



# Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.15

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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: [Intimate Partner Violence](#) during the COVID-19; the [resilience of African Food Systems](#), [Tackling the C19 youth employment crisis in Asia and the Pacific](#) and the impact that that C19 has had on [Myanmar's conflicts](#)

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: including: increasing [gender based violence](#) during C19; the [divides between people/groups](#) exacerbated by C19; 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
<p>Intimate Partner Violence during the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Impending Public Health Crisis in Africa</p>	<p>Brendah Nakyazze; The Anatolian Journal of Family Medicine; Journal Article</p>	<p>Is C19 exacerbating Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Africa? This article finds that the measures introduced to counter the spread of C19 have aggravated IPV in Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In South Africa, 87.000 complaints of gender-based violence were reported in the first week of imposing lockdown measures. The gender-based violence centre in Tshwane is also now receiving approximately 500 to 1,000 calls daily from women and children.</li> <li>In Kenya, C19 measures have increased the risk of gender-based violence with more vulnerable groups, such as women and children at risk of physical and sexual violence by relatives and intimate partners.</li> <li>In Uganda, 328 IPV related cases were reported to the police during the first two weeks lockdown measures were implemented.</li> <li>In Nigeria, IPV cases in Lagos state have doubled since lockdown was enforced due to the long hours couples in violent relationships spend together. The domestic violence response team in Lagos had to increase the number of help lines to manage the growing number of victims in need of their services.</li> </ul>
<p>The Vulnerability and Resilience of African Food Systems, Food Security, and Nutrition in the Context of</p>	<p>William G. Moseley and Jane Battersby; Cambridge Core; Commentary</p>	<p>Are food systems in Africa vulnerable/resilient in the wake of C19? Drawing on the four dimensions of food security, namely, availability, access, stability, and utilization to assess the vulnerability and resilience of African food systems in the context of C19, this commentary finds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vulnerability and resilience of African food systems is shaped by the particularities of place as well as by the position of various African countries in regional and global systems of economic exchange.</li> </ul>

<p>the COVID-19 Pandemic</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relative to the rest of the world, African food systems are less vulnerable to disruption by C19 in certain regards, including the somewhat later arrival of the disease on the continent (which allowed for some preparation, the youthfulness of the African population, the continent's experience fighting other infectious diseases, the persistence of subsistence food production and shorter food supply chains in some areas, and more limited urbanization in many areas of the continent.</li> <li>• Unfortunately, the continent's food, economic, and health systems are also more vulnerable in other ways, including economies and food systems that are exposed to global perturbations because of the increased importance of imports and exports, a limited segment of the population that can work remotely and maintain social distance, the impracticality of prolonged lockdowns, and the abundance of comorbidities.</li> </ul>
<p>Tackling the COVID-19 youth employment crisis in Asia and the Pacific</p>	<p>Asian Development Bank and International Labour Organization; Report</p>	<p>How has C19 affected youth employment in Asia and the Pacific? This report finds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people's employment prospects in Asia and the Pacific are severely challenged as a result of C19. Youth will be hit harder than adults in the immediate crisis and also will bear higher longer-term economic and social costs.</li> <li>• Nearly half of young workers in the region are employed in the four sectors – wholesale and retail trade and repair, manufacturing, rental and business services, and accommodation and food services – hit hardest by the crisis.</li> <li>• Youth unemployment rates in the region are rising quickly. Projections through the end of 2020 in 13 countries show sizable jumps, with youth unemployment rates doubling the 2019 rate in some cases.</li> </ul> <p>To address the youth employment crisis, governments in the region urgently need to adopt large-scale and targeted responses, centered on (a) comprehensive labour market policies including wage subsidies and public employment programmes, and (b) minimizing the impacts on young students of disrupting their education and training.</p>
<p>Immediate impact of</p>	<p>Jena Derakhshani</p>	<p>What has been the immediate impacts of C19 lockdown measures in Bangladesh? Using an interrupted time series</p>

<p>stay-at-home orders to control COVID-19 transmission on socioeconomic conditions, food insecurity, mental health, and intimate partner violence in Bangladeshi women and their families: an interrupted time series</p>	<p>Hamadani et al; The Lancet; Journal Article</p>	<p>to compare data before and after the C19 lockdown, this article finds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C19 and subsequent lockdown has seen the income of about half of families fall below \$1.90 per day. This is associated with a concerning reduction in food security and increase in moderate and severe food insecurity.</li> <li>• The lockdown has also increased symptoms of depression and anxiety, and exposed more women to intimate partner violence. 55.0% of women in rural areas and 48.7% in urban areas report having experienced physical or sexual violence from their husband.</li> </ul> <p>To ameliorate the impact of lockdown on family outcomes, it recommends: a) delivering welfare or other forms of social support to underwrite family income for affected families across economic strata and not just those initially considered low income; and b) local community services to protect the safety of women must be strengthened and supported, health workers could be trained in identification and intervention in cases of domestic violence, and it is crucial that services remain accessible to women even during lockdown.</p>
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### ***Extra papers – without summary***

