



Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.14

Will Avis

GSDRC & K4D, University of Birmingham

21 August 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: [how policy responses to the C19 pandemic should differ in the Developing World](#); the [state of the Asia-Pacific economy](#) in the wake of C19 and the effect of the [pandemic on global armed conflict](#).

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: [leadership](#); [authoritarianism versus democracy](#) and the effect of the C19 on [conflict](#):

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>How Should Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic Differ in the Developing World?</p>	<p>Titan Alon et al.; The National Bureau of Economic Research; Paper</p>	<p>How should policy responses to C19 differ in the developing world? This White Paper uses a macroeconomic model to undertake quantitative analysis of how lockdown policy should differ between developing and developed economies, this paper finds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanket lockdowns are not as effective in developing countries, saving substantially fewer lives per unit of GDP lost. • In contrast, age-dependent policies for advanced economies are even more potent in a developing world context because they focus scarce public funds on shielding the smaller population of older individuals. • School closures are also more effective at saving lives in developing countries, providing a greater reduction in secondary transmissions between children and older adults at home.
<p>Overcoming as 14: The Role of State and Region Governments in Supporting Myanmar's Covid-19 Economic Response Plan</p>	<p>Dan Jollans and James Owen; Asia Foundation; Report</p>	<p>What are the roles of the state and region governments in implementing Myanmar's C19 economic response plan? This report highlights the need for Myanmar's state and region governments to support the Union government in implementing its C19 economic response plan. It assesses the roles of the state and region government in ensuring the realisation of each of the seven goals of the C19 economic response plan. It recommends state and region governments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reorient state and region budgets; • target national policies more effectively; and • coordinate assistance from CSOS, NGOS, volunteer groups, donors and other non-state actors.

<p>State of the Region: Special Report on Covid-19</p>	<p>Eduardo Pedrosa; Pacific Economic Cooperation Council; Report</p>	<p>What is the state of the Asia-Pacific economy in the wake of C19? Using interview data collected from 710 respondents in the region amidst C19, this report finds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are greater levels of pessimism about economic impacts to the region than official estimates indicate. • Regional stimulus efforts total approximately \$5.4 trillion. Policymakers' appetites are constrained by memories of recent financial crises but regional economies have space for further stimulus. • Regional mechanisms can facilitate the design and implementation of coordination and cooperation packages, and build a sense of direction to support future growth. Top priorities for regional cooperation include sharing C19 preparedness practices, vaccine development, and three aspects of trade with respect to essential products: the facilitation of trade as a whole; the removal of export restrictions; and the removal of tariffs. • C19 has both deepened and accelerated pre-existing trends. It notes the importance of human contact, but also opportunities around digital technology and the multitude of connections available. <p>To address the "first order" priorities stemming from the pandemic, it recommends: a) information sharing; b) flow of essential products; c) moving beyond GDP; d) facilitating e-commerce; e) restarting travel; f) minimizing disruption to supply chains; and g) contact tracing.</p>
<p>Latin America and the Caribbean: Impact of COVID-19</p>	<p>Mark P. Sullivan et al.; Congressional Research Service; Report</p>	<p>How has C19 impacted Latin America and the Caribbean? This report on the effects of C19 on Latin America and the Caribbean finds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional economic growth will contract by 9.4%. Almost every country in the region will experience a recession. • Caribbean nations that depend on tourism face deep economic recessions, with projected annual GDP declines between 5%-10%. • The decline in economic growth in 2020 is expected to exacerbate income inequality and poverty throughout the region.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incoming remittances from abroad (the majority from the United States) are expected to drop significantly as a result of C19. • Although a number of countries in the region have implemented stimulus programs to help protect their economies, many struggle to obtain the financing necessary to respond to the severe economic downturn. In response, international financial institutions are increasing lending to countries throughout the region. • C19 could exacerbate existing political and economic factors causing dissatisfaction with the quality of democracy in the region and contribute to further deterioration in political conditions, and stoke social unrest similar to that in 2019. • Human rights groups and other observers have expressed concern about leaders taking advantage of C19 to advance their own agendas.
<p>COVID-19: Implications of Cross-Border Traffic in Eastern and Southern Africa</p>	<p>Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform; Infographic</p>	<p>Why is cross-border traffic a concern? This infographic provides an over view of the implications of cross-border traffic in Eastern and Southern Africa. The authors highlight that cross-border traffic is a significant factor in COVID-19 transmission in Eastern and Southern Africa, and most countries have restricted entry – some even before the first local cases were identified. However, the economy and the social fabric of the region are dependent on the flow of goods and people, and the impact of closures may be worse than the impact of the pandemic. The infographic provides an overview of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is cross-border traffic a concern • Managing cross-border transmission • What can affect cross-border management • Considerations for community engagement
<p>Impact of the Monsoon and COVID-19 Containment Measures</p>	<p>ACAPS-NPM Analysis Hub, Flash Report</p>	<p>What will be the impact of the monsoon on C-19 containment measures? This report highlights to decision-makers the significant need for increased shelter support for Rohingya refugees. The combination of COVID-19 containment measures, temporary shelter materials, and monsoon weather events has made living conditions in the camps extremely difficult.</p>

