



Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.18

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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: trends in **defence and security corruption** arising from C19, including how it is affecting **gender inequality and the women, peace and security agenda**, and **terrorism and counter-terrorism**; the need for **multilateral action** on C19; and C19 **social impacts and responses**.

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: **C19-related corruption**; the increasing importance of **technology** in the C19 world; and how **C19 is exacerbating negative gender norms** to worsen outcomes for women.

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
Maternal mortality: when a pandemic overlaps with the anti-gender crusade	Debora Diniz; Bioethics; Editorial	How is C19 affecting maternal mortality in Brazil? This editorial highlights how maternal mortality is increasing in Brazil due to the combination of: (a) anti-gender policies (the “anti-gender crusade”) and gender-based inequalities, that limit women’s access to reproductive health services; and (b) scientific denial of C19 evidence by the government. E.g. the Brazilian government has declined to recognise reproductive health needs as essential health care, despite the WHO’s recommendation to do so.
Social Impacts and Responses Related to COVID-19 in Low- and Middle-income Countries	Brigitte Rohwerder; K4D, Institute of Development Studies; Emerging Issues Report	What are the social impacts of, and the responses to, C19 in low- and middle-income countries? This report details impacts and responses in five areas: Poverty and vulnerability; social policy; gender equality; social protection; and empowerment and accountability.

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Policy Guidance for Pakistan’s Oscillating Response to COVID-19	Asma Khawaja and Deon Canyon; Security Nexus; Report
Health and human rights are inextricably linked in the COVID-19 response	Sharifah Sekalala et al.; British Medical Journal; Analysis

Enhancing COVID-19 decision making by creating an assurance case for epidemiological models	Ibrahim Habli et al.; British Medical Journal; Commentary
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) COVID-19 Fund: Calibrating a Regional Response to the Pandemic	Smruti S. Pattanaik; Strategic Analysis; Journal Commentary

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Mapping the Impact of COVID-19 in the Indo-Pacific Region II: Women, peace and security practitioner views	Melissa Johnston et al.; Monash University; Report	<p>How has C19 impacted women, peace and security (WPS) practitioners the Indo-Pacific region? Based on a survey of WPS practitioners in the region, this report finds C19 has led to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased domestic violence and other gender-based violence (GBV), with 70% of respondents reporting increased frequency of domestic violence, and 64% increased frequency of other forms of GBV. • Increased cost of living, and drastic loss of income for many women. • Increase unpaid care work and expenses, with children at home, and migrant family members returning home. • Decrease access to medical, educational, and reproductive health services. • Increased distress for migrants forced or unable to repatriate. • 60% of WPS practitioners reported heavier workloads. • 60% reported their organisations had lost funding.
Assessing the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Terrorism and Counter-	Sam Mullins; Security	How has C19 affected terrorism and counter-terrorism (CT)? Drawing on an exploratory survey of 100 security practitioners

Terrorism: Practitioner Insights

Nexus; Report

(predominately from the Indo-Pacific region), this report finds:

- 53% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement – “their country had a good understanding of if/how the terrorist threat has evolved as a result of C19”. 28% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- 51% disagreed or strongly disagreed that terrorists’ C19-related propaganda had resulted in increased radicalisation/recruitment, compared to 24% who agreed or strongly agreed.
- 68% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement – “because of C19, terrorists in my country have been able to raise more funds than usual”. Only 9% agreed or strongly agreed.
- 78% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement - “because of C19, terrorists in my country have been able to conduct more attacks than usual”. Only 9% agreed or strongly agreed.
- 50% agreed or strongly agreed that CT has become more difficult during C19, either because resources have been diverted elsewhere, and/or because social distancing has interfered in some CT duties. One-third disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- 71% agreed or strongly agreed that - “lockdowns/curfews and other measures put in place to control C19 in my country have also made it harder for terrorists to move around.” 14% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- 58% agreed or strongly agreed that - “the long-term social and economic consequences of C19 will lead to an increase in terrorism in the Indo-Pacific.” 6% disagreed or strongly disagreed.
- 93% agreed or strongly agreed that - “countries in the Indo-Pacific region will need to cooperate more closely with each other on counter-terrorism”. Only one person strongly disagreed, with 6% ambivalent.
- 71% agreed that - “US support for CT in the Indo-Pacific should either be increased or decreased in future”; 23% said it should stay

		about the same; 5% said it should be “somewhat decreased” or “decreased a lot”.
Trends in defence & security corruption arising from COVID-19	Transparency International; Trends analysis	What are the trends in defence and security corruption arising from C19? This analysis identifies: a) increased military involvement in the economy, politics, and society; b) resource diversion and misuse of funds; c) increased opportunities for state repression; d) increased conflict and insecurity; and e) erosion of oversight and accountability mechanisms. It makes immediate, mid-term and long-term recommends.
Gaza’s New Coronavirus Fears	International Crisis Group; Briefing	What is the C19 situation in Gaza? After months during which authorities halted C19’s spread with rigorous quarantine measures, cases are now rising in Gaza. A major outbreak in Gaza would likely be disastrous as health care facilities are weak from years of conflict and Israeli blockade. Israel should urgently allow Gaza to acquire the medical supplies it needs and let ill residents travel to seek care. Donors should respond to local and international organisations’ calls for financial and medical assistance.

