



# Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.22

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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: How **Colombian gangs** have responded to C19; how **Bangladesh's C19 response has been shaped by state capacity and state-citizen relations**; a brief outlining how C19 is shaping **violent non-state actors** in each world region; and urgent policy responses to target **rising domestic violence** under C19.

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: **social protection gaps** in C19 responses; changing levels of **trust in government** related to C19 responses (in Timor-Leste); and analysis of the **impact, challenges and achievements of lockdown** (in South Africa).

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>Crime in the time of covid-19 How Colombian gangs responded to the pandemic</p>	<p>Christopher Blattman et al.; Economic and Development Institutions; Paper</p>	<p>How did Colombian gangs in Medellin respond to C19? Drawing on a representative survey from 2019, interviews with community leaders in every low-and middle-income neighbourhood during C19, and regression analysis this paper finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Despite the headlines, gang involvement in C19 responses is exceptional and mostly idiosyncratic.</li><li>• Most welfare support to civilians came from state authorities rather than the gangs.</li><li>• Overall, state authorities played by far the largest role in enforcing quarantine rules.</li><li>• A small number of gangs, however, were highly involved in providing welfare and enforcing quarantine rules in their territories.</li><li>• These rare gang C19 responses were relatively idiosyncratic. Whereas normal pre-C19 gang rule is associated with a range of neighbourhood characteristics, C19 gang rule is not. Moreover, gang enforcement of C19 lockdown or provision of services is almost uncorrelated with pre-C19 levels of gang rule. We speculate that the personal choices of the gangs and their leaders may have dominated in the first weeks of C19.</li></ul>
<p>The moral and political economy of the pandemic in Bangladesh: Weak states and strong societies during Covid-19</p>	<p>Tariq Omar Ali et al.; World Development; Journal article</p>	<p>How has Bangladesh's C19 response been shaped by state capacity and state-citizen relations? Based on 90 key informant phone interviews in six areas of Bangladesh, this article finds the government's lockdown approach only lasted 2-3 weeks before being</p>

		<p>gradually abandoned as unworkable given the precariousness and poverty of the majority of the population. It concludes that despite a) the growth in the capacity of the Bangladeshi state in the past decade and b) strong political incentives to manage C19 without harm to economic wellbeing, the pressures to sustain legitimacy with the masses forced the state and its frontline actors to tolerate lockdown rule-breaking, conceding that the immediate livelihood needs of the poor overrode national public health concerns. The weakness of the Bangladeshi state contrasts with the strength of widely shared ‘moral economy’ views within society, which provided powerful ethical and political justifications for citizens’ failures to comply with the lockdown, and for officials’ restraint in its enforcement. What is clear from the Bangladesh case is the vital importance of state capacity when needing to enforce unpopular policies in the public interest.</p>
<p>South Africa: Challenges and successes of the COVID-19 lockdown South Africa: challenges and successes of containment linked to COVID-19</p>	<p>Nancy Stiegler and Jean-Pierre Bouchard; Annales Médico-psychologiques, psychiatric journal; Journal Article</p>	<p>What were the successes and challenges associated with South Africa’s C19 response? Based on a quick email and text survey of 32 South Africans one month into lockdown, this journal article finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Middle class respondents living in formal housing said lockdown was strictly respected in their areas. Many had not gone out during the four weeks, not even for food as they ordered online.</li> <li>• Poorer respondents living in informal settlements said lockdown was not always respected as people needed to find food. Their biggest fear related to the loss of work and providing for their families..</li> <li>• No-one said they reported cases of misconduct to the police, they said lockdown was well respected.</li> <li>• Respondents generally agreed that thanks to the alcohol ban, domestic violence seemed to have decreased, especially in poorer areas.</li> <li>• Those confined with family members were more optimistic than those confined</li> </ul>

		<p>alone. Those staying with families said their days were filled with family activities (once they had finished working/studying remotely), whereas those alone felt bored and were more involved with anxiety-inducing activities (e.g. reading and watching the news throughout the day).</p>
<p>Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalisation – Economic Impact Assessment</p>	<p>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Report</p>	<p>What tax challenges arise from C19 and digitalisation? Related to C19 and implementing the 2013 Base Erosion and Profit Shifting action plan, this reports highlights that while uncertain, C19 impacts likely include: a) reduced expected revenue gains from Pillar One and Pillar Two, at least short-term; b) accelerated digitalisation of the economy, including the associated tax challenges; and c) digitalisation, pressure on public finances and growing public dissatisfaction with tax planning by multinational enterprises (MNEs) are likely to reinforce the likelihood of unilateral tax measures if a consensus-based solution cannot be secured by the Inclusive Framework. The likely ensuing tax and trade disputes would undermine investment and economic growth at a time when the global economy is at its most fragile due to the C19 crisis. They would hinder recovery prospects.</p>
<p>The Protection We Want Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific</p>	<p>Social Development Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the International Labour Organization; Report</p>	<p>What is the state of social protection in Asia and the Pacific in the wake of C19? This report highlights how critical social protection gaps are hampering resilience to C19, yet calculates that investment in basic social protection is affordable for countries of all income levels in Asia and the Pacific. To achieve social protection for all it recommends: a) embed social protection in national development agendas and allocate more resources; b) build universal social protection systems; c) provide adequate social protection to women throughout their lives; d) expand social protection to informal workers; e) leave no one behind; f) cover the "missing middle" and g) improve efficiency and effectiveness by using emerging technologies.</p>

