



Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary No.24

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30 October 2020

This Covid-19, Conflict, and Governance Evidence Summary aims to signpost the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and other UK government departments to the latest evidence and opinions on Covid-19 (C19), to inform and support their responses.

From this week onwards this summary will be fortnightly, not weekly.

This week, features resources on: how to [adapt programming to be conflict-sensitive](#) in a public health emergency; and how C19 is shaping [protest in northeast India](#), [conflict in Myanmar's Kachin State](#), and (along with online technologies) [conflict in Southeast Asia](#).

Many of the core C19 themes continue to be covered this week, including: the gendered impacts of C19 (related to [livelihoods](#), and to [protection and health](#)); how C19 is [exacerbating fragility](#); and how to mitigate [authoritarian tendencies](#) (through sunset clauses).

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
States of Fragility 2020	OECD; Report	<p>What are global trends in fragility in 2020? Related to C19, this report highlights that by exacerbating existing fragilities, the systemic shock of C19 will have serious implications for people, planet and prosperity. It will aggravate existing multidimensional risks and strain the coping capacities of those least able to cope. This is most apparent in health and education, the building blocks of sustainable development in fragile contexts. Fragile contexts may also be among the hardest hit from reductions in external finance, foreign direct investment and remittances, with impacts on tax revenues and significant debt risks.</p> <p>It calls for a focus on fragility to mitigate C19 impacts and to build back better by resourcing resilience, restoring livelihoods, and supporting people's potential and well-being. This calls especially for supporting human capital through investment in health (including nutrition), education and social protection. Efforts to support the access of fragile contexts to domestic and international financing should include mechanisms to reduce the volatility of financial flows and prepare for so-called black swan events.</p>

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
Strengthening livelihoods and preventing child marriage in times of COVID-19	World Vision; Report

COVID-19 and Indigenous peoples in Chile: vulnerability to contagion and mortality	Pablo Millalen et al.; AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples; Journal Article
COVID-19: Reflecting on the role of the WHO in knowledge exchange between the Global North and South	Aniekan Ekpenyong and Mariana Soto Pacheco; Global Social Policy Journal; Journal Article
The Pandemic Has Hit a World Which Was Already in Deep Trouble	Sharan Burrow; International Union Rights Journal; Journal Article
Exploring educational lives of the excluded youth under COVID-19 in the SADC region	Manoah Muchanga; Jet Education Service; Report
Lessons Learned from Japan's Response to the First Wave of COVID-19: A Content Analysis	Kazuki Shimizu and Masashi Negita; Healthcare; Journal Article
The struggle over authoritarian pressures in Slovenia in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic	Danica Fink-Hafner; Journal of Politički život; Journal Article

CONFLICT

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Conflict Sensitivity & Public Health Emergencies Practical Programming Adaptation During COVID-19 and Beyond	Sabina Robillard et al.; CDA Collaborative Learning; Guidance	<p>How to adapt programming to be conflict-sensitive in a public health emergency? This guidance note highlights the interconnected nature of conflict, humanitarian crises, and public health emergencies and responses. It make recommendations and provides practical tools to devise conflict sensitive programming for public health practitioners, for peacebuilders and humanitarians, and for donors. E.g. to adapt conflict programming to public health emergencies it recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work to understand basic underlying health disparities • Create a systems map for conflict analysis to anticipate how public health

		<p>emergencies may affect underlying conflict dynamics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out basic Do No Harm and conflict analysis. • Map out how a public health emergency might affect Dividers, Connectors, and local capacities for peace. • Create a programming matrix to identify areas where public health emergencies may affect projects and operations.
<p>COVID-19: Impact on gender dynamics in the livelihoods sector within crisis-affected countries</p>	<p>ACAPS; Report</p>	<p>How has C19 impacted gender dynamics in the livelihoods sector within crisis-affected countries globally? Drawing on literature review, including 35 gender analyses (from March to Sept), this report finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both women and men have increased unpaid care responsibilities in the household, but women and girls have the biggest share. The long-term overburdening of paid and unpaid work during C19 is likely to undermine physical and mental wellbeing. • C19 containment measures have caused the loss of income and jobs for both men and women, with a direct impact on household gendered power relations. Women are more affected by job losses as they are overrepresented in the services sector and slightly in the informal sector. • Adapted production (e.g. masks, hygiene products) was a successful strategy adopted by men, women, and youth to secure income, and have the potential to ease the economic inclusion of marginalised groups. • Both men and women suffered from reduced access to financial services and income sources, including remittances and loans. Men were more likely to be better equipped for financial difficulties with wider access to stable banking services and, some had more flexible repayment terms. • As competition for sources of income increases within families, women and girls with weaker tenure rights risk losing

