K4D | Knowledge, evidence and learning for development

Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.30

Siân Herbert
GSDRC & K4D, University of Birmingham
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This fortnightly Covid-19 (C19), 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 C19, to inform and support their responses. Based on feedback given in a recent survey, and analysis by the Xcept project, this summary is now focussing more on C19 policy responses.

This summary features resources on: how youth empowerment programmes have reduced violence against girls during C19 (in Bolivia); why we need to embrace incertitude in disease preparedness responses; and how Latin American countries have been addressing widening gender inequality during C19.

It also includes papers on other important themes: the role of female leadership during C19; and understanding policy responses in Africa to C19

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
Rethinking disease preparedness: incertitude and the politics of knowledge	Melissa Leach, Hayley MacGregor, Santiago Ripoll, Ian Scoones & Annie Wilkinson; Critical Public Health; Journal article	How should C19 shape approaches to disease preparedness? This journal article argues for a rethinking of disease preparedness that puts incertitude and the politics of knowledge at the centre. Through examining the experiences of Ebola, Nipah, cholera and C19 across multiple settings, the limitations of current approaches are highlighted. Conventional approaches assume a controllable, predictable future, which is responded to by a range of standard interventions. Such emergency preparedness planning approaches assume risk – where future outcomes can be predicted – and fail to address uncertainty, ambiguity and ignorance – where outcomes or their probabilities are unknown. Through examining the experiences of outbreak planning and response across the four cases, the paper argues for an approach that highlights the politics of knowledge, the constructions of time and space, the requirements for institutions and administrations and the challenges of ethics and justice. Embracing incertitude in disease preparedness responses therefore means making contextual social, political and cultural dimensions central.
Santiago Commitment: A regional instrument to respond to the COVID-19 crisis with gender equality	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	How can the Santiago Commitment be used to address gender inequality during C19? This paper explains how in the Santiago Commitment, Latin American governments agreed to implement gender-sensitive countercyclical policies to mitigate the impacts of economic crises and

	(ECLAC); Policy paper	recessions on women's lives, among other commitments. It provides examples of regional government responses during C19 related to:
		• Gender-based violence – including: strengthening of services and expansion of the channels of assistance for women in situations of violence; and access to justice, with the extension of precautionary measures, mobility permits and use of media.
		• The care economy – including: care services, travel permits, leave for caregivers, campaigns about co-responsibility for care, and the rights of domestic workers
		• Social protection – including: cash transfers; and in-kind transfers
		• Employment and income generation - employment protection and access to credit; and support for women in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises
		It recommends:
		• Reverse the trend of deepening poverty and precarious living conditions of women in the region as a result of the C19 crisis
		• Strengthen prevention and care for women in situations of gender-based violence in the context of the pandemic
		• Promote fiscal stimulus packages
		• Promote women's participation in recovery plans
		• Transform the sexual division of labour
The power that comes from within: female leaders of Rio de Janeiro's favelas in times of pandemic	Nilza Rogeria De Andrade Nunes; Global Health Promotion; Journal article	What roles are female leaders in Rio's favelas playing in the C19 response? Drawing on interviews with 111 women living in favelas, this journal article finds that 97% say they support health promotion through the strengthening of popular participation towards community development and defence of rights, and mobilisation of health services to meet needs. With the presence of public agents

		restricted during C19, these women often take up the duties of the local authorities to ensure food security, good communication among local residents on health standards, hygiene measures, assistance to the most vulnerable, etc.
African Responses to COVID-19: The Reckoning of Agency?	Amy S. Patterson & Emmanuel Balogun; African Studies Review; Journal Article	What explains African countries' responses to C19? Drawing on analysis of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and various states collaborating with civil society, this article argues that responses display forms of agency rooted in contextually relevant expertise, pan-African solidarity, and lessons learned about health messaging and community mobilisation from previous health crises. Yet collaboration has not always been harmonious, as actors have adopted various approaches in their interactions with global health institutions and civil society partnerships, and they have actively debated the use of traditional medicine as a C19 treatment.

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Post-Covid-19 Recovery and Resilience: Leveraging Reformsfor Growth and Inclusionin Sub-Saharan Africa	Paola Ganumand & Vimal Thakoor; Working paper; IMF
Withstanding the plague: Institutional resilience of the East Asian welfare state	Suetgiin Soon, Chelsea C. Chou & Shih-Jiunn Shi; Social Policy & Administration; Journal article
The Global Impact of COVID-19	Various; Southasiadisasters.net; Journal

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Can Youth Empowerment Programs Reduce Violence against Girls during the COVID-19 Pandemic?	Selim Gulesci, Manuela Puente Beccar & Diego Ubfal, Working Paper; World Bank	Can youth empowerment programmes reduce violence against girls during C19? Drawing on a randomised control trial with 600 vulnerable adolescents, this paper finds that a youth empowerment program in Bolivia reduces the prevalence of violence against girls during the C19 lockdown through offering training in soft skills and technical skills, sex education, mentoring, and job-finding assistance. The results indicate that seven months after its completion, the programme increased girls' earnings and decreased violence targeting females. Violence is measured with both direct self-report questions and list experiments. These findings suggest that empowerment programs can reduce the level of violence experienced by young females during high-risk periods.

