

COVID-19 evidence and information resources for slums and other resource constrained urban settings

Guidelines & policy briefs

Research evidence

News & blog articles

Other info & resources

Highlights (Last updated 31 July 2020)

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NIHR Global Health Research Unit for Improving Health in Slums

FUNDED BY

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Highlights

As the world embraces the full force of the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to contemplate what to do next and what the longer-term consequences are, the challenges faced by slum residents and people who work with them cannot be more evident.

From policy planning and service delivery perspectives, a couple dominating themes can be gleaned from [policy briefs and guidelines produced by key stakeholders](#) and the [mixed successes and failures of the actions](#) taken by authorities in different parts of the world:

- While COVID-19 is a major health risk and a particular concern for slums due to their population density and physical and social environment, the threat poses by any policies to control the disease towards maintaining the basic livelihood of slum residents could easily tip the balance and cause even greater and immediate harm.
- Each slum is unique. Multi-sectorial collaborations, coordinated across national, regional and local levels that take stock of the existing knowledge and network of the residents and of organisations already working for them, and that make use of innovative technologies and ways of working, are required.

It is inspiring to see the many [community actions and social responses](#) observed across different regions of the globe, and [the innovative ways of sharing the experiences and concerns](#) of slum residents during this difficult time. However the true scale and impact of the pandemic is only [starting to emerge](#), and there have been many stories of adverse circumstances experienced by slum residents among the [new coverage](#). Systematic collection of data that could provide a comprehensive picture remains challenging. [Our Collaborative has been working hard](#) and will continue to work with slum communities to safeguard and improve the health and wellbeing of people who live in slums.

Background

Aim

This file/document aims to collate key research evidence and other publicly available information that may help with understanding and dealing with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The information should be valuable for everyone, although the primary audience for this file/document are key stakeholders who are working for/with residents of slums and other resource-constrained urban settings.

Aspiration

This information resources is intended to be a 'living' file/document that is continued to be updated. The initial content is drawn from generic international literature and other information gathered from research partners of the Improving Health in Slums Collaborative, who are primarily based in Bangladesh, Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan and UK. It is hoped that the content and format of this file/document will continue to evolve and improve, with its geographic coverage expanded while its focus more specialised to become a prime resource for people who endeavour to improve health in slums and beyond in the face of COVID-19.

From the Improving Health in Slums Collaborative

Independent University, Bangladesh (July 2020) – mini policy brief

In Brief - COVOICES: Bangladesh

African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) (June 2020) - newsletter

COVID-19 and Community Healthcare: Access and utilization of healthcare services in Nairobi's urban slums

Mini Policy Brief (May 2020) – mini policy brief

In Brief COVOICES: Pakistan

NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) West Midlands (22 May 2020) – news blog

Sartori J. Preventing COVID-19 transmission in slums

NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) West Midlands (27 March 2020) – news blog

Omigbodun A & Lilford R. COVID-19: Locking down urban settlements in Sub-Saharan Africa

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From the Improving Health in Slums Collaborative

University of Ibadan – slum health related media coverage

Press releases

[The Punch](#)

[The Guardian](#)

[Business Day Newspaper](#)

[The Independent Newspaper](#)

[The Sun Newspaper](#)

[News Agency of Nigeria](#)

[New Nigerian Newspaper](#)

[Oyo Insight](#)

Opinion editorial

[This Day](#)

[Business Day Newspaper](#)

[Daily Independent Newspaper](#)

[Voice of Nigeria](#)

[Oyo Insight News](#)

Policy briefs, guidelines and statements – slum related

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) (6 May 2020)

Interim guidance: Public health and social measures for COVID-19 preparedness and response operations in low capacity and humanitarian settings (Version 1)

UN-Habitat & UNICEF (May 2020)

Interim technical note on water, sanitation and hygiene for COVID-19 response in slums and informal urban settlements

World Health Organization (28 April 2020)

Strengthening Preparedness for COVID-19 in Cities and Urban Settings - Interim Guidance for Local Authorities

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Policy briefs, guidelines and statements – slum related

Social Science in Humanitarian Action (SSHA, May 2020)

Key considerations for COVID-19 management in marginalised populations in Southeast Asia: transnational migrants, informal workers, and people living in informal settlements

United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures (23 April 2020)

COVID-19 Guidance Note: Protecting residents of informal settlements

United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures (23 April 2020)

COVID-19 Guidance Note: Protecting residents of informal settlements

Policy briefs and practical guidelines

Social Science in Humanitarian Action (SSHA, March 2020)

Key considerations: COVID-19 in informal urban settlements

Infographic summary

LOCAL ACTION AND HOW TO SUPPORT IT



LOCAL ORGANISATION

COVID-19 responses should be organised through community groups and structures, taking into account power dynamics and political histories.



COMMUNICATION FOR COVID-19

Clear information and advice which is relevant to urban settings is needed. Social media and radio can be used for advocacy, mobilisation, and information sharing.



LOCAL STRATEGIES FOR PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Distancing measures should be developed by communities to allow for local adaptations, and to consider each settlement's social and physical characteristics.



RESPONSE FATIGUE AND EMPOWERMENT

Recurrent emergencies may lead to fatigue. Local groups must be given a real sense of control and be appropriately resourced.



MANAGING DEATHS

Plans for managing deaths and burials should be made with local communities. Failure to do so will increase individual and collective trauma.



RESOURCES AND PARTNERSHIP

Financial and non-financial resources are urgently needed to facilitate the development and implementation of local strategies in partnership with local government.

SSHA Platform (covering many COVID-19 related briefings and other social science related)

Not secure | socialscienceinaction.org

S I B C F R (res) Emergency Response Platform Ebola Response Anthropology Platform

Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform

Vision Types of Emergency Social Dimensions Regions

SSHAP works with networks of social and communication experts with regional and subject expertise to provide rapid insight, analysis and advice on critical dimensions of emergency and response. [Find out more](#)

[Suggest a topic for a rapid response briefing](#)

Updates on the novel COVID-19 outbreak for responders

Our work focuses on the social dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Cross-cutting themes are the political economy of the epidemic and responses to it, diverse forms of knowledge and experience, state-society relationships, history and context.

