



Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.3

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This weekly Covid-19 Conflict and Governance Evidence Summary aims to signpost DFID 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: why we need ‘**leader-centred**’ analysis to understand how individual leaders’ choices have shaped the effectiveness of C19 responses (with significant impacts); how C19 is negatively affecting **justice for women** and **safe abortion services**; and how C19 is impacting on **violent extremist recruitment and radicalisation** and **human trafficking**.

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: how C19 is **accentuating Yemen’s humanitarian crisis**, allegations of **C19 related corruption**; how **women are on the frontline of C19 responses** (including as **leaders**); and the increased **geopolitical tensions between the US and China**. After a week of race riots and violent state responses in the US, more generalised concerns around US leadership and governance are palpable.

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. The articles in section (1) that are journal articles, or that explicitly state having been peer reviewed, are highlighted in yellow (none again this week). 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>Building state capability: evidence, analysis, action</p>	<p>Matt Andrews, Lant Pritchett & Michael Woolcock; Oxford University Press; Book</p>	<p>How do we understand state capability in 2020? In this book, the authors update their 2017 data and analysis and find their conclusion still holds – in global aggregate, state capability has not improved since the 1990s (they call this “the big stuck”). While not directly related to C19, state capability is relevant for how governments manage the crisis.</p>
<p>Justice for Women Amidst COVID-19</p>	<p>Jeni Klugman; UN Women, International Development Law Organization, UNDP, UNODC, World Bank & The Pathfinders for Justice; Report</p>	<p>How is C19 affecting gender equality, women’s rights and justice for women? This report highlights that major risks to women’s lives and livelihoods associated with C19 include: curtailed access to justice institutions; rising intimate partner violence; growing injustice for women workers (including frontline workers) and discriminatory laws. It recommends: instituting urgent judicial proceedings using technology; replace full legal trials with interim judicial orders; protect women deprived of their liberty and on a case-by-case basis release vulnerable women and those with less than 12 months left to serve; ensure access to legal aid and enable poor people to seek justice; support community-based paralegal organisations; and invest in data and monitoring and evidence-based policies.</p>
<p>Safe abortion services amid COVID19 - Agile, adaptive & innovative response from South Asia</p>	<p>International Planned Parenthood Federation; Report</p>	<p>How is C19 affecting safe abortion services in South Asia? This report finds that nationwide lockdowns have disrupted access to medical providers and pharmacies, adversely impacting sexual and reproductive health services, especially safe abortion (with data and information on policy responses in Afghanistan,</p>

		Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Iran).
Covid-19 and crime: A response develops at the UN	Summer Walker; Global Initiative; Policy Brief	How should the UN agencies respond to the crime and corruption aspects of C19? This policy brief identifies four areas for engagement: cybercrime; informal labour; prisons; and illicit financial flows. It recommends: include analysis of criminal economies on key logistics issues (e.g. food security), as this slows implementation in emergencies; prepare for and address disinformation online to protect health and welfare; strengthen the focus on illicit financial flows (IFFs) as misallocation of funding will have a large impact on sustainable recovery; continue efforts and technical assistance towards decarceration and address prison overcrowding; assess and account for the criminal governance risks exacerbated by C19 for communities dependent on informal economies and marginalised communities.
Bangladesh: COVID-19 Explained. Rohingya patients report on health services	ACAPS; Report	How do Rohingya patients find C19-related healthcare in Bangladesh? This report, based on interviews with 56 people found that despite 27 of those reporting positive experiences, rumours and negative perceptions delay some from seeking treatment (they assume the clinic cannot help them, or that they will be taken away if suspected to have C19). The perception of healthcare is shaped by: staff behaviour and use of respectful language; perceived quality of the consultation; ability to communicate effectively in a language they understand; the explanation of systems and rules to patients; and clear communication about prescriptions.
A modern tragedy? COVID-19 AND U.S.-CHINA Relations	Thomas Christensen; Brookings Institution; Policy Brief	How is C19 affecting US-China relations? This policy brief finds the nature of the political realities in both in 2020 have led to the initial mismanagement of C19. And their interactions with other actors (e.g. the World Health Organization) have so far squandered historic opportunities for cooperation. This might have catastrophic results, particularly for developing countries. It calls for a “ceasefire” on criticisms

