

Cultural, Economic, Political, and Social Perspectives in the Response to COVID-19 in Anglophone Sub-Saharan Africa: An Annotated Bibliography

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Introduction

The World Health Organization describes Coronavirus disease (commonly known as COVID-19) as an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It manifests itself through a mild to serious respiratory illness that require special treatment. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. However, according to the Organization, anyone is susceptible to COVID-19 and can become seriously ill or die at any age.

In December 2019, a previously unknown type of coronavirus was discovered in China. This virus was named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), and it was found to cause a new disease called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This virus spread quickly and in March, 2020, it was declared a pandemic (Bwire et al., 2022). The pandemic sparked a health crisis in 2020 that significantly changed people's lives worldwide and caused millions of confirmed infections and millions of deaths. The pandemic also caused a significant paradigm change in terms of the social, political, cultural and economic aspects of people's lives.

Due to the high rate of infection by the virus, governments around the world introduced various health measures to control its transmission. These measures included enforcing social distancing, imposing curfews, closing schools and places of worship, and restricting movement both within and across national borders. The implementation of these measures revealed that one of the most significant challenges posed by this crisis was encouraging the adoption of preventive behaviors in the population (Bronfman et al., 2021).

A review of the academic publications cited in this work suggest the following conclusions about the experience of COVID-19 in much of Africa: COVID-19 severely impacted African institutions causing revenue drops and operational disruptions; different countries employed a mix of short-term and long-term strategies to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic; adherence to health measures varied due to misinformation, cultural beliefs, and inequality ; vaccine hesitancy was common, but community-led and culturally sensitive strategies helped improve acceptance; the pandemic led to social isolation, especially among older adults, and intensified gender-based violence; African cultural values—like communal living and trust in traditional medicine—often conflicted with public health guidance, affecting compliance and outcomes.

Undoubtedly, COVID-19 has had a far-reaching socio-cultural, political, economic and environmental impact worldwide. As elsewhere, the populations in Sub-Saharan African countries responded in a diverse manner to the virus. The primary aim of *this* annotated bibliography is to offer a comprehensive overview of academic literature on the diverse ways in which cultural,

economic, political, and social dynamics shaped the responses to the COVID-19 in various *Anglophone countries* within Sub-Saharan Africa. The work seeks to highlight the scholarship on the unique and shared experiences across the region, emphasizing how local contexts informed public health strategies, community behavior, governance responses, and socioeconomic resilience during the crisis. To facilitate ease of reference and thematic coherence, the information has been organized into distinct categories based on the type of source material. These categories include scholarly articles, books, book chapters, research reports, and empirical studies. This structure allows for targeted exploration and enables researchers, policymakers, and students to access relevant literature according to their specific interests or disciplinary focus.

Articles

1. Adedeji, Isaac Akinkunmi, Andrew Wister, and John Pickering. 2023. "COVID-19 Experiences of Social Isolation and Loneliness among Older Adults in Africa: A Scoping Review." *Frontiers in Public Health* 11 (May): 1158716. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1158716>.

The article reviews how older adults in Africa experienced social isolation and loneliness during COVID-19, including the psychological, spiritual, and health impacts.

2. Agunbiade, Ojo M., Akanni I. Akinyemi, Oluwaseun I. Obasola, Jacob W. Mobolaji, John O. Abe, Opeyemi O. Ekundayo, Taofeek K. Aliyu, Olutoyin O. Ikuteyijo, Oladimeji R. Ogunoye, and Lanre O. Ikuteyijo. 2023. "Social Context of Intimate Partner Violence and System Response during COVID-19 in Africa: A Scoping Review." *International Journal of Population Studies* 10 (1): 45. <https://doi.org/10.36922/ijps.367>.

This article analyzes the prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Africa during COVID-19 and the effectiveness of the responses to address such issues.

3. Akinola, Ayo. "Re-imagining Social Impact for Economics in Sub-Saharan Africa: Lessons from COVID-19." In *Humanistic Crisis Management*, edited by Ayo Akinola, 179–193. Springer, 2023. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-04252-2_10.

The article explores how the pandemic offers an opportunity to rethink economic models in Sub-Saharan Africa. The chapter advocates for integrating social impact considerations into economic planning, emphasizing corporate social responsibility and collaborative approaches to foster sustainable development.

4. Anyanwu, John C., and Adeleke O. Salami. 2021. "The Impact of COVID-19 on African Economies: An Introduction." *African Development Review* 33 (Suppl 1): S1. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8268.12531>.

The article provides an overview of the economic policy responses by African governments to COVID-19 and address vaccine inequity issues via mechanisms like COVAX.

5. Assefa, Tefera, and Wadajo Wami. 2023. "Policy and Political Implications of Government Responses to COVID-19 in Ethiopia." *Territory, Politics, Governance* 11 (5): 951–71. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21622671.2022.2156917>.

This article evaluates the Ethiopian government's political actions during the pandemic, including election suspension and emergency declarations, and the tensions these created.