[Sign up for our newsletter](#) [SSHAP_action](#)

Key themes: Vulnerabilities and precarity

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Policy briefs and practical guidelines – slum related

WHO, IFRC, OCHA (22 April 2020)

COVID-19: How to include marginalized and vulnerable people in risk communication and community engagement (19 March 2020)

Update #1 - COVID-19: How to include marginalized and vulnerable people in risk communication and community engagement (22 April 2020)

United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) (April 2020)

UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response Plan

United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) (30 March 2020)

UN-Habitat Covid-19 Policy and Programme Framework

Policy briefs, guidelines and statements – slum related

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) (27 March 2020)

States must combat domestic violence in the context of COVID-19 lockdowns – UN rights expert

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) (18 March 2020)

“Housing, the front line defence against the COVID-19 outbreak,” says UN expert

IFRC, IOM, UNHCR and WHO (17 March 2020)

Interim guidance on scaling-up COVID-19 outbreak in readiness and response operations in camps and camp-like Settings

COVID-19 practical guidelines (all settings)

WHO technical guidance

- Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19
- Country-level coordination, planning, and monitoring
- Surveillance, rapid response teams, and case investigation
- National laboratories
- Clinical care
- Infection prevention and control / WASH
- Risk communication and community engagement
- COVID-19 Critical items & essential supplies forecasting tool
- Guidance for schools, workplaces & institutions
- Early investigations protocols
- Points of entry and mass gatherings
- Health workers
- Maintaining essential health services and systems

WHO (1 June 2020)

Maintaining essential health services: operational guidance for the COVID-19 context

**UNICEF, WHO and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
(24 February 2020)**

Social Stigma associated with COVID-19: A guide to preventing and addressing social stigma

Other general guidelines and briefs

UNICEF (2020)

Minimum quality standards and indicators in community engagement

**Measles & Rubella Initiative: American Red Cross, U.S. CDC, UNICEF, UN Foundation and WHO
(14 April 2020)**

More than 117 million children at risk of missing out on measles vaccines, as COVID-19 surges

United Nations High-Level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises (2016)

Protecting humanity from future health crises

Research evidence

Knowledge, attitude
& behaviour

Epidemiology &
risk modelling

Health service
planning & delivery

Policy, planning and
social response

Evidence
maps

Evidence
summaries

Research: Knowledge, attitude & behaviour

Surveys

Kim A W, et al. Evaluating the Mental Health Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Urban South Africa: Perceived Risk of COVID-19 Infection and Childhood Trauma Predict Adult Depressive Symptoms. [Preprint] medRxiv

Abuya T, et al. COVID-19-related knowledge, attitudes, and practices in urban slums in Nairobi, Kenya, 2020, Harvard Dataverse, V7.

Experience from Ebola outbreak

Campbell L. Learning from the Ebola Response in cities: Population movement. ALNAP Working Paper. 2017 London: ALNAP/ODI.

Campbell L, Miranda Morel L.. Learning from the Ebola Response in cities: Communication and engagement ALNAP Working Paper. 2017 London: ALNAP/ODI.

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Research evidence – epidemiology (1)

Prevalence study

Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. **SARS-CoV2 Sero-Prevalence Study in Mumbai; NITI Aayog–BMC-TIFR Study - First Round Report.**

Reports of cases

Tambe MP, Parande MA, Tapare VS, Borle PS, Lakde RN, Shelke SC, et al. **An epidemiological study of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases admitted in a tertiary care hospital of Pune, Maharashtra.** Indian Journal of Public Health. 2020;64(Supplement):S183-7.

- Full-text accessible only from LMICs; reported that the majority of cases came from slums

Research evidence – epidemiology (2)

Transmission of other viral infection in slums (not COVID-19)

1. Goes LGB, et al. **Typical epidemiology of respiratory virus infections in a Brazilian slum.** J Med Virol 2019; 10.1002/jmv.25636. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jmv.25636>
2. Verma R, et al. **Community perception about swine flu in an urban slum of Haryana: A cross-sectional study.** J Family Med Prim Care 2018;7:1515-20. http://dx.doi.org/10.4103/jfmprc.jfmprc_151_18
3. Adiga A, et al. **Disparities in spread and control of influenza in slums of Delhi: findings from an agent-based modelling study.** BMJ Open 2018;8:e017353. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2017-017353>
4. Rahman M, et al. **Molecular analysis of amantadine-resistant influenza A (H1N1 pdm09) virus isolated from slum dwellers of Dhaka, Bangladesh.** Virus Genes 2017;53:377-85. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11262-017-1447-x>
5. Gurav YK, et al. **Influenza A(H1N1)pdm09 outbreak detected in inter-seasonal months during the surveillance of influenza-like illness in Pune, India, 2012-2015.** Epidemiol Infect 2017;145:1898-909. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/s0950268817000553>
6. Rahman SR, et al. **Effect of risk factors on the prevalence of influenza infections among children of slums of Dhaka city.** Springerplus 2016;5:602. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s40064-016-2275-5>

COVID-19: Research evidence – epidemiology (3)

Transmission of viral infection in slums (not COVID-19)