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Resilience, Adaptation and Action MSI's Response to COVID-19	Marie-Stopes International; Briefing
The EIB COVID-19 Economic Vulnerability Index	European Investment Bank; Report
Addressing Violence against Women (VAW) under COVID-19 in Brazil	World Bank; Note

Southern and Eastern Africa covid-19 digest Situation Report	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; Situation Report
COVID-19: Approaches, Outlooks, and Power dynamics in Central Asia	Sophie Ibbotson; Asian Affairs; Journal Article
China and Asian Neighbors: A Crisis Test	A. I. Salitskij; EconPapers; Paper
Unspoken inequality: how COVID-19 has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities of asylum-seekers, refugees, and undocumented migrants in South Africa	Ferdinand C. Mukumbang et al.; International Journal for Equity in Health; Commentary
Transparency during global health emergencies	The Lancet; Editorial

## CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
How have Myanmar's conflicts been affected by COVID-19 and What should be done about it?	The Asia Foundation; Briefing Paper	<p>How has C19 affected conflicts in Myanmar? This briefing paper finds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The C19 crisis has not unfolded in Myanmar as many had anticipated, with only 350 confirmed cases and 6 deaths as of 28 July 2020, although rates of testing are comparatively low.</li> <li>• The C19 response has highlighted deep fragmentation across Myanmar society, in particular along ethnic lines.</li> <li>• Some useful cooperation between state and non-state institutions on C19 response points to the potential for new and ongoing relationship-building or reconciliation. However, uninterrupted fighting and renewed clashes have continued in the West, the North, and the Southeast.</li> <li>• Many international funders in Myanmar, who ordinarily target a variety of issues including</li> </ul>

		<p>peacebuilding, have pivoted toward public health and humanitarian support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigating the potentially devastating long-term effects of C19 on livelihoods and governance systems, and the fragile social fabric of conflict-affected communities in particular, remains crucial.</li> <li>• Focus must also remain on higher-level efforts to seek negotiated solutions to conflict and address the underlying causes of violence, while augmenting efforts for bottom-up support with incremental and small-scale peacebuilding initiatives.</li> </ul>
<p>Myanmar: Internet shutdown in Rakhine and Chin states</p>	<p>ACAPS, Briefing note</p>	<p>How has C19 impacted on conflict and civil liberties (access to information in Myanmar)? This briefing note provides an overview of internet access restrictions in areas of Myanmar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 21 June 2019, an internet shutdown has been in place across eight townships in Rakhine and Southern Chin states.</li> <li>• The internet shutdown is part of the central government's response to conflict between the Tatmadaw government forces and the Arakan Army (AA).</li> <li>• National elections are set for 8 November 2020. The internet shutdown limits people's access to information regarding the elections, their ability to provide feedback on outdated voter lists, and heightens the government's control of digital spaces.</li> <li>• The internet shutdown severely impacts information on COVID-19. The local population in Rakhine and Chin states are largely unaware of containment measures related to COVID-19.</li> </ul>

## BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

### GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
<p>Youth speak up about violence during COVID-19</p>	<p>United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund; Survey</p>	<p>Do young people in Latin America and the Caribbean believe that C19 has triggered violence in homes? Drawing on data collected from 3,932 adolescents and youth from 5 countries in the region, this survey finds that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21% of adolescents aged 13-17 report more arguments at home.</li> <li>• 57% of women, girls and adolescents spend more time on household chores during quarantine.</li> <li>• When there is tension at home, 31% of the young people mention management strategies such as generating spaces for family conversation.</li> <li>• Women and adolescents perceive more violence when there is tension at home. 29% of women and 31% of adolescents mention loud arguments and shouting.</li> <li>• 47% believe that children and adolescents are the most affected by stress in the home.</li> <li>• 53% believe that it is safer to ask for help by calling helplines.</li> </ul>
<p>Covid-19 has many lessons for African Civil Society Organisations</p>	<p>Maurice K. Nyambe; Transparency International; Blog</p>	<p>Does C19 present lessons for Civil Society Organisations in Africa? According to this blog, majority of CSOs in Africa have been severely affected by C19. The most common challenges facing these CSOs have been: a) the complete loss of funding bringing operations to a dramatic end; b) reduced funding, leading to major operational and structural challenges; and c) the inability to implement programme activities on account of governments' preventive measures against C19. These challenges present the following critical lessons for CSOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The time has come for CSOs to go beyond thinking about financial sustainability to actualising it.</li> <li>• C19 has shown the necessity for CSOs to adopt adaptive management approaches.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a continued need for flexibility and ingenuity in the way CSOs implement activities.</li> <li>• CSOs must step up collaborative advocacy to prevent corruption and general abuse of resources during emergencies.</li> </ul>
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### ***Extra blogs & news articles – without summary***