6. Buqa, Wonke. 2024. "Meaning of Life and Death during COVID-19 Pandemic: A Cultural and Religious Narratives." *HTS Teologiese Studies / Theological Studies* 80 (1). <https://doi.org/10.4102/hts.v80i1.9258>.

The article discusses how the pandemic altered perceptions of life and death in South Africa through cultural and religious lenses, reshaping rituals and beliefs.

7. Bwire, Godfrey, Alex Riolexus Ario, Patricia Eyu, Felix Ocom, Joseph F. Wamala, Kwadwo A. Kusi, Latif Ndeketa, Kondwani C. Jambo, Rhoda K. Wanyenze, and Ambrose O. Talisuna. 2022. "The COVID-19 Pandemic in the African Continent." *BMC Medicine* 20 (1): 167. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-022-02367-4>.

The article reflects on why Africa had lower-than-expected COVID-19 infection rates and underscores the need for continued investment to support public health and development goals.

8. Canwat, Vincent. 2023. "Political Economy of COVID-19: Windows of Opportunities and Contestations in East Africa." *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 10 (1): 599. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-023-02072-4>.

This article explores the political economy of East Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic. It examines how COVID-19 presented both opportunities and challenges for governance, politics, and economic restructuring. The paper highlights the varied responses from East African countries to the pandemic, reflecting both state resilience and contestations over the implementation of public health measures.

9. Chacha, Babere, and John Ndungu Kungu. 2020. "Religious Concubinage, COVID-19 and the Moral Economy of Witchcraft in Kenya." *European Journal of Social Sciences* 5 (July): 2501–8590. <https://doi.org/10.46827/ejsss.v5i3.858>.

This article discusses the intersection of religion, witchcraft, and the moral economy in Kenya, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors analyze how the pandemic exacerbated the already complex socio-cultural dynamics in Kenya, especially concerning the phenomenon of religious concubinage and the role of witchcraft in community survival strategies.

10. Dammak, Saida, Sonia Mbarek, and Mouna Moalla. 2023. "E-Government, Political System and COVID-19 in Africa: Lessons for Future Disruptive Shocks." *Transforming Government: People, Process and Policy* 17 (3): 288–302. <https://doi.org/10.1108/TG-07-2022-0100>.

The article examines the role of e-government in African countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on how political systems in these countries adapted to digital solutions for governance. It explores the lessons learned from these shifts in governance and suggests how these lessons can be applied in future disruptive events such as pandemics.

11. Dzigbede, Komla D., and Rahul Pathak. 2020. "COVID-19 Economic Shocks and Fiscal Policy Options for Ghana." *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management* 32 (5): 903–17. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JPBAFM-07-2020-0127>.

This article explores the economic shocks faced by Ghana due to the COVID-19 pandemic and evaluates the country's fiscal policy options. It assesses the economic challenges, including fiscal deficits, inflation, and unemployment, and proposes potential policy responses to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic on Ghana's economy.

12. Dzinamarira, Tafadzwa, Mathias Dzobo, and Itai Chitungo. n.d. "COVID-19: A Perspective on Africa's Capacity and Response." Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jmv.26159>.

This article provides an overview of Africa's capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. It examines the continent's public health infrastructure, government responses, and the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. The authors also analyze the strategies employed by different African countries to manage the health crisis and its economic repercussions.

13. Dzingirayi, Prince. 2021. "The Disruptions of African Indigenous Culture Experienced During COVID-19 Pandemic in Zimbabwe." *International Journal of Humanities, Social Sciences and Education* 8 (6): <https://doi.org/10.20431/2349-0381.0806003>.

This article investigates the disruptions to African indigenous culture in Zimbabwe during the COVID-19 pandemic. It looks at how cultural practices such as traditional ceremonies, rituals, and community interactions were impacted by the pandemic, exploring the tension between health protocols and cultural preservation.

14. Griffith, Evan F., et al. "COVID-19 in Pastoral Contexts in the Greater Horn of Africa: Implications and Recommendations." *Pastoralism* 10, no. 22 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13570-020-00178>.

This article explores the unique challenges pastoralist communities face during the COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing the importance of tailored public health strategies that consider mobility and limited healthcare infrastructure in arid and semi-arid regions.

15. Jaja, Ishmael Festus, Madubuike Umunna Anyanwu, and Chinwe-Juliana Iwu Jaja. 2020. "Social Distancing: How Religion, Culture and Burial Ceremony Undermine the Effort to Curb COVID-19 in South Africa." *Emerging Microbes & Infections* 9 (1): 1077–79. <https://doi.org/10.1080/22221751.2020.1769501>.

This article addresses how religious practices, cultural traditions, and burial ceremonies in South Africa undermined efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19. The authors discuss the challenges of enforcing social distancing in the context of deeply ingrained cultural and religious practices, which continued to attract large gatherings despite health advisories.

16. Joffe, Avril. 2021. "COVID-19 and the African Cultural Economy: An Opportunity to Reimagine and Reinvigorate?" *Cultural Trends* 30 (1): 28–39. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09548963.2020.1857211>.