		<p>between Beijing and Washington, and a commitment to an eventual international investigation of what went wrong. It concludes with six areas for cooperation: share best practices to stem further C19 spread; develop effective vaccines at the earliest possible; prepare for mass manufacturing and global distribution of vaccines; assist the neediest countries in fighting C19; manage debt crises and combat famines in the developing world that might result from C19; and preserve global trade by privileging diversification of supply chains and national strategic reserves over economic nationalism.</p>
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CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
<p>Aggravating circumstances: How coronavirus impacts human trafficking</p>	<p>Livia Wagner and Thi Hoang; Global Initiative; Policy Brief</p>	<p>How will C19 impact human trafficking? This paper warns that it could: intensify the drivers and root causes of human trafficking, with increased vulnerability; heighten and change forms of exploitation; have a multifaceted impact on children (e.g. with rising online exploitation); shift towards informality in formal and informal global supply chains; increase illegal and irregular migration flows; disrupt victim assistance and support; reduce enforcement, policing, investigation and justice system capacities; and interrupt anti-trafficking financial support. It concludes with policy recommendations.</p>
<p>The COVID-19 pandemic and response on violent extremist recruitment and radicalisation</p>	<p>William Avis; K4D, GSDRC, University of Birmingham; Helpdesk query</p>	<p>What are the potential impacts of C19 and responses on violent extremist (VE) recruitment and radicalisation? This query finds that C19 may intersect and potentially exacerbate existing recruitment and radicalisation drivers, and outlines possible impacts, in the short term (governance vacuums; world view validation; opportunistic attacks; and a</p>

		<p>captive audience); medium term (declining international collaboration; declining service delivery; tensions between groups over unequal government responses; and deepening inequalities); and long term impacts (entrenched inequalities; and the alienation of certain groups).</p>
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BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
<p>COVID-19, the choices leaders make, and why we should spend more time thinking about how they see the world and act in it</p>	<p>Jack Corbett; Alana Tomlin; Developmental Leadership Department; Opinion</p>	<p>How do we understand the choices individual leaders take? This opinion piece argues that we need 'leader-centred' analysis to understand why people seek out leadership roles, how their pathways in and through leadership positions frame how they view the world, and how their personality traits and styles inform their choices. By understanding their choices, we can go some way to explaining why some countries appear to have responded better to C19 than others.</p>
<p>Nepal's governance in the time of crisis</p>	<p>Anurag Acharya; Saferworld; Comment</p>	<p>What does Nepal's response to C19 tell us about its governance? This comment finds the Nepal C19 response is testing the resilience of its new federal system and could exacerbate tensions between people and authorities. It calls for greater decentralisation and more cooperation between the three tiers of government to make the response more effective, and concludes that "by bringing decision-making closer to communities, the system will emerge stronger and could defy a looming crisis in governance".</p>
<p>Covid-19: Experts across Asia call for urgent</p>	<p>World Organisation</p>	<p>How can Asian governments tackle increasing gender based violence (GBV) related to C19?</p>

measures to stop alarming increase in violence against women	Against Torture; Press release	This press statement provides some data and illustrative examples of increasing GBV and call for: gender-sensitive C19 responses; national C19 response plans to prioritise and integrate support to GBV victims; responses to ensure women's access to justice during C19; responses to include in C19 decision-making processes in an active and meaningful way.
Three lessons we can learn from the success of women's leadership during COVID-19	Alana Tomlin; Developmental Leadership Department; Opinion	What lessons are there from women's C19 leadership? This opinion piece has three messages: what has worked for women leaders during C19 may provide a future blueprint; the power of gender-balanced and diverse coalitions (at community and intergovernmental levels) for policymaking; and there is potential for a backlash against women leaders post-C19, especially in contexts with entrenched patriarchal traditions.
Women leaders COVID-19 response from the grassroots to government: perspectives from Yemen	Laura Martineau Searle, Michelle Spearing & Noha Yeyha; London School of Economics; Blog	What roles do Yemeni women play in the C19 response? This blog finds that Yemeni women are already at the forefront of responding to acute humanitarian needs, often alongside peacebuilding activities, and C19 presents additional demands and risks. Whilst C19 presents new drivers of violence against women, sources of support have reduced.
Is COVID-19 worsened by internet blackouts in Asia?	Diana Fernandez & Faisal Seraj; Good Will Hunters; Podcast	This podcast discusses the impact of C19 in Myanmar and Bangladesh. In Myanmar it finds: the economic impact is worse than the health impact; and the government's decision to switch off some of the internet has made the coordination of aid to parts of Myanmar difficult and speaks to broader concerns about the freedom of the media and the spread of critical information. In Bangladesh it finds: that C19 infection growth rates are higher than other Asian countries, though not especially in its refugee camps.
COVID-related financial crime nears two million	Miles Rogerson;	According to financial insight provider Refinitiv, global cases of C19-related financial crime

