



Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.10

Siân Herbert

GSDRC & K4D, University of Birmingham

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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: how C19 is affecting **relations between the state and religious authorities** in North Africa; how Trump's "**war on expertise**" has negatively affected the US C19 response; how to understand South Korea's successful C19 response as a response to **lessons learned from MERS-CoV**; empirical evidence on **lockdowns and domestic violence** in Argentina; and **technological innovations** that C19 is driving in West Africa.

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: the severe impact of C19 response measures on **children and childhood development**, with particularly vulnerable groups like **unaccompanied children in conflict** affected contexts, and the need for C19 **child protection policy responses**, including C19 responses focussing on **girls**.

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 email 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
<p>"Pray in Your Homes": Religion and the State in North Africa in Times of COVID-19</p>	<p>Georges Fahmi; Istituto Affari Internazionali; Report</p>	<p>How relations between the state and religious authorities affected by C19 in North Africa? This report explores how state-religion relations are being shaped by C19. E.g. how C19 has led many governments to engage religious authorities to foster public compliance for C19 responses such as curfews and lockdowns, especially as trust in state institutions is often low, and religious authorities can play an important legitimising role. C19 has hence challenged religious authorities – in how to support state measures without compromising their religious credentials and legitimacy; and in how to retain their central position within the religious market following the closure of mosques. Responses to these challenges are likely to have a lasting impact on the relationship between state and religious institutions even after the end of the COVID-19 crisis.</p>
<p>Trump, Covid-19, and the War on Expertise</p>	<p>Paul E Rutledge; The American Review of Public Administration; Journal article</p>	<p>How is President Trump's leadership and relationship with advisors affecting policy responses to C19? This journal article finds that Trump's longstanding campaign against the administrative state, and his disposition toward the executive branch, has led to lower morale and mass departures among civil servants as well as fears for remaining staff of contradicting his beliefs. His dismissal of expertise and destruction of the administrative state has not changed during the C19. His dislike for council and expertise has had tremendous impacts on the federal government's C19 responses. Over a 2-month period, US C19 deaths have</p>

		surpassed the number of deaths resulting from nearly two decades of war in Vietnam.
<p>Learning From the Past: Distributed Cognition and Crisis Management Capabilities for Tackling COVID-19</p>	<p>Seulki Lee, Jungwon Yeo, Chongmin Na; The American Review of Public Administration; Journal article</p>	<p>What explains South Korea’s success in managing C19? This journal article argues that “distributed cognition” and crisis management capabilities are critical factors. Distributed cognition is the “cognitive properties of a group implemented in the minds of members of the group”. In this context, distributed cognition and crisis management capabilities refers to the ability of the South Korean government to prioritise responding to C19 over all other policy issues, and to recognise the emerging risk before the crisis occurred, intervene swiftly and effectively, and undertake innovative actions. These capabilities were developed through its painful failures in managing Middle East respiratory syndrome-coronavirus (MERS-CoV) in 2015. The subsequent process of building capabilities for infectious disease control instilled a crisis management mindset and distributed cognition. Distributed cognition then triggered structural reforms for infectious disease control that enhanced: reflective-improvement capabilities; collaborative capabilities; and data-analytical capabilities. At the heart of this is problem-oriented governance, learning and adaptation.</p>
<p>Monitoring the state of statistical operations under the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Asia-Pacific region: Highlights from a global COVID-19 survey of National Statistical Offices</p>	<p>UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP); UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics & World Bank; Report</p>	<p>How is C19 affecting National Statistical Offices (NSOs)? This report, based on a global web-based survey of NSOs with 23 responses from Asia-Pacific countries, finds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Almost half of NSO headquarter offices in Asia-Pacific were fully or partially closed, and more than half completely stopped field data collection involving face-to-face interviews. This compares to about 65% globally fully or partly closed and 96% globally who fully or partially stopped face-to-face data collection. ▪ Nearly 75% Asia-Pacific NSOs had to postpone fieldwork for planned censuses, and surveys were affected in one-third.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The top challenges faced by NSOs in Asia-Pacific are (in order): mobility and transport restrictions; IT not suitable for remote work; and funding limitations. ▪ The majority of Asia-Pacific NSOs are willing to adopt new modes of data collection or use alternative data sources. Despite more than half needing support, only a quarter have received technical or financial supports.
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Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Social capital and perceived stress related to coronavirus disease in Colombia	Adalberto Campo-Arias, José Andrés Perdomo-Rojas & Carmen Cecilia Caballero-Domínguez; J Epidemiol Community Health; Journal article
Impact of COVID-19 in Africa: a scenario analysis to 2030 - July 2020	Jakkie Cilliers, Stellah Kwasi & Kouassi Yeboua; Institute for Security Studies; Report
Pacific WASH Resilience Guidelines: A practical tool for all those involved in addressing the resilience of water, sanitation and hygiene services in the Pacific	UN Children's Fund (UNICEF); Manual & guidelines
Childcare in a global crisis: the impact of COVID-19 on work and family life	UNICEF; report
In the Shadow of the Government: The Chinese Nonprofit Sector in the COVID-19 Crisis	Qiang Dong & Jiahuan Lu; The American Review of Public Administration; Journal article
Responding to the Coronavirus Pandemic: A Tale of Two Cities	Shi-Hong Weng, Anna Ya Ni, Alfred Tat-Kei Ho & Ruo-Xi Zhong; The American Review of Public Administration; Journal article

