



Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.11

Siân Herbert

GSDRC & K4D, University of Birmingham

31 July 2020

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 impacts of C19 on [geopolitics in East Africa](#); advice on [collecting data on gender based violence during C19](#); [women leaders and the effectiveness of C19 responses](#); and [lessons from post-World War II reconstruction](#).

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: using a [resilience lens](#) to improve C19 responses; [increasing corruption](#) under C19; and how C19 is [exacerbating inequalities](#).

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>Women leaders are better at fighting the pandemic</p>	<p>Supriya Garikipati & Uma Kambhampati; Centre for Economic Policy Research; Article</p>	<p>Are women leaders doing better in responding to C19? This article, summarising a journal article posted on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN), analyses if there are significant differences in the C19 outcomes of male and female led-countries in the first quarter of C19, and whether these differences can be explained by differences in policy measures adopted by male and female leaders.</p> <p>Through data analysis it finds that C19 outcomes (cases and deaths) are systematically better in countries led by women, as compared to countries similar along a range of characteristics. The timing of lockdown has been driving the better outcomes in female-led countries. Drawing on behavioural studies and leadership literature they explore different explanation for this: (a) that risk aversion may manifest differently with women more risk-averse than men with regard to lives, yet more risk taking with regards to the economy; (b) sex-differences in feelings of empathy which cannot be fully explained as cultural derivatives of socialisation alone but have deeper neurobiological drivers; and (c) differing leadership styles with men more likely to lead in a 'task-oriented' style and women in an 'interpersonally oriented' style.</p>
<p>'And now win the peace': Ten lessons from history for the next normal</p>	<p>Kevin Sneader & Shubham Singha; McKinsey and Company; Article</p>	<p>What can we learn from post-WWII reconstruction for C19 response? This paper highlights key factors for postwar recovery as: a sense of purpose around rebuilding lives and livelihoods; the creation of global institutions to promote technology sharing, economic growth, and political</p>

		<p>stability; sustained investment in human and physical infrastructure; and the adaptations of business. However, there are limits to the postwar analogy. In adapting these lessons to C19 they suggest: reform and reshape globalization; create trade policies that take into account how globalization is changing; promote the diffusion of technology; renew the role and effectiveness of the public sector; modernise social policies; institute measures to increase productivity; build digital infrastructure; invest in reskilling; expand the labor force; reimagine and reinvigorate the private-sector social contract; embrace 'stakeholder capitalism'; invest in employees; and deploy productivity-boosting technology.</p>
<p>Immediate and longer-term impacts of Covid-19 on geopolitics in East Africa</p>	<p>Luke Kelly; Institute for Development Studies (IDS); K4D Helpdesk report</p>	<p>What are the immediate and medium/longer-term impacts of C19 on regional and geopolitics in East Africa? This rapid literature review finds that the medium- to long-term effects of C19 on geopolitics in East Africa are unknown. In the immediate term, C19 is likely to put stress on economies and healthcare systems, and thereby have the potential to exacerbate regional conflicts. It is also likely to lead to East African countries re-evaluating their relationships with other countries in the region and further afield as they seek financial help from abroad (e.g. debt relief), and to build more resilience to global shocks.</p>

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
<p>Wage Losses and Inequality in Developing Countries: Labor Market and Distributional Consequences of COVID-19 Lockdowns in Turkey</p>	<p>Anil Duman; Social Science Research Network (SSRN); Paper</p>

COVID-19 and Women's Well-Being	Adan Silverio-Murillo, Lauren Hoehn-Velasco, Jose Roberto Balmori de la Miyar & Abel Rodriguez; Social Science Research Network; Paper
The Parliamentary Response to COVID-19 and the States of Emergency (SoE) in the Western Balkans	Ivan Radojevic & Nevenka Stankovic; Westminster Foundation for Democracy; Paper
Building back with justice - Dismantling inequalities after Covid-19 (July 2020)	Christian Aid; Report
Reform Past Due: Covid-19 agnifies need to improve Spain's Asylum System	Daphne Panayotatos; Refugees International; Report