7. Oliveira CR, et al. **Influenza-like illness in an urban community of Salvador, Brazil: incidence, seasonality and risk factors.** BMC Infect Dis 2016;16:125. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12879-016-1456-8>
8. Judd MC, et al. **The Role of HIV in the Household Introduction and Transmission of Influenza in an Urban Slum, Nairobi, Kenya, 2008-2011.** J Infect Dis 2015;212:740-4. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jiv106>
9. Islam MA, et al. **Antigenic and genetic characterization of influenza B viruses in 2012 from slums, Dhaka, Bangladesh.** Southeast Asian J Trop Med Public Health 2015;46:611-5.
10. Goutard FL, et al. **How to reach the poor? Surveillance in low-income countries, lessons from experiences in Cambodia and Madagascar.** Prev Vet Med 2015;120:12-26. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2015.02.014>
11. Doshi S, et al. **Household-level risk factors for influenza among young children in Dhaka, Bangladesh: a case-control study.** Trop Med Int Health 2015;20:719-29. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/tmi.12475>
12. Breiman RF, et al. **Severe acute respiratory infection in children in a densely populated urban slum in Kenya, 2007-2011.** BMC Infect Dis 2015;15:95. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12879-015-0827-x>

COVID-19: Research evidence – epidemiology (4)

Transmission of viral infection in slums (not COVID-19)

13. Imai C, et al. **Tropical influenza and weather variability among children in an urban low-income population in Bangladesh.** Glob Health Action 2014;7:24413. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/gha.v7.24413>
14. Schwanke Khilji SU, et al. **Distribution of selected healthcare resources for influenza pandemic response in Cambodia.** Int J Equity Health 2013;12:82. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1475-9276-12-82>
15. Bigogo GM, et al. **Epidemiology of respiratory syncytial virus infection in rural and urban Kenya.** J Infect Dis 2013;208 Suppl 3:S207-16. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/infdis/jit489>
16. Abdullah Brooks W, et al. **Influenza A and B infection in children in urban slum, Bangladesh.** Emerg Infect Dis 2007;13:1507-8. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid1310.070368>

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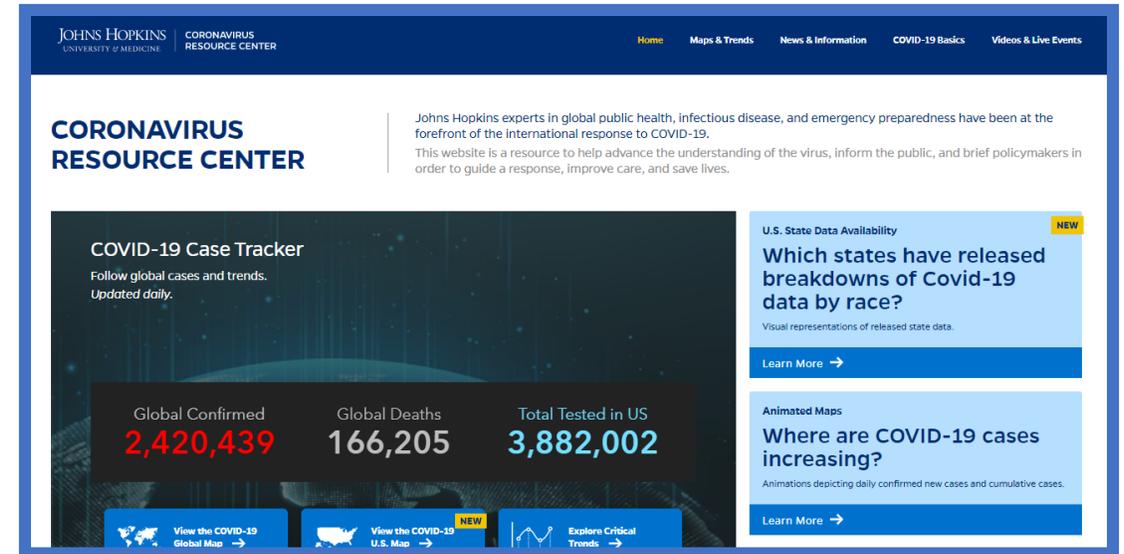
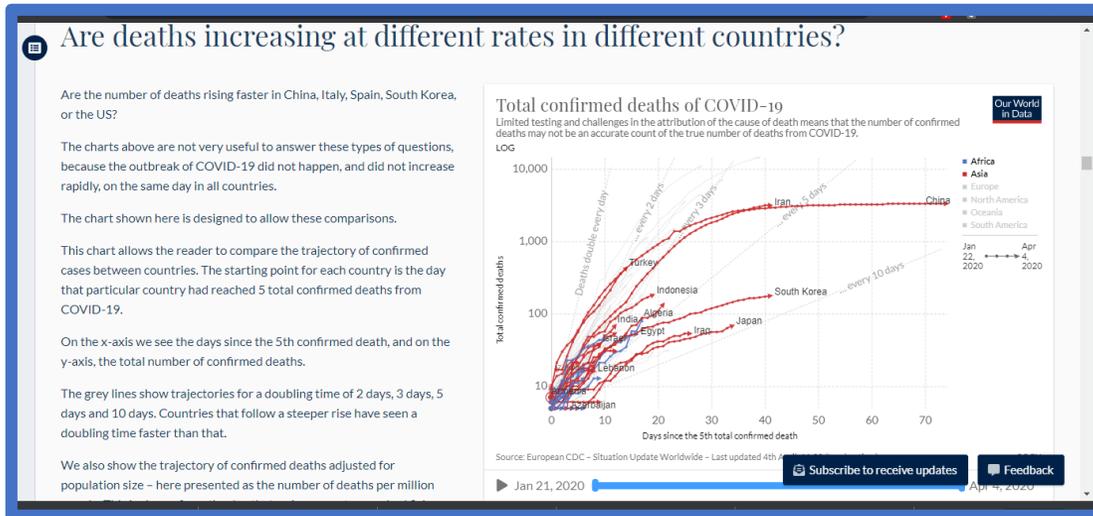
Research evidence – COVID-19 national data

Our World in Data (University of Oxford)

International COVID-19 statistics presented in interactive formats, based on data from the European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center

Global cases and trends, updated daily; news and info



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Service delivery & planning

Service delivery

Chatterjee PK. **Community preparedness for COVID-19 and frontline health workers in Chhattisgarh.** Indian Journal of Public Health. 2020;64(Suppl):S102-4.

