



Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.26

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This fortnightly 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 summary features resources on: [how to understand vaccine uncertainty](#) beyond misinformation, and how to build vaccine confidence; how [citizen security and policing is changing during C19](#) in Mexico; and [lessons from adapting sexual and gender based violence \(SGBV\) programming to C19](#).

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: how C19 is [increasing levels of GBV](#); how [C19 is affecting social cohesion](#) (this time in Iraq); and how [C19 is shaping civil society](#) (this time focussing on civil society collaboration for open government).

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>COVID-19: Going Beyond Misinformation To Build Vaccine Confidence (plus infographics)</p>	<p>Tabitha Hrynich, Santiago Ripoll & Megan Schmidt-Sane; Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform (SSHAP); Rapid review</p>	<p>How to build vaccine confidence? Drawing on literature review and expert interviews, this review finds that while vaccination levels need to reach 80-90% of the population to stem C19, this may be undermined by vaccine hesitancy ranging from minor reservations and concerns to outright refusal. Vaccine hesitancy varies substantially between countries.</p> <p>While the assumption is that vaccine hesitancy is primarily driven by misinformation and this can be countered by facts, this overlooks people's real concerns. Rumours often emerge and spread to fill knowledge gaps. Current vaccine hesitance is also driven by: the unprecedented speed of vaccine development; the 'race' for vaccines being politicised, deepening people's concerns about rushed development and motives; and damaged public trust in governments, especially due to technical or policy errors in other C19 response efforts (e.g. testing, tracing). Hesitancy is often an expression of mistrust. Neglected or abused communities are less likely to trust authorities, thus inequalities create fertile ground for misinformation to thrive. Mandatory vaccination – like other coercive public health measures – and the tendency for health actors to dismiss local understanding of immunity and health, have resulted in negative consequences for vaccine confidence. The review concludes with recommendations for how to increase vaccine confidence.</p>

Is the Coronavirus Catalyzing New Civic Collaborations for Open Government?

Abigail Bellows & Nada Zohdy; Carnegie; Paper

Is C19 catalysing new civic collaborations for open government? This report finds that C19 is spurring elite and grassroots civic actors to cooperate more, but the gulf between them remains wide. In general, civil society groups report feeling more isolated during C19. In some places, the urgency of tackling open government issues during the pandemic has helped overcome that isolation by deepening partnerships among existing networks. But in other places, those partnerships have yet to take shape, and new alliances are less likely to form. C19 has dramatically changed the operations of elite and grassroots actors alike. The impact of those changes on collaboration between the two depends on pre-existing levels of technological capacity. Although many civil society groups are struggling financially during C19, those effects are mitigated to some degree by continuing donor interest in the open government sector. It is a more dangerous time to be working on open government issues in general, and grassroots actors bear disproportionate risks in doing so. This underscores the need for more vertical alliances to mitigate civic space threats.

Moving forward, it recommends practitioners capitalise on public momentum around open governance by cultivating new elite-grassroots partnerships built on mutual respect. Donors should drive timely investment toward coalition building in places where it is missing, alongside more direct support to grassroots actors.

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Responding to COVID-19: Emergency Laws and the Return to Government in South Africa	Klaus Kotzé; Journal of the European Institute for Communication and Culture; Journal article
Africa's Thorny Horn. Searching for a New Balance in the Age of Covid-19	Giovanni Carbone (editor); Istituto per gli studi di politica internazionale (ISPI) - The Institute for International Political Studies; Book
Addressing the Effect of COVID-19 on Democracy in South and Southeast Asia	Joshua Kurtlantzick; Council on Foreign Relations; Discussion paper
"Whoever Finds the Vaccine Must Share It": Strengthening Human Rights and Transparency Around Covid-19 Vaccines	Human Rights Watch; Report
COVID-19: A catastrophe for children in sub-Saharan Africa	UNICEF; Report
The Impact of Covid-19 on protection among Afghan refugees and migrants in Greece	Mixed Migration Centre; Snapshot analysis