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Decision tree: Data Collection on Violence against Women and COVID-19	kNOwVAWdata, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women & World Health Organisation (WHO); Infographic	<p>This decision tree helps organisations with gender-based violence programmes, national statistical offices, policymakers and researchers decide when and how to best collect data on women's experiences of violence and their access and use of relevant services during the C19. It guides data collectors through the considerations, viable options and alternative data sources for obtaining information without jeopardising participants' safety or the data's integrity. In doing so, it aims to identify data sources and methodologies that are useful for strengthening services and referral pathways for women experiencing violence during C19.</p> <p>Restrictions of movement mean women who experience violence are likely trapped at home with their abusers. Interviews with women who may be experiencing violence must be conducted in private to ensure the quality of</p>

		<p>the data and the safety of the respondent, so it is extremely difficult to collect ethical and reliable data using population-based surveys during this period when men are home due to lockdowns or lost work, etc.</p>
<p>COVID-19 in Eastern Africa: impact analysis on conflict and security</p>	<p>Kelbesa Megersa; IDS; K4D Helpdesk Report</p>	<p>What are the the immediate and medium/longer-term impacts of C19 on conflict and security in East Africa? This literature review finds that the key conflict, security and political developments linked to C19 and their implications for countries in the region include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In Ethiopia, elections that were scheduled for August 2020 have been indefinitely postponed and the government has declared a state of emergency. This could be a major source of conflict as some key opposition groups and a key regional government (Tigray) opposes it. ▪ In Kenya, several incidences of violence have occurred in response to the C19 curfew. There are fears that rising unemployment could spark unrest and insecurity, particularly among the youth. ▪ Somalia and South Sudan’s existing conflict and security challenges may be exacerbated by C19. ▪ In Sudan, pre-C29, the conflict situation was generally improving. However, there are security concerns linked to old Bashir regime loyalists.
<p>COVID-19 in Fragile Contexts: Reaching Breaking Point</p>	<p>Mercy Corps; Report</p>	<p>How will C19 impact fragile contexts? This report finds that secondary impacts on social and economic systems are already outweighing the direct health impacts, magnifying existing poverty and inequality and posing lasting challenges to resilience and peace. C19 is a threat multiplier and is amplifying existing drivers of fragility and violent conflict. E.g. The Horn of Africa is facing the worst desert locust swarms in over 25 years, endangering the food security of millions. Lebanon is facing multiple, mounting crises with wildfires, civil protests, and a growing economic and banking crisis. It recommends: supporting local markets;</p>

		<p>promoting peace and good governance; investing in climate adaptation; and addressing the specific needs of women and girls.</p>
<p>Covid-19 and Conflict: Advancing Women’s Meaningful Participation in Ceasefires and Peace Processes</p>	<p>Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and UN Women; Policy Brief</p>	<p>How can women be included in peace processes in the wake of C19? This brief highlights the importance of women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in C19 responses and in peacemaking efforts, and explains how the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda provides a framework for inclusive decision-making and sustainable solutions. C19 is disrupting efforts to end conflict, with gendered impacts. To build back better, it recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue calls and support for women’s meaningful participation in ceasefire and peace negotiations; ▪ Press for dedicated measures to promote women’s meaningful participation in formal negotiations; ▪ Increase financial and political support to women’s civil society organisations; ▪ Call for the inclusion of gender-responsive C19 commitments in agreements; ▪ Support multi-track peace processes; ▪ Ensure women are engaged as a vital constituency in the implementation of agreements; ▪ Apply a gender lens to navigating the shift to mediation over digital platforms; ▪ Ensure dedicated gender expertise to support the work of peace processes; ▪ Build back with smarter and more inclusive systems.

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
South Africa investigates allegations of corruption linked to billions in coronavirus relief	ABC News; News article	This news article discusses South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa's wide-ranging graft investigation into the C19 response, with corruption allegations linked to its historic \$36.6 billion economic relief package.
IMF loan: The 'anti-corruption clauses' in place to stop COVID looting	Tom Head; The South African; News article	This news article reports that South Africa's newly secured loan from the IMF to fight C19 has a number of anti-corruption clauses in the agreement.
Ninety companies, R2.2bn looted: 'COVID corruption' rips through SA	Tom Head; The South African; News article	This news article reports that at least 90 businesses in South Africa are suspected of setting up corrupt contracts with the health department, with one deal said to be worth around R125m relating to personal protective equipment (PPE) procurement in Gauteng.
Senate to probe 'unabated corruption' in PhilHealth	JC Gotinga; Rappler; News article	This news article reports that the Senate in The Philippines will open another investigation of alleged corruption in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) following the resignation of the state insurer's anti-fraud legal officer.
Review of India's Anti-Corruption Measures Pushed To 2021 Due to Covid-19	New Delhi Television Limited; News article	This news article reports that India's much-awaited Financial Action Task Force's mutual evaluation of India's anti-money laundering regime and legal measures framed to check financial crimes, scheduled for this year, has been postponed till early next year due to C19.

