



# Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.4

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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: the [gender gap in C19 responses](#); questions to ensure [conflict sensitivity in C19 responses](#); how to [protect children in Africa](#) from C19 impacts, current crises in [Lebanon](#) and [Myanmar](#), and how citizens in G7 countries are [losing trust in their government's handling of the C19 crisis](#).*

*Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: C19 increasing [gender based violence \(GBV\)](#), risks of [corruption](#), [human trafficking](#), increasing [food insecurity](#), and [US-China rivalry](#).*

*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 again). 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 impacts on African children: how to protect-a-generation at risk</p>	<p>Eric Hazard; Save the Children; Policy paper</p>	<p>How can children in Africa be protected from the secondary and long-term impacts of C19? This paper outlines the risks to children, how Save is responding and adapting its programming, and recommendations related to: health systems; education; child protection; food security and malnutrition; internally displaced populations and refugees; movement and rights; and macroeconomics.</p>
<p>Where are the women? The conspicuous absence of women in COVID-19 response teams and plans, and why we need them</p>	<p>Sarah Fuhrman &amp; Francesca Rhodes; CARE International; Report</p>	<p>Where are the women in C19 response plans and teams? This report analyses 30 countries' C19 responses and makes recommendations. It finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On national-level C19 response committees: only one has equal female-male representation; 74% have less than one-third female membership; on average, women made up 24% of the committees;</li> <li>• On gender considerations in C19 responses: 54% of countries appear to have taken no action on GBV and 33% appear to have not addressed sexual and reproductive health, this is despite the clear evidence of the impact of C19 on these issues.</li> <li>• On leadership and gender-based responses: countries that have more women in leadership are more likely to consider the effects of C19 on women and girls in their responses; there is a risk that gender equality gains could be lost; local women-led organisations, women's organisations and leaders are not being included in decision making on humanitarian responses, or receiving a fair share of funding.</li> </ul>

<p>Perspectives on a Changing World Order</p>	<p>Paul Stares, Qingguo Jia, Nathalie Tocci, Dhruva Jaishankar &amp; Andrey Kortunov; Council on Foreign Relations; Discussion paper</p>	<p>How do we understand great power cooperation, competition, and conflict in the evolving world order? Written largely before C19, five discussion papers present perspectives on world order, they “share a common belief that the opportunity to shape a new international order that is stable, inclusive, and beneficial to all still exists, though the window to do this is growing smaller. The experience of earlier transitional periods suggests that any effort to reform or create a new global order must be a collaborative undertaking. Although the world seems destined to grow more competitive, congested, and contested in the coming years, the logic of major power cooperation is inescapable”.</p>
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## CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
<p>Considerations for a conflict-sensitive COVID-19 response in South Sudan</p>	<p>David Otim &amp; Rob Morris; Conflict Sensitivity Resource Facility; Guidance note</p>	<p>How to ensure the C19 response in South Sudan is conflict sensitive? This one-page guidance note details three steps with questions and core principles to: (1) Understand the context; (2) Understand how a C19 response can drive, pre-empt and address emerging tensions; and (3) Adapt C19 responses to mitigate tensions.</p>
<p>Pulling Lebanon out of the Pit</p>	<p>ICG; Report</p>	<p>How to understand Lebanon’s current crisis? C19 has brought Lebanon’s slowly imploding economy to the brink of total collapse. Since October 2019, protests have sought greater accountability from elites that seem incapable of instituting critical reforms. The accumulation of crises is driving more Lebanese into absolute poverty. While the lockdown is gradually easing, the loss of jobs and purchasing power triggered new protests that are turning violent</p>