This article explores the impact of COVID-19 on the cultural economy in Africa, emphasizing the disruptions to cultural industries such as music, film, and tourism. The author argues that the pandemic offers an opportunity to reimagine and reinvigorate these sectors by adopting new approaches and innovations that better suit the post-pandemic world.

17. Kanu, Ikechukwu Anthony. 2020. "COVID-19 and the Economy: An African Perspective." *Journal of African Studies and Sustainable Development* 3 (2). https://www.acjoi.org/index.php/jassd/article/view/jassd_v3n2_3.

This article provides a critical analysis of the economic impact of COVID-19 in Africa. It examines how the pandemic exacerbated existing economic challenges on the continent, including poverty, unemployment, and inequality, and discusses the policy responses needed to foster resilience in African economies.

18. Klopp, Jacqueline, Eliud Wekesa, and Abdhalah Ziraba. 2022. "Covid-19 Response in Nairobi: A Political Settlements Approach." ACRC Briefing Paper, African Cities Research Consortium, The University of Manchester.
19. This article applies a political settlements approach to analyze Nairobi's response to COVID-19. It highlights how political dynamics and power structures influenced the implementation of public health measures and how these were received by different groups within Nairobi's population.
20. Loembé, Marguerite Massinga, Akhona Tshangela, Stephanie J. Salyer, Jay K. Varma, Ahmed E. Ogwell Ouma, and John N. Nkengasong. 2020. "COVID-19 in Africa: The Spread and Response." *Nature Medicine* 26 (7): 999–1003. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-020-0961-x>.

This article examines the trajectory of COVID-19 in Africa and highlights government responses and community engagement in containing the virus's spread.

21. Maharana, Adyasha, et al. "Use of Technology and Innovations in the COVID-19 Pandemic Response in Africa." *arXiv* (2020). <https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.07741>.

This article explores how African nations leveraged technology to combat COVID-19, including mobile health platforms, data analytics, and local innovations. It showcases the continent's adaptability and the pivotal role of technological solutions in enhancing public health responses amid infrastructural challenges.

22. Malinga, Wayne, and Bellita Banda Chitsamatanga. 2022. "COVID-19 Ramifications in Lesotho: A Poverty Perspective." In *Governance Challenges During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa*, edited by Nirmala Dorasamy, 115–35. Cham: Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-11244-7_6.

The article analyzes the socio-economic and political effects of COVID-19 in Lesotho, emphasizing how the pandemic exacerbated vulnerabilities related to health, housing, and social services.

23. Manasseh, Tumuhimbise, Nuwahereza Innocent, Berinde Anthony, Aturinda Susan, and Christina Blanchard-Horan. 2020. "Public Perceptions towards COVID-19 and Prevention Measures in Uganda: Gaps and Missed Opportunities." *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences* 4 (June): 292–302.

The article examines Ugandans' perceptions of the government's COVID-19 preventive measures, identifying gaps in communication and public engagement.

24. Mashaphu, Sibongile, Mvuyiso Talatala, Sebolelo Seape, Lennart Eriksson, and Bonginkosi Chiliza. 2021. "Mental Health, Culture and Resilience—Approaching the COVID-19

Pandemic From a South African Perspective.” *Frontiers in Psychiatry* 12 (July): 611108. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsy.2021.611108>.

The article explores the roles of culture, spirituality, and religion in maintaining mental health during COVID-19 in South Africa, recommending culturally sensitive interventions.

25. Mbambo-Thata, Buhle. 2020. “Responding to COVID-19 in an African University: The Case the National University of Lesotho Library.” *Digital Library Perspectives* 37 (1): 28–38. <https://doi.org/10.1108/DLP-07-2020-0061>.

The article describes how the National University of Lesotho Library adapted its services during the pandemic by transitioning to digital resources and supporting remote learning.

26. Medinilla, Alfonso, Bruce Byiers, and Philomena Apiko. 2020. “African Regional Responses to COVID-19.” Brussels: Ecdpm, DP 2:272.

The article surveys the actions of the African Union and regional bodies in response to COVID-19, highlighting varied levels of coordination and institutional capacity.

27. Mgunda, Moses Isdory. 2023. “The Management and Mitigation of COVID-19 with Special Reference of East Africa Community (EAC) and Indonesia.” In *Contributions to Conflict Management, Peace Economics and Development*, edited by Manas Chatterji et al., 137–52. Emerald Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1572-832320230000032009>.

The article compares the COVID-19 response strategies of the East African Community and Indonesia, finding both to be largely effective in reducing infections and deaths.

28. Mugume, Regean, and Enock W. N. Bulime. 2022. “Post COVID 19 Recovery for African Economies: Lessons for Digital Financial Inclusion from Kenya and Uganda.” *African Development Review* 34 (S1). <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8268.12652>.

Analyzes how mobile digital finance aided economic resilience in Kenya and Uganda, stressing the importance of trust and infrastructure in financial inclusion.