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
<p>Impact of COVID-19 on social cohesion in Iraq</p>	<p>UNDP; Report</p>	<p>How has C19 influenced social cohesion in Iraq? Based on interviews and literature review, this paper finds that C19 has exacerbated existing and sometimes deeply rooted challenges in Iraq, coming at a time with low trust in Government, a weakened economy, regular protests and resurging violent extremist attacks.</p> <p>Specifically, it finds C19's effects on sectarian tensions appear mixed. Existing grievances could be further aggravated, as pressure on services, the economy and communal relations intensifies. At the same time, it has fostered a common narrative that could unite the population, in a way similar to Iraq's response to the Islamic State in the Levant (ISIL). C19 has disproportionately affected marginalised and vulnerable groups, including women, IDPs and young people. Cases of gender based violence have reportedly increased. Restrictions on movement have hampered the return of IDPs. Many tribal councils and local fora for dialogue between returnees and host communities have been unable to meet, and key partners could not support such processes. As a result, reconciliation activities have paused. The security situation has further deteriorated under C19 as tension has at times escalated between security forces and the population, particularly regarding the implementation of lockdowns.</p>
<p>COVID-19 in humanitarian settings: documenting and sharing context-specific programmatic experiences</p>	<p>Neha S. Singh, Orit Abraham, Chiara Altare, Karl</p>	<p>What lessons have emerged from responding to C19 in humanitarian settings? This paper draws attention to a new information repository - www.covid19humanitarian.com. In regards to lessons from adapting SGBV</p>

	<p>Blanchet, Caroline Favas, Alex Odlum & Paul B. Spiegel; Conflict and Health; Commentary</p>	<p>programmes in Haiti and Lebanon, it finds the programmes share a number of similarities, including: (i) strong community mobilisation and support; (ii) adequate and sustained funding; (iii) creative use of media and digital technology including social media (e.g. WhatsApp) to reach target populations and support frontline workers; (iv) strong and sustained partnerships and coordination to enable dissemination of messages; and (v) mainstreaming SGBV into other programmes, e.g. printing a hotline number on the back of a World Food Program card for cash distributions in Haiti, where the vast majority of beneficiaries are female.</p> <p>It finds that SGBV programming across contexts differ in who delivers the intervention (e.g. fully women-led in Haiti; using social media influencers in Lebanon). And that the modality of implementation is calibrated to the contexts, including their urban and rural characteristics. In Haiti, SGBV programmes in rural areas with limited internet and phone network coverage were delivered mostly in person while following physical distancing rules, whereas in Lebanon, a more urbanised context, activities were mostly undertaken remotely, except for high risk populations.</p>
<p>Afghanistan Flash Surveys on Perceptions of Peace, Covid-19, and the Economy: Wave 1 Findings</p>	<p>Tabasum Akseer & David Swift; The Asia Foundation; Report</p>	<p>What do people in Afghanistan think about peace, C19, and the economy? Drawing on a telephone survey of 4,300 Afghans in September to October, related to C19, this paper finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Afghans (85%) report that they have received adequate news and information on C19. • When asked to what extent the government has provided support to them during C19, 74% reported not at all. <p>23% of respondents reported that they or someone in their household had received a confirmed C19 diagnosis.</p>

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Impacts of COVID-19 on the Private Sector in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations	International Finance Corporation, World Bank; Briefing note

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Citizen Security and Policing Amidst COVID-19 in Mexico	Rodrigo Canales, Julia Madrazo & Jessica Zarkin; Innovations for Poverty Action; Blog	<p>How is C19 shaping citizen security and policing in Mexico? Based on a perception survey of 1,330 people in Mexico City in June, and interviews with Mexican police forces, this blog finds:</p> <p>A continuing gap between citizen and police perceptions during C19 – 55% of respondents have very little or no trust in the police, and 51% say that police work during a pandemic is not very or not at all essential. In contrast, 73% of police reported expanding their roles to activities deemed essential by local governments for C19 mitigation, e.g. distributing public health info, assisting with health screenings, and surveillance. As a result of more contentious activities (e.g. lockdown and decree enforcement), several departments reported receiving more insults and hostility from the community.</p> <p>Police officers are particularly vulnerable to C19 due to their exposing them to it, and</p>