		and may prefigure the disintegration of state capacity and institutions.
COVID-19 Impact on Trafficking in Persons – A Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI) Factsheet	IFRC; Factsheet	How is C19 impacting on human trafficking? All crises increase vulnerability to trafficking, specific risks with C19 include: loss of employment, income or other means of livelihood; travel restrictions and tighter border controls; changing family dynamics and greater pressure on the family unit; loss of societal support; limited availability or access to services (health, welfare, and social protection). Trafficked people are also at increased risk to the direct impacts of C19 due to: barriers in accessing healthcare and other services; lack of or reduced access to C19 preventative measures; being more likely to have pre-existing health needs; and lockdowns increasing the intensity of exploitation. The factsheet concludes with recommendations.
Prevention and response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in COVID-19 - A Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI) Technical guidance note	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC); Technical guidance note	How to address the increase in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) related to C19? This note explains the increase in SGBV, vulnerable groups, and policy responses. Three key challenges are: availability and access to SGBV services due to the changed operational environment; lack of updated information about available SGBV services; and SGBV prevention and response not being prioritised by all states as part of national response plans. The note recommends adapting programming by: setting minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion; capacity building; community messages; and providing dignity kits.
An Avoidable War: Politics and Armed Conflict in Myanmar's Rakhine State	ICG; Report	How to understand Rakhine State's (Myanmar) current crisis? The current conflict in Rakhine State is Myanmar's most intense in years, with no sign of de-escalation or C19 focusing the parties' minds on peace. This report does not focus on C19 but highlights how Rakhine State is highly vulnerable to C19 as e.g. movement restrictions make the region's inadequate health facilities that much more difficult for residents to reach.

## BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

### GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Citizens in six G7 nations losing faith in handling of pandemic, survey finds	Natalie Leal; Global Government Forum; Article	A survey finds a majority of people in the G7 have lost confidence in their governments' handling of C19 - with 48% approving of their government's response down from 50% in April and 54% in March. The sharpest decline was in the UK from 69% in April to 51% in May. These findings are consistent with the theory that there was a trust 'honeymoon' in governments at the start of the crisis that is naturally easing and which can be accelerated by particular events/decisions.
European Solidarity Tracker: The solidarity that always was there	Claire Busse & Rafael Loss; European Council on Foreign Relations; Commentary	How has Europe cooperated during C19? This commentary details examples of solidarity in health, economics, education, and culture by EU member states, the EU institutions, and citizens.
How can Covid-19 be the catalyst to decolonise development research?	Carmen Leon-Himmelstine & Melanie Pinet; From Power to Poverty (Oxfam); Blog	Can C19 be the catalyst to decolonise development research? This blog highlights current problems including: proposal design and selection of in-country partners is led by global north researchers; theories of change and monitoring and evaluation systems are designed from a Western

		<p>perspective; colonial practices through data collection; and the access, management and protection of data are dominated by northern organisations. It calls for think thanks to: reflect on our positionality and privilege, respond to the agenda and research priorities of global south researchers; see capacity-building as a form of neo-colonial education; build equal partnerships and collaboration models; use different channels to communicate research and make datasets available to local researchers.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Response Underlines the Need for Portable Social Protection Programs</p>	<p>Alan Gelb &amp; Anit Mukherjee; Centre for Global Development; Commentary and Analysis</p>	<p>How has C19 impacted social protection programs? This blog finds C19 lockdowns has underlined the need for portable sociable protection programmes.</p>
<p>What Fuels Autocracies Fuels Corruption</p>	<p>Alexandra Wrage; Just Security; Blog</p>	<p>C19 has accelerated democratic decay and whatever undermines democracy enables corruption. Indeed, the presumptive goal of most autocrats is to amass, protect, and then enjoy, in relative safety, their looted fortunes. To counter these worrying trends and avoid squandering years of global anti-corruption efforts, liberal democracies must put preventative safeguards in place now.</p>

<p>In Nigeria, COVID-19 brings home the need for effective criminal justice complaint channels</p>	<p>Samuel Asimi; Transparency International; Blog</p>	<p>How are C19 responses in Nigeria affecting justice? Nigerian government C19 responses include restrictions on movement, enforced by law enforcement agencies and the military. Although inter-agency cooperation between the police and other institutions has increased as a result, lockdown enforcement has amplified existing challenges around human rights abuses and bureaucratic corruption within these state institutions.</p>
<p>The corruption virus weakens public trust in the government</p>	<p>Solomon Makgale; Mail &amp; Guardian; Blog</p>	<p>The South African government's muted response to C19-related corruption allegations is fuelling concern among civil society organisations and the public.</p>
<p>Out of office: Lockdown checks corruption cases in public departments</p>	<p>Nalia Babu; The Times of India; News article</p>	<p>There has reportedly been a drop in corruption (e.g. bribery) in government offices in Indian state Andhra Pradesh over the two months of lockdown as government departments slowed down and many officials have worked from home.</p>
<p>Promoting accountability and transparency during COVID-19</p>	<p>David Clarke; Aneta Wierzynska; Mark DiBiase &amp; Anga Timilsina; UNDP; Blog</p>	<p>Considering increased risk to corruption that C19 brings, this article recommends applying a risk-based prioritisation framework to determine which governance, transparency and accountability mechanisms should be integrated into C19 health responses. It should prioritise deterring forms of</p>