29. Nasaba, Robert Madoi, and Nakiwala Aisha Sembatya. 2021. “Is We They? A Cross-Cultural Study of Responses to COVID-19 Updates in Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda.” *Journal of African Media Studies*. https://doi.org/10.1386/jams_00053_1.

The article investigates public responses to COVID-19 messaging on government social media in East Africa, finding that repressive language undermined public trust and compliance.

30. Ndegwa, Stephen. 2020. "Religion and Culture Plague Africa's Fight against COVID-19." <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-04-26/Religion-and-culture-plague-Africa-s-fight-against-COVID-19-PZNaKEiRFe/index.html>.

The article critiques how cultural and religious norms in Africa hindered adherence to preventive measures such as social distancing and mask-wearing.

31. Nyandoro, Mark, Takafira Mduluza, and Lucy Nyandoro. 2024. "Transboundary COVID-19 Response on Health Communication in Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe." *The Journal for Transdisciplinary Research in Southern Africa* 20 (1). <https://doi.org/10.4102/td.v20i1.1394>.

The article analyzes differences in public health messaging strategies across three southern African countries and offers recommendations for improved cross-border communication.

32. Obasa, A. E., S. Singh, E. Chivunze, T. Burgess, F. Masiye, T. Mtande, J. Ochieng, et al. 2020. "Comparative Strategic Approaches to COVID-19 in Africa: Balancing Public Interest with Civil Liberties." *South African Medical Journal* 110 (9): 858.

The article explores the tension between public health measures and civil liberties in six African countries, raising ethical concerns about state responses.

33. Obayelu, Abiodun Elijah, Sarah Edore Edewor, and Agatha Osivweneta Ogbe. 2020. "Trade Effects, Policy Responses and Opportunities of COVID-19 Outbreak in Africa." *Journal of Chinese Economic and Foreign Trade Studies* 14 (1): 44–59. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JCEFTS-08-2020-0050>.

The article analyzes the pandemic's impact on African trade, noting significant disruptions and calling for policy reforms to maintain trade flows during crises.

34. Ocholla, Dennis N. 2021. "Echoes down the Corridor. Experiences and Perspectives of Library and Information Science Education (LISE) during COVID-19 through an African Lens." *Library Management* 42 (4/5): 305–21. <https://doi.org/10.1108/LM-02-2021-0016>.

The article examines challenges and innovations in Library and Information Science education in Africa during the pandemic, noting political and technological implications.

35. Ossome, Lyn. 2021. "The Care Economy and the State in Africa's Covid-19 Responses." *Canadian Journal of Development Studies / Revue Canadienne d'études Du Développement*, April. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02255189.2020.1831448>.

This article explores how the Covid-19 pandemic exposed and intensified the crisis of social reproduction among low- and middle-income households in Africa, with the state intervening

through mechanisms such as direct cash transfers, food aid, and the redistribution of rural agricultural goods to urban centers.

36. Perry, Mia, Dane Mathendele Armstrong, Bosco Exson Chinkonda, Richard Kagoloby, Rebecca Nthogo Lekoko, and George Olusola Ajibade. 2021. "Whose Crisis? COVID-19 Explored through Arts and Cultural Practices of African Communities." *Journal of Open Humanities Data*, November. <https://doi.org/10.5334/johd.52>.

This article contextualizes data through an arts-based research project aimed at exploring the lived experiences of communities in sub-Saharan Africa during COVID-19. The project highlights the importance of culture and customs, prioritizing the perspectives and needs of vulnerable communities.

37. "Place of African Traditional Medicine in Response to COVID-19 and Beyond." UNESCO. n.d. Accessed May 20, 2024. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/place-african-traditional-medicine-response-covid-19-and-beyond>.

In this article, Martin Odhiambo, a traditional herbalist, discusses the role of traditional medicine in responding to COVID-19. He provides critical insights on how traditional medicine was used to boost and treat COVID-19 symptoms. The article also addresses the challenges faced by traditional medicine, including knowledge loss due to generational change, as younger generations do not continue the traditional knowledge passed down by elders.

38. Sebeelo, Tebogo B., and Lesedi Mashumba. 2023. "Policing the Pandemic: An Investigation of Enforcement Practices During COVID-19 in Botswana." *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology* 38 (4): 1044–53. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11896-023-09622-1>.

This article investigates the Botswana government's law enforcement practices during the COVID-19 lockdowns. The study finds heightened police involvement and frequent incidents of police violence during the pandemic. It also uncovers human rights violations where citizens were subjected to brutal actions by law enforcement to enforce COVID-19 preventive measures.

39. Sennoga, Edward, and Lacina Balma. 2022. "Fiscal Sustainability in Africa: Accelerating the Post-COVID-19 Recovery through Improved Public Finances." *African Development Review* 34 (S1). <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8268.12648>.

This article examines the economic impact of COVID-19 in Africa using a novel Debt, Investment, and Growth model with a segmented labor market. It highlights the pandemic's negative effects on employment and consumption in both formal and informal sectors and discusses the potential impact of fiscal stimulus packages and other financing mechanisms on economic recovery.

