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

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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: African experiences of C19, based on a survey of 24,000 people; policy responses to tackle burgeoning C19-related corruption; and an evidence summary of violence against women and children during C19;

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: how civil society is filling the gaps in C19 responses in some countries; C19-related graft scandals; and the plight of migrants and refugees in the C19 world.

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
Responding to COVID-19 in Africa: Using Data to Find a Balance (Part II)	Partnership for Evidence-Based COVID-19 Response; Report	What is the C19 situation in African Union (AU) member states? Based on a telephone poll of 24,000 adults in 18 AU states and other data sources, this report finds: • Public support for public health and social measures (PHSMs) by the respondents is still relatively high. • 85% of respondents adhere to wearing a mask, washing hands, and social distancing. But fewer (60%) avoid religious gatherings and only half stay home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities. • 68% think many people in their country will be affected by C19, but less than 29% believe they are personally at risk. • Overall, the data suggests people across the AU see C19 as a serious threat, but for many, the economic and social burdens of PHSMs may outweigh their personal risk perception of catching it. • 75% of traditional news and social media posts originating from AU Member States about health and safety measures were neutral to positive in tone. However, social media had some negative coverage of government C19 responses and criticism of police violence in enforcement of PHSMs. • 74% found misinformation about foreign interference with C19 treatments and/or vaccines credible - that foreigners are discrediting African medicines or that foreigners are testing vaccines on Africans.

		- 44% in need of healthcare delayed or skipped a healthcare visit, and 47% reported difficulty accessing medication. - 72% said they had experienced a barrier to food access, and 70% had experienced income loss during the previous week compared to the same time last year. Just 14% had received government assistance. 38% reported their unpaid responsibilities around the household (incl. caring for children and elderly family), increased under C19, leaving less time for income-earning activities. - 72% reported satisfaction with their government's response. Satisfaction was highest in: Ghana, Guinea, Uganda, DRC, and Ethiopia. It was lowest in: Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, Cameroon, and Sudan.
Enhancing Government Effectiveness and Transparency: The Fight Against Corruption	Bernard Myers et al.; World Bank; Report	How can government effectiveness and transparency be improved to target corruption? Related to C19, this report recommends minimising C19-related corruption risks through mechanisms for oversight involving: defining and activating explicit processes and protocols for documenting emergency spending; tracking delivery of supplies involving central and decentralised authorities; publishing information on emergency spending; and conducting quick reviews. Such reviews would involve undertaking audits of spending as well as receiving feedback from beneficiaries through specific mechanisms, so that responses can take account of identified shortcomings and become more effective as the situation evolves. Use of pre-existing digital platforms both for distribution of benefits, as well as for addressing grievances and fostering partnerships with the private sector and civil society organisations for distribution and oversight, can build greater oversight and trust. In short, to foster greater accountability it is important that government actions are clearly articulated, rules are enforced, violations are addressed, and problems remedied as quickly as possible in a transparent manner. Follow-up actions include dismantling temporary or emergency powers and provisions, conducting post reviews and bringing perpetrators to task.

		Communication to the public on all government actions from the allocation of funds to their use, as well as publicly reporting about the measures being taken to prevent corruption and to follow up on violations, will not just deter corrupt behaviour in this situation but will help maintain the focus on the broader corruption agenda.
Uganda COVID-19 Impact Study Report	Paul Muliika et al.; Heifer International; Report	How has C19 impacted Uganda's agricultural sector? Drawing on a questionnaire of 400 smallholder farmers in Uganda, and interviews, this report finds that: • 97% of respondents believe C19 has affected the income of farmers. • 83% stopped group savings and others slowed down savings activities due to C19 restrictions. • 79% said farmers had limited access to production inputs. • 72% had three meals per day pre-C19 but only 13% after. • 47% said decisions about family income spending and resources are made by male spouses. • 42% experienced domestic violence or conflict during the C19 period. • 69% reported cutting down trees to sell firewood and charcoal as the quickest alternative source of income to farming. In all the districts, service delivery to farmers has been affected due to government restrictions on movement and public gatherings.
Climate-related extreme weather events and COVID-19: A first look at the number of people affected by intersecting disasters	Dan Walton and Maarten van Aalst; Red Cross Crescent Climate Centre and International Federation of Red Cross; Paper	What are the impacts of C19 and climate-related disasters intersecting? Based on data from the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT), this paper finds: • Of the 132 identified unique extreme weather-related disasters in 2020, 92 have overlapped with C19. • 51.6 million people have been recorded as directly affected by an overlap of floods, droughts, or storms and C19, with 3,000 deaths (as of 15 September 2020).

