptions - Germany, Ireland, Cyprus, Latvia, and Portugal - where a majority of respondents said there has been about as much cooperation between member states as expected. • Germany was considered the bloc’s undisputed crisis leader. It made a shaky start in showing solidarity, but later regained trust related to health and the economy. The Netherlands is considered the leading ‘frugal’ state opposing greater financial burden-sharing. • A majority of respondents in most EU countries said they thought the European Commission has done what it can during C19, given its competencies. And three in ten

		<p>respondents believe it excelled in playing a constructive role. The EU institutions won few plaudits but policymakers still look to it for post-crisis economic leadership.</p> <p>France emerged at the head of a strengthened 'southern' grouping of member states, while the Visegrad platform was invisible during this crisis.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Impact on the Value Chain in Latin America</p>	<p>Karolien van Teijlingen and Barbara Hogenboom; Clingendael; Policy Brief</p>	<p>How has C19 impacted employment and labour rights in the Colombian and Peruvian large-scale mining sectors? This policy brief finds mining, and related informal economies around mining, have been negatively impacted by low commodity prices and demand, interrupted supply chains, national lockdowns and the (partial) closure of operations. Companies have attempted to reduce costs on the back of their labour force, with layoffs, renegotiations and suspension of contracts. Outsourced workers and informal economy workers (the latter mostly women) are worst affected. In the long-term, labour rights are likely to decrease. Companies and investors operating in Latin American commodity sectors should put social and economic justice at the centre of their operations.</p>
<p>Comparing Covid-19 to the Black Death in Europe</p>	<p>John Aberth; World History Bulletin; Article</p>	<p>How does the 14th century Black Death pandemic compare to C19? The Black Death caused tremendous economic and social upheaval by creating an enormous demand-side shock for goods and a supply-side shock in available labour due to the high mortality. These changes in supply and demand meant lords had to pay much higher wages, or other concessions, and received much lower prices for the largely agricultural goods they produced. It was largely because of the Black Death that serfdom waned in western Europe by the end of the Middle Ages. The Black Death returned at periodic intervals to keep population, supply, and demand at its new low level for at least a century after 1348.</p>
<p>Bangladesh: Short and Long Term Impacts of Existing Covid-19</p>	<p>ACAPS; Report</p>	<p>How is C19 affecting Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh? This report finds C19 is suspected of having spread extensively through the Rohingya refugee camps with severe</p>

Containment Measures in Rohingya Refugee Camps		consequences. Humanitarian agencies should shift from testing to treatment and care, with more focus on improving trust in health facilities and camp authorities, as mistrust has led to low consultation rates and a lack of willingness to report symptoms and to consent to testing. Disaster risk mitigation and preparedness activities are essential given the coming monsoon season. The reintroduction of protection as an essential service could reduce the use of negative coping strategies.
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Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Unmasking the impact of COVID-19 on Asia's Most Vulnerable Children	World Vision; Report
COVID-19 Pandemic Through a Gender Lens	World Bank; Policy Brief
Addressing Inequality: The First Step Beyond COVID-19 and Towards Sustainability	Nicholas A. Ashford et al.; Journal of Sustainability; Article

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
COVID 19 and conflict sensitivity Rapid Operational Conflict Risk and Prevention Tool (June 2020)	World Food Programme; Tool	<p>How can C19 interventions do no harm? This operational tool identifies C19-related conflict risks, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of politicisation of coronavirus response; • Civic unrest against containment policies and differential response;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of security sector responses involving excessive use of force and creating a backlash; • Vigilante responses are sometimes violent and can restrict humanitarian access; • C19 may affect peace processes and local conflict resolution mechanisms; • Damage to community trust, solidarity and relationships; • Scapegoating, discrimination and stigmatisation; • Rumours and access to information; • Increased criminality, illicit trafficking, theft and diversion of C19 funds/response; and • Increased gender based violence. <p>The tool identifies sixteen questions help to foster conflict sensitivity in C19 response design and implementation.</p>
Ceasefires in a Time of Covid-19	Political Settlements Research Programme; Data tool	How are ceasefires evolving during C19? This tool provides a timeline, map and information to track ceasefires, their extensions and terminations during the C19 period.
COVID-19 and Gender-Based Violence: Workplace Risks and Responses	International Finance Corporation; Guidance Note	How is C19 affecting gender-based violence in the workplace? This note finds C19 increases workplace risks of: customer and client aggression, workplace bullying, workplace sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse connected to the workplace, and domestic violence. Victims may be reluctant to report abuses due to power differentials, reduced access to support services, or mobility restrictions. Employers should encourage employees and bystanders to report incidents.
Impact of COVID-19 on child labour in South Asia	Iffat Idris; K4D/GSDRC, IDS; Helpdesk Query	How did previous epidemics and crises affect child labour in South Asia? Previous epidemics and financial crises led to a rise in child labour across the developing world, including South Asia. Loss of informal sector jobs, rising poverty, and lack of social protection could force families to turn to child labour to survive. Children already

		working could face harsher conditions, with lower pay and longer hours. Agriculture and the garment industry could see a rise in child labour, but otherwise there is a lack of disaggregated data.
The COVID-19 Crises and the Coming Cold War	John Hemmings; Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Centre for Security Studies; Journal article	How is C19 affecting world order? This journal article argues C19 has reinforced geopolitical competition between the US and China, with a coming cold war. Key issues: (1) China is projecting blame to retain legitimacy and social order at home, as a brittle superpower; (2) ideological differences are again a key characteristic of great power relations; and (3) the geopolitical competition is unlikely to lead to actual warfare, but a discourse battle for hearts and minds. This competition is likely to dominate the international system until the middle of this century, because of size of the two countries and their resources.