40. Talisuna, Ambrose, Chinwe Iwu, J Okeibunor, Mary Stephen, Emmanuel Onuche Musa, Belinda Louise Herring, Otim Patrick Cossy Ramadan, et al. 2022. "Assessment of COVID-19 Pandemic Responses in African Countries: Thematic Synthesis of WHO Intra-Action Review Reports." *BMJ Open* 12 (5): e056896. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2021-056896>.

This article provides an in-depth analysis of COVID-19 responses in 18 African countries, highlighting best practices and challenges. The analysis suggests that the swift responses in these countries may have contributed to the relatively low cases and deaths compared to other regions.

41. Varani, Nicoletta, Anna Siri, and Enrico Bernardini. 2020. "Culture, Health and Well-Being Sit in Places. Impact of COVID-19 on the African Society: Geo-Anthropological Perspectives." *Geopolitical, Social Security and Freedom Journal* 3 (2): 65–103. <https://doi.org/10.2478/gssfj-2020-0013>.

This interdisciplinary article examines the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on Africa, offering critical reflections on geopolitical, socio-cultural, and health aspects. It discusses the pandemic's relative severity in Africa compared to other regions, highlighting factors such as immune capacity, rural populations, and cultural attitudes toward health.

42. Wambugu, Stephen, et al. "Assessing the Poverty Impact of the COVID-19-Induced Tourism Crisis in Tanzania: A Social Accounting Matrix Microsimulation Analysis." *Journal of Sustainable Tourism* 30, no. 6 (2022): 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09669582.2021.2024552>

This paper assesses the crisis caused by COVID-19 on tourism affected poverty in Tanzania. Using a social accounting matrix microsimulation approach, it finds that the collapse of international tourism led to significant income losses and increased poverty, particularly in urban areas in the country.

43. Wangari, Edwin N., Peter Gichuki, Angelyne A. Abuor, Jacqueline Wambui, Stephen O. Okeyo, Henry T. N. Oyatsi, Shadrack Odikara, and Benard W. Kulohoma. 2021. "Kenya's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Balance between Minimising Morbidity and Adverse Economic Impact." *AAS Open Research* 4:3. <https://doi.org/10.12688/aasopenres.13156.2>.

This article provides insights on Kenya's preventive measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on how the government balanced minimizing morbidity and fatalities while mitigating the economic impacts of the crisis. The measures significantly reduced the pandemic's impact on Kenya's population.

Books

44. Arndt, Susan, Banhoro Yacouba, Taibat Lawanson, Enocent Msindo, and Peter Simatei, eds. 2023. *Covid-19 in Africa: Societal and Economic Implications*. African Histories and Modernities. Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-40316-3>.

This edited volume presents multidisciplinary perspectives on the societal and economic consequences of COVID-19 in Africa, addressing both governmental actions and community-level resilience.

45. Henaku, Nancy, G. Edzordzi Agbozo, and Mark Nartey. 2023. *Communicative Perspectives on COVID-19 in Ghana: At the Intersection of Culture, Science, Religion and Politics*. 1st ed. New York: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003330042>.

This book explores how communication about COVID-19 in Ghana was shaped by cultural, scientific, religious, and political factors. It examines the intersection of these elements in the way the pandemic was understood and responded to by various communities in Ghana. The authors highlight how different discourses around the pandemic influenced public attitudes and behaviors.

46. “Socioeconomic Shocks and Africa’s Development Agenda: Lessons and Policy Directions in a Post-COVID-19 Era.” WorldCat.Org. n.d. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://search.worldcat.org/title/1341343049>.

This book investigates African countries' responses to socioeconomic shocks, focusing on lessons to inform future policy and development efforts. It examines how the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted various sectors, including supply chains, health, and education. The book also explores evidence-based solutions and policy recommendations to improve resilience to future crises.

47. Renzaho, Andre. 2021. “Challenges Associated with the Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic in Africa—an African Diaspora Perspective.” *PreventionWeb*, June 11, 2021. <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/challenges-associated-response-coronavirus-disease-covid-19-pandemic-africa-african>.

This publication assesses how lessons learned during the 2014–2016 Ebola outbreak in West Africa can help mitigate the long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the African continent. The continent has faced several challenges, including ill-equipped health systems, economic deprivation, and logistical difficulties. The publication stresses the need for strong leadership and culturally competent strategies to address these challenges.

Book chapters

48. Bundhoo-Deenoo, Sheistah. 2023. "The Impact of COVID-19 on the Corporate Social Responsibility of Top 100 Companies in Mauritius." In *Corporate Social Responsibility in Difficult Times*, edited by David Crowther and Shahla Seifi, 225–44. Approaches to Global Sustainability, Markets, and Governance. Singapore: Springer Nature Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-99-2591-9_11.

This book chapter reviews how CSR policies among Mauritius' top firms evolved during COVID-19 and identifies key shifts in business social responsibility.

