K4D | Knowledge, evidence and learning for development

Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.16

Siân Herbert
GSDRC & K4D, University of Birmingham
4 September 2020

This weekly Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary aims to signpost the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) 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 to address C19 health risks during elections in Nigeria; the effects of a Universal Basic Income during C19 in rural Kenya; and the need to engage youth and youth groups in C19 responses to build back better and address intergeneration inequalities.

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: the roles of non-government organisations in C19 responses; C19-related corruption, particularly involving state graft cases and medical procurement; and the unequal impacts of C19 on specific groups: children and sexual violence, attacks on health and aid workers; and border issues with migrants and 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
Indonesia's fight against COVID-19: the roles of local government units and community organisations	Mahir Pradana, Nurafni Rubiyanti, Wahyuddin S., Imanuddin Hasbi, and Dian Gutami; The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability; Journal article	How are local government units and community organisations contributing to the C19 response in Indonesia? This report find that, as smaller units under the Indonesian government, local government units and community organisations are playing an active role ensuring welfare for the poor and elderly during C19, acting as an extension of the central government. One of the most effective ways to ensure Indonesian older adults' safety is by involving their families and neighbours – e.g. to make sure they do not travel outside their houses unless there is an urgent need, that they use masks, and regularly wash their hands. Youth groups (*Karang Taruna*) operate under most local government units, and are essential in channelling aid from government to community units and beneficiaries.
Effects of a Universal Basic Income during the pandemic	Abhijit Banerjee, Michael Faye, Alan Krueger, Paul Niehaus, Tavneet Suri; Innovation for Poverty Action; Working Paper	What are the effects of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) during C19 in rural Kenya? Based on a large-scale experiment, this paper finds that transfers significantly improved well-being on common measures such as hunger, sickness and depression in spite of C19, but with modest effect sizes. They may have had public health benefits, as they reduced hospital visits and decreased social (but not commercial) interactions that influence contagion rates. During the pandemic (and contemporaneous agricultural lean season) recipients lost the income gains from starting new non-agricultural enterprises that they had initially obtained, but also suffered smaller increases in hunger. This pattern is consistent with the idea that UBI induced recipients to take on more income risk in part by mitigating the most harmful consequences of adverse shocks. Policy

		Implications include recognising that the UBI is not designed to respond to extreme, unanticipated crises like C19, so there is a need to build the infrastructure to make additional universal cash transfers that can be activated at short notice and can be used to deliver additional cash in response to unanticipated crises like C19.
Guidance Note: Transparency, Accountability and Anti-Corruption Service Offer for COVID-19 Response and Recovery	UNDP; Guidance Note	How can transparency, accountability and anticorruption measures be integrated in C19 response and recovery priorities? This guidance note highlights how corruption in C19 responses is limiting access to lifesaving resources and medical equipment, distorting economic recovery packages, diverting aid from affected populations, undermining public trust with government, reducing compliance with public health messages, and can fuel instability and conflict. It identifies major corruption risk areas as: procurement, service delivery, emergency funds, and policymaking.
Vulnerability of children in Botswana during COVID-19	Thabile A Samboma; SAGE Journals, Journal Article	How is C19 affecting child vulnerability in Botswana? This journal article finds that Child sexual abuse (CSA) in Botswana is high under C19 due to economic insecurity, poverty-related stress, quarantines, exposure to 'unhealthy' relationships, and reduced access to health services and first responders. CSA cases are often not reported due to stigma and as many perpetrators are family. Poverty sometimes drives children into prostitution. Online education has increased exposure to online pornography.
People Movement in Mexico	ACAPS; Report	How is C19 affecting migration and displacement? This report finds that C19 is being used to further Trump's agenda to block immigration and asylum indefinitely, with many stuck in limbo on the Mexican side of the border. It has also provided criminal groups with an opportunity to intensify activities and exert greater influence over local populations, while the state is distracted by managing the escalating C19 health crisis.

