Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.20

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02 October 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 C19 is undermining financial accountability, transparency and integrity; the secondary health impacts and appropriateness of C19 responses in low and middle-income countries; public support for combining tax transparency conditions with C19 bailouts; and the need for adaptive C19 governance responses.

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: rising hunger during C19; increasing authoritarian tendencies, and the risk that emergency powers will not be removed post-C19; and the risks posed to peacebuilding if aid budgets decline.

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
The High-Level Panel on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI Panel) Interim Report	FACTI Panel; Interim report	How is C19 affecting efforts for financial accountability, transparency and integrity? This report highlights how C19 is reducing state capacity to generate domestic resources for social investment and financial integrity. Countries have weakened or eliminated administrative controls and accountability, with higher risks of revenue losses, corruption, and budget shortfalls. C19 has also accelerated the digitalisation of economies. Digitalisation over the last decade was already straining government capacity to tax fairly and maintain a level playing field for businesses. New financial technologies also provide new platforms for hidden, secret or anonymous transactions Three types of emergency responses, while remaining essential, seem to provide especially large opportunities for malfeasance: • People with connections and the inclination for bribery can circumvent normal procurement processes during emergency purchases of health care supplies to overcharge, supply sub-standard products, or simply sign contracts and take payments for which products are never delivered; • Income support to individuals can be subject to corruption or theft, especially where robust and accountable social protection systems are missing; and • Support to the private sector can be manipulated for political or private gain, as well as straightforward fraud and abuse. The high probability of more catastrophic events such as C19 calls for better legal and institutional

		frameworks, to ensure effective public revenue generation.
Broader Health Impacts of Vertical Responses to COVID-19 in Low- and Middle- Income Countries	Hrynick, T., Ripoll, S., Carter, S.; Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform; Report	What are the broader health impacts of C19 responses in low- and middle-income countries (LICs and MICS)? This paper finds that: • Powerful discourses and pressures (along with real fears about potential C19 mortality) have contributed to the emergence and imposition of 'vertical' C19-focused responses that have prioritised C19 over other health priorities in LICs and MICs, with harmful short- and long-term consequences for other areas of health. • LICs and MICs are particularly vulnerable to broader health impacts from C19 responses as these interventions interact with weak health systems, and baseline health, social and economic vulnerabilities to produce even worse outcomes. Some settings have seen several times as many non-C19 related excess deaths as C19 deaths. Child immunisations, TB, HIV and malaria prevention, testing and treatment, sexual and reproductive health services and nutrition services have been among critical services affected. • People may avoid seeking healthcare due to fears of C19 infection, of quarantine if they are found to be infected, or punitive action for breaching movement restrictions. • C19 has increased pressure on people with caring roles – disproportionately women – further impacting their ability to access care. • Adaptations to health services – e.g. telemedicine platforms - exclude many who lack skills or access to relevant technologies, while in-person services now require more resources (PPE, disinfectant, space etc.), making it more difficult and costly to provide care. • The paper reveals critical questions about proportionality and equity of response, and amplifies a moral imperative to act It recommends:

			- Re-evaluate priorities and approaches in global health through a 'whole of health' approach which evaluates the trade-offs of decreasing C19 transmission and mortality in the short-term vis-à-vis wider health impacts in the short-, medium- and long-term. Prioritise meaningful participation of affected communities, especially vulnerable groups. - Make and advance equitable global commitments with specific goals and indicators to contain and eradicate C19 in the context of broader health systems strengthening in LICs and MICs. - Integrate C19 response and services within existing health and social programmes. - Make cross-sectoral links between a whole of health C19 response and other social programmes (e.g. social protection, education). - Support accountability of local-level health providers and policymakers through public monitoring and feedback on health indicators and services. - Community-based, people-led approaches are more likely to be accepted by communities, and be successful. Build on existing civil society organisation and social movement networks, and empower them to lead elements - Work with and support private clinicians, pharmacists, drug sellers, traditional and faith healers, herbalists, etc, who may be the first point of care for many. - Real-time surveillance of perceptions, delivery and access to services can enable immediate, context-relevant action. Encourage greater collection and use of research to identify what health services are disrupted and why, to understand localised impacts, and to guide responses, including the triple threat of C19, other serious health priorities, and impending economic crises. - Adopt a framework for integrated data analysis, such as the Integrated, Multisectoral Outbreak Analytics (IMOA) model, for more comprehensive understanding of cause and effect of broader health impacts at multiple levels.