49. Chiumbu, Sarah, et al. "Framing COVID-19: Fear Appeal Messaging in Print Media in Namibia and South Africa." In *COVID-19 and the Media in Sub-Saharan Africa: Media Viability, Framing and Health Communication*, edited by Carol Azungi Dralega and Andrew Napakol, 99–113. Emerald Publishing Limited, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-80382-271-620221007>.

This chapter analyzes the use of fear by print media in Namibia and South Africa as a way to influence behavioral change on COVID-19. It discusses the effectiveness and potential drawbacks of such messaging strategies, contributing to the discourse on media's role in public health communication

50. Goldstein, Patricio, and Ricardo Hausmann. 2021. "Economics of COVID-19 in Three Sub-Saharan African Countries: Ethiopia, Namibia and South Africa." In *Shaping Africa's Post-COVID Recovery*, edited by Rabah Arezki, Simeon Djankov, and Ugo Panizza, 195–214. The Centre for Economic Policy Research Press.

This book chapter compares the economic impacts of COVID-19 in Ethiopia, Namibia, and South Africa. The authors analyze the socioeconomic disruptions caused by the pandemic, focusing on the specific challenges faced by each country and how they navigated the health and economic crises. They also discuss post-pandemic recovery strategies tailored to each nation's unique context.

51. Mooko, Theophilus. 2022. "Policy Gaps and Imperatives for Rebuilding Sustainable African Tertiary Education Systems Disrupted by COVID-19." In *The Emerald Handbook of Higher Education in a Post-Covid World*, 267–88. Emerald Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-80382-193-120221013>.

The chapter discusses policy failures and the rise of blended learning in Botswana's tertiary education sector, calling for systemic reforms post-COVID-19.

52. Ndzinisa, Nqobile, and Eliza Govender. 2024. "Tracing the COVID-19 Pandemic Response in Eswatini: Implications of Dominant Approaches in Health Communication." In *Communicating COVID-19*, edited by Monique Lewis et al., 285–300. Cham: Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41237-0_15.

The chapter Explores how health workers' vaccine communication in Eswatini is influenced by cultural interpretations and personal perceptions of the COVID-19 vaccine.

53. Nyikadzino, Tawanda, and Natasha Mataire. 2022. "Zimbabwe's COVID-19 Response: Insights for Post-Pandemic Responsible Management and Reinvigorating Public Trust." In *Responsible Management of Shifts in Work Modes*, 27–41. Emerald Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-80262-719-020221003>.

The chapter discusses Zimbabwe's COVID-19 policy response and the erosion of public trust, recommending governance reforms for future crises.

54. Tadesse, Getaw, and Wondwosen Tefera. 2021. "Assessing African Economic Policy Responses to COVID-19." In *Building Resilient African Food Systems after COVID-19*, 81–99. Annual Trends and Outlook Report 2021. Kigali: AKADEMIYA2063. <https://ebrary.ifpri.org/digital/collection/p15738coll2/id/134754>.

In this book chapter, the authors analyze African governments' socio-economic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, documenting control measures like lockdowns and curfews. They also discuss economic support policies aimed at mitigating the impacts on agriculture, food security, and trade.

Papers

55. Agyemang, Jacob, John Azure, Danson Kimani, and Thankom Arun. 2023. "Governmental Financial Resilience during Pandemics: The Case of West Africa." *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management* 35 (3): 385–414. <https://doi.org/10.1108/JPBAFM-03-2021-0063>.

The paper assesses how governments in West Africa responded financially to COVID-19, drawing on lessons from the Ebola crisis and exploring the balance between anticipatory and coping strategies.

56. Arinzechukwu, Chukwuemeka, Chukwuemeka Okoye, and Paschal Ugwu. 2020. "African Cultural Value Orientation and Compliance to COVID-19 Preventive Measure: An Expository Insight," May.

This paper discusses how core African cultural values such as social affiliation conflict with COVID-19 preventive practices like social distancing, using Nigeria as a case study.

57. Bhuda, Monicca Thulisile, and Boipelo Kgwadi. 2023. "The Economic Measures Established to Rebuild the South African Cultural Heritage Tourism after the Covid-19 Impact." *Gender and Behaviour* 20 (April).

This paper explores the economic recovery strategies initiated by the South African government to restore cultural tourism following the pandemic's impact.

58. Mosabala, Thuso D. O. N. A. L. D. "Political Accountability and State Responsiveness during COVID-19 in Lesotho." *Work for Justice* , vol. 32, no. 01, 2021, pp. 52–59.

This paper discusses the political accountability and responsiveness of the Lesotho government during the COVID-19 pandemic. The author assesses how well the government responded to the crisis, highlighting issues related to governance, state accountability, and public health measures in the context of Lesotho's political landscape.

59. Frimpong, Osei Baffour, and Rigobert Minani Bihuzo. 2020. "The COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa: Impact, Responses, and Lessons from Ghana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda." *Africa Program Occasional Paper*.

This paper discusses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on three African countries: Ghana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda. It outlines the different responses to the pandemic in each country and highlights the lessons learned from these responses in terms of public health, economic impacts, and governance.