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Sino-US Disorder: Pandemic, Power and Policy Perspectives in Indo-Pacific	Titli Basu; Journal of Asian Economic Integration; Journal Article
Comparative strategic approaches to COVID-19 in Africa: Balancing public interest with civil liberties	A.E.Obasa et al.; The South African Medical Journal; Journal Article
Financial Sector Readiness to Support Economic Actives under COVID-19: The Case of African Continent	Ernest Christian Winful et al.; Social Science Research Network; Paper
Latin America and the Caribbean Region COVID-19 Situation Report No. 6 (Reporting Period: 1 - 31 July 2020)	United Nations Population Fund; Situation Report
Assessing the impact of COVID-19 in Asia and the Pacific and designing policy responses: An Excel-based model	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Africa and Asia; Manual
Democracy after coronavirus: Five challenges for the 2020s	Celia Belin and Giovanna De Maio; The Brookings Institute; Report
AFGHANISTAN. Coronavirus Socio-Economic Impact Assessment	Sebnem Sahin et al.; United Nations Development Programme Afghanistan; Brief
The future of public spending: responses to covid-19	The Economist Intelligence Unit; Briefing paper
Rethinking international taxation and energy policy post COVID-19 and the financial crisis for developing countries	Raphael J. Heffron and Jack Sheehan; Journal of Energy and Natural Resources Law; Commentary
The Cummings effect: politics, trust, and behaviours during the COVID-19 pandemic	Daisy Fancourt et al.; The Lancet; Correspondence

--	--

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
The Effect of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Global Armed Conflict: Early Evidence	Marius Mehrl and Paul W. Thurner; Political Studies Review; Journal Article	<p>How has C19 affected global armed conflict? Using real-time data on the spread of C19, governmental lockdown policies, and battle events to study the causal short-term effect of C19 on armed conflict, this article finds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spread of c19 has had no effect on global levels of armed conflict. • Battle numbers decreased in Southeast Asia, Europe and the Caucasus in the wake of countries experiencing their first case of C19. • Governmental lockdowns also decreased conflict in Europe but increased fighting in the Middle East by an estimated 20 weekly battle events per country.
Peace, Conflict, and COVID-19	Center for Preventive Action; Article and resources	<p>How will the novel coronavirus pandemic affect the risk of violent conflict and prospects for peace around the world? This article and resource list posits that there is no clear, easy answer noting that the impact of the virus has varied between different regions and conflict zones, making it difficult to render broad judgments about its consequences.</p> <p>The Center for Preventive Action (CPA) has created this page as a resource for information and analysis about the effects of COVID-19 on peace and conflict.</p>
Humanitarian Crises in a Global Pandemic	The Lancet; Editorial	<p>How will ongoing humanitarian crises be affected by C19. This editorial comments that C19 is exacerbating the inequalities faced by individuals and families in humanitarian crises. With national governments looking inwards and putting their own citizens first, people in need of humanitarian assistance are being neglected. The editorial notes that:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel restrictions are inadvertently stopping aid workers from travelling, and thereby hampering humanitarian responses. • Interruption of aid means less access to soap and water, which is important for controlling the spread of C19. • Governments are using the pandemic as an excuse to advance anti-migrant agendas under the pretext of protecting their citizens. • UNOCHA suggests that the global COVID-19 humanitarian response plan will cost US\$10.3 billion, but only 20% has so far been pledged.
<p>State of Palestine; Annexation Plan of the West Bank</p>	<p>ACAPS, Anticipatory briefing note</p>	<p>How will annexation pans impact on the West Bank? ACAPS anticipatory briefing notes provide a brief outline of the likelihood and impact of a particular crisis or spike in crisis. The report notes that Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced the establishment of formal ties with a normalisation deal that includes the suspension of the annexation of parts of the West Bank. This announcement lowers the likelihood of the formal annexation of the West Bank. The following are identified as the main information gaps regarding affected areas and/or population and/or humanitarian needs (these have relevance in light of C-19):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender related data on the humanitarian impact of physical barriers and movement restrictions • Information on living conditions of IDPs and the barriers to returns • Education, health and WASH sector emergency preparedness • Vulnerability profiles of people in need of shelter assistance • Information about the future legal status of the Palestinians living in areas to be annexed remains unknown

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Conflict and Covid-19 deepening hunger in the DRC	World Food Programme; WFP; News Article