| WFP Global Response to COVID-19: September 2020 | World Food Programme (WFP); Report | How is C19 affecting hunger, and how is the WFP responding? This report highlights that although conflict and insecurity remain the main drivers of hunger, C19 is a vulnerability multiplier, compounding threats to food insecurity, while exposing food and health system weaknesses. It is severely undermining the capacity of communities to cope in times of crisis and has become a stress test for political and economic stability. In April 2020, WFP estimated 270 million people would become acutely food insecure in the countries of WFP presence by end of 2020 if no action is taken; an 82% increase compared to pre-C19.

The latest Integrated Phase Classification assessments show dramatic worldwide increases in acute food insecurity. E.g. in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) nearly 22 million now face crisis levels of food insecurity. Burkina Faso has seen a tripling in the number of people falling into acute food insecurity as compared to the same period in 2019. In these countries as well as Yemen, South Sudan, the Sahel region of West Africa and north eastern Nigeria, C19 has combined with conflict and climate shocks as a key driver of hunger. The paper then provides an update on WFP responses to C19 and food insecurity. |
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| COVID-19 emergency measures and the impending authoritarian pandemic | Stephen Thomson and Eric C lp; Journal of Law and the Biosciences; Journal article | How are C19 responses shaping authoritarian tendencies? This journal article warns of the "impending authoritarian pandemic" as C19 has sparked authoritarian tendencies worldwide, including in well-established liberal democracies. Global history has witnessed numerous instances of emergency powers serving as catalysts or facilitators of authoritarianisation, e.g. to consolidate presidential authority, commit widespread human rights abuses, silence political opposition, or to promote the political agenda of the government. C19 is unique being a global rather than a local or regional event, triggering legal or de facto states of emergency simultaneously in most of the world's states. Features of this include: restrictions on personal movement, increasing surveillance, erosion of |

| | | healthcare ethics, and the adoption of excessive and disproportionate emergency measures including the bypassing or suspension of effective democratic controls on government. This is unfortunately combining with the global retreat of democracy that preceded C19.

An unwarranted authoritarian erosion of civil liberties in the name of protecting public health is counterproductive and self-defeating, as it could trigger an overall decline in public health in the long run, and must not be added to the enormous social and economic costs already incurred. C19 containment measures, like all public health emergency interventions, must always be based on ongoing scientific risk assessments, a commitment on the part of the state to provide its citizens with tolerably safe environments, rigorous enforcement of due process and procedural justice, and implementation of emergency measures that are the least restrictive to constitutionally enshrined rights and liberties. |
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| COVID-19: Belize's Success Story in Containing Community Spread Has Suffered a Setback! | Danladi Chiroma Husaini and Yusuy I. Abubakar; Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health; Journal article | How has Belize's C19 response kept C19 cases and deaths low? This journal article attributes Belize's low number of C19 confirmed cases and deaths – compared to other Caribbean and Latin American countries - to the government's rapid response in effective community participation through communication, promoting personal hygiene, social distancing, quarantine, and rapid mapping to trace, identify, and testing of potentially C19 exposed persons. Following initial successes in supressing transmission, new C19 cases have emerged as a result of illegal border crossing, repatriations of Belizeans abroad, and the apparent lack of adherence to the earlier Government measures. |

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
The enabling conditions of post-pandemic city government	Susan Parnell; Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science; Journal article
Protect the Progress: Rise, Refocus, Recover - 2020 Progress Report on the Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030)	World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Report
What Life in *Favelas* Can Teach Us about COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond	Cammila Quental; Gender, Work & Organization; Article
Impact of COVID-19 on Education, Employment, Economy, and Mental Health Issues	R.Suya Padhra Haridha; Annasaheb Gundewar College; Edited volume
Working from Home across Countries	Charles Gottlieb, Jan Grobovsek, and Markus Poschke; Centre interuniversitaire de recherche en économie quantitative (CIREQ); Paper

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
International funding for peacebuilding: Will COVID-19 change or reinforce existing trends?	Pauline Veron with Andrew Sherriff; ECDPM; Discussion Paper	Will C19 change international funding for peacebuilding? This paper reviews aid trends and finds that peacebuilding is vulnerable to shrinking aid budgets and donors' shifting priorities as a result of C19. The paper calls for more engagement and adaptation from the peacebuilding community. Transformational change – including consistent political and

financial support – requires articulating the relevance of peacebuilding in a post-C19 world within the dominant economic and climate-related themes of recovery. In the long run, these evolutions may well lead to more locally-led, diverse and sustainable approaches to peacebuilding, but the transition will be turbulent, and the forces for change don't all point in a positive direction.

