The University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) Program on Social and Political Change (PSPC) presents the first installment of a series of bulletins on COVID-19 around the world. The bulletins compile COVID-19 news updates from different countries and regions that illustrate the COVID-19 situation around the world.

This list was compiled and organized by Dominique Louise Martinez, Student Intern for the Program on Social and Political Change.

INTERNATIONAL

COVID 19 Responses (In the World) - https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/

Country	Title	Abstract	Annotated Bibliography
Africa			
Algeria	*Coronavirus in Algeria: A country's last warning*	During the pandemic, Algeria has been suffering the consequences of weak policies and ongoing political tensions. More and more activists are speaking up against the government demanding a better response towards the COVID-19 pandemic. Aside from being under-equipped and inefficient the government has been downplaying the pandemic as another hoax which has increased the people's distrust which only worsened the situation in the country.	Ghebouli, Zine Labidine. 2020. "Coronavirus in Algeria: A Country's Last Warning." *The Africa Report*, 06 April 2020. https://www.theafricareport.com/25365/coronavirus-in-algeria-a-countrys-last-warning/
Americas			
United States	*U.S. Government Response To COVID-19 Was Slow. But How Does It Compare To Other Countries?*	The United States had its first case of COVID-19 on the 29th of February 2020. It was in mid-March that they responded to the threats of the pandemic through policy changes which would include social distancing, and restriction of gatherings through the closing of schools and parks. Generally, there is a	Corley, Jacquelyn. 2020. "U.S. Government Response To COVID-19 Was Slow. But How Does It Compare To Other Countries?" *Forbes,* 10 April 2020. https://www.forbes.com/sites/jacquely

		slow response from American authorities during the pandemic when compared to other countries.	ncorley/2020/04/10/us-government-response-to-covid-19-was-slow-but-how-does-it-compare-to-other-countries/
United States	*The crisis that shocked the world: America's response to the coronavirus*	With the increasing number of deaths in the United States, many Americans believe that the government has been very ineffective in response to the pandemic. And even officials themselves have been pointing fingers at each other for their incompetence. In the Global Health Security Index, the US ranked no.1 in the rising threat of infectious disease. Experts in the country have advised that if the federal government will not act on it with urgency, the public health system of the country will eventually collapse.	Achenbach, Joel, William Wan, Karin Brulliard, and Chelsea Janes. 2020. "The Crisis That Shocked the World: America's Response to the Coronavirus." *The Washington Post*, 20 July 2020. https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/07/19/coronavirus-us-failure/
Canada	*How Canada is fighting Covid-19: Ramping up PPE production, travel ban from the U.S. and Bonnie Henry*	According to CNBC, Canada has been responding fairly well towards the pandemic compared to its other neighboring countries in the Americas. Their hospitals are prepared, companies have been producing enough PPE's to be self-sufficient, and they weighed in the importance of a spokesperson to be able to communicate rules more clearly and because of this they have better economic relief than that of the US.	Farr, Christina. 2020. "How Canada Is Fighting Covid-19: Ramping up PPE Production, Travel Ban from the U.S. and Bonnie Henry." *CNBC,* 15 July 2020. https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/13/how-canada-is-fighting-covid-19-ppe-travel-ban-bonnie-henry.html
Asia			
South Korea	*How South Korea prevented a coronavirus disaster—and why the battle isn't over*	South Korean authorities responded to the pandemic with a high emphasis on testing. The testing took place in hundreds of walk-in booths scattered across South Korea. Notably, they also took a "big data" approach wherein contact tracing is performed with the use of location and transaction data taken from mobile devices and credit card histories.	Zastrow, Mark. 2020. "How South Korea Prevented a Coronavirus Disaster-and Why the Battle Isn't Over." *National Geographic,* 12 May 2020 https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/05/how-south-korea-

			prevented-coronavirus-disaster-why-battle-is-not-over/
Vietnam	*Emerging COVID-19 success story: Vietnam's commitment to containment*	As Vietnam reported its first case of the coronavirus, the country immediately implemented their strategy of targeted testing, tracing, and containment. With this, for the last 4 months only 300 cases and 0 deaths were reported in the country as certain COVID hotspots were quickly put on lockdown lessening the spread of the virus. According to Vietnam, the primary reason for their success is by not downplaying the virus. Since the 9th of January 2020, they have maintained a clear, consistent, and creative public health messaging that informs their people of the dangers of the virus.	Pollack, Todd et al. 2020. "Emerging COVID-19 Success Story: Vietnam's Commitment to Containment." *Our World in Data,* 30 June 2020. https://ourworldindata.org/covid-exemplar-vietnam
Iran	*Coronavirus: How Iran is battling a new wave of coronavirus*	After the lifting of restrictions in Iran mid-April, there has been an overwhelming sudden increase in COVID-19 cases in the country. Just in mid-June, over 100 deaths and over 3,000 newly infected have been reported daily. Iran's chief epidemiologist stated that this is because the country has been testing asymptomatic individuals for the virus. They have found that 1 out of 10 tested would come out as positive and this was because people have not been observing proper social distancing measures which pushes the Iranian ministry to re-impose some restrictions back for their health and safety.	Ali, Zulfiqar. 2020. "Coronavirus: How Iran Is Battling a New Wave of Coronavirus." *BBC News,* 24 July 2020. https://www.bbc.com/news/52959756
Europe			
Germany	*How leadership in various countries has affected COVID-19 response*	When Germany discovered their first case on the 27th of January 2020, it took them just a month to stock up on test kits to be able to start with the testing and	Blackburn, Christine Crudo, and Leslie Ruyle. 2020. "How Leadership in Various Countries Has Affected