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
A Leader's Guide to Crisis Communication: Lessons from Ebola for COVID-19	Captain, Medical Corp, U S Navy Hassan A Tetteh; Oxford Universy Press; Journal Article
COVID-19 corruption will complicate Ramaphosa's agenda	Emerald Insight; Briefing
COVID-19 in Brazil: Presidential denialism and the subnational government's response	Elize Massard da Fonseca; Research Gate; Book chapter
The Unequal Impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic: Evidence from Seventeen Developing Countries	Bridget Hoffman, Diego A. Vera-Cossio, Nicolas L. Bottan; IDEAS; Working Paper
Knowledge and Awareness of the Novel Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) Pandemic among Egyptian Population	Osama Mohamed Mohamed Ali, Abdurahman Salah Mohamed, Esmael Ibrahim Mohamed, Sara Fekry Abdullah, Sahar Badr Hassan, Mohamed M. M. Abdel-Latif; Journal Management System; Journal Article
The urban penalty of COVID-19 lockdowns across the globe: manifestations and lessons for Anglophone sub-Saharan Africa	Innocent Chirisa, Tafadzwa Mutambisi, Marcyline Chivenge, Elias Mabaso, Abraham R. Matamanda, Roselin Ncube; Springer Link; Journal Article
Protecting children from violence in the time of COVID-19	Claudia Cappa and Nicole Petrowski; UNICEF; brochure
The evolving nature of the '21st century developmental state'	Pui Yi Wong; United Nations University; Working Paper

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Aid and health worker safety and security in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (January - June 2020)	Insecurity Insight; Situation Report	How is C19 affecting aid and health worker safety and security? This report identifies over 78 events where aid or health workers were killed, kidnapped, injured, or assaulted, and 103 events where health facilities were damaged or destroyed, including: • India: Over 145 health workers were injured or assaulted by police officers, local community members and relatives of C19 patients due to fears of infection or opposition to C19 screening or burial procedure • Indonesia: 6 health workers were injured by local community members reacting to C19 health measures. • Mexico: 24 health workers were injured or assaulted by local community members. • DRC: 5 health workers were kidnapped, Health Clinics and Ebola Treatment Centres were destroyed or set on fire.
Elections amid Covid-19 and public safety	Nextier SPD; Weekly bulletin	How will public safety related to C19 be affected by elections in the upcoming elections in the Nigerian states Edo and Ondo? This bulletin highlights how violations of C19 protocols in the elections portend dire consequences for public safety, for the already stretched health facilities, and could prompt a return to restrictive lockdown measures. It recommends: • A shift from conventional campaigns to alternative means of electioneering using online and digital technology • Inter-agency partnership between Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission and other government agencies • Effective public communication including public service announcement video and radio

		messages and posters with elections and C19 protocol information
		• Safe polling and result collation environments – so that polling booths are well ventilated and safe for social distancing. Polling booths should open early to avoid overcrowding.
		• Proper use of security operatives to ensure C19 protocol compliance and other electoral guidelines. Security personnel should be adequately trained.

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
COVID-19 exacerbates violence against health workers	Sharmila Devi; The Lancet; World Report

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
'Building Back Better': Youth, Risk and Resilience in the coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic	Graeme Simpson and Ali Altiok; Accord; Blog	How to build back better from C19 through youth resilience? This blog finds that C19, and C19 responses, feed into, feed off, and trigger pre-existing local, national, and global patterns of inequality and exclusion; with generational and gendered manifestations. C19 responses have increased the political exclusion, marginalisation, and powerlessness of young women and men. Particularly young men are now more exposed to the criminal justice system, and state security forces, through curfews, states of emergency, and enforced lockdowns. C19 has entrenched negative stereotypes of young people based on

| | | the minority that are not following C19 guidance, yet this further alienates young people and widens mistrust. C19 has increased youth vulnerability by limiting access to decent jobs and education, and due to unequal digital access at home, and being exposed to cyber crime and other threats.

However, as youth face lower health risks, they can be engaged to mitigate risk and in community outreach strategies. Engaging youth-led social movements could foster more transformative forms of resilience building to build back better and address underlying inequalities. |
|---|---|---|
| State-building and COVID-19 in Somalia: Impact on Government Revenues | Ahmed Ibrahim; LSE; Blog | How is the economic impact of C19 affecting statebuilding in Somalia? This blog explains how the economic impact of C19 threatens to undermine various sectors of the economy that are crucial for government revenue collection thus putting further strain on the state-building project in Somalia. |
| Rio de Janeiro governor suspended over alleged COVID-19-related graft | Rodrigo Viga Gaier; Reuters News | A Brazilian court temporarily removed Rio de Janeiro state's governor from office over alleged graft in the purchase of C19 medical supplies and services. The 180-day suspension is a major blow for Governor Wilson Witzel, a self-proclaimed law-and-order politician who rose from virtual obscurity to win the governorship of Brazil's second-most important state in 2018. |
| Coronavirus denialism still holding Africa back | Cai Nebe; DW; News | Denialism is impeding the ability of African governments to curb the spread of C19. State corruption, poor communication, and distrust across Africa make conspiracy theories tempting. E.g. President John Magufuli declared Tanzania C19-free in June, and it has stopped publishing data on C19 cases. Others see C19 as a way for corrupt officials to capitalise on aid handouts. |
| Serial Corruption Plagues Philippines National Health Insurance | Coco Dollanganger; | The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), a state healthcare insurer affiliated with the Department of Health, is embroiled in a Senate probe involving thousands of fraudulent |