		corruption that stand to most severely undermine both the quality and speed of the public health response. There may be times when risks and mitigating measures identified during ordinary times are deprioritised during an emergency response.
Oli refuses to respond to demand that government furnish details of Rs10 billion it has spent to fight COVID-19	Binod Ghimire; The Kathmandu Post; News article	Nepali Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's government is facing criticism for its poor handling of C19 and related allegations of irregularities and corruption.

### Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Digital briefing on USAID's ongoing development priorities and COVID-19 assistance response in Africa	USAID; Briefing
IRC data shows an increase in reports of gender-based violence across Latin America	International Rescue Committee; Press Release
The world must prioritise the health needs of women and girls to mitigate potentially disastrous secondary impacts of the COVID-19	Elo Otobo; Save the Children; Blog
Coronavirus in the Pacific: weekly briefing	Guardian; Briefing
Across the Pacific, crisis centres respond to COVID-19 amid natural disasters	UN Women; News
Climate Change and COVID-19 Impact Agriculture and Youth Mobility Across West and Central Africa	International Organisation for Migration; Press release



COVID-19 and Indonesia's Maritime Security Challenges	Aristyo Rizka Darmawan; Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative; Blog
The political economy of the fight against COVID19 in Africa	Clement Sefa-nyarko; Democracy In Africa; Blog
Helping the helpless during lockdown	Marty Logan; Nepali Times; Blog
The Economic Impact of COVID-19: After Record Unemployment, Countries around the World Begin to Reopen Industries	David Evans and Amina Mendez Acosta; Center for Global Development; Blog
Sex Workers in Africa Are More Vulnerable During COVID-19	The Global Fund; News
End stigma and discrimination against migrant workers and their children during COVID-19 pandemic	UNICEF; Statement
Reaching domestic violence survivors amid the pandemic	UNFPA; News
Roundtable: Middle East Strained by COVID-19, But Not Transformed	The Century Foundation; Event summary
COVID-19 is likely to increase youth unemployment in Africa, this is how business can mitigate the damage	Chido Munyati, World Economic Forum; Blog
How behavioral science can promote positive actions during COVID-19	World Economic Forum; Blog
What Happens When Soft Power Has to Stay at Home?	Edward Elliott; RUSI; Blog
Anti-corruption response to Covid-19 must include women	Transparency International; Blog
Some Lessons from the History of Epidemics in Africa	Florence Bernault; African Arguments; Blog

The gendered impact of COVID-19 in the Middle East	Hafsa Halawa; Middle East Institute; Blog
China-US rivalry in Africa fuelled by coronavirus	BBC, Article
Tailoring the Socioeconomic Response to COVID-19 in Peacebuilding Contexts: Ambassadorial-level meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission	Abdoulaye Mar Dieye; UNDP; Speech
Can we solve hunger in South Africa?	Chandré Gould & Sello Hatang; Institute for Security Studies; Blog
Africa must unmute its mic as e-diplomacy takes root	Gustavo de Carvalho; Institute for Security Studies; Blog
COVID-19: One third of youth in Latin America and the Caribbean believe they are not at risk from disease, new UNICEF poll shows	UNICEF; Press release
Resilience in Developing Nations: Interview with Nancy Birdsall	Nancy Birdsall; Center on National Security at Fordham Law; Interview
Is Nigeria Ready to Leave Lockdown?	Benjamin Uzochukwu, Francis Ruiz, Kalipso Chalkidou, Eno'bong Idiong & Samantha Hollingworth; Center for Global Development; Blog

## CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Terrorists Capitalize on COVID-19 to Erode State Authority, Attack National, International Forces in Sahel, Peacekeeping	United Nations; Press Release	This press release highlights that armed actors in the Sahel have been attacking national and international forces relentlessly during C19 to undermine state authority. The consumption and disbursement rate of support provided by the UN Mission has increased from 21% to

Chief Tells Security Council	50%. They state an urgent need to increase the operational capacity of the G5 Sahel Joint Force and humanitarian relief for those displaced .
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### ***Extra blogs & news articles – without summary***

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Will coronavirus pandemic intensify or defuse Middle East conflicts?	Caline Malek; Arab News; News
Conflict and COVID-19 in the Middle East: a mid-year assessment	China Global Television Network; Guy Burton; Opinion
Middle East- Protecting livelihoods is a must during COVID-19 Response	International Committee of the Red Cross; News
Vital UN peace and security work continues amid COVID-19 challenge	United Nations; News
Communique of the 928th PSC meeting held on 27 May 2020, on the Impact of COVID-19 on Living Together in Peace	African Union; Communique
Conflict-hit Nigerian families living under COVID-19 lockdowns, on 'life-support'	United Nations; News
The ICRC's Responses to Covid-19 in Africa	ICRC, Brief
COVID-19 Emergency Response Latin America and the Caribbean	Plan International; Report

## 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 - Coronavirus (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

## PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
<a href="#">COVID-19 and Violent Extremism: Gender Perspectives</a>	LSE Centre for Women, Peace & Security; Event video	This event explores how violent extremist groups have capitalised on C19, and how C19 impacts women and men differently. Speakers: Mia Bloom, Fatima Akilu, Cathrine Thorleifsson, Sanam Naraghi Anderlini MBE, Noor Huda Ismail, Alexandra Phelan
<a href="#">The Risks and Opportunities of the Global Ceasefire Call in the time of Corona</a>	LSE Centre for Women, Peace & Security; Event podcast	This event explores questions including: are ceasefires declared during C19 taking place and holding? Is there is a shift towards political solutions? And could this be an opportunity for the full participation of women peacebuilders? Speakers: Siri Aas Rustad, Rajaa Ataali, Muna Luqman, Dame Karen Pierce DCMG, Teresa Whitfield, Sanam Naraghi Anderlini MBE
<a href="#">Sustainable Security Index Launch</a>	Oxford Research Group; Event podcast	This event discusses the new Sustainable Security Index which measures 155 states' impact on global insecurity. The Index report makes the case for why states need to rethink their approaches to security – moving beyond narrow understandings towards an integrated approach addressing broader threats to human security, such as climate change, poor governance, pandemics and inequality.

## EVENTS

13 June 14:00 (GMT) - [The Economic Impacts of COVID-19 and World Bank Support to Africa Roundtable](#), World Bank – This event focuses on the economic impacts of C19 in Africa and World Bank support to the countries.

15 June 08:00 – 09:30 (GMT) - [COVID-19 and its impacts on the Women of Southeast Asia](#), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore - This event discusses C19 and gender equality, and how governments, donors, NGOs and civil society can use the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda in their C19 responses.

17 June 16:00 – 17:00 (GMT) - **Armed groups responses to the Covid-19 crisis**, ODI - This event discusses armed groups across the world have reacted to C19, and the implications for humanitarian responses, peacebuilding, and development aid.

17 June 18:30 - 20:00 (GMT) - **The Political Scar of Epidemics**, LSE - This event explores the possible political and economic legacies of C19, and how it may shape public attitudes towards political leaders, governments and democracies in the long-term.

18 June – Time TBC - **WEBINAR: The impact of COVID-19 on peace operations in Africa**, Egmont – This event explores how C19 has disrupted peace operations in Africa, and potential impacts from the impending global economic recession including whether peace operations may contract in size and scope.

24 June - 15:00 – 16:30 (GMT) – **The New Authoritarianism: COVID-19 and the challenges facing democracy**, LSE – This event explores the rise of anti-democratic forces around the world and in the UK that started pre-C19 and presents findings from a forthcoming paper that argues that a new state-dependent capitalism is coalescing in response to C19 that fits organically with the agenda of authoritarian populists.

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

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## About this report

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