Feasibility – identifying high risk areas

Gibson L et al. **Novel Coronavirus in Cape Town Informal Settlements: Feasibility of Using Informal Dwelling Outlines to Identify High Risk Areas for COVID-19 Transmission From A Social Distancing Perspective.** JMIR Public Health and Surveillance 2020;6(2):e18844.

Policy, planning & social response

Discussion papers & news

Salamanca JDG, Vargas G. **Quarantine and Informality: Reflections on the Colombian Case.** Space and Culture. 2020;23(3):307-14.

Patel A. **Preventing COVID-19 Amid Public Health and Urban Planning Failures in Slums of Indian Cities.** World Medical & Health Policy. Published online 14 July 2020.

Ortega F, Orsini M. **Governing COVID-19 without government in Brazil: Ignorance, neoliberal authoritarianism, and the collapse of public health leadership.** Global Public Health. 2020:1-21.

Stiegler N, Bouchard J-P. **South Africa: Challenges and successes of the COVID-19 lockdown.** Ann Med Psychol (Paris). 2020. Published online 27 May 2020.

de Oliveira Andrade R. **The Brazilian slums hiring their own doctors to fight covid-19 [news].** BMJ. 2020;369:m1597.

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Policy & planning – discussion papers

Buckley RM. **Targeting the World's Slums as Fat Tails in the Distribution of COVID-19 Cases.** Journal of Urban Health; 2 June 2020.

Corburn et al. **Slum Health: Arresting COVID-19 & Improving Well-Being in Urban Informal Settlements.** Journal of Urban Health; 97(3):348-357

Akseer N, Kandru G, Keats EC, Bhutta ZA. **COVID-19 pandemic and mitigation strategies: implications for maternal and child health and nutrition.** The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. 2020; nqaa171

Gupte J. Position Paper for the Global Network on Safer Cities Partners Consultative Meeting; **The Emerging Lessons on Urban Vulnerability and Safety from Covid-19 in Low- and Middle Income Countries.** Institute of Development Studies.

Van Belle S, Affun-Adegbulu C, Soors W, Srinivas PN, Hegel G, Van Damme W, et al. **COVID-19 and informal settlements: an urgent call to rethink urban governance.** International journal for equity in health. 2020;19(1):81.

Haddout S, Priya KL, Hoguane AM, Ljubenkov I. **Water Scarcity: A Big Challenge to Slums in Africa to Fight against COVID-19.** Science & Technology Libraries. 2020:1-8.

Policy & planning – editorial, commentaries, letters

Pereira RJ, Nascimento G, Gratao LHA, Pimenta RS. **The risk of COVID-19 transmission in favelas and slums in Brazil.** Public health. 2020;183:42-3. [Letter]

Acuto M. **COVID-19: Lessons for an Urban(izing) World.** One Earth, 24 April 2020. [Editorial]

Lee VJ et al. **Epidemic preparedness in urban settings: new challenges and opportunities.** Lancet Infect Dis 2020; 27 March. [Editorial]

Editorial. **Redefining vulnerability in the era of COVID-19.** Lancet 2020;395:1089.

Boffa J, Mhlaba T, Sulis G, Moyo S, Sifumba Z, Pai M, et al. **COVID-19 and tuberculosis in South Africa: A dangerous combination** [letter]. South African Medical Journal. 2020; 110(5): 341-2.

Islam T, Kibria MG. **Challenges to the prevention of COVID-19 spread in slums of Bangladesh** [letter]. Journal of Public Health. 2020: fdaa088.

Thomas G. **Death in the time of coronavirus** [commentary]. Indian Journal of Medical Ethics. 2020;V(2):1-3.

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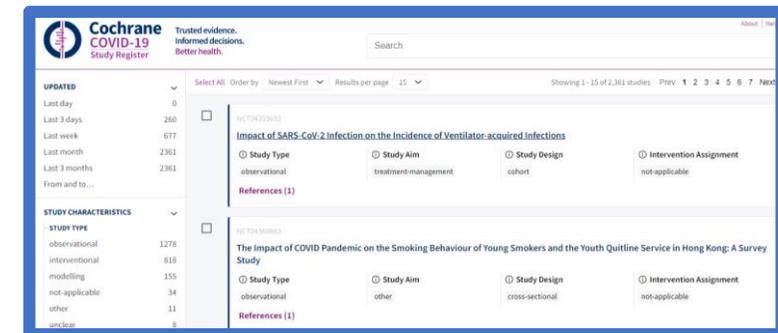
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COVID-19: Research evidence – evidence portals

EPPI Centre: COVID-19 living systematic map of the evidence
Evidence sorted by type of research question/evidence

Campbell Collaboration UK & Ireland
Evidence mapped geographically and sorted by study design

Cochrane COVID-19 Study Register
Indexed and searchable records of primary studies of all design



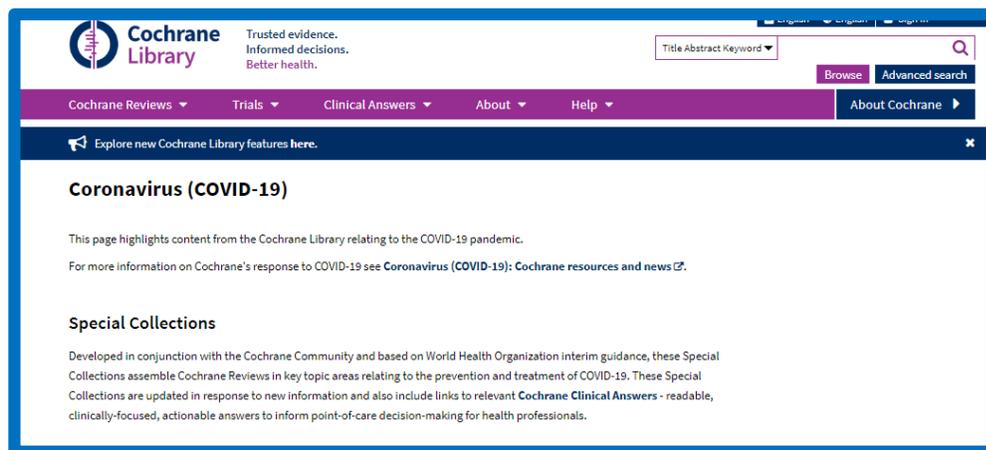
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COVID-19: Research evidence – evidence summaries (1)