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
COVID-19: Integration of Child Protection in Return to School - Advocacy Brief - East Asia and Pacific Region	UNICEF; Advocacy Brief
Operational Considerations: COVID-19 and Forced Displacement in the Middle East and East Africa	Diane Duclos & Jennife Plamer; Institute of Development Studies; Summary paper
COVID-19 and Peace: Preparedness for the Post-Pandemic Recovery	The Institute for Economics and Peace; Report

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
R500bn social relief fund: SIU probing a number of serious allegations of corruption	Jeanette Chabalala; News24; News article	South Africa's Special Investigating Unit warns of increasing fraudulent and corrupt tendencies related to the C19 R500 billion social relief and containment fund.
Call for proposals to enhance Ukraine's COVID-19 response and reduce opportunities for corruption	British Embassy Kyiv; Press release	The British Embassy in Kyiv has launched a call for proposals – for civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) related to increasing accountability, oversight, transparency, and/or participation - to enhance Ukraine's C19 response and reduce opportunities for corruption.
Labour minister Nxesi wants every UIF Covid-19 relief transaction	Babalo Ndenze; Eyewitness News; News article	South Africa's Labour and Employment Minister wants every Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) C19 relief transaction audited. This follows reports of fraudulent UIF payments.
COVID-19 seems cooking biggest ever global scam	Centre of Excellence on Emerging Development Perspectives (COE-EDP); Devdiscourse; Blog	The increasing number of C19-related corruption cases throughout the world, and involving of high profile persons, indicates that countries cannot ignore corruption in their C19 responses. There is a need for a robust health information management systems for real-time monitoring of project implementation to minimise the leakage of funds and losses due to corruption.
Exposed badly by Covid-19, health system needs fixing	The Standard (Kenya); Editorial	Close to 60 years after independence in Kenya, big investments and healthcare promises by successive regimes have not met their targets. C19 exposes these failures, and the sector has

		witnessed massive losses of public resources through corruption.
Southeast Asian democracies in declining health amid COVID-19	Melissa Crouch; University of New South Wales (UNSW); Opinion	C19 is exacerbating the illiberal turn in Asia-Pacific region. The brightest example of democracy in the region, Indonesia, has in recent years begun to lose its democratic credibility.
Government's incapacity and corruption worsens crisis in Honduras	Yodeni Maso Aguila; Prensa Latina; News Article	In Honduras, an opposition leader has criticised the C19 health crisis and response highlighting government incapacity, corruption and decades of deterioration of the public health system.
COVID-19 Drugs Supply Tender Scandal Erupts in Zimbabwe	Cyril Zenda; Fair Planet; News article	Zimbabwe's government is accused of paying inflated prices for disposable face masks to a company with links to President Emmerson Mnangagwa's family (the so called "Covid-gate" scandal). Following public outrage, the government has now cancelled the contract. The journalist exposing the story has been threatened.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Coronavirus in the Caucasus and Central Asia	Paul Stronski; Carnegie Endowment For International Peace; Analysis
Building Coalitions to promote equitable taxation beyond the Covid era	Paolo de Renzio et al.; International Centre for Tax and Development; Blog
Steady State: Russian Foreign Policy After Coronavirus	Dmitri Trenin et al.; Carnegie Moscow Centre; Analysis

COVID-19 and resilience innovations in food supply chains	Thomas Reardon and Johan Swinnen; International Food Policy Research Institute; Blog
[BigDataSur-COVID] COVID-19 from the Margins: What We Have Learned So Far	Silvia Masiero, Stefania Milan & Emiliano Treré; University of Amsterdam; Blog
[BigDataSur-COVID] Sensing COVID-19 and Climate Change [2/2]	Marie Petersmann and Anna Berti Suman; University of Amsterdam; Blog
Covid-19, Civil Unrest and Corruption in Latin America – the challenges facing the region and the role insurance can play	Duncan Strachan; Dac Beachcroft; Article
Global insurance industry to recover strongly from COVID-19 induced pull-back, sigma says	Swiss Re; News

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Coronavirus: Belgrade protesters storm Serb parliament over curfew	BBC News; News article	Riots against C19 curfews have led to the injury of dozens of police and protesters outside the National Assembly in the Serbian capital Belgrade.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
COVID-19 and the Peace Villages	Pomi Moges; UN Women; News

553 concerned agencies are calling for urgent action to make gender-based violence a key response priority of humanitarian response plans	Action Aid & 552 other organisations; Press release
Iraq's Silver Lining Amid the Pandemic	Sterling Jensen & Waleed Al-Rawi; Carnegie Middle-East Centre; Article
No Time for Complacency: The Covid-19 Pandemic in West Africa's Sahel Region	Will Brown; Centre for Strategic and International Studies; Analysis
UNHCR and WFP warn refugees in Africa face hunger and malnutrition as COVID-19 worsens food shortages	The UN Refugee Agency; News

PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Peace processes after the pandemic: What role for technology?	ICT for peace foundation; Video	The ICT4Peace Foundation discusses the role of technology in peace processes after C19.

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 - [RECOVER Research Hub](#)

Dalia research - [Democracy Perception Index 2020](#)

V-Dem Institute - [Pandemic Democratic Violations Index](#)

EVENTS

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 Heapey 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 C19 will shape the future armed forces. RUSI members only.

15 July – 14:00 (GMT) - [The Covid-19 crisis facing informal workers – what can be done?](#), International Centre for Tax and Development - This event explores C19 impacts, longer-term implications and mitigation strategies for the informal labour sector.

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

This weekly COVID-19 health evidence summary is based on 1 day of desk-based research. K4D services are provided by a consortium of leading organisations working in international development, led by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), with Education Development Trust, Itad, University of Leeds Nuffield Centre for International Health and Development, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), University of Birmingham International Development Department (IDD) and the University of Manchester Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI).

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