60. OECD. 2020. "COVID-19 and Africa: Socio-Economic Implications and Policy Responses." Paris: OECD. <https://doi.org/10.1787/96e1b282-en>.

The policy paper outlines the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on African economies and presents strategies such as increased aid and regional collaboration to support recovery.

61. Onyango, Gedion. 2024. "The Post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery, Government Performance and Lived Poverty Conditions in Kenya." *Public Organization Review* 24 (1): 369–87. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11115-023-00732-2>.

This paper draws insights from the Afro barometer round 9 dataset on how different African governments' economies have been recovering from COVID-19 and how this has affected citizens' well-being in Kenya. The results show the government has yet to stabilize high food prices, inflation, debts and job creation.

Research reports

62. African Development Bank. 2021. “African SMEs through COVID-19: Challenges, Policy Responses and Recommendations.” *Africa Economic Brief* 12 (5).
<https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/africa-economic-brief-african-smes-through-covid-19-challenges-policy-responses-and-recommendations-volume-12-issue-5>.

This report highlights how COVID-19 affected African SMEs and the policy measures introduced to help mitigate business disruptions, including financial support and regulatory easing.

63. African Union. “The Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Governance, Peace and Security in the Horn of Africa.” African Union, July 27, 2020.
<https://au.int/en/documents/20200727/impact-covid-19-outbreak-governance-peace-and-security-horn-africa>.

This report assesses COVID-19's implications for governance, peace, and security in the Horn of Africa, noting that while no country experienced significant political instability, the pandemic posed risks to ongoing political reforms and highlighted the need for coordinated regional responses.

64. Azcona, Ginette, Antra Bhatt, Jessamyn Encarnacion, and Laura Turquet. 2020. *From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19*. New York: UN Women.

This report addresses how gender inequalities have shaped women's and girls' vulnerability to the pandemic in Africa and advocates for gender-responsive recovery strategies.

65. Chau, Donovan. 2022. “The Geography and Politics of Kenya's Response to COVID-19.” *National Defense University Press*. <https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/2944879/the-geography-and-politics-of-kenyas-response-to-covid-19/>.

This report provides an in-depth analysis of the geographic and political dimensions of Kenya's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The study outlines the key governmental decisions and their impacts on public health, focusing on the roles played by local and national governments in managing the pandemic's spread across Kenya's diverse regions.

66. International Monetary Fund. 2023. “Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa, October 2023.” *IMF*.
<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/SSA/Issues/2023/10/16/regional-economic-outlook-for-sub-saharan-africa-october-2023>.

This report from the IMF provides an economic outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It examines the region's recovery trajectory, the challenges posed by the pandemic, and the prospects for sustainable growth. The report includes

country-specific data and policy recommendations for addressing the region's economic vulnerabilities.

67. Shah, Jasmit, et al. "Perceptions and Knowledge towards COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy among a Subpopulation of Adults in Kenya: An English Survey at Six Healthcare Facilities." *Vaccines* 10, no. 5 (2022): 705. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10050705>.

This survey report assesses factors affecting adults' reluctance to COVID-19 vaccine in Kenya. The study emphasizes the need for focused communication to address the fears, misconceptions to improve vaccine acceptance.

68. United Nations. 2022. *Recovery from Covid-19 in South Africa: A Socio-Economic Analysis of Pathways towards Inclusive and Sustainable Growth* | IRP.h, December 5, 2022. <http://recovery.preventionweb.net/publication/recovery-covid-19-south-africa-socio-economic-analysis-pathways-towards-inclusive-and->

This report explores South Africa's socio-economic challenges and opportunities in recovering from COVID-19. It examines potential pathways toward achieving inclusive and sustainable growth, addressing key issues such as poverty, inequality, unemployment, and gender gaps.

Studies

69. Akilimali, Pierre Z., Désiré K. Mashinda, Aimé M. Lulebo, Eric M. Mafuta, Marie A. Onyamboko, and Nguyen Toan Tran. 2022. "The Emergence of COVID-19 in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Community Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices in Kinshasa." Edited by Amitava Mukherjee. *PLOS ONE* 17 (6): e0265538. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0265538>.

This study explores community knowledge, attitudes, and practices in Kinshasa during the early stages of COVID-19, highlighting disparities in adherence to preventive measures.

70. Al-Aghbari, Ahmed Asa'ad, et al. "Reducing Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccination Uptake: Community Ideas from Urban and Rural Kenya." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 20, no. 23 (2023): 7093. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20237093>

This study explores community-driven strategies to enhance COVID-19 vaccine uptake in both urban and rural Kenyan settings. It emphasizes the importance of culturally sensitive approaches and community engagement in addressing vaccine hesitancy.

71. Al-Mhanna, Sameer Badri, Alexios Batrakoulis, Abdulrahman M. Sheikh, Abdulaziz A. Aldayel, Abdulwali Sabo, Mahaneem Mohamed, Hafeez Abiola Afolabi, et al. 2024. "Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on Physical Activity Behavior among Students in Somalia." *AIMS Public Health* 11 (2): 459–76. <https://doi.org/10.3934/publichealth.2024023>.

