



# Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.13

*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 a **resilience lens** can help build trust and build back better from C19; the **need to address inequalities, exacerbated under C19**, to prevent reigniting protests; and how the global **political violence** landscape is changing under C19.

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: how to **protect migrants**, who face higher C19 risks; how C19 is evolving in the world's '**ungoverned spaces**'; and how **authoritarian regimes** are responding.

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
<p>ICC COVID-19 Response: Guidance on Protection for Migrant Workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic</p>	<p>International Chamber of Commerce and International Organisation for Migration; Guidance</p>	<p>How can we protect migrant workers amidst C19? This guidance note recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The physical and mental health of migrant workers can be protected by: a) health-related responses and access to health care; b) mitigating stress and anxiety related to C19; c) providing access to social protection, including social security and d) communicating with migrant workers.</li> <li>• Living and working conditions can be protected by: a) adapting the living conditions of migrant workers; b) combating xenophobia and social exclusion during C19; and c) safeguarding the rights of migrant workers.</li> <li>• Economic support can be provided: by a) ensuring wages and economic well-being of migrant workers; and b) assisting with migrant workers return during C19.</li> <li>• Ethical recruitment should take into account higher risks of unethical practices due to C19 travel restrictions.</li> <li>• Improve migrant protection through compliance monitoring and supply chain due diligence.</li> </ul>
<p>Pakistan's COVID-19 Crisis</p>	<p>International Crisis Group; Briefing</p>	<p>How is Pakistan coping with C19? This briefing finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lockdown was lifted in May, followed by a spike in cases. August could see another surge as the public, misled by the clergy and the government's mixed messaging, may disregard precautions during religious festivities.</li> <li>• Increasing infection rates could overwhelm health systems and hinder economic recovery. If citizens are denied health care or adequate</li> </ul>

		<p>aid as the economy contracts, public anger is likely to mount, potentially threatening social order. Militants could take advantage, as they have in the past.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The federal government should guide provinces on C19 policy and help reinforce their health systems but also permit them to devise their own local strategies guided by medical experts. It should work with the parliamentary opposition on its response, particularly on providing a safety net to vulnerable groups.</li> </ul>
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### ***Extra papers – without summary***

<b>Title/URL</b>	<b>Name of author; publisher; publication type</b>
The Covid19 outbreak: a catalyst for digitization in African countries	Sid Bensbih et al.; Journal of the Egyptian Public Health Association; Journal Article
COVID-19, China, the World Health Organization, and the Limits of International Health Diplomacy	Theodore M. Brown and Susan Ladwig; American Journal of Public Health; Journal Article
Use of electronic tools for evidence-based preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the WHO African region	Benido Impouma at al.; the Lancet Digital Health; Journal Article
The politics of border and nation in Nepal in the time of pandemic	Mallika Shakya; Journal of Dialectical Anthropology; Journal Article

## CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
<p>The 'great regression' and the protests to come in Latin America</p>	<p>María Palacio Ludeña and Fabio Andrés Díaz Sr.; International Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University; Book Chapter</p>	<p>Will C19 reignite protests across Latin America? This book chapter argues C19 has the potential to deepen existing fissures in the social contract, voiced in the 2019 protests in the region. An increase in discontent is expected in the years to come, following grief over lives lost, anger at inactive or coercive government responses, and due to the unequal impacts of responses on people due to inequality, vulnerability and precarity. Latin America's pervasively high inequality results from policy decisions that have made economies less resilient to shocks. What happens next depends on the shared vision which collectives and governments can develop during and following C19. The historical wounds of exclusion and marginalisation might further alienate and antagonise people, with trust in governments already low.</p> <p>While government response (in a best-case scenario) can minimise but not subdue C19's unequal impacts, the (in)capacity of governments to respond to pervasive inequality will foreground the path to recovery or to instability. Plagues and pandemics have left behind major social transformations. With C19, Latin American governments can rewrite the region's socioeconomic path, engaging different actors and recovering the legitimacy of their social contracts above the interests of particular elites and international stakeholders.</p>
<p>A Great and Sudden Change: The Global Political Violence Landscape before and after the COVID-19 Pandemic</p>	<p>Armed Conflict Location &amp; Event Data Project</p>	<p>How has C19 affected political violence? Drawing on 16 weeks of ACLED data, this report finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparing the months before and after C19 started, political violence has decreased globally by 10%, while demonstrations have significantly declined by approx 30%</li> </ul>

	(ACLED); Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-March saw the steepest decrease in demonstrations until early April, when they began to increase again.</li> <li>• There has been an overall slight decline in the total number of violent events targeting civilians — part of a broader trend of declining activity.</li> <li>• The overall number of organised political violence events — battles, explosions/remote violence, and violence against civilians — decreased by roughly 11%.</li> </ul>
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### *Extra papers – without summary*

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
CDT Spotlight: United States of America	Roudabeh Kishi; ACLED; Data & Infographic
Covid-19 misinformation sparks threats and violence against doctors in Latin America	Luke Taylor; The British Medical Journal; Journal Article

