



Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.12

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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: Yemeni [women's role in the C19 response](#), amidst war; how C19 has changed [the focus and urgency of governance discourses](#) more in six months than anything over the last decade; popular [pandemic messaging frames](#) from authoritarian actors; and how C19 intersects with [political tensions in Thailand](#).

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: the specific [risks and needs of girls](#) during C19; the [importance of trust](#) in effective C19 responses; and the dramatic implications of [rising food insecurity](#).

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
Five Authoritarian Pandemic Messaging Frames and How to Respond	Nad'a Kovalčíková and Ariane Tabatabai; The German Marshall Fund of the United States; Report	<p>How to respond to authoritarian messaging around C19? This report finds authoritarian actors like China, Iran and Russia are engaging in information-manipulation campaigns e.g. by portraying the US and Europe's responses as inadequate. Five common messaging frames used by authoritarian actors are: (a) rehabilitating China's image; (b) questioning the origins of the virus; (c) shifting the blame; (d) highlighting failures in democracies; and (e) promoting authoritarianism over democracy. This: complicated the public's ability to discern accurate information on public health from falsehoods; undermined trust in democratic institutions, facts, and data; and improved China's image. They recommend democracies ensure a more effective response to public health emergencies by: depoliticising their public-health responses; investing in rebuilding citizens' trust in the democratic system through enhanced transparency; and presenting expert voices in national and local media.</p>
COVID-19 and a Possible Political Reckoning in Thailand	International Crisis Group; Report	<p>Is C19 exacerbating tensions in Thailand? Drawing on interview data, this report finds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The global C19 slowdown will damage Thailand's economy, which is reliant on exports and tourism. The worst economic shock since the 1997-1998 will strain a society simmering with discontent and a political order that thwarts popular political participation.• Pre-C19, Thailand's economy was already faltering, and its political order was contested. C19 is likely to accelerate Thailand's extreme concentration of power and wealth and deepen

		<p>political divisions, which could trigger social, economic and political instability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The social consequences of the economic crisis should encourage developing a more pluralist political system that can build effective institutions, translate popular aims into policy, and a fairer distribution of wealth. This requires amending the 2017 constitution.
African Girls in the COVID-19 pandemic	Plan International; Policy Brief	<p>How is C19 impacting girls in Africa? This policy brief highlights that C19 may stymie progress made on adolescent girls' rights, especially as girls are forced to assume adult roles and care responsibilities. And as they face increased risks of violence, discrimination, and exclusion, which are often overlooked from C19 responses that do not address specific vulnerabilities and discrimination. Girls are particularly affected by female genital mutilation and gender based violence (GBV), due to harmful social norms and discrimination based on their age, gender etc. This brief recommends C19 responses: (a) protect adolescent girls from violence and harmful practices; (b) ensure continued education for adolescent girls during and after C19; and (c) meaningfully include adolescent girls in designing, planning, and implementing of C19 responses.</p>
Policy Brief: COVID-19 in an Urban World	United Nations; Policy Brief	<p>How is C19 shaping the urban world? This policy brief finds C19 is: (a) widening existing spatial, social, and economic inequalities in cities, making C19 more harmful in a self-perpetuating spiral; (b) highlighting the critical role of local governments and front-line responders in crisis response, recovery and rebuilding; (c) interrupting global value chains, devastating the hospitality, travel and tourism industries. It recommends: (a) tackling inequalities and development deficits; (b) strengthening the capacities of local actors, particularly local governments; and (c) pursuing a resilient, inclusive and green economic recovery.</p>
Sierra Leone: Flooding	ACAPS; Briefing note	<p>How will the rainy season affect Sierra Leone amidst C19? Related to C19, this briefing note explains that the height of the rainy season is expected in August, with 90% of Sierra Leone's</p>

	<p>yearly rainfall normally recorded in July and August. Western districts are particularly vulnerable due to their high population density, proximity to the coast and deforestation in the neighbouring hills. C19 has stretched the already limited health facilities capabilities which may limit access to adequate healthcare and authorities may face difficulties in providing socially distant shelter facilities.</p>
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Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
South Asia in the corona crisis: economic and political consequences	Christian Wagner & Tobias Scholz; German Institute for International and Security Affairs; Comment
CARE Rapid Gender Analysis for COVID-19: Cambodia – July 2020	CARE; Evaluation
Child marriage risks in the context of covid-19 in Ethiopia	Nicola Jones et al.; Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence; Policy Brief
Responses to Covid-19 and the Strengthening of Authoritarian Governance in Central Asia	Edward Lemon & Oleg Antonov; Central Asia Program; Paper
Historical tensions and contemporary governance challenges in Southeast Asia: The case of Indonesia	Ben Bland; Brookings Institute; Report
Singapore's COVID-19 Catastrophe: Authoritarian bungling, an infectious election, and an international humanitarian crisis	Fangpi Liao; Asia-Pacific Journal; Journal article
Political and institutional perils of Brazil's COVID-19 crisis	Lorena G. Barberia & Eduardo J. Gómez; The Lancet; Journal article
Passing the agility stress test. How EMEA private businesses are building resilience to manage the	Pricewaterhouse Coopers; Report