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Turkey's COVID-19 Diplomacy in Central Asia	Shahid Hussain; The Diplomat	What is Turkey's C19 diplomacy style in Central Asia? According to this piece, C19 has provided the opportunity for Turkey to utilise "soft" diplomacy in order to enhance its reputation in Central Asia. In the wake of C19, Turkey gave medical aid to Kazakhstan to fend off competition from China and Russia, to maintain the country's strategic interests in Kazakhstan's vast oil resources and to secure the country as its window to Central Asia. Similarly, Turkey gave medical aid to an ally, Azerbaijan, in order to counteract Chinese and Russian influences and to safeguard common strategic interests. However, Turkey needs to continue its efforts to supply medical aid to the region, in order to thwart Chinese and Russian influences.
Latin America's Populists Are Overwhelmed by Covid-19	Mac Margolis; Bloomberg; Opinion	How are Latin America's populists responding to C19? In this Bloomberg Opinion piece, Mac Margolis argues that in many of the region's countries, health spending is being bled away by corruption and obfuscated by opaque governance.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Might social intelligence save Latin America from its governments in times of Covid-19?	Thamy Pogrebinschi; Open Democracy; Investigation
COVID-19: The Sky Hasn't Fallen Yet In Africa	Paul Adepoju; Health Policy Watch; News
Reopening schools too early could spread COVID-19 even faster – especially in the developing world	David Lagakos and Emilie Yam; International Growth Centre; Blog
Building resilience and infrastructure in a warming world	Jan Corfee-Morlot et al.; OECD Development Matters; Blog
From the COVID-19 epicentre: lessons from Latin American cities' successes and failures	Hayley Henderson; The Conversation; Article
On Wellbeing in the COVID-19 Era: Are Cash Transfers Enough?	Amira Mahmoud Othman; London School of Economics and Political Science; Blog
COVID-19 in Latin America: were we doomed from the start?	Rodrigo Aguilera; London School of Economics and Political Science; Blog
Covid-19 in Latin America	Esteban Ortiz-Prado et al.; British Medical Journal; Opinion
COVID-19 – the Pacific response: 19 August	Hugh McClure; Asia and the Pacific Policy Society; Update
Chile's Blind Spot	Megan Howat; Wilson Centre; Blog
Dealing with the Impact of COVID-19 on Africa	Editorials

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Covid-19 Is a Feminist Issue	Priya Dhanani; Asia Foundation; Insights and Analysis	How Does C19 impact on women and girls? This insight and analysis by the Asia Foundation comments that across the Asia-Pacific and around the globe, there is emerging evidence that Covid-19 is having a disproportionate impact on women and girls, particularly women of color, including on their economic opportunities, rights and security, and voice and leadership in decision-making.

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Amid COVID-19 Pandemic, Coordinated, Conflict-Sensitive Responses Crucial to Sustaining Peace, Secretary-General Tells Security Council	United Nations; Press Release
Scots uni finds global conflicts continue despite Covid-19	STV; News
Afghanistan's Covid-19 Bargain	Abdullah Ahmadzai; The Asia Foundation; Insights and Analysis
Mali coup: Military promises elections after ousting president	BBC News, News

PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Podcast: Corruption and coronavirus in the Dominican Republic	Al Jazeera; podcast	In this podcast, we hear from a local journalist and a Dominican-born US congressman about what people hope will change with the new administration.
Webinar: Pandemic Profiteers: Trends in Crime and Corruption	International Center for Journalists (ICFJ); webinar	In this webinar, a panel with Roman Anin discusses trends in crime and corruption and the emergence of pandemic profiteers

EVENTS

19th August – 9:30 AM- 11:00 AM (GMT-8) [The COVID-19 and Africa Webinar Series – Education Sector Response to COVID-19 in African Countries](#), The University of British Columbia – This event will engage panellists from Egypt, Kenya and Ghana on pertinent issues relating to how the education sector in Africa has responded to 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](#)

Suggested citation

Avis, W. (2020). *COVID-19 Conflict and Governance Evidence Summary No.14*. K4D Evidence Summary. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

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 separate searches of 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")

("COVID-19" OR "coronavirus") AND ("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")

Plus separate searches of Google Scholar with the keywords:

("COVID-19" OR "coronavirus") AND ("developing countries" OR "Africa" OR "Asia" OR "Middle East" OR "Latin America" OR "Pacific")

("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")

("COVID-19" OR "coronavirus") AND ("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

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).

This evidence summary was prepared for the UK Government's Department for International Development (DFID) and its partners in support of pro-poor programmes. It is licensed for non-commercial purposes only. K4D cannot be held responsible for errors, omissions or any consequences arising from the use of information contained in this health evidence summary. Any views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of DFID, K4D or any other contributing organisation.



© DFID - Crown copyright 2020.