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Citizens report corruption in COVID-19 humanitarian aid, quarantine, health care	Transparency International; News	Since January, Transparency International’s Advocacy and Legal Advice Centres in 60 countries have received over 1500 reports of C-19 related corruption and other irregularities. This includes cases of: bribery, favouritism and other corruption witnessed by citizens at the point of service delivery and in the procurement of medical supplies.

<p>Will the G20 Please Step Up?</p>	<p>Transparency International; News</p>	<p>How to address C19-related corruption? Transparency International calls for global, multilateral solutions, and identifies the G20 as one of few international forums that has the potential to shape and implement policy in this area due to its global reach and economic power. However, it highlights that while the G20 committed US\$21 billion to C19 in June, it has not yet detailed how the funds will be used, not even in the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (which met this week, for the first time in seven months).</p>
<p>India: why secrecy over Narendra Modi's coronavirus relief fund damages democracy</p>	<p>Vidya Venkat; The Conversation; Blog</p>	<p>How is India's C19 Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund being used? This blog highlights the lack of transparency of the controversial fund, regarding contributions and decisions about how the donations are being used.</p>
<p>The Guardian view on India's strongman: in denial about a Covid crisis</p>	<p>The Guardian; Editorial</p>	<p>How is India's Prime Minister leading during the C19 crisis? This blog criticises Modi for his government's dysfunctional C19 response which saw him impose a draconian lockdown in March until June with no warning and no planning, and which destroyed millions of people's livelihoods. With tax revenues a fraction of normal levels, regional governments struggle to provide more than symbolic care or relief. This has been exacerbated by the central government's refusal to send states the money it owes to them. The cash trail is deliberately obscured with rising concerns about corruption.</p>
<p>The role of technology and anti-corruption measures in fighting COVID-19</p>	<p>Bradley Busetto & Anga Timilsina; UNDP; Blog</p>	<p>How can technology support anti-corruption measures? This blog highlights they have a mutually reinforcing relationship, further consolidated by C19. Through effective digital governance, technology has been instrumental for rapid C19 responses, and has improved the transparency and accountability of government institutions.</p>

How corruption is making people sick	Transparency International; Blog	How is corruption making people sick? This blog highlights stories from healthcare workers globally that rising corruption during C19 is undermining healthcare.
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Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Africa's record rainfall stretches resources already struggling with COVID-19 and conflict	John Sparks; Sky News; Story
COVID-19 and the Sahel	Mohamed Ibn Chambas; Accord; Analysis
Violence against women, girls in Africa spikes amid COVID-19	Eveline Chikwanah; UM News
Pacific Unite concert promotes solidarity during the COVID-19 pandemic	The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS; Feature story
COVID-19 in Uganda: no school means no safe space for young refugees	Moses Sakondo; Oxfam; Blog
Political contents of corruption and anti-corruption in Bangladesh	The Daily Star; Opinion

CONFLICT

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
5 reasons why sharing responsibility for refugees is smarter than ever in the time of COVID-19	Gillian Triggs; United Nations Sustainable Development Group; Blog
Facing the challenges of the Sahel in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic	Pierre Buyoya; Accord; Analysis
Strengthening regional cooperation in the Sahel in response to COVID-19	Maman Sambo Sidikou; Accord; Analysis
Racism Is Fueling Myanmar's Deadly Second Wave of COVID-19	Andrew Nachemson; The Diplomat; Article

PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Learning Interrupted: Education, COVID-19, and the Culture of Peace	International Peace Institute (IPI); Video	In this video, IPI and the Office of the UN President of the General Assembly host a discussion on education during C19, and ways to build, support, and promote the culture of peace.
Sustaining Peace in the Time of COVID-19—new SIPRI film	Stockholm International Peace Institute (SIPRI); Video	In this video, SIPRI launches a film on sustaining peace during C19.

September 17 Panel: The Impact of COVID-19 on Security and Stability in the Middle East	Institute for Peace and Diplomacy; Webinar	In this webinar, the Institute for Peace and Diplomacy hosts a discussion on security interdependence, diplomacy and dialogue in the Middle East.
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EVENTS

30 September 2020 to 18 November 2020 - 14:00 to 16:00 (CET) [Health Security and Covid-19 Best Practices: A Virtual Learning Journey](#), Geneva Centre for Security Policy - This online course for security and health specialists focuses on preventing, detecting, and combating the re-emergence of C19 infections.

21 October 2020 – 18:30-20:00 (BST) [The "state of emergency" as the rule and not the exception: crisis conditions and exploitative law-making during COVID-19 and beyond](#), LSE - This event explores how crises can be exploited to institutionalise laws and policies that violate international human rights with dire implications for the local and international.

30 September 2020 – 13:00-14:15 (BST) [Webinar: Algeria in Transition: Governance, Hirak and COVID-19](#), Chatham House - This event explores the impact of C19 on Algeria's economy, the Hirak Movement, and the current political transition.

October 20 2020 to October 22, 2020 - 8:30-11:30 (EDT) / 14:30-17:30 (CEST) [Mining and COVID-19: From crisis to sustainability](#), Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development – This event examines mining sector trends and government responses from the ongoing health and economic crisis.

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](#)

University of Oxford - [Coronavirus Government Response Tracker](#)

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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 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 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")

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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

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