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Failures with COVID-19 at the international level must not be repeated in an era facing global catastrophic biological risks	Matt Boyd & Nick Wilson; Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health; Letter
From National Interest to Global Responsibility: Vaccine Nationalism and the World Trade Organisation (WTO)	Vasu Gounden; ACCORD; blog

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
How President Bolsonaro used COVID-19 to erode Brazil's democracy	Flavia Bellieni Zimmermann; Open Democracy; blog
'Politics was always in the room.' WHO mission chief reflects on China trip seeking COVID-19's origin	Kai Kupferschmidt; Science; Feature

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Visualising the world's response to Covid-19 through online trackers	Devanjan Bhattachary & Anne Funnemark; IDS; Blog	To help inform research on the nexus between peace, conflict, and C19, the Political Settlements Research Programme (PSRP) at the University of Edinburgh has created a Library of Trackers, a curated collection of online trackers that monitor and visualise social, political and economic developments during C19.

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
UK foreign secretary calls for coronavirus 'vaccine ceasefires' in conflict zones	Politico; News

VIDEOS & PODCASTS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Resilience	LSE; Event audio	This event audio explores the meaning of the term 'resilience', tracing the philosophical traditions of resilience and exploring critical perspectives on its modern forms.

EVENTS

2 March - 12:00–13:30 - The politics of evidence in global emergencies – Lessons from Covid-19, IDS. This event explores the role of experts and the politics of C19 knowledge in different global contexts. It asks how researchers, public health officials and policy actors can work better together during periods of acute uncertainty.

11 March - 15:00–16:30 - Horizon 2025-End of the beginning: Development cooperation in the pandemic age, IDS. This event explores how C19 may be amplifying and changing the nature of development challenges and how global development cooperation should adapt, focussing on changes to global growth, debt, budget deficits and taxes, aid, capital markets, along with poverty and vulnerability. The event speakers will propose that aid is moving further beyond altruism to become more of an instrument of national self-interest and of better planetary management of the global commons. Metrics of environmental sustainability and social inclusion performance, as well as governance, will become more important determinants of aid's effectiveness. Prominent among these is far more ambitious use of multilateral and national development banks, and global policies to reduce capital outflows from developing countries.

11 March 2021 - 17:00–18:00 - Covid-19 and development: debt dynamics and sustainability, IDS.

DASHBOARDS, TRACKERS & RESOURCE HUBS

K4D - Covid-19 Resource Hub

ACAPS - Covid-19 ACAPS Resources

ACAPS – Secondary impacts of C19

ACLED – Covid-19 disorder tracker

African Arguments - Coronavirus in Africa Tracker

CGD - Coronavirus preparedness & response

ConnexUs - Resource library on COVID-19 responses, social cohesion, conflict dynamics, behaviour-change communications, and health, aid, and peacebuilding collaboration

Council on Foreign Relations - Peace, Conflict, and Covid-19

COVID-19 Humanitarian - COVID-19 and Humanitarian Crises

COVID-DEM – COVID-19 and democratic governance

Dalia research - Democracy Perception Index 2020

ECPR Standing Group on Organised Crime - Controcorrente (dedicated Covid-19 blog series)

European Council on Foreign Relations - European solidarity tracker

Gender and Covid-19 - Gender and Covid-19

GI-TOC - Covid Crime Watch

Global Voices - Covid-19: Global voices for a pandemic

ICNL - COVID-19 Civic Freedom Tracker

IDS - Covid-19: the social science response to the pandemic

Insecurity insight – Covid-19 and security monitoring

International IDEA - Global Monitor of COVID-19´s impact on Democracy and Human Rights

International IDEA - Global overview of COVID-19: Impact on elections

International Social Security Association (ISSA) - Coronavirus country measures

IPA - RECOVR Research Hub

K4D - COVID-19 Evidence Search

KPMG – Covid-19 tax developments

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

OECD States of Fragility - Covid-19, Crises, and Fragility

Political Settlements Research Programme - Conflict, development and Covid-19 resources

Political Settlements Research Programme – COVID-19 Trackers Library

ReliefWeb – Covid-19 Global Hub

The Economist – Covid-19 news

The New Humanitarian – Coronavirus news, data, and policy response tracker

The Syllabus - The politics of Covid-19 readings

UNDP - COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker

University of Oxford - Coronavirus Government Response Tracker

University of Oxford - Oxford Supertracker

Various - Crowd-sourced cross-disciplinary coronavirus syllabus

V-Dem Institute - Pandemic Democratic Violations Index

Westminster Foundation for Democracy - Pandemic Democracy Tracker

World Bank - COVID-19 High-Frequency Monitoring Dashboard

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Evidence Summary. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies. DOI:
10.19088/K4D.2021.028

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

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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).