Stemming Learning Loss During the Pandemic: A Rapid Randomized Trial of a Low-Tech Intervention in Botswana	Noam Angrist, Peter Bergman, Caton Brewster & Moitshepi Matsheng; Centre for the Study of African Economies; Working paper
Africa's digital solutions to tackle COVID-19	European Investment Bank UN Development Programme (UNDP); Report

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Because We Matter: Addressing COVID-19 and Violence Against Girls in Asia-Pacific	Plan International & Save the Children; Report	How is C19 affecting gender inequality in Asia Pacific region? This paper draws on emerging data that shows, since the C19 outbreak, violence against girls and women, particularly domestic violence, has intensified a so-called "shadow pandemic". This number is likely to increase as security, health and income concerns heighten tensions aggravated by confined living conditions. Partly due to C19 containment measures, systems and services mandated to prevent, identify and respond to violence against children are operating with limited or no capacity. Inadequate levels of government and donor investments in child protection, as well as gaps in functionality of systems and effective enforcement of laws and policies to end violence against children have been pervasive. These existing challenges have been further exacerbated by C19.
Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Situation Report-182	World Health Organisation (WHO); Situation report	How is C19 affecting economic and social stresses in developing countries? This situation report emphasises the need for integrating psychosocial support and mental health services as part of C19 responses.

<p>Averting ethnocide: Indigenous peoples and territorial rights in crisis in the face of COVID-19 in Latin America</p>	<p>Rocío Ávila & Arantxa Guereña; Oxfam; Report</p>	<p>How can indigenous people in Latin America be protected from C19? This report finds that indigenous people in Latin America are dying and some may even disappear due to C19. Abandoned by the state and without adequate healthcare or clean water, they are extremely vulnerable. To avert ethnocide, governments in the region must support the quarantine boundaries and other measures adopted by indigenous peoples. Governments must prevent extractive industry activities that increase risks of contagion, and urgently address health, food security and protection needs in a coordinated manner. But overcoming the crisis also requires: an end to exploitation, discrimination and historical inequalities related to public resources; guaranteeing collective territorial rights; and transforming the extractive model.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Lockdowns and Domestic Violence: Evidence from Two Studies in Argentina</p>	<p>Santiago Perez-Vincent, Enrique Carreras, María Gibbons, Tommy E. Murphy & Martín Rossi; Inter-American Development Bank; Working paper</p>	<p>How has the C19 lockdown affected domestic violence in Argentina? Based on econometric analysis of official data, and a web-based survey of approximately 29,000 women (held in May, just after lockdown was implemented), this working paper finds that calls to the domestic violence hotline in the capital Buenos Aires increased by 28%. There was a large substitution in reporting channels as calls to the hotline from the police and other institutions fell sharply, while direct calls from victims increased by 82%.</p> <p>The survey compares women whose partners were exempt from complying with the stay-at-home order with women whose partners were not, and finds a positive link between lockdown restrictions and intimate partner violence. It suggests that increased violence could be explained by the impact quarantine has on the time couples spend together, as well as on the income male partners generate.</p>

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Guidance Note for Afghanistan’s Family Protection Centers, Family Guidance Centers and Women and Girl Safe Spaces operating during the COVID-19 pandemic	UNICEF, UN Women United Nations Population Fund & WHO; Report
Chile: Labour demonstrations	Adam Miller; ACLED; Analysis

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
COVID-19 and West Africa: Six key technology trends driving change	Samuel Ajadi; GSMA; Blog	What technology trends are driving social and behavioural changes in West Africa as a result of C19? This blog identifies six changes: a move towards a cashless society; the sudden adoption of health and education apps; drones are serving as health care delivery tools; big data analytics partnerships across public and private institutions; low tech mobile solutions are serving as health and education tools; and radio and TV have been undeniably effective in fighting the virus.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
COVID-19: Catalyst for Civic Collaborations?	Nada Zohdy & Abigail Bellows; Global Integrity; Blog