	The News Lens; News	claims and mismanagement of funds, including related to C19.
Experts push digitalization to stop corruption	Manila Standard	Experts have asked the Philippine government to prioritise the digital transformation of the bureaucracy to limit corruption, including related to the massive funds being spent for the government's C19 response programmes.
Kenyan President Seeks to Silence Allegations of Covid-19 Graft	David Herbling; Bloomberg	Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta pledged to make government spending more transparent – through an online portal within 30 days - to temper the political backlash over allegations of corruption in C19-related contracts.
Covid Graft Plague Spurs Political Shake-Up Across Africa	Monique Vanek & David Herbling; Bloomberg	African countries have generally handled their C19 response better than many experts envisaged, except for one detail: managing corruption. Preliminary investigations show officials who've illicitly benefited largely adopted similar methods: awarding contracts to companies owned by relatives or friends to supply medical equipment and services to the state at inflated prices in exchange for kickbacks

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
COVID-19 crisis on agricultural trade	World Trade Organization; News
Coronavirus has fuelled authoritarian trends around the world, Australia's Dfat warns	Daniel Hurst; The Guardian; News
What we can learn from Covid-19 and anti-corruption strategies in Africa	Zukiswa Kota; Maverick Citizen; Opinion
Coronavirus: US calls WHO 'corrupt', won't join global vaccine effort	The Coronavirus Pandemic; Blog
Rebuilding resilience in the COVID-19 era	Swiss Re; Blog

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Memory institutions are uniquely positioned to combat COVID-19 disinformation	UNESCO; News
Microfinance: why grass roots EM investing has proved resilient	Sébastien Juhen and Matthew Sparkes; Schroders; News
Is Covid-19 a Petri dish for corruption?	Ioana Petrescu; Emerging Europe; Opinion

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
COVID-19: 'Game-changer for international peace and security' – UN chief	UN News; Blog	How will C19 affect international peace and security? UN head - António Guterres – argues that C19 will be a gamechanger for international peace and security as it has exposed vulnerabilities to global security challenges – prompting a volatile and unstable new phase - that requires a joint response from countries and organisations. It also presents the need and opportunity for aligned thinking on how to address C19 for global unity.

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Coronavirus - Africa: Schools caught up in armed conflict sweeping across the Sahel	Ag Ahmed; Africa Newsroom; Blog
COVID-19 exposes the fragility of Central Asia	Paul Stronski, Carnegie Endowment; East Asia Forum; Blog

PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Can PeaceTech end conflict during Covid-19?	EUWiSTEM (Edinburgh University Women in STEM) Society; Video	In this video, EUWiSTEM hosts discussion on the possibility of PeaceTech in supporting peace and ending conflict during C19.

EVENTS

7 September 2020 - 12:00pm to 12:45pm (London, BST) COVID-19 and Japan's Coordinated Development Responses in Asia, Chatham House – This event explores the impacts of coordinated initiatives across Asian partner governments prior to and during C19.

10 September 2020 - 12:00pm to 1:30pm (London, BST) China's Evolving Economic Relations with North Africa: Before and After COVID-19, Chatham House – This event explores the impact of China's C19 diplomacy strategy across the region, and China and North African countries' evolving economic relationship.

8 September 2020 - 10:00am to 11:30am (London, BST) Zimbabwe's Economy During the Coronavirus Pandemic and Beyond, Chatham House – This event explores C19 responses from governments, businesses and individuals, economic constraints, and policies for recovery.

10 September 2020 - 5:15pm to 6:00pm (London, BST) Webinar: Centenary Lecture Series – Global Organizations in an Isolationist World, Chatham House – This event explores the roles multilateral organisations can play in promoting the rule of law over force, to reduce human insecurity, enhance resilience and prevent large-scale conflict.

11 September 2020 - 1:00pm to 2:00pm (London, BST) Webinar: Led By the Science? The Complex Relationship Between Policymaking and Research, Chatham House – This event explores the complex relationship between knowledge production, policymakers and experts.

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

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 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")

Plus 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")

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 Dwi Rachmawati for research assistance support, and Professor Heather Marquette for expert advice.

About this report