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
The Impact of COVID-10 on Either Shore of the Mediterranean	Karim Mezran, Emily Burchfield, Paolo Alli, Emadeddin Badi, Haykel Ben Mahfoudh and Alessia Melcangi; Atlantic Council; Report
COVID-19 places half a million more girls at risk of child marriage in 2020	Gabrielle Szabo and Jess Edwards; Save the Children; Report

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
An Adaptive Governance and Health System Response for the Covid-19 Emergency	Mushtaq Khan, Pallavi Roy, Imran Matin, Mehnaz Rabbani and Rajiv Chowdhury; World	What are adaptive governance and health system responses for C19 in countries with highly constrained health systems? This letter highlights that 'how to deliver' is as important as 'what to deliver', and the two have to be jointly determined. An optimal governance strategy will iteratively: identify the most feasible and effective set of lockdown strategies and health responses; identify effective coordination agencies, either in

	Development; Letter	government or NGOs; identify the organisations to deliver; and scale up effective responses. The challenge is to devise ways of assessing the effectiveness of different delivery networks in a transparent way, to enable better scaling-up. And to ensure that effective coordination agencies are identified that can take charge of maintaining oversight. Drawing on examples, it finds that weak centralised systems have had less success in their C19 responses as they have struggled in communicating the behaviour changes required for social distancing and lockdowns or delivering the required treatments at low cost or at scale. Rapid scaling up of health responses in vertically organised systems with significant capacity, governance and corruption constraints has typically resulted in sharp rises in delivery costs or failed to deliver entirely. Responses have been more effective and affordable when delivery networks were horizontally coordinated by catalyst organisations, involving agencies in the public, private and NGO sectors.
There is overwhelming demand for tax transparency on the Covid 19 era	Richard Murphy; Tax Research; Blog	What are public perceptions on tax transparency during C19? Drawing on YouGov and Kantar polling data from 14,000 people in seven western countries (USA, Netherland, France, Germany, Italy and Poland), this blog shows there is near total public support for the government to combine private sector C19 bailout funds with conditions that companies pay tax and do not use tax havens (with 95% support from respondents in the UK). E.g. the EU loses approximately $27 billion in corporate tax every year from US firms due to profit shifting enabled by Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK. Requiring multinational corporations to publicly disclose their country by country reports can raise billions in corporate taxes by exposing and deterring profit shifting.
Combating COVID-19: Uganda's race against the clock	Vinand M. Nantulya; Accord; Blog	How has Uganda responded to C19? This blog finds that Uganda's previous experience with HIV/AIDS and Ebola led it to act promptly, introducing a lockdown and mandatory quarantine for foreign arrivals days before

		detecting its first case. Uganda's number of C19 cases and deaths has been relatively low and flat, compared to neighbouring countries. Lessons include: • Focus on a public health approach to prevent transmission through early diagnosis, contact tracing, and early clinical management of those infected; • Effective communication and engagement of the community are crucial, and must be maintained through a crisis communication strategy; • Pay attention to cross-border transmission – e.g. cross-border cargo truck drivers are a high-risk group. Regional cooperation in dealing with cross-border transmission is essential. • Beware of the possible influence of politics – e.g. the campaigns for Uganda's 2021 general elections have started and pose a risk to transmission as it is impossible to enforce public compliance for safe distancing during rallies.
No COVID-19 lockdown still threatens livelihoods and trade in Malawi	Chikondi Kaponda; LSE; Blog	How is C19 affecting Malawi? The blog explores some impacts and responses to C19 in Malawi, e.g. how the Malawi government has been restricted by high court injunctions - e.g. blocking its proposed lockdown measures in April 2020. While online protests forced the government to retract some limits on social and religious gatherings. It focuses on Malawi's Chikwawa district finding most citizens are struggling from financial loss while trust in public health communications are low. Local authorities have been sensitising people to C19 and providing them with protection methods (e.g. water and soap in market places). However adherence to preventative measures is underwhelming compared to the size of government campaigns, party due to rumours that C19 is not a problem.
Will the EU miss its chance to properly protect whistleblowers?	Transparency International; Blog	Widespread corruption in health care and public contracting during C19 has shown the vital role of whistleblowers in safeguarding health and public finances. The EU Whistleblower

| Protection Directive, adopted in 2019, aims to protect whistleblowers from retaliation from their employers, legal challenges and physical harm. However, implementation is slow - nearly half of EU member states have not even started the transposition process. Amongst the other half, progress has been very slow or is proceeding in a manner that is unlikely to result in effective legislation. |