Cochrane Library Coronavirus (COVID-19) resources

Special collections on critical care, infection control and prevention measures, effective options for quitting smoking during the pandemic; and rapid reviews in progress



The screenshot shows the Cochrane Library website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Title Abstract Keyword" and a search icon. Below the search bar, there are navigation links for "Browse" and "Advanced search". The main navigation menu includes "Cochrane Reviews", "Trials", "Clinical Answers", "About", and "Help". A banner below the navigation menu says "Explore new Cochrane Library features here." The main content area is titled "Coronavirus (COVID-19)" and contains the following text: "This page highlights content from the Cochrane Library relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information on Cochrane's response to COVID-19 see [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Cochrane resources and news](#)." Below this, there is a section titled "Special Collections" with the text: "Developed in conjunction with the Cochrane Community and based on World Health Organization interim guidance, these Special Collections assemble Cochrane Reviews in key topic areas relating to the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. These Special Collections are updated in response to new information and also include links to relevant [Cochrane Clinical Answers](#) - readable, clinically-focused, actionable answers to inform point-of-care decision-making for health professionals."

Oxford COVID-19 Evidence Service

Synopses of critically appraised evidence on commonly asked questions related to COVID-19 pandemic



The screenshot shows the Oxford COVID-19 Evidence Service website. The header includes navigation links for "HOME", "COVID-19 EVIDENCE", "SCHOOL OF EPID", "BLOG", "RESOURCES", and "OUTREACH". The main content area is titled "Oxford COVID-19 Evidence Service" and features the CEBM Research logo. Below the title, there is a paragraph: "The CEBM has committed its skills and expertise in evidence synthesis and dissemination to the effort against the current COVID-19 pandemic. This page will be updated regularly. Page last updated: 03RD APRIL". A "Questions under review" button is visible. On the right side, there is a "Most viewed" section with the following items: "COVID-19 Signs and Symptoms Tracker", "Are there any evidence-based ways of assessing dyspnoea (breathlessness) by telephone or video", and "Global Covid-19 Case Fatality Rates". Below this, there is a "trip database" logo. The main content area also features a list of "Editorials" with the following items: "Problems in identifying the origins of an outbreak (external link)", "Modelling the models (external link)", and "COVID-19 - The rising point? (external link)".

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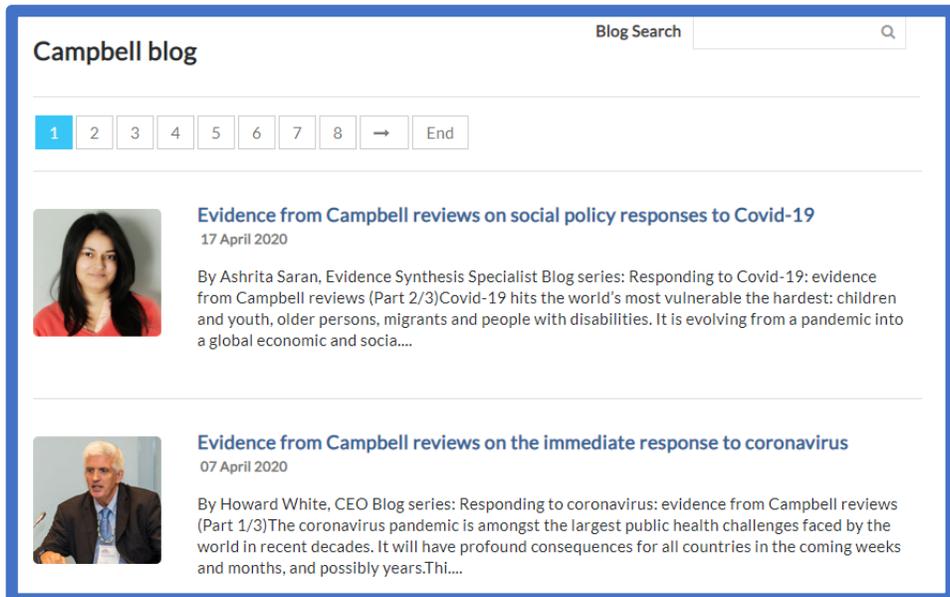
COVID-19: Research evidence – evidence summaries (2)

Campbell Collaboration

A series of blog articles that introduce evidence reviews produced by the Campbell Collaboration relevant to social policy and COVID-19 pandemic

Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) COVID-19 Special Collection

Evidence summaries produced by JBI on best evidence related to infection control and prevention measures for health professionals and organisations



Campbell blog

Blog Search

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 → End

 **Evidence from Campbell reviews on social policy responses to Covid-19**
17 April 2020
By Ashrita Saran, Evidence Synthesis Specialist Blog series: Responding to Covid-19: evidence from Campbell reviews (Part 2/3) Covid-19 hits the world's most vulnerable the hardest: children and youth, older persons, migrants and people with disabilities. It is evolving from a pandemic into a global economic and social...

 **Evidence from Campbell reviews on the immediate response to coronavirus**
07 April 2020
By Howard White, CEO Blog series: Responding to coronavirus: evidence from Campbell reviews (Part 1/3) The coronavirus pandemic is amongst the largest public health challenges faced by the world in recent decades. It will have profound consequences for all countries in the coming weeks and months, and possibly years. Thi...



THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE JBI

ABOUT JBI GLOBAL REACH EDUCATION RESEARCH & CONSULTANCY EBP RESOURCES

COVID-19 SPECIAL COLLECTION

Evidence-based infection prevention and control

Evidence-based resources for health professionals and health organisations

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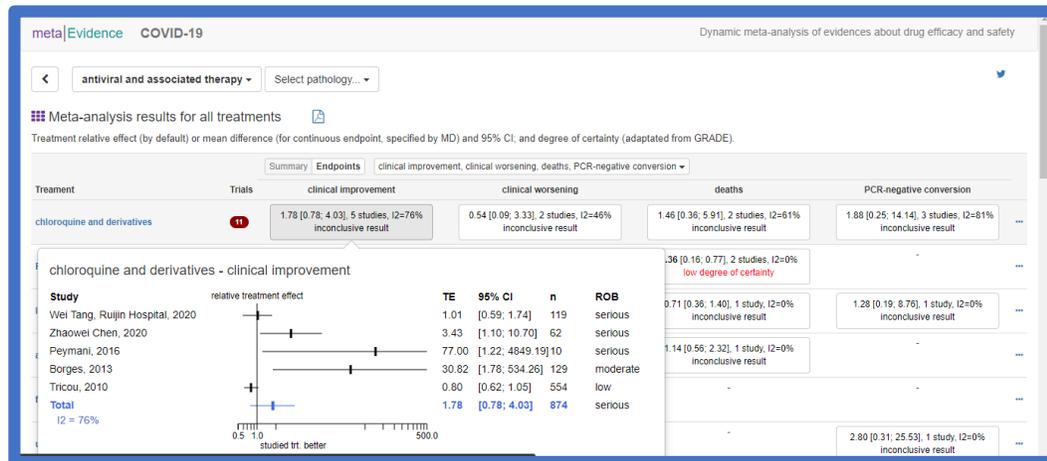
COVID-19: Research evidence – evidence summaries (3)

meta Evidence – COVID-19

Live meta-analysis and evidence synthesis of potential therapies for COVID19

COVID-END Evidence Resource

Evidence portal covering links to different evidence resources collated by McMaster Forum



The screenshot shows the COVID-END Evidence Resource website. The header includes the McMaster University logo and the text "Our network of sites" followed by logos for COVID-END, HEALTH FORUM, and RISE. The main content area features a large image of a man in a suit talking on a phone, with the text "COVID-END" and ">> LET'S COLLABORATE". Below the image is a navigation bar with the following categories: Scoping, Engaging, Digitizing, Synthesizing, Recommending, Packaging, Sustaining, and Let's collaborate.

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News blogs

Date	Institution/source	Author	Title & link
29 Jul 2020	The Conversation	Astrid R.N. Haas, Victoria Delbridge	Africa's high density urban settlements: cut the red tape and slash the cost of housing
10 Jul 2020	IIED	Alice Sverdlik, George Masimba Nyama, Patience Mudimu, Anna Walnycki	Working with informality for more resilient, equitable responses to COVID-19
1 Jul 2020	IIED	John Taylor	How Dhaka's urban poor are dealing with COVID-19
Jun 2020	USAID Health Research Program	Raz Stevenson	Addressing the health needs of urban slum dwellers in the context of COVID-19
25 Jun 2020	IIED	IIED	Emerging lessons from community-led COVID-19 responses in urban areas
10 Jun 2020	The World Bank	The World Bank	COVID-19 Turns Spotlight on Slums
22 May 2020	ARC West Midlands	Jo Sartori	Preventing COVID-19 transmission in slums
19 May 2020	The Conversation	Oluwafemi Olajide	Lagos makes it hard for people living in slums to cope with shocks like COVID-19

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News blogs

Date	Institution/source	Author	Title & link
30 Apr 2020	Knowledge in Action for Urban Inequality	Emmanuel Osuteye, Braima Koroma, Joseph Macarthy, Sulaiman Kamara & Abu Conteh	The people versus the pandemic: community organisations in the fight against Covid-19 in Freetown
16 Apr 2020	Brookings	Shaonlee Patranabis, Sahil Gandhi, Vaidehi Tandel	Are slums more vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic: Evidence from Mumbai
1 Apr 2020	The New Humanitarian	Andrew Gully	Coronavirus in the city: A Q&A on the catastrophe confronting the urban poor
1 Apr 2020	The Conversation	Taibat Lawanson	Lagos' size and slums will make stopping the spread of COVID-19 a tough task
27 Mar 2020	ARC West Midlands	Akinyinka Omigbodun, Richard Lilford	COVID-19: Locking down urban settlements in Sub-Saharan Africa
27 Mar 2020	IIED	Diana Mitlin	Dealing with COVID-19 in the towns and cities of the global South
27 Mar 2020	Global Dashboard	Mark Weston	How to tackle coronavirus in slums
13 Mar 2020	LSE	Annie Wilkinson	What is the impact of COVID-19 in informal settlements?

COVID-19: special news letter

Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) e-News April 2020

ACHR
e-news

News from groups around Asia about what's happening in the region . . .

Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
e-mail : achr@achr.net
website : www.achr.net

APRIL 2020

Who could ever have imagined how completely our world and our lives would change in just a few short months? What began in January with a little news item, on page six of the newspaper, about a mysterious pneumonia outbreak in a Chinese city has exploded into a global pandemic that grips the entire world now. As of April 18th, there were 2.2 million confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus around the world, and 153,000 people had died. These official numbers are almost certainly much lower than the reality, though, because comprehensive testing for the virus is happening in only a few spots, and nobody really knows how far the virus has actually spread. Meanwhile, more than half of humanity is now under some form of lockdown, curfew or quarantine, and these measures to contain the virus have brought the world's economic life to a grinding halt, leaving hundreds of millions stranded at home, without work or the means of meeting their own and their families' basic needs.