		<p>profitable assets to male relatives, compromising future livelihood, income, and investment opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and men in the informal economy face more difficulties in the economic crisis because they lack social safety nets and savings. Particularly at-risk are trans, female, and male sex workers (with higher risks of abuse from clients), and female domestic workers (with higher risks of exploitation from abusive employers). • Data so far seems to confirm that gender inequalities are likely to widen during epidemics. As a consequence, the risk of economic violence against women and children increases as: livelihood opportunities and income are restricted; access to work and schools is restricted; and as financial dependence may increase (and therefore more exposure to economic discrimination and abuse).
<p>COVID-19 secondary impacts on health- and protection-related issues</p>	<p>ACAPS; report</p>	<p>How has C19 affected gender-based violence (GBV), healthcare provision and access, and other health-related risks in crisis-affected countries globally? Drawing literature review, including 12 gender assessments (from April to May), this report finds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicative data shows that women and girls who are increasingly confined and cut off from outside activities may be progressively exposed to domestic violence and other forms of GBV and potentially have less access to formal and informal support networks. • The temporary or longer-term closure or disruption of many sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services around the world may result in lifelong health implications, unwanted pregnancies, maternal deaths, and restrictions on women and girls' SRH decision-making. • People may be exposed to mental health strains, which is likely to be gendered.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBTQI+ individuals may face notable barriers to accessing health services. • As more water may be needed to ensure adequate C19 sanitary conditions, women and girls may lack access to safe and adapted facilities and may bear the burden of fetching water, stealing time from employment or study. • Food insecurity is gendered. Women are more likely to face food insecurity than men and are more susceptible to malnutrition. • Children exposed to the secondary impacts of C19, may face increased likelihood of child marriage, forced labour, or female genital mutilation (FGM). • Older women and men, and people with disabilities, are exposed to increased risks of neglect and/or abuse with reduced community support systems and strained oversight. • Women healthcare workers are exposed to more pressures than their male colleagues, including physical and mental health strain.
<p>How Covid-19 and Conflict Intersect in Kachin State</p>	<p>The Asia Foundation; Report</p>	<p>How has C19 affected conflict in Kachin State, Myanmar? So far C19 has not had a big impact on Kachin State in terms of health or conflict dynamics. However, its risks include its: long land border with China; high population of displaced people; and recurring conflict since the 2011 ceasefire breakdown. C19 has unfolded against a backdrop of decreasing levels of active conflict, and promising signs of improved relations between minority groups. However, conflict risks remain high in neighbouring Northern Shan State. Kachin State is also ground zero for geopolitical struggles and domestic debates about China's influence. The intersection of foreign strategies with local conflict dynamics affect the C19 response and conflict resolution efforts. The major C19 burden has fallen on community networks and organisations, now at risk of being overwhelmed. Donors must prioritise</p>

		mitigating the potentially disastrous impact of C19 on livelihoods, civic networks, and the social fabric of conflict-affected communities.
Violent Conflict, Tech Companies, and Social Media in Southeast Asia	The Asia Foundation; Report	<p>How is C19 shaping violent conflict moved online in Southeast Asia during C19? This paper finds online spaces are the new frontier of conflict and violence in Southeast Asia, with the internet being an important space for civic dialogue as well as more harmful behaviour. Related to C19, it finds in some cases C19 has led to new cooperation on the ground between traditionally antagonistic actors. But governments and armed groups have also looked to use C19 as a chance to gain territory or to win the propaganda war. Governments have tried to take advantage of C19 to introduce new online surveillance measures that exceed what is needed to trace suspected carriers and that may reinforce existing inequities and norms.</p> <p>Fear of the pandemic has unleashed waves of ethnic prejudice in many countries as people have turned against minority groups or migrants for allegedly spreading infection. These identity-based tensions have not escalated out of control though, however, even in countries with a history of unrest. Since the violence was triggered by fear and rumour, and in most cases was not actively stoked by political mobilizers and their online networks, it has mostly remained in check, and public order has been upheld or rapidly restored. What is more, as C19 has become increasingly widespread, its association with specific groups has weakened.</p>
COVID-19 and political unrest in Northeast India	Indrajit Sharma; ACLED; Analysis	How is C19 affecting political unrest in northeast India? This blog finds that demonstration events were down 40% between the March lockdown and September, compared to previous periods, due to fear of infection and the government's lockdown restrictions. But from mid-June onwards, demonstration activity increased again, with some related to C19 – e.g. calls