global cases, but AI could help	Asset Finance International; Blog	have risen to 1,880,591 (at the end of April 2020), with the daily increase rate appearing to peak in mid-April. The types and severity of C19-related financial crime vary greatly.
Can wearing a mask help prevent corruption? No, but leading by example can	Alexandra Habershon; World Bank; Blog	This health crisis, and the devastating impact it is having on lives and livelihoods, has made it starkly apparent that the costs of corruption are never just economic.
PM of One of Bosnia's Regions Detained over Ventilator Procurement	Zdravko Ljubas; Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Programme	Bosnia's police detained Fadil Novalić, the prime minister of one of Bosnia's two semi-autonomous regions, for alleged involvement in the procurement of inadequate ventilators for C19.
Defense Ministry IDs suspects in Pattaya quarantine-hotel corruption scandal	Boonlua Chatree; Pattaya Mail; news article	The Thai Defence Ministry said it has identified suspects seeking kickbacks from getting Pattaya hotels certified as government C19 quarantine centres and that none of them are from the military.
Will the legacy of COVID-19 include increased Authoritarianism?	Transparency International; Blog	Governments around the world have taken on extraordinary powers to tackle the crisis. As we begin to return to normal, it is vital that the checks and balances on executive power also return to normal as soon as possible.
Why BJP's Himachal chief resigned after corruption was alleged in coronavirus PPE purchases	Arunabh Saikia; Scroll In	A top health official in Indian state Himachal Pradesh was arrested for alleged corruption in the procurement of C19-related medical supplies. Five days later, the state president resigned.
Bosnians protest as officials accused of COVID-19 graft	Daria Sito-Sucic; Reuters; News article	Bosnians protest against bad governance, nationalism and corruption as senior government officials are accused of procuring defective ventilators for C19. Bosnia has faced many corruption scandals, often linked to officials from the ruling parties, but most have not been charged.

<p>East African Courts crippled by COVID-19, judges say</p>	<p>Hudson Kuteesa; The New Times; New article</p>	<p>Regional judges and magistrates say inadequate IT equipment and trained staff are limiting their abilities to deliver justice amid C19.</p>
<p>Nigeria: Extortion Bazaar - How Corrupt Security Personnel, States' Officials Help Violate Interstate Travel Ban</p>	<p>Nicholas Ibekwe, Taiwo-Hassan Adebayo & Mojeed Alabi; All Africa; News article</p>	<p>In Nigeria, a ban on non-essential interstate travel has create an extortion bazaar for security personnel, state government officials, and other non-state actors.</p>
<p>Coronavirus: Latin America's corruption fighters gain new ground</p>	<p>Sandra Weiss; Deutsche Welle; Article</p>	<p>During a pandemic normal procurement mechanisms (such as public tenders and market analysis) are often swept aside, with orders placed directly or through well-connected intermediaries. These are ideal conditions for corruption. While Latin American politicians and cronies have been exploiting C19, unlike in the past they're now, surprisingly, much more likely to be caught.</p>
<p>Commission Takes Haphazard, Problematic Approach to Money Laundering</p>	<p>European Views; Blog</p>	<p>The European Commission (EC) has published a delegated regulation detailing 12 countries it considers "high risk" for money laundering and terrorist financing. The list has been a source of tension between the EC, the European Parliament, and the Council for some time.</p>
<p>Developed countries urged to lift sanctions, offer debt relief amid COVID-19</p>	<p>Xinhua Net; News article</p>	<p>African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) have called for sanctions to be lifted on its members, and for more debt relief, in relation to C19 demands. They expressed dissatisfaction at the recent EU decision to list some ACP members as high-risk for money laundering and terrorism financing.</p>
<p>Brazil's Bolsonaro is struggling to tackle coronavirus</p>	<p>Filipe Araujo; The Spectator; Blog</p>	<p>Brazil has the world's second highest number C19 infections, and a grossly underfunded public health system; the urban poor are hardest hit. Bolsonaro's toxic leadership, a rhetoric of divisiveness and vulgar language have stoked the flames of violence now spreading throughout society. Many in Brazil's</p>