How COVID-19 health responses impact displaced fishing communities in Uganda	Thomson Isingoma; LSE; Blog
Low infection numbers fail to capture the impacts and stigma of COVID-19	Alex Ayoyi; LSE; Blog
Legal tech offers lessons for digital COVID-19 solutions in Africa	Naima Kane; LSE; Blog
China coronavirus: 'Wartime state' declared for Urumqi in Xinjiang	BBC News; News article
Covid-19, the Iranians, and Us	Jon B. Alterman; Center for Strategic and International Studies; Blog
Can Uganda have a fair election amid covid-19?	The Economist; News article
COVID-19 and Pacific food system resilience: opportunities to build a robust response	Penny Farrell et al.; Food Security; Opinion
Avoiding disaster while bracing for long-term impact: labour market policies in the Covid-19 crisis	Achim Kemmerling, Stefan Volkmann & Stephanie Gast Zepeda; German Institute for Development Evaluation (Deval); Blog

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
New Survey Finds Increases in Child Protection Concerns and Unaccompanied Children in Conflict-Affected Countries	International Rescue Committee; Press release	<p>How is C19 affecting children? Based on an International Rescue Committee survey of staff working on frontline child protection services in 17 countries impacted by conflict or crisis in June this year, this press release finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child protection concerns have increased among 55% of respondents. An additional 24%

		<p>of respondents said that the severity of the violence children are facing has increased.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly 40% of respondents have seen an increase in unaccompanied and separated children, with the highest number of reports in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. <p>Physical and emotional abuse, child neglect, and child labour were cited by respondents as top concerns.</p>
Amid COVID, We Need Enhanced International Coordination to Build Peace	Jonathan Papoulidis, Corinne Graff & Tyler Beckelman; USIP; Blog	How can international coordination build peace during C19? This blog argues that C19-triggered food insecurity and unemployment will almost certainly lead to a future spike in instability across the most fragile of states unless concerted international action is taken. Yet as the global multilateral system under strain, it is unclear if a unified global effort is possible. Building effective international coalitions on the ground is important, given that conflict drivers are context-specific, and this will be especially important in the absence of concerted action at the global level. Promoting effective cooperation in fragile states is an age-old challenge but recent lessons suggest that closer coordination on the ground requires two sets of mechanisms: a framework for joint-needs assessments and plans for preventing conflict and building resilience; and a robust cooperation structure—or country coordination platform—to guide the implementation of these joint assessments and the strategies they produce, and to oversee their implementation on the ground.

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Uncounted Deaths Could Obscure COVID-19'S Gendered Impacts	Sharita Serrao et al.; UN ESCAP; Blog
COVID-19 in the Middle East: The Second Wave and Its Impact on Australia	Ian Parmeter; Australian Institute of International Affairs; Blog

Enter the Fourth Horseman: Coronavirus and Middle East States in Conflict	Ian Parmeter; Australian Institute of International Affairs; Blog
Central Mediterranean Route: COVID-19 is cutting off even more lifelines for people seeking safety	International Rescue Committee; Blog
Towards a greater role of the civil society in conflict settlement in Syria after Covid-19?	Juline Beaujouan & Eyas Ghreiz; Political Settlements Research Programme; Blog

PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
African higher education policy: COVID-19 Impact in Africa: Opportunities for Partnership and Engagement	Carnegie; Webinar	In this webinar, Carnegie hosts a discussion on how C19 has prompted innovation in solving local problems among African higher education institutions and opportunities to strengthen their local, regional, and international collaborations.

EVENTS

29 July - 12:00 (BST) - [Peacebuilding During a Health Crisis: Lessons from the Africa Ebola Epidemic](#), RUSI – This event explores lessons from practitioners from the Africa Ebola epidemic and how such lessons could be integrated into the C19 response.

30 July – 14:00-15:00 (BST) - ["Waging war" against "a little flu" – Masculinities & COVID-19](#), LSE - This event explores how individual and institutional C19 responses have at times been shaped by stereotypically 'masculine' ideas of what catastrophes look like and how they need to be managed. We will consider if and how these responses have fallen short of recognising the reality of pandemics and understanding what is needed for communities to cope.

6 August - 09:30-11:00 (EST) - [Coronavirus and Local Peace Building Efforts in North Africa: Reflections from Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt](#), USIP – This event explores how despite C19 and the subsequent surge in violent conflict have local actors continue their work.

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

Global Integrity - COVID-19, Fiscal Governance & Anti-Corruption Database

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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 conflict and governance 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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