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Populist, Technocratic, and Authoritarian Responses to Covid-19	Claudia Landwehr & Armin Schäfer; Social Science Research Council; Article
Violence, Cybersex Trafficking, and Child Marriage Spike for Girls in Asia-Pacific During COVID-19	Madeleine Keck; Global Citizen; News
Thailand's school haircut controversy reflects authoritarian attitudes	Deutsche Welle; News
The IMF, Covid-19 and Anti-corruption: The story so far	M. Emilia Berazategui; Transparency International; Blog
Corruption and COVID-19	Vitor Gaspar, Martin Mühleisen & Rhoda Weeks-Brown; International Monetary Fund; Blog
WTO - European Union calls for more transparency on Coronavirus trade-related measures by WTO members	Baker McKenzie; Lexology; Blog
Exchange of tax information: a butterfly effect on domestic resource mobilisation	Zayda Manatta; OECD Development Matters; Blog
Under COVID-19, Domestic Violence Intensifies in Kazakhstan	Assem Almukhanbetkyzy & Kristi Eaton; The Diplomat; Article
Digital rights in the COVID-19 era	UN Human Settlements Program / UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; Press Release
Hunger rises as Covid-19 cases surge in Latin America	World Food Programme; News
Data governance and context for evidence-based medicine: Transparency and bias in COVID-19 times	George Anadiotis; ZDNet; Article

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Iraq on the brink	Adnan Bahiya; The Ecologist; Blog	How is C19 affecting conflict and governance in Iraq? This blog explains that while protests in Iraq abruptly halted at the beginning of C19, they re-emerged again last month. C19, and the oil price crash, have accentuated Iraq's problems, with protests starting in 2019 as a result of years of despair at rising poverty and unemployment, decaying health and education systems, falling literacy rates, and the erosion of women's rights. The current protests foreshadow greater turmoil for Iraq, unless the causes behind the protests are addressed.

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Yemen's Response to COVID-19: Part I	Raiman Al-Hamdani & Robert Wilson; Political Settlement Research Programme; Opinion
Yemen's Response to COVID-19: Part II	Raiman Al-Hamdani & Robert Wilson; Political Settlement Research Programme; Opinion
Enter the Fourth Horseman: Coronavirus and Middle East States in Conflict	Ian Parmeter; Australian Institute of International Affairs; Analysis
African mediation in the shadow of COVID-19	Mohamed El Hacem Lebatt; Accord; Analysis

PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Populism in the Post-COVID-19 World	The London School of Economics and Political Science; Video	In this video, LSE hosts a discussion on ways in which liberal democracies can respond to the challenge of authoritarian populism in a post-C19 world.
COVID-19 Experiences and Challenges in Fragile Contexts: Building Resilience to Future Shocks	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR); Webinar	In this webinar, UNDRR provides a platform to share information on C19 preparedness, response and recovery efforts with a focus on lessons learned, good practices, challenges and experiences in fragile contexts.
ODI Bites: Africa beyond Covid-19	Overseas Development Institute; Video	In this video, ODI hosts a discussion to explore what new approaches and enhanced forms of collaboration will need to be built between Africa and Europe beyond C19.
How Criminals Are Using PPE as a Money-Laundering Tool	Nick Holland; Bank Info Security; Interview	This interview explains how money launderers are developing new tactics during C19 e.g. by using PPE as a form of currency

EVENTS

05 August - 5: 00 pm- 6: 00 pm (BST) **BBL: Global Integrity's COVID-19 Fiscal Gov & Anti-Corruption Database**, Global Integrity – This event explores Global Integrity’s newly launched fiscal governance and anti-corruption database to seek for inputs and feedback.

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](#)

Geneva Call - [COVID-19 Armed Non-State Actors' Response Monitor](#)

Suggested citation

Herbert, S. (2020). *COVID-19 Conflict and Governance Evidence Summary No.11*. K4D Evidence Summary. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies.

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

Thanks to Priscilla Baafi for research assistance support, and Professor Heather Marquette for expert advice.

About this report

This 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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