		congress are now calling for impeachment against him.
Responding to Financial Crime Risks During COVID-19	Richard J Gibbon, Collis Abrahams, Sassi Riar; The National Law Review; Blog	Over the past few months, numerous organizations and agencies have stressed the need to preserve the integrity and security of the global payments system during and after C19. C19 presents opportunities for fraudsters, money launderers, and terror financiers so it remains critically important to be vigilant to new and emerging illicit finance risks and suspicious activity.
Bangladesh: Can this Putinist State Beat the COVID-19 Pandemic?	Sayed Iftexhar Ahmed; The Wire; Opinion	Bangladesh has been gradually transforming into a Putinist state. It is now essentially a one-party dictatorship hiding behind the cloak of democracy. It initially failed to understand the severity of C19
Ex-Ecuadorian President Jailed in Corruption Case Linked to COVID-19 Pandemic	VOA News; News article	Former Ecuadorian President Abdalá Bucaram is under arrest in connection with a corruption investigation linked to C19

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Sri Lanka's Other COVID-19 Crisis: Is Parliamentary Democracy at Risk?	Alan Keenan; ICG; Commentary
Facing Covid-19 in a State of Rightlessness: Rohingyas at Sea in South Asia	Sreetapa Chakrabarty; Refugee Law Initiative; Blog
Kashmir: Covid-19 and the Politics of Enforced Isolation	Emanuela Mangiarotti; International Institute for International and Political Studies; Commentary

Signs of the Times: Sri Lanka's Pathways to Mitigating Covid-19	Neloufer de Mel; International Institute for International and Political Studies; Commentary
Covid-19: Harming Health and Social Cohesion in the Maldives?	La Toya Waha; International Institute for International and Political Studies; Commentary
India: Covid19 Could Be Modi's Reform Moment	Gautam Chikermame; International Institute for International and Political Studies
Trump courts Africa to counter coronavirus — and China	Meredith McGraw; Politico; News Article
Anti-Coronavirus Measures in China's Xinjiang: A Litmus Test for Inequality	Guilia Sciorati; International Institute for International and Political Studies; Commentary
Zimbabwe's critical choice: state collapse or people-powered change	Siphosami Malunga; The Africa Report
Haitian Families and Loss of Remittances During the COVID-19 Pandemic	Toni Cela; OECD Development Matters; Blog
Pastoral situation in the context of COVID-19	Food Crisis Prevention Network; Blog & podcasts
COVID-19: Can corporates be leaders in community support?	V S Parthasarathy; OECD Development Matters; Blog
Risk and Resilience: How East Africa could bounce back from the COVID-19 Pandemic	Andrew Mold; OECD Development Matters; Blog
An inclusive response to COVID-19 for Africa's informal workers	Kudakwashe Dubechristine & Namirembe Katende; World Bank; Blog
Scaling up social protection can build resilience to COVID-19	Omar Hussein Amach; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction - Regional Office for Asia and Pacific; Meeting report