In theory, everyone is vulnerable to the virus, and there has been much pious talk of the pandemic being a great "equalizer" that affects princes and prime ministers as well as migrant workers and rag pickers. But in practice, people's capacity to cope with the virus and its repercussions has much to do with conditions that are not only medical but also economic, social and political. The pandemic, which has also triggered an economic catastrophe, has made those differences sharper than ever. We can already see that no matter where we look, those dying of the virus are more likely to be poor and uninsured, more likely to suffer from bad nutrition and chronic health problems, more likely to have no savings or safety nets, more likely to be unable to afford health care, and more likely to live in shoddy and crowded housing conditions where precautions like social distancing and frequent hand washing are impossible.



WHAT ARE COMMUNITY GROUPS IN ASIA ALREADY DOING?

With so much bad news coming from every direction, it's tempting to give in to despair. But as you'll read in the reports from our friends in this newsletter, Asia's poor community organizations and their supporters are not watching passively as the crisis unfolds. On the contrary, they are taking energetic action to do what they can to organize themselves, see what's needed and take immediate action, even at this early stage of the pandemic, and even without almost any support from anyone. Brenda has started keeping a list of the kinds of things community groups and their partners in the region are doing - and already it's a lot. You can be sure this cheering list is going to get much, much longer before the crisis is over, but here's her April 16, 2020 version for starters:

- Using community surveys and monitoring to track the impacts of the virus on the poor, to identify vulnerable families and individuals within the community and to determine who needs what assistance.
- Monitoring the impacts of government regulations and interventions, and coordinating with local government agencies to make sure those government interventions like emergency food packet distribution reach everyone, especially those most in need
- Setting up community kitchens and distributing meals and groceries to vulnerable and virus-infected households
- Starting food banks and buying staple foods in bulk, to distribute or to keep in storage to bolster community-level food security
- Raising funds to support specific vulnerable communities and providing cash assistance to needy families
- Promoting community-level quarantine in crowded settlements where household-level quarantine is impossible
- Distributing accurate information about the virus and how to keep safe and prevent its spread
- Stitching face masks and personal protective equipment and producing hand-sanitizers
- Keeping in touch with locked-down and quarantined communities and sharing virus news by phone, video chat and instant messaging applications like Line, Messenger and WhatsApp
- Developing systems for exchanging basic goods and necessities between communities or networks when the usual supply systems close down or are off limits during lockdowns
- Using community savings and credit groups to help families survive and meet their families' urgent food and medicine needs, with loans and savings withdrawals, or reducing expenses by suspending loan repayments or reducing interest on loans

VIRUS NEWS FROM BANGLADESH

FROM DHAKA: John Taylor from the UN's Food and Agriculture Office (FAO) in Dhaka wrote on March 30: We are working with the community federations in North and South Dhaka to try to track the impacts of COVID-19 on the poor and learn about how they are coping and what they need. Through a network of some 100 community women, we have been able to monitor the prices of basic foods sold in the open air markets near their slum communities, as well as other social and economic impacts of the virus - and of various government regulations and interventions. Since the crisis began, there has been a huge exodus of people out of Dhaka - millions of people - going to their villages in the countryside, where they perceive it will be easier to survive. [Note: John is one of the founders of Kota Kita in Solo, Indonesia. He has been with the FAO in Dhaka for several years.]



This special COVID-19 issue of the newsletter covers reports of community responses for the urban poor from across South and South East Asian countries

Webinars

Centre for Sustainable Healthy and Learning Cities and Neighbourhoods (SHLC) (28 May 2020)

Urban-Rural Linkages in the Time of COVID-19: Impact on the urban poor and slum dwellers in Asia and Africa

The James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University (25 May 2020)

COVID-19 impact on urban informal settlements: Vulnerabilities, challenges and responses

Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) (19 May 2020)

Utilities' Support to Inclusive WASH Access in Informal Settlements and Vulnerable Communities (Webinar report)

USAID Health Research Program (13 May 2020)

Addressing the health needs of urban slum dwellers in the context of COVID-19 (13 May 2020)

COVID-19 & MNCH: What's happening in countries?(April 2020)

PRIA International Academy (3 April 2020)

Impact of COVID-19 lockdown on urban informals in India (Webinar report)

Impact of COVID-19 lockdown on urban informals in India (Webinar recording)

COVID-19: News coverage

Date	Source	Country	Title
30/07/2020	Bloomberg	India	Herd Immunity May Be Developing in Mumbai's Poorest Areas
29/07/2020	BBC	India	India coronavirus: 'More than half of Mumbai slum-dwellers had Covid-19'
29/07/2020	CNN	India	More than half of India's Mumbai slum residents may have been infected with Covid-19, study suggests
29/07/2020	Financial Times	India	Over half of Mumbai slum dwellers have had Covid-19, study claims
23/06/2020	BBC	India	How Asia's biggest slum contained the coronavirus
12/06/2020	Aljazeera	South Africa	Coronavirus pandemic exposes South Africa's 'brutal inequality'
28/05/2020	Sky News	Brazil	Coronavirus: Inside Brazil's slums where COVID-19 is at risk of spreading like wildfire
27/05/2020	The Guardian	Argentina	Argentina cordons off virus-hit slum as critics decry 'ghettoes for poor people'

COVID-19: News coverage

Date	Source	Country	Title
27/04/2020	Scroll.in	India	Coronavirus: Mumbai's Dharavi slum records sharp drop in new cases as Maharashtra tally nears 7,000
26/04/2020	The Times of India	India	Slum dwellings pose challenge as Mumbai fights coronavirus outbreak
25/04/2020	Mumbai Mirror	India	Dharavi records 21 new cases, total cases from the slum stand at 241
24/04/2020	Financial Times	India	India's biggest slum tests Modi's coronavirus response
23/04/2020	Dhaka Tribune	Bangladesh	Survey: People want timely distribution of govt aid amid coronavirus pandemic
22/04/2020	NY Times	Kenya	'Instead of Coronavirus, the Hunger Will Kill Us.' A Global Food Crisis Looms