		Specific actions are required at the national level, depending on the level of coverage of existing schemes and the broader socioeconomic context: a) low coverage countries should prioritise universal schemes covering health care, maternity, children, persons with disabilities and older persons; b) low to medium coverage countries should aim to close the coverage gaps left by existing schemes and ensure adequate benefit levels; and c) medium to high coverage countries should identify and close remaining coverage gaps and ensure benefit levels are adequate.
Through Her Lens: The Impact of COVID-19 on Filipino Girls and Young Women	Pauline De Guzman et al.; Plan International; Study	Based on an online survey of 1,200 girls and young women in all regions of the Philippines, this study explores C19 impacts on health, well-being, education, safety and protection, and makes recommendations.
Science Diplomacy and South-South Cooperation for Emergency Response: The Case of COVID-19 pandemic in Latin America	Luisa Fernanda Echeverria et al.; Journal Sosial Politik	This article highlights the importance of South-South cooperation based on science diplomacy within Latin America for health-related emergencies like C19.

### ***Extra papers – without summary***

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Building resilience against biological hazards and pandemics: COVID-19 and its implications for the Sendai Framework	Riyanti Djalante et al.; Progress in Disaster Science; Journal Article
Early lessons from COVID-19 response and shifts in authority: public trust, policy legitimacy and political inclusion	Marleen Bekker; European Journal of Public Health; Journal Article
Covid vs. Democracy South Africa's Lockdown Misfire	Jeremy Seekings and Nicoli Nattrass; Journal of Democracy; Journal Article

Social Policy Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis and the Road Ahead	Merike Blofield and Bert Hoffmann; German Institute for Global and Area Studies;
COVID-19 Policy Responses: Reflections on Governmental Financial Resilience in South Asia	Bedanand Upadhaya et al.; Journal of Public Budgeting Accounting and Financial Management; Journal Article
COVID-19, Public Authority and Enforcement	Melissa Parker et al.; Journal of Medical Anthropology; Journal Article
Agile resilience in the UK: Lessons from COVID-19 for the 'next normal'	Elena Chong et al.; McKinsey & Company; Article

## CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
COVID-19: urgency for distancing from domestic violence	Deniz Ertan et al.; European Journal of Psychotraumatology; Journal Article	How to address increasing domestic violence during C19? This journal article highlights the increasing severity and frequency of domestic violence during C19, and the limits of existing preventive measures. To address this it calls for: a) clear prevention strategies and application plans at the governmental level; b) guarantee victims economic safety and strengthen social support for victims; c) mitigate physical isolation as a risk factor by keeping in contact with friends and families through digital platforms; and d) inhibit risk factors associated with violent behaviours during confinement e.g. alcohol sales and access to deadly weapons.
Violent Non-State Actors and COVID-19: Two Pager	The Wilson Center; Brief	How has C19 affected terrorist groups, organized crime groups, cartels, and gangs? This brief highlights:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Mexico, C19 has affected: a) disruptions in drug supply chains; b) increases in violence; and c) new opportunities for legitimacy as cartels provide aid to local populations.</li> <li>• In Latin America, challenges to organised crime include: a) supply chain disruptions leading to scarcity of chemicals used in processing drugs; and b) difficulties in moving illicit cash between countries. Opportunities for organised crime include: a) emergency government spending with little oversight; and b) price gauging and fraud in the sale of medical supplies.</li> <li>• In South Asia, C19 poses small challenges to the Taliban, but also large opportunities for creating: a) useful propaganda and b) offering citizens resources to combat C19 to gain legitimacy and support.</li> <li>• In the Middle-East, violent non-state actors (e.g. ISIS) see C19 as an opportunity to escalate actions while governments are distracted.</li> <li>• In Eastern Europe, organised crime groups are rich in cash and in times of crisis, small businesses may become indebted to crime organisations to survive. Challenges to these groups include: a) increases in cybercrimes; b) disruption of supply chains; and c) difficulties to launder money.</li> </ul>
<p>COVID-19 and the rise of intimate partner violence</p>	<p>Jorge M. Agüero; World Development; Journal Article</p>	<p>How has C19 impacted domestic violence in Peru? Based on data from the national domestic violence helpline, this article finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-COVID-19 almost 60% of women had experienced domestic violence.</li> <li>• Between March and July 2020 (when there was a strict lockdown) there was a 48% increase in helpline calls, which rose over time.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This increase is found in all states and is not driven by any particular demographic group or by previous prevalence of domestic violence.</li> </ul> <p>It calls for policy responses to address the unintended consequences of lockdown policies.</p>
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### ***Extra papers – without summary***