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
The "Societalization" of pandemic unpreparedness: lessons from Taiwan's COVID response	Ming-Cheng M. Lo and Hsin-Yi Hsieh; American Journal of Cultural Sociology; Journal Article
Ebola, COVID-19 and Africa: What we expected and what we got	Shibu Sasidharan and Harpreet Singh Dhillon; Journal of Bioethics; Journal article
COVID-19 impacts on the labour migration and mobility of young women and girls in South-East Asia and the Pacific	Marika McAdam; Government of Australia and International Organisation for Migration; paper
The impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on women: Lessons from the Ebola outbreak in W/Africa	West Africa Network for Peacebuilding; Report
Covid-19 Presents Opportunity to Disrupt Criminals: APG	Regulation Asia; Report

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
COVID-19 and Violence against Women and Children: A Second Research Round Up	Amber Peterman and Megan O'Donnell; Centre for Global Development; Report	How is C19 affecting violence against women and children (VAW/C)? By analysing 28 rigorous papers on VAW/C, this summary paper finds: • The majority of studies continue to focus on the basic question: Has violence increased during C19? • There is increasing evidence that C19 and C19-responses increase VAW/C across contexts. Where mixed or decreasing trends appear, emerging evidence suggests

		underreporting may, in part, account for results
		• Given the increasing number of studies reporting on primary data collected during C19, often using remote survey methodologies, additional attention and reporting on ethics is needed to ensure a 'do no harm' approach.
		• Service providers report additional needs from clients coupled with additional challenges due to lockdown measures and strained resources.
		Future studies focused on C19 and VAW/C should prioritise actionable research, informing evidence-based policy and financing responses including prevention and mitigation measures—rather than examining trends.
Immobility as the ultimate "migration disrupter" An initial analysis of COVID-19 impacts through the prism of securitization	Marie McAuliffe; International Organisation for Migration; Paper	How have C19 mobility restrictions affected migration? This paper finds that, while it is still early days, states have swiftly implemented severe movement restrictions to prevent C19's spread, with many total border closures. We have also seen some countries restrict the entry of all foreigners – even those seeking international protection – while allowing their own nationals to return. Notwithstanding the significance of this global health crisis, in practical terms these responses have set aside key aspects of international human rights law (e.g. principle of non-refoulement, the right to return to one's own country).
		The securitisation of migration has been further bolstered by C19, including through the characterisation of profound threat in health security terms. The fear of further waves of infections is partly likely to be driving the retention of border closures,

		although the proportionality of the response remains a live and valid question. Extraordinary measures have quickly become the norm globally. Over the coming months and years, assessing these measures against the concept of "reasonable, necessary and proportionate" is important.
IDMC Internal Displacement 2020: Mid-Year Update	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre: Paper	How has C19 impacted internally displaced people (IDPs)? This paper finds C19 has heightened IDPs' vulnerabilities in health and livelihoods and has created new risks. Responses to emerging displacement crises have been impeded, as has the collection of displacement data. C19 has created new barriers to durable solutions. Meanwhile, conflict-related displacement continues as C19 spreads.
Resilience In Action: Lessons Learned From The Joint Programme During The Covid-19 Crisis	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF); Brief	How can UNFPA-UNICEF Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) interventions be C19 adapted? Drawing on rapid assessments, surveys, and consultations with country and regional offices, this brief recommends: a) an adaptive management approach; b) engagement in regional and global advocacy; c) ensuring business continuity by providing support for staff and d) providing technical guidance on implementation.
The role of gender inclusive leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic to support vulnerable populations in conflict settings	Kristen Meagher et al.; British Medical Journal; Commentary	What role is there for gender inclusive leadership in conflict settings during C19? This paper makes the case for increased diversity and gender-balanced leadership in committees and multilateral organisations in developing pandemic preparedness and responses. Intentionally cultivating and amplifying female leadership is paramount to creating effective leadership models and gender-inclusive responses to improve outcomes for vulnerable populations in conflict settings.

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Pandemics, Grey Zone Warfare, and (Inter) National Security	Moshe Kwiat; Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs; Journal Article
COVID-19 and the Rising Levels of Domestic Violence in Uganda	Luttamaguzi John Bosco and Nannozi Susanie Ggoobi; Gateway Research Centre; Policy Brief