## **BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES**

### **GOVERNANCE**

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
The Socioemotional Toll of COVID-19 on Families in Peru	Juan M. Hernández-Agramonte et al.; Innovations for Poverty Action; Blog	How is C19 affecting the socioemotional wellbeing of families in Peru? Drawing on data from 8,000 families in Peru, this blog finds: a) social distancing is particularly hard for teenagers; b) staying connected matters for the wellbeing of children and teenagers; c) children with fewer siblings appear to fare better; and d) parenting in quarantine is stressful. It highlights the need to quantify, raise awareness, and

		develop strategies to address the C19 crisis's mental health challenges.
What the Pandemic Looks Like in the World's 'Ungoverned Spaces'	Claire Mcloughlin; World Politics Review; Article	How are 'ungoverned spaces' experiencing C19? This blog finds that C19 is testing and revealing the limits of state authority. While the nation-state has been the principal organizing unit for C19 responses, it has often lacked the legitimacy and authority it needs to manage the crisis. In disputed territories and conflict zones, on remote isles in archipelagos, in favelas and urban settlements, citizens may look to the state for protection. But there at the margins, where the world's most vulnerable populations often live, communities are instead enduring the pandemic without help from, and sometimes in spite of, the state. Carefully observing what unfolds in these spaces now may reveal the nature of power within them—and, perhaps, the future of state authority more generally.
COVID-19 Teaches Resilience and the 'Vulnerability Paradox'	Gareth Price and Christopher Vandome; Chatham House; Blog	<p>What can we learn from C19 responses in terms of resilience and vulnerability? This blog finds that prior experience of crises and disturbances, coupled with a 'trial and error' process of learning to deal with them, makes a society more resilient, whereas high levels of economic welfare and relative lack of recent crises leave some societies less prepared to face shocks. This is known as the 'vulnerability paradox'. It argues that by acknowledging vulnerabilities, avoiding complacency, implementing lessons from past experiences, and learning from others, policymakers will be better prepared for the next crisis. However, building resilience to tackle ongoing or rapidly forthcoming challenges rubs up against free market beliefs, because building resilience is a long-term investment and comes at a price.</p> <p>Reconstructing societies through the prism of resilience creates fundamentally different outcomes to global challenges, and can build trust between elected representatives and the wider population. Accepting the vulnerability paradox and acknowledging that those generally less prone to disasters are actually less able to</p>

		cope when change happens creates a powerful argument for this new approach.
<b>Authoritarian Weaknesses and the Pandemic</b>	Thomas Carothers, David Wong; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Article	How are authoritarian governments dealing with C19? This article finds that C19 has been a trigger for many autocrats to step up repressive measures. But the poor handling of C19 by many non-democratic governments, as well as the longer term economic fallout, spells longer-term political trouble for them.

***Extra blogs & news articles – without summary***

<b>Title/URL</b>	<b>Name of author; publisher; publication type</b>
Justice, the rule of law and Covid-19: three expert views	Megan Diagle et al.; Overseas Development Institute; Blog
The Key to an Inclusive Recovery? Putting Women in Decision-Making Roles	Francesca Donner; The New York Times; Interview
Building Strategic Resilience Using BSR’s COVID-19 Scenarios	Jacob Park et al.; Business for Social Responsibility; Blog
The dereliction of American diplomacy	Michael Houtz; the Economist; Article
Building Resilience in Pacific Education	Michelle Belisle; Inter Press Service News Agency; Opinion
How has COVID-19 changed lobbying activity across Europe?	Anne Rasmussen; London School of Economics and Political Science; Blog
Taitague seeks transparency in Covid-19 expenditures	Telo Taitague; Pacific and Island Times
The perseverance of resilient leadership: Sustaining impact on the road to Thrive	Punit Renjen; Deloitte; Article

UN International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples: COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation; News
COVID-19: African youth get into action for innovation and resilience	Mohamed Sidibay; Global Partnership for Education; Blog
In Uganda, face masks are a political statement	Innocent Anguyo; London School of Economics and Political Science; Blog
Lives v livelihoods, part 1: how can we measure the value of a life?	Matthew Adler et al.; London School of Economics and Political Science; Blog
Lives v livelihoods, part 2: suppression or control?	Matthew Adler et al.; London School of Economics and Political Science; Blog

## CONFLICT

### *Blogs & news articles – without summary*

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Amid Rising Political Tensions, Economic Woes, Ongoing International Support Key for Maintaining Stability in Guinea-Bissau, Top Officials Warns Security Council	United Nations Security Council; Press Release
Pandemics and the challenges of sustaining peace	Jonathan Allen; UK Foreign and Commonwealth office; Statement



## PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
<a href="#">Coronavirus and local peacebuilding efforts in North Africa</a>	Overseas Development Institute; Audio	In this audio, ODI hosts a discussion on the implications of C19 on peacebuilding at the local level in three North African contexts: Libya, Tunisia, and Egypt.
<a href="#">Two years in the making, rights experts say what protesters can do - and can't</a>	UN News; Audio	In this audio, UN News hosts a discussion on advice for protesters and governments during 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 - [RECOVR Research Hub](#)

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

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

Gender and Covid-19 - [Gender and Covid-19](#)

International Idea Tracker - [Global state of democracy During C-19 tracker](#)

## 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](mailto:s.herbert@bham.ac.uk)

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## About this report

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