UPDATE: The United States Continues to Lead the Global Response to COVID-19	US Department of State; Factsheet
Compliance Tips For Development Bank COVID-19 Projects	Laura Muldoon, Spencer Buck; Blog
Ramaphosa promises corruption-free COVID-19 spend	George Matlala; Sunday World; news article
Here's how anti-corruption reform stalls in a 'fragile democracy' like Kosovo	Vlora Marmullakaj; FCPA; Blog
Thami ka Plaatjie, Sisulu's chief water adviser, puts himself on indefinite leave after being caught influence-peddling	Ferial Haffajee; Daily Maverick; Article
Legal and compliance officers brace for increased AML risks amid Covid-19	Karry Lai; International Financial Law Review; Article

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Turkey's missing WPS agenda and implications for the COVID-19 pandemic	Nisan Alıcı, Güley Bor and Güneş Daşlı; London School of Economics; Blog	What are the implications of C19 for Turkey's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda? This blog finds that the rise of authoritarianism after a breakdown of the peace process in 2015 halted work on the WPS agenda and C19 has furthered this decline. With C19's numerous gendered impacts, the role of CSOs, women and LGBTI+ peacebuilders and activists has become critical in maintaining momentum.
The impact of Coronavirus on the work of the Truth Commission	Rodeemos el Dialogo; Article	How has C19 impacted the work of Colombia's Truth Commission? This article explains that although the knowledge management mandate of the truth commission has been easier to

		adapt to C19, its social dialogue mandate has been severely affected. Meanwhile, armed conflict and assassinations continue in some parts of the country affecting the Commission and peacebuilding more generally.
COVID-19 should help in rethinking peace support in Africa	African Union Peace and Security Council; Article	Should peace support in Africa be amended in light of C19? This article finds that peace support operations (PSOs) across Africa have been severely affected by C19 but PSOs are adapting their responses. It calls for a rigorous review of PSOs to enable them to better meet their mandate.
Aid Security and COVID-19	Insecurity Insight; Bulletin	How has C19 impacted aid security? This bulletin finds that despite calls for a global ceasefire, conflict-related violence continued to affect health care in at least 11 countries between March and April 2020. It also highlights the fact that the global C19 response will be less effective if health systems are under attack from conflict violence and call on the international community to work together to address these challenges.
Asia's Ethnic Conflicts in the Wake of Covid-19	Adam Burke; Italian Institute for International Political Studies; Commentary	How has C19 affected conflicts in Asia? This commentary finds that C19 has exacerbated most conflicts in Asia, although with differential impacts on subnational conflicts and identity-based violence.
The Coronavirus Is Raising the Likelihood of Great-Power Conflict	Barry Pavel; Defense One; Blog	How is C19 affecting geopolitics? This blog warns that C19 is raising the likelihood of great-power conflict, highlighting that Chinese and US military operations in the western Pacific have been increasing in intensity and show little signs of abating. It urges that efforts to increase deterrence be carefully calibrated to avoid accidental escalation.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Covid-19 quietly sweeps across Yemen	The Economist; Article
Covid-19 in the Philippines: The Bangsamoro Government's Trial by Fire	Bai Shaima Baraguir; Italian Institute for International Studies and Political Studies; Commentary
Covid-19 and Conflict in Myanmar: No Truce for the Rohingya	K. Yome; Italian Institute for International Studies and Political Studies; Commentary
Consequences of the Pandemic on Conflicts in Asia: Challenges and Recommendations	Eleanor Gordon; Italian Institute for International Studies and Political Studies; Commentary

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](#)

[Jorge Mantilla \(UC-Chicago\) - Twitter thread curating pieces on Covid-19, conflict and crime](#)

[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 – Covid-19 and aid - weekly roundup](#)

The New Humanitarian – Covid-19 cases data and policy response tracker

ACLED – Covid-19 disorder tracker

Various - Crowd-sourced cross-disciplinary coronavirus syllabus

African Arguments - Coronavirus in Africa Tracker

EVENTS

9 June 14:00 (CET / 13:00 UK time) - **Impact of COVID-19 on transnational organised crime in East Africa** – This seminar will explore shifting trends in transnational organised crime during the pandemic. Speakers will discuss the likely effects of COVID-19 responses on criminal markets, and long-term repercussions on trafficking and smuggling of persons, drugs, arms and contraband across borders in East Africa.

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 Scholar, 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") OR ("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

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About this report

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