This study reports on the reduced physical activity among Somali university students due to COVID-19 lockdown measures and highlights jogging as the most common form of exercise.

72. Aragie, Emerta, Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse, and James Thurlow. n.d. "The Short-term Economywide Impacts of COVID-19 in Africa: Insights from Ethiopia." Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-8268.12519>.

This study uses economic modeling to assess how Ethiopia's economy was impacted during COVID-19, focusing on sector-specific losses and evaluating recovery strategies.

73. Arrey-Ndip, N. A., and E. G. Arrika. 2022. "Cultural Perspectives on COVID-19 Existence, Origins, Preventive Measures and Remedies: A Survey of Selected Communities in the Yaounde Municipality." *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences Studies* 4 (3): 276–93. <https://doi.org/10.32996/jhsss.2022.4.3.32>.

This study examines beliefs and knowledge about COVID-19 in Yaounde, Cameroon, showing how cultural perspectives influence views on the virus's existence, origins, and control. It notes varying levels of awareness and highlights herbal remedies and ancestral appeasement as perceived treatments by some respondents.

74. Asare-Nuamah, Peter, et al. "Determinants of COVID-19 Response Strategies in Selected African Countries." *Journal of Asian and African Studies* 57, no. 4 (2022): 483–500. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19367244211055799>.

This study analyzes the factors that affected COVID-19 response strategies in Cameroon, Ghana, Lesotho, and Uganda. The results showed the response and compliance to the pandemic were affected by the efficiency of the measures, perceived seriousness of the pandemic and access to or lack of information. The research vouches for individualized messaging for these to be effective.

75. Awojobi, Nathaniel Oladayo, Eric Kwabia, and Oluwatoyin Adeniji. 2023. "Social Protection Programmes in Mitigating the Socio-Economic Impacts of the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Comparative Study of Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa." *Socioeconomic Challenges* 7 (3): 21–47. [https://doi.org/10.61093/sec.7\(3\).21-47.2023](https://doi.org/10.61093/sec.7(3).21-47.2023).

This comparative study explores how social protection policies in Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa helped mitigate socio-economic impacts during the pandemic, analyzing their effectiveness and limitations.

76. Ayanlade, Ayansina, and Maren Radeny. 2020. "COVID-19 and Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa: Implications of Lockdown during Agricultural Planting Seasons." *NPJ Science of Food* 4: 13. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41538-020-00073-0>.

This study assesses the timing of lockdowns during planting seasons and their impact on food security and poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa.

77. Chawinga, Winner, Wales Singini, John Phuka, Nathaniel Chibatata, Collins Mitambo, Clara Sambani, and Dzinkambani Kambalame. 2023. "Combating Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Rural Areas of Malawi: Factors Affecting the Fight." *African Journal of Primary Health Care & Family Medicine* 15 (1). <https://doi.org/10.4102/phcfm.v15i1.3464>.

This study evaluates the challenges rural communities in Malawi faced in adhering to COVID-19 measures and highlights the influence of income, education, and misinformation.

78. Lamptey, Emmanuel, Ephraim Kumi Senkyire, Serwaa Dorcas, Dooshima Aki Benita, Evans Osei Boakye, Theckla Ikome, and Alex Asamoah. 2022. "Exploring the Myths Surrounding the COVID-19 Vaccines in Africa:

The study to Investigate Their Impacts on Acceptance Using Online Survey and Social Media." *Clinical and Experimental Vaccine Research* 11 (2): 193–208.

79. Ouma, S., Ndeti, W., & Mwangi, S. "Influence of COVID-19 Crisis Communication on Public Perception of the Kenyan Government Communication Strategy: A Case of Kibra Sub-County Nairobi, Kenya." *African Multidisciplinary Journal of Research* (2023): 75–90. <https://journals.spu.ac.ke/index.php/amjr/article/view/191>.

This study assesses the public perception of the Kenyan government's crisis communication during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on Kibra Sub-County. It emphasizes the implication of effective communication in public health crises.

80. Ozili, Peterson. 2022. "COVID-19 in Africa: Socio-Economic Impact, Policy Response and Opportunities." *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 42 (3/4): 177–200. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSSP-05-2020-0171>.

This study analyses the COVID-19 situation in Africa and discusses the socioeconomic impact, policy response, and opportunities. The author recommends a coordinated and bold response by African authorities, which includes improving health systems, providing financial support, preserving employment, providing liquidity, and ensuring communication systems in small communities.

81. Patrick, Rhoda. 2024. "Can the Mute Still Speak? Exploring the Silence Culture around Gender-Based Violence in South Africa Pre-and Post-Covid-19." *II* (January): 31–55.

This study explores the factors that promote gender-based violence and the culture of silence around it before, during, and after the Covid-19 pandemic. The focus is on gender-based violence in South Africa, especially during the 2020 lockdown, which saw one of the highest rates of reported cases of gender-based violence globally.