COVID-19 pandemic and beyond : Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) Private Business Survey 2020	
Commentary: How is COVID-19 Reshaping Labour Migration?	Demetrios G. Papademetriou & Kate Hooper; Journal of International Migration; Commentary
Local Leadership for Disaster Resilience: Profiles from Asia and the Pacific	Manu Gupta & Vijayalakshmi Viswanathan; United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction; Report
Introduction: COVID-19 and Authoritarian Creep in South and Southeast Asia	Jeff Kingston; Asia-Pacific Journal; Journal article

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Covid-19 in the Horn of Africa: gaining trust in a crisis	Annette Weber; German Institute for International and Security Affairs; Comment	How can Horn of Africa countries respond to C19 and build trust? This commentary explains how C19 is compounding the Horn of Africa countries' already multitude of challenges (prolonged armed conflict, drought and insecurity). They lack the capacities to contain C19, and to mitigate against unemployment, poverty and hunger. It recommends an emergency aid package, conditional on guaranteeing that the investment goes into developing state capacities for critical infrastructure and social security.
Macro Analysis of COVID-19 - Threats to Food Security and Livelihoods in Asia and the Pacific	World Food Programme; Analysis	How is C19 affecting food security and livelihoods in Asia and the Pacific? This macro analysis of C19 threats to food security and livelihoods in Asia and the Pacific finds:

- 175 million jobs in Asia and the Pacific may be lost. 52 million more people in Asia could become extreme poor.
- Afghanistan, Nepal, Timor-Leste and Pacific Island Countries are most at risk due to high dependency on food imports and remittances, and a drop in export revenues.
- Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, and Lao PDR also are likely to be severely affected by lost incomes and livelihoods.
- Conflict and insecurity compound the risk of hunger in some countries. GBV has been rising as security, health and financial worries, and confined living conditions heighten tensions.
- C19 responses have disrupted supply chains and labour availability, but not yet food production.
- Common natural hazards (drought, floods, landslides and storms) may jeopardise supplies and strain food security.
- Slum dwellers, informal labourers and low-paid daily wage workers from affected sectors like tourism and export industries are among those most at risk of hunger and malnutrition due to income loss. Very few of these groups have access to social protection systems.

Many Asia and Pacific governments have launched short-term emergency relief programmes. But many needy families are left out and require urgent attention.

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
The Corona-Virus Pandemic and its Impacts on Human Security in West Africa	Emmanuel Chukwueloke & Ejiroghene Augustine Oghuvbu; Acta Universitatis Danibus; Article

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Covid has put Governance at the heart of debates on Development, but how has it changed the questions we ask?	Graham Teskey; Oxfam From Power to Poverty; Blog	Has C19 changed the discourse on governance? This blog finds C19 has changed the focus and urgency of governance discourses more in six months than anything over the last decade. Practitioners are now challenged to transition from a general way of interpreting the world, to a more focused set of questions on the immediate C19 context. Pre-C19, practitioners interrogated five overarching questions: (a) the grand historical sweep; (b) the state of the state; (c) constraints to inclusive growth; (d) challenges of public service delivery; and (e) more effective projects. Post-C19, the questions relate to: (a) states becoming more introspective, competitive and distrustful; (b) explaining wide variations in state responsiveness; (c) the impact on state political accountability; (d) the impact on state political authority; and, still, (e) more effective projects.
Mexican president Amlo says he will wear mask 'when there is no corruption'	David Agren; The Guardian;	This news article reports that Mexico's president has said he will only wear a mask when the country eradicates corruption – a pledge made the day after Mexico surpassed the UK in total C19 deaths. Like his populist counterparts Jair

	News article	Bolsonaro and Donald Trump, the president has appeared sceptical over masks since the start of C19.
COVID-19 test chaos at Sierra Leone's Lungi Airport - officials accused of corruption	Abdul Rashid Thomas; Sierra Leone Telegraph; News article	This news article reports that passengers arriving Sierra Leone's Lungi International Airport last week were told to pay \$80 for a C19 test that does not exist, even those who had already taken a test in their country of departure. The authorities face accusations of conducting a scam.
Zimbabwe VP named health minister after Covid-19 scandal	BBC News; News article	This news article reports that Zimbabwe's Vice-President Constantino Chiwenga has been appointed as health minister, a month after the ministry was rocked by a corruption scandal about the procurement of C19 tests and equipment.
Covid-19 tender corruption 'a major blow for healthcare workers'	Vuyo Mkize; City Press; News article	This news article reports that as South Africa enters a new month and braces for the projected C19 peak, healthcare experts fear that swirling allegations and investigations into the C19 tender corruption scandal may deal the national C19 response its heaviest blow yet.
Booker prize-longlisted author Tsitsi Dangarembga arrested in Zimbabwe	Alison Flood, Jason Burke, & Nyasha Chingono; The Guardian; News article	This news article reports that Tsitsi Dangarembga, the award-winning Zimbabwean novelist nominated for the Booker prize longlist this week, has been arrested amid a sweeping crackdown by security agencies ahead of planned anti-corruption demonstrations. Tensions have risen recently as security agencies have sought to stifle widespread anger at soaring prices, inadequate public services and allegations of corruption at the highest levels of President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government.
15 staff at anti-corruption agency headquarters in Kathmandu test positive for coronavirus infection	Prithvi Man Shrestha; The Kathmandu Post; News article	This news article reports that fifteen employees at the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority, mostly police personnel, have tested positive for C19.