	<p>because 13-20% of staff are at-risk populations.</p> <p>Police work is changing, but people don't know it – The public were split on whether crime had increased or not since C19 started (at 45% each), with robberies and violent robberies being at the top of their concerns. In contrast, police departments a change in crime dynamics, and an increase in emergency calls that were not consistent with public perceptions. By far the biggest category that saw increases in reports was domestic violence, followed by reports of large group gatherings, then C19 emergencies.</p>
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Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Timor Leste's COVID-19 cash transfer: good if you got it	Bu Wilson, Iram Saeed, Laura Afonso de Jesus, Caitlin Leahy, Pauline Tweedie; Devpolicy Blog, Australian National University; Blog
Social Protection in a Time of Covid – 4 takeaways and 4 big gaps from a recent global discussion	Larissa Pelham; From Poverty to Power, Oxfam; Blog

CONFLICT

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
COVID-19 exacerbating existing security, social and livelihood challenges in the Lake Chad Basin region	Mamman Nuhu; ACCORD; Blog

Hand over the mic: Women on the front lines of violence against women during COVID-19

UN Women; Blog

VIDEOS & PODCASTS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Policy, Guns and Money: A Covid Lens on US-China Relations, Atrocity Crime and Climate Action	Australian Strategic Policy Institute; Audio	In this audio, the Australian Strategic Policy Institute hosts discussions on: C19 impacts in conflict-affected areas and the risk of atrocity crimes; current tensions between Australia and China and the US-China relationship in the C19-era; and climate change and C19.
Asia's Changing Landscape of Development Cooperation Amidst and Beyond Covid-19	Asia Foundation ; Event video	In this event video, the Asia Foundation and the KDI School of Public Policy and Management host discussions on emerging approaches on official development assistance and roles of non-state actors and multilateralism in response to C19 in Asia; and the diversity of Asian experiences and approaches in adapting to C19.
The Shadow Pandemic in Latin America: The Impact of COVID-19 on Gender-Based Violence	Wilson Center; Explainer video	In this explainer video, the Wilson Center explains the impact of C19 on gender based violence.

EVENTS

2 December 2020 – 14:00 - 15:00 - [Women Leaders in Conflict and Health initiative – Building bridges of trust in Central Asia and Covid-19: experiences from the field](#), R4HC-MENA - This event explores experiences in advancing community resilience and the role of women's leadership and how has this supported C19 responses in Central Asia.

9 December 2020 – 14:00 – 15:30 (BMT) [Report Launch: COVID-19 and Democracy in Southeast Asia: Building Resilience, Fighting Authoritarianism](#), Asia Centre – This event launches a baseline study that evaluates the state of democracy and human rights in Southeast Asia during the C19 pandemic. It examines the emergency decrees and laws, the suspension of democratic activities, increased surveillance, and the framing of human rights activists as national security threats in the region.

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 - [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](#)

K4D - [COVID-19 Evidence Search](#)

ACAPS – [Secondary impacts of C19](#)

OECD States of Fragility - [Covid-19, Crises, and Fragility](#)

International IDEA - [Global Monitor of COVID-19’s impact on Democracy and Human Rights](#)

International IDEA - [Global overview of COVID-19: Impact on elections](#)

COVID-DEM – [COVID-19 and democratic governance information hub](#)

[COVID-19 Humanitarian](#) - [COVID-19 and Humanitarian Crises](#)

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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 "democracy" 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 "democracy" OR "corruption" 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 FCDO; and through email recommendations from FCDO 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 Professor Heather Marquette for expert advice.

About this report

This two-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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