<b>Title/URL</b>	<b>Name of author; publisher; publication type</b>
A Pandemic Within a Pandemic Across Latin America	Lynn Marie Stephen; US News; Article
Violence Against Women Increasing During Pandemic	Natalie Seo; Voice of America
Faster Access to Better Financing for Emergency Response and Resilience in Kenya	World Bank; Brief
Maldives: Covid-19 Exposes Abuse of Migrants	Human Rights Watch; News
Post COVID-19: Rebuilding Africa and strengthening its resilience against future economic shocks	Charles Leyeka Lufumpa; African Development Bank Group; News
Sigma resilience index 2020: global resilience put to the pandemic test	Irina Fan et al.; Swiss Re; Article
On Covid-19 And Authoritarian Abuses	Caitlin Johnstone; Scoop; Opinion
Governments must do more to support victims of violence	United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner; Press Release

## CONFLICT

### *Blogs & news articles – without summary*

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
COVID-19 Exacerbates the Effects of Water Shortages on Women in Yemen	Margaret Habib; Wilson Center; Blog
Burkina Faso Records One Million Internally Displaced, Its Most Ever, as Violence Rages Amid COVID-19	International Organisation for Migration; Press Release
As Elections Approach, Special Representative Urges Somalia's Leaders to Agree on Voting Modalities, Bolster National Forces, in Security Council Briefing	United Nations; Press Release
The first coup d'état of the coronavirus era	The Washington Post, News article
Corruption Amid A Pandemic	The Asean Post, News Article
EC Health Department denies allegations of COVID-19 corruption, fraud	Eyewitness News, News Article
Another disease plagues Brazil COVID fight: corruption	Yahoo Finance, News Article

## PODCASTS & VIDEOS

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
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Coping with COVID-19: Building Farmers' Resilience - Episode 11	International Fund for Agricultural Development; Podcast	In this podcast, IFAD hosts a discussion to explore how farmers are building their resilience amidst C19 - with a focus on Latin America.
ILSI Asia COVID 19 Webinar Food System Resilience and Sustainability Impact, Learnings & the Futu	International Life Sciences Institute; Webinar	In this video ILSI hosts a webinar to explore the challenges and opportunities for long term sustainability and resilience of the food system particularly in Asia.
Bribery and corruption and successor liability in distressed M&A: Assessing risk in times of Covid-19	Slaughter and May, Podcast	In a podcast Tim Blanchard, Filippo de Falco, Sir David Green CB QC and Ella Williams assess bribery and corruption risk and successor liability in the context of distressed M&A in COVID-19 times.

## EVENTS

7 September [14:00 to 17:00 (GMT)] & 8 September [08:30 to 11:30 (GMT)] [Policies for Enhancing Resilience and Transparency in Public and Private Finance Management in post COVID-19 Africa](#), African Development Bank Group – This event will bring together global experts and practitioners in macro-economic, fiscal, monetary and private finance policy to specifically examine policy options for prudential management of private and public finance and debt sustainability in a post-C19 Africa.

## 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](#)

## 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 separate searches of Google and ReliefWeb with the keywords:

("COVID-19" OR "coronavirus") AND ("developing countries" OR "Africa" OR "Asia" OR "Middle East" OR "Latin America" OR "Pacific") AND ("conflict" OR "peace" OR "violence" OR "resilience" OR "fragility")

("COVID-19" OR "coronavirus") AND ("authoritarian\*" OR "democra\*" OR "corrupt\*" OR "transparency" OR "state legitimacy" OR "non-state actors" OR "state capacity" OR "state authority" OR "politic\*" OR "state institutions")

Plus separate searches of Google Scholar with the keywords:

("COVID-19" OR "coronavirus") AND ("developing countries" OR "Africa" OR "Asia" OR "Middle East" OR "Latin America" OR "Pacific")

("COVID-19" OR "coronavirus") AND ("developing countries" OR "Africa" OR "Asia" OR "Middle East" OR "Latin America" OR "Pacific") AND ("conflict" OR "peace" OR "violence" OR "resilience" OR "fragility")

("COVID-19" OR "coronavirus") AND ("authoritarian\*" OR "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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