Deuba demands fair probe into alleged corruption in Covid-19 response	The Kathmandu Post; News article	This news article reports that the main opposition party has demanded an investigation into alleged irregularities and corruption in the procurement of C19 medical kits and protective gear.
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Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
COVID-19 has hit SMEs in South Africa's food sector hard. What can be done to help them	Andrew Bowman & Reena Das Nair; The Conversation; Blog
New Study From Spain Finds Keys to Resilience in the Pandemic	Jamie Aten; Psychology Today; Blog
While tackling COVID-19 Europe is being stalked by a shadow pandemic: Domestic violence	Nils Muiznieks; Amnesty International; News
Africa's COVID-19 diplomacy reflects its commitment to multilateralism and collective action	El-Ghassim Wane; Accord; Analysis
World Bank Group's Operational Response to COVID-19 (coronavirus) – Projects List	World Bank; Brief
Increased repression in Africa will dampen destabilising impact of pandemic	Indigo Ellis et al.; Verisk Maplecroft; Insight
COVID-19 and Authoritarian Regimes: China vrs. Russia	Yaroslav Shevchenko; Foreign Policy Research Institute; Analysis
Covid-19 and the epidemic of corrupt governments: 'A heart-wrenching, unscrupulous and filthy feeding frenzy'	Maverick Citizen; Arnold Tsunga; Article
'Ghetto presidents': musicians risk all to take on authoritarian rule in Africa	Jason Burke & Samuel Okiror; The Guardian; News
A Post-Covid-19 Social Compact Rooted in Openness and Citizen Engagement	Open Government Partnership; Resources

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Yemen's Response to COVID-19: Part III	Raiman Al-Hamdani & Robert Wilson; Political Settlement Research Programme; Blog	How are actors in Yemen responding to C19? This blog, the final in a three part series, explores the powerful role women play in Yemeni communities in responding to C19 throughout the current conflict. The ongoing challenges women face show how navigating gender equality issues in order to support their communities, is part of a broader complex challenge of taking on prominent roles in a traditionally patriarchal society. Varying levels of equality throughout the country, however, is also a reminder that to realise women's fullest potential as responders to C19, they must be supported more widely and included more broadly in deliberations about wider socio-political challenges on a long-term basis.

Blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Movement should be safe for migrants; not profitable for smugglers	Lucia Bird; Institute for Security Studies; Article
In Thailand's deep south conflict, a 'glimpse of hope', but no momentum to sustain a COVID-19 ceasefire	Caleb Quinley; The New Humanitarian; News
Deprioritised in the health response: fragility of refugees in the Middle East and North Africa region during the COVID-19 pandemic	Jasmin Lilian Diab & Dana Nabulsi; Identitie; Blog
Salvaging the Security Council's Coronavirus Response	Richard Gowan & Ashish Pradhan; International Crisis Group; Commentary

Covid-19 accelerates maritime insecurity in the Asia-Pacific	Asyura Salleh; Baird Maritime; Opinion
Attacks on health care in the context of COVID-19	World Health Organisation; News

PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Mediation or Militarization: Resolving Conflicts in the Age of Corona	London School of Economics and Political Science; Video	In this video, LSE hosts a seminar on the experiences of women peacebuilders from the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth network who have been mediating multi-party conflicts, and are now responding to C19 in conflict-settings.
"Waging war" against "a little flu" – Masculinities & COVID-19	London School of Economics and Political Science;	In this video, LSE hosts a discussion on how stereotypically 'male' and 'female' coded responses can be rethought, how popular culture influences these reactions and how they play out in everyday life with the view of disrupting these masculinised narratives and building everyday and institutional ways of responding to C19.
Funding Women Entrepreneurs on Mongolia's Covid Front Line	The Asia Foundation; Podcast	In this podcast, the Asia Foundation hosts a discussion on funding women entrepreneurs who are on the frontlines of Mongolia's fight against C19.

EVENTS

17 August – 13:00 – 14:00 *War and Pandemic: Is Peace Possible in Yemen?* Chatham House – This webinar explores the conflict in Yemen and the main obstacles to achieving a ceasefire amidst C19.

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](#)

ACLEED – [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](#)

International Idea Tracker - [Global state of democracy During C-19 tracker](#)

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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