COVID-19: News coverage

Date	Source	Country	Title
22/04/2020	BBC	India	Coronavirus in India: Desperate migrant workers trapped in lockdown
20/04/2020	The Telegraph	India	Using the poor as guinea pigs': Mumbai to test controversial coronavirus drugs on slum dwellers
16/04/2020	DW	Nigeria, Kenya, Brazil	Coronavirus in slums: Helpers left high and dry in infection hot spots
15/04/2020	CNN (video)	Kenya	'Chaos' in Kenyan slum as Covid-19 takes toll
15/04/2020	NY Times	Philippines	'Will we die hungry?' A teeming Manila slum chafes under lockdown
15/04/2020	BBC	Africa	Coronavirus: Why lockdowns may not be the answer in Africa
12/04/2020	France 24	India	Virus cases, deaths rise in India's biggest slum
09/04/2020	DW	India	Under coronavirus lockdown, Delhi slum residents struggle to get water

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COVID-19: News coverage

Date	Source	Country	Title
07/04/2020	The Guardian	India	We are very afraid': scramble to contain coronavirus in Mumbai slum
06/04/2020	BBC	India	Coronavirus: The race to stop the virus spread in Asia's 'biggest slum'
04/04/2020	CNN	India	Doctors say India must prepare for an 'onslaught' as one of Asia's biggest slums reports first coronavirus death
03/04/2020	RTE	India	Indian police cordon off parts of Asia's biggest slum after coronavirus deaths
02/04/2020	ITV	India	India's largest slum records first coronavirus case
01/04/2020	CNN	India	Migrant workers sprayed with disinfectant in one Indian state
28/03/2020	Reuters	Brazil	Brazilian rapper warns of coronavirus danger in Brazil's slums
25/03/2020	The Guardian	Brazil	Brazil gangs impose strict curfews to slow coronavirus spread
25/03/2020	Times Live	South Africa	'Wash your hands - with what?' – Cape Town shack dwellers protest over water a day before lockdown

COVID-19 information portals – slum related

International agencies, governmental and non-governmental organisations

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Metropolis & UN-Habitat

Live learning experience: #beyondtheoutbreak

An online city-to-city virtual learning platform to share innovative and appropriate solutions for COVID-19

<https://www.uclg.org/en/issues/live-learning-experience-beyondtheoutbreak>

Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)

ALNAP COVID-19 Response Portal

Collections of guidelines, tools, papers and lessons learnt from across and beyond the ALNAP Membership related to humanitarian actions

<https://covid19.alnap.org/>

Participatory Slum Upgrading (PSUP)

PSUP COVID-19 Response Platform

Collections of guidelines, communication materials, strategies, articles and research, fundraising, monitoring and mapping in slums

<https://www.mypsups.org/covid-19/>

COVID-19 information portals – slum related

International agencies, governmental and non-governmental organisations

<p>Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform Updates on the novel COVID-19 outbreak for responders</p>	<p>Collections related to social dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic, including vulnerabilities and precarity; public health measures; death, burials and mourning; communication and engagement, policy, evidence and governance. https://www.socialscienceinaction.org/emergency/covid-19-pandemic/</p>
<p>International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED) Collection: Beyond COVID-19: grassroots visions of change</p>	<p>Collections of articles and key lessons of grassroots responses from the global South https://www.iied.org/beyond-covid-19-grassroots-visions-change</p>
<p>ARISE COVID-19: ARISE advice for people in informal settlements</p>	<p>Collections of research, blogs and information on community actions for informal settlements http://www.ariseconsortium.org/the-challenge/covid-19-arise-advice-for-people-in-informal-settlements/</p>

COVID-19 information portals – general

International agencies, governmental and non-governmental organisations

Africa Centre for Evidence (ACE) Living hub of COVID-19 knowledge hubs	https://africacentreforevidence.org/living-hub-of-covid-19-knowledge-hubs/
World Health Organization WHO training materials	https://openwho.org/channels/covid-19-national-languages
The United Nations Children’s Fund UNICEF Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) information centre	https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19

Other information & resources – lived experience

Corona diaries of the urban poor

Coronavirus in Indian Slums, ARTE Reportage

Zimbabwe Homeless Peoples' Federation: COVID-19 Phase II Lockdown Diaries

Impact of COVID-19: Lived experiences of the urban Poor in slums during the shutdown

Audio narratives & photos: grassroots perspective of the pandemic from storytellers of the Nigerian and Benin Slum/Informal Settlement Federations

Short documentary (13 mins): A portrayal of challenges faces by residents in Indian Slums. Directors & authors: Mathilde Cusin & Mandakini Gahlot

Visual story: photos and narratives of the continuous demolition of informal housing in Zimbabwe by Zimbabwe Young Peoples' Federation

Mini-research reports: summary of 80 in-depth interviews in six slums in Dhaka by BRAC JPGSPH

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Other information & resources – lived experience

Kibera slums in Instagram by
@nicholesobecki on an assignment for the
National Geographic

Videos of [community response](#) and [busy streets](#) in the Kibera informal settlement; a [photo](#) of a mural reading “Let’s fight CORONA together”

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COVID-19: other information & resources

Africa Evidence Network

Website: new evidence, examples of evidence-use & experiences of evidence-use on the African continent during COVID-19

Social Science in Humanitarian Action

Website: a resource collection including briefs, blogs and other documents related to social dimensions of COVID-19, covering policy, evidence and governance; public health measures; death, burials and mourning; vulnerabilities and precarity; communication and engagement

Coronavirus Tech Handbook

Website: a crowd-sourced online portal allowing anyone to post & organise links to useful tools on anything related to COVID-19

WHO training materials

Videos: real-time training in national languages

COVID-19 evidence & information resources for slums

Acknowledgement, disclaimer & contact

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Every effort is made to ensure that the linkages provided in this file are accurate and that the information sources are trustworthy. The inclusion of evidence and information in this document does not guarantee the accuracy of the linked contents, which the users are encouraged to critically appraise.

Contact

Please contact Dr Yen-Fu Chen (Y-F.Chen@warwick.ac.uk) to report any errors and for any suggestions to improve this document.

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