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
What Happened? How the Humanitarian Response to COVID-19 Failed to Protect Women and Girls	Nancy Abwola and Ilaria Michelis; International Rescue Committee; Report
Research on violence against children during the COVID-19 pandemic: Guidance to inform ethical data collection and evidence generation	Amber Peterman et al.; United Nations Children’s Fund; Guidance Note
Child protection and resilience in the face of COVID-19 in South Africa: A rapid review of C-19 legislation	Ansie Fouché et al.; Child Abuse and Neglect; Journal Article

## **BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES**

### **GOVERNANCE**

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
And Now, a Bright Spot: Timor-Leste Weathers a Pandemic	Pauline Tweedie and Carmen Soares; Asia	How has Timor-Leste handled C19? Based on two public-perception surveys in May and July, this blog finds:



	Foundation; Blog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trust in the government to take care of its citizens during C19 increased from 49% in May to 64%, in July.</li> <li>• More respondents in July said Timor-Leste was going in the right direction (54%) than the wrong direction (40%), almost a mirror image of the May results (when wrong direction = 58%, and right direction = 38%).</li> <li>• Respondents viewed the impact of C19 on their personal lives more positively in July than in May – e.g. spending time with family (53% May, 74% July); feeling like part of the community (53% May, 71% July); and enjoying personal relationships (49% May, 71% July).</li> <li>• A majority of respondents, though fewer than in May, said C19 was still the biggest challenge facing Timor-Leste, including its impact on health (52%, down from 61% in May). Political issues remained second concern (cited by 19%), and worries about the weak economy (16%) have grown more widespread since May (10%).</li> <li>• The vast majority are concerned about money (73%), health (71%), and food (68%). This was corroborated by another July result where 70% of respondents in the past 30 days had sometimes had to cut the size of a meal or skip one altogether.</li> </ul>
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***Extra blogs & news articles – without summary***

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Zambia's response to COVID-19 Part 3: Rising infections and falling confidence amidst increased authoritarianism	Effective States and Inclusive Development; Blog
Covid-19 as a watershed in how we run the world. Important reflection from Rutger Bregman	Rutger Bregman; Oxfam; Blog

The voices of children and youth in Tanzania's COVID-19 response	Elizabeth Ngutuku; London School of Economics and Political Science; Blog
Countries of Asia-Pacific are reassessing their approaches to risk governance in light of COVID-19	Omar Hussein Amach; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; News
COVID-19 in Africa: looking beyond the role of national governments	Duncan Green and Tom Kirk; London School of Economics and Political Science; Blog
Africa: Covid-19 Measures Are 'Gender-Blind', Increase Risk of Violence Against Women, Says UN Expert	All Africa; News Story
Africa needs sustainable digitalisation for post COVID-19 future resilience	Shamira Ahmed; Research ICT Africa; Blog
An Aggravated Struggle: Kleptocracy and COVID-19	Marc-André Boisvert; Global Integrity; Blog

## CONFLICT

### *Extra blogs & news articles – without summary*

<b>Title/URL</b>	<b>Name of author; publisher; publication type</b>
Indigenous women in Colombia-Ecuador border are leading community efforts to end violence against women	United Nations Women; News
Conflict during COVID-19: Averting a legitimacy and debt crisis in Africa?	Chuku Chuku; International Growth Centre; Blog
COVID-19 Lockdown Protects Philippine Muslim Enclave Against Rebel Violence	Ralph Jennings; Voice of America; News

Coronavirus: Iraq's heritage sites suffer renewed wave of looting amid pandemic	Sylvain Mercadier et al.; Middle East Eye; News
As US and UK struggle to contain COVID-19, conflict-affected states show encouraging signs in slowing virus transmission - IRC	International Rescue Committee; Press Release

## PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
COVID-19 and the Futures of Conflict in the Middle East	Middle East Institute; Video	In this video, the Middle East Institute hosts a discussion on C19 and the future of conflict in the Middle-East.
International taxation: Addressing the tax challenges arising from digitalisation of the economy	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Video	In this video, the OECD hosts a discussion on tax challenges arising from digitalisation of the economy.

## EVENTS

21 October 2020 – 18:30 to 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.

29 October 2020 – 17: 00 to 18: 00 (BST) [Covid-19 and development: cities of the future](#), Institute for Development Studies – This event explores how C19 might shape development in cities.

10 December 2020 - 17:00 to 18:00 (BST) [Covid-19 and development: queer & feminist perspectives in South Asia](#), Institute of Development Studies – This event explores the views of queers and feminists in South Asia on C19 and development.

## 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 - RECOVER 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

K4D - COVID-19 Evidence Search

ACAPS – Secondary impacts of C19

## Suggested citation

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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")

("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](mailto:s.herbert@bham.ac.uk)

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## About this report

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