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
The ventilators never came: How graft hampered Brazil's COVID-19 response	Reuters; News	This news article reports that Brazilian state and federal prosecutors allege that top officials sought to pocket up to 400 million reais ($72.2 million) via C19-related corruption schemes that gave inflated state contracts to allies. The deals, they said, included three contracts for 1,000 ventilators, most of which never arrived.
Tracking the Trillions: 6-month check-up on IMF's COVID-19 Emergency Aid	Sarah Saadoun, M. Emilia Berazategui, and Simon Taylor; Transparency International; Blog	This blog highlights how the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lent US$89 billion to over 80 countries since March, yet massive amounts have already been lost due to corruption or malfeasance. It recommends the IMF should: ensure consistency in preventing corruption and misuse of IMF and other emergency assistance; support implementation of anti-corruption measures with dedicated funding; and empower civil society.
Kenya lost Covid-19 billions to corruption - audit report	BBC News	This news article reports that Kenya lost 2.3bn Kenyan shillings (£16 million) during the procurement of C19 items, according to a recent audit report.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
The effects of COVID-19 on the situation in Mali	Yida Seydou Diall; Accord; Blog
Zimbabwe's Deadly Duo: COVID-19 and Corruption	Transparency International Zimbabwe; Blog

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Crisis? What crisis? COVID-19 and the unexpected recovery of regional trade in East Africa	Andrew Mold and Anthony Mveyange; Brookings; Blog
Gender and COVID-19: economic impacts in northern Karen State, Myanmar	Saferworld; Blog
"Know your epidemic": Reflections from Zimbabwe	Ian Scoones; Zimbabweland; Blog
Uzbekistan's COVID-19 Response Exposes Tashkent's Reform Successes and Failures	Benjamin Godwin; The Diplomat; News
The Pacific eyes rewriting their laws on disasters in light of COVID-19	Yo Kunieda; UNDRR: News
Condemnation of proposed impunity for politicians and officials in Poland	Transparency International; Blog

CONFLICT

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
As COVID-19 exposes the fault lines of gender equality, a strong focus on violence against women at the UN General Assembly	UN Women; Press Release
UNDP and UN Women launch COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker	Un Women and UNDP; Press Release
The COVID-19 crisis consequences: disrupting the African peace and security agenda	Ambassador Said Djinnit; Accord; Blog
The effects of COVID-19 on farmers and pastoralist communities	Salihu Musa Umar; Accord; Blog

PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Covid State of Play: Authoritarian Politics & COVID-19	Margaret Bourdeaux, Jennifer Prah Ruger, Rivka Weinberg, Jonathan Zittrain; Berkman Klein Center; Video	In this video, the Berkman Klein Center at Harvard explores how US public health officials should respond to C19.
The Crisis and the Cracks—Pakistan's Covid-19 Experience at Taftaan	Azeema Cheema; The Asia Foundation; Podcast	In this podcast, the Asia Foundation explores Pakistan's C19 experience focussing on a remote border crossing called Taftaan.
PRP Webinar Series	Pacific Resilience Partnership; Videos	In two videos, the Pacific Resilience Partnership explores: • Laws and the Pandemic – a conversation with national officers from disaster management and legal offices. • Local Humanitarian Action for a Resilient Pacific - experiences and learning from the Pacific on local humanitarian action.

EVENTS

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 how decision-making around public health has impacted state-citizen relations and institutional trust.

14 October 2020 - 11:00 to12:00 (GMT) Webinar: Living with COVID-19: Opportunism and International Security, Chatham House – This event explores the international security implications of C19, e.g. cyber attacks on vaccine research, and readiness to respond to a bioweapons crisis.

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.

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 related to 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

UNDP - COVID-19 Global Gender 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")

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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

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

About this report