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Covid-19 makes women more vulnerable to corruption	Transparency International; Blog	Does C19 make women more vulnerable to corruption? This blog finds: a) shrinking economic opportunities as a result of C19 have made women more vulnerable to corruption; b) C19 related corruption in the health sector affects women more; c) C19 exacerbates gender-based violence, including sextortion; and d) C19 erodes women's voices and participation.
From communal violence to lockdown hunger – Emergency responses by civil society networks in Delhi	Sobhi Mohanty; Oxfam; Blog	What role is civil society playing in managing C19 in India? Indian civil society has provided significant support to avert a potential humanitarian crisis by: a) creating a system of local network/s for relief provision to make relief work more efficient; and b) documenting ground realities and gathering information to advocate for targeted government responses. This work has its roots in civil society's response to a

		previous crisis – the scapegoating of Muslims by the government.
Africa Focus: Autumn 2020	Scott Hershman, Daniel Levin, Bingna Guo & Emily Holland; White & Case; Blog	How are multilateral development banks (MDBs) increasing their financing and anticorruption enforcement amid C19? This blog outlines the risks, consequences, and key compliance takeaways for contractors undertaking MDB-funded commitments. As the opportunities for companies to bid on and participate in World Bank and MDB-financed projects in Africa and elsewhere increase, so does the potential for corruption, fraud and other forms of misconduct, which can result in possible suspension and debarment through these institutions' sanctions systems.
Africa's Covid-19 corruption	Andres Schipani, Joseph Cotterill & Neil Munshi; Financial Times; News	This news article explores the many government graft scandals in Africa related to C19 funding.
Compliance leaders are being forced to 'do more with less'. Here's what it means	Matthew McFillan & Amanda Rigby; The FCPA Blog	This blog looks at ways for compliance leaders manage new risks emerging as a result of C19. With new work patterns inside companies and outside, risk patterns have shifted. Yet many companies are furloughing or reducing staff dedicated to anti-bribery and anticorruption functions, often in direct contrast to changing and rising compliance needs. It recommends: use data analysis to prioritise activities; move to remote compliance reviews and investigations; avoid allowing business pressures to water down compliance requirements; and assess the practical impact of C19 on compliance.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
The impact of banning alcohol during Covid-19	Bryan Lufkin; British Broadcasting Corporation; Article
UNDP Africa releases a special online magazine highlighting 50 young Africans innovating against COVID-19	United Nations Development Programme; News
WFP Chief warns of grave dangers of economic impact of Coronavirus as millions are pushed further into hunger	World Food Programme; News
Advancing transparency and accountability in public expenditure in a pandemic environment	Bayo Awosemusi and Sunday Esene Osoba; World Bank; Blog
COVID-19 in Kakamega county has caused marginalisation and opportunities	Alex Ayoyi; London School of Economics and Political Science; Blog
How much did the spies really know about the virus?	Daniel Flitton; The Lowly Institute; Debate
When Learning Is Really Remote: Students Climb Trees and Travel Miles for a Cell Signal	Richard C. Paddock and Dera Menra Sijabat; The New York Times; Article
Corruption is rife in the COVID-19 era	Tim Hanstad; The Independent (Uganda)

CONFLICT

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Violence mounts against Iraqi doctors as COVID-19 cases spike	Arab News; News
WFP Links Record Hunger Levels to Conflict, Climate Change, COVID-19	Lisa Schlein; Voice of America News;

PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Panel Summary Report: The Impact of COVID-19 on Security and Stability in the Middle East	The Institute for Peace and Diplomacy (IPD); Video	In this video, IPD explores the impact of C19 on global order, international peace, and security.
COVID-19 and Cease-fires: What Have We Learned?	United States Institute of Peace (USIP); Podcast	In this podcast, USIP explores strategies to pursue ceasefires in conflict zones, in response to the UN's call for a global ceasefire.

EVENTS

30 September 2020 - 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.

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.

1 October 2020 - 17:00 to 18:00 (BST) Covid-19 and development: building back better?, Institute of Development Studies - This event will launch the Sussex Development Lecture Series 2020/2021 which aims to look at the impact of C19 on development and the way forward.

1 October 2020 - 18:30 to 20:00 (BST) Science and Politics after the Pandemic, London School of Economics and Political Science – This event explores how the relationship between science and politics has been affected by C19.

7 October 2020 - 16:30 to 18:00 (BST) Re-thinking Human Behaviour: critical perspectives on the psychology of COVID-19, London School of Economics and Political Science – This event focuses on human behaviour and health, and the importance of going beyond a purely individual or top-down paternalistic approach to C19.

7 October 2020 - 18:30 to 19:45 (BST) Covid, Conflict & Corruption in the Middle East, The Arab British Centre – This event brings together women journalists on the front line of reporting and responding to multiple crises in the Arab region to share their perspectives.

12 October 2020 - 12:00 to13:30 (BST) State-citizen dynamics of trust through Covid-19, Institute of Development Studies - This webinar discusses C19 in Brazil, China, Pakistan and the UK, and look at how the process of decision-making around public health has impacted state-citizen relations and institutional trust.

21 October 2020 – 18:30-20:00 (BST) The "state of emergency" as the rule and not the exception: crisis conditions and exploitative lawmaking 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.

20-22 October 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

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")

> ("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")

> ("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

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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