		<p>for financial assistance, increased rations, and better healthcare infrastructure.</p> <p>C19 also triggered state repression, with an increase in attacks on civilians by state forces, a majority of which were related to lockdown enforcement. After lockdown, state forces conducted raids and arrests on insurgent groups, despite a decline in violence from them since 2016. And it is accused of misusing lockdown measures to carry out unpopular activities despite public opposition.</p> <p>Increased state repression in the northeast — coupled with public discontent surrounding the management of C19 — could lead to another wave of political unrest going forward. While an increased security presence during C19 has restricted the operations of armed insurgent groups in the region, these groups remain active, exploiting C19 to undermine the government. Rising unemployment in the region is pushing frustrated youth towards joining insurgent groups, and there is continued concern for peace and stability in the region.</p>
<p>A Reckoning Postponed? The Defence Arithmetic of the Integrated Review</p>	<p>Malcolm Chalmers; RUSI; Occasional paper</p>	<p>How is the UK defence sector impacted by delays to the government’s Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)? This paper argues that by delaying the multi-year CSR, the Integrated Review has been disrupted and decisions on long-term defence priorities may now have to wait until a full CSR, in 2021 or 2022. This includes decisions over the Ministry of Defence’s two largest procurement programmes of the next decade and beyond – the Future Combat Air System and the Future Nuclear Warhead System.</p>

Extra papers – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
On the Brink: Displacement-affected communities in Afghanistan during the Covid-19 pandemic	Norwegian Refugee Council; Briefing Note

BLOGS & NEWS ARTICLES

GOVERNANCE

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Can sunset clauses live up to their promise?	Franklin De Vrieze and Sean Molloy; Westminster Foundation for Democracy; blog	Can sunset clauses live up to their promise? This blog finds that experience from anti-terrorism legislation related to the “war on terror” suggests that notwithstanding the theoretical merits of sunset clauses, their effect in practice is often determined by the review processes. While they can reinject democratic accountability and evidence-based review, they can also serve merely to rubber stamp existing powers. They can exist on paper but have little impact in practice. They can be renewed on an ongoing basis, often with little or insufficient scrutiny. Thus, adherence to sunset clauses must itself be scrutinised and lessons must be drawn from other contexts to inform the review processes that accompany them

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type
The Human Face of COVID-19: Six Things to Consider for an Inclusive Recovery	Maitreyi Bordia Das; World Bank; Blog
From Lab to Online Research: a Transition Full of Challenges	Theodoros Alysandratos et al.; Ace Global Integrity; Blog
FEATURE: Nepal – Managing misinformation during COVID-19	Suresh Chandis and Bikin Ghimire; Climate & Development Knowledge Network; Blog
Resilience in the time of COVID-19	Keabetswe Mmolawa; World Bank; Blog
The role of development finance institutions in supporting jobs during Covid-19 and beyond	Dirk Willem te Velde and Matthew Gouett; ODI; Blog
Rule of law and COVID-19: the need for clarity, certainty, transparency and coordination	Joelle Grogan; LSE; Blog

PODCAST

Extra blogs & news articles – without summary

Title/URL	Name of author; publisher; publication type	Summary
Majandra's Journey: Climate, Covid and Care	Oxfam; Podcast	In this podcast, Oxfam hosts a discussion on gender, intersectionality, youth activism and the environment.

EVENTS

3 November 2020 - 12pm to 2pm (GMT) Malaysia – Understanding Different Needs Through Gender Budgeting in COVID-19 and beyond: Accountability, Transparency and Effectiveness, Westminster Foundation for Democracy – This event explores gender budgeting in Malaysia during C19.

10 December 2020 - 17:00 to 18:00 (BST) Covid-19 and development: queer & feminist perspectives in South Asia, Institute of Development Studies – This event explores the views of queers and feminists in South Asia on C19 and development.

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](#)

University of Oxford - [Coronavirus Government Response Tracker](#)

UNDP - [COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](#)

K4D - [COVID-19 Evidence Search](#)

ACAPS – [Secondary impacts of C19](#)

OECD States of Fragility - [Covid-19, Crises, and Fragility](#)

Suggested citation

Herbert, S. (2020). *COVID-19 Conflict and Governance Evidence Summary No.24*. 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 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 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

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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