		tracing. In mid-March, when businesses and schools were all closed down, the country was processing 100,000 tests a week. They believed that the science-based approach is the best way to lift restrictions faster.	COVID-19 Response Effectiveness." *The Conversation,* 27 May 2020. https://theconversation.com/how-leadership-in-various-countries-has-affected-covid-19-response-effectiveness-138692
	effectiveness		
France	*Macron Beat Back the Coronavirus. France Is Not Impressed.*	Despite France's shortage in masks, sluggishness in implementing rules and regulations, and over 29,000 COVID-19 deaths in the country, in comparison to countries like the US, Italy, and Spain, the country is said to be faring better. President Macron was able to lessen the unemployment, fix the pension system, and was able to declare that the pandemic was "under control" - the French remain unsatisfied. Their distrust is brought on by the slow response and the feeling of being "lied to" by the government. However, experts still believe that despite this, the country is still performing well when it comes to the actual response.	Nossiter, Adam. 2020. "Macron Beat Back the Coronavirus. France Is Not Impressed." *The New York Times,* 05 June 2020. https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/05/world/europe/coronavirus-france-macron-reopening.html
United Kingdom	*Coronavirus: UK brings back 14-day quarantine for Spain*	Recently, there has been a spike on the numbers of coronavirus cases in Spain. And because of this, the United Kingdom decided that all returning English travellers from Spain (and other countries on their list) are required to observe a 14-day quarantine starting Sunday (26 July 2020).	BBC. 2020. "Coronavirus: UK Brings Back 14-Day Quarantine for Spain." 25 July 2020. https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-53540691
Sweden	*Did Sweden's coronavirus strategy succeed or fail?*	As of July, Sweden's daily reported cases of COVID-19 have been down to single digit numbers. Though state epidemiologist Anders Tegnell stated that in March too many have died in care homes, he believes that a lockdown would not have made much of a difference. The reason for their success relies on voluntary social distancing along with avoiding public	Savage, Maddy. 2020. "Did Sweden's Coronavirus Strategy Succeed or Fail?" *BBC News*, 24 July 2020. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53498133

		places, transport, and applying work from home as the means to earn. However, the leaders of Sweden have much to prove as the trust ratings towards their response has fallen drastically. The people insist on implementing clearer strategies on a national scale to address the issue.	
Oceania			
New Zealand	*New Zealand takes early and hard action to tackle COVID-19*	New Zealand has been fairly successful in containing and controlling the COVID-19 pandemic because of their prepared strategy towards the disease. The immediate action of the government towards the pandemic along with the collected data and information from scientists and those provided by the WHO helped the country achieve this feat. Testing, contract tracing, isolation, and public communication lessened the possible economic blow of the pandemic. However, despite being able to keep the cases under control they stated that they will "not be letting their guard down" to ensure the safety of their people.	World Health Organization. 2020. "New Zealand Takes Early and Hard Action to Tackle COVID-19." 15 July 2020. https://www.who.int/westernpacific/news/feature-stories/detail/new-zealand-takes-early-and-hard-action-to-tackle-covid-19?fbclid=IwAR1ZWjiilBkSh4gYJfPrHwyzZ7cvzPare6ufcZcZTX4b2g4HHjrAbn439wo
Australia	*Coronavirus: Are Australia's numbers at risk of escalating?*	Australia has been recognized lately for their response on the COVID-19 pandemic. This was because of their quick decisions on implementing lockdowns, border control, and mandatory quarantine measures. Because of this, only 7,400 cases were reported with 102 deaths. But in late March there were over 100 newly reported cases which urged Australian authorities to focus on implementing stay-at-home orders to suburban "hotspots". Officials have been discussing the possibility of a second wave, but they have assured that as of now, it is under control.	Mao, Frances. 2020. "Coronavirus: Are Australia's Numbers at Risk of Escalating?" *BBC News*, 22 June 2020. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-53132585

REGIONAL

COVID 19 Responses (In the World)

Title	Abstract	Annotated Bibliography
Africa		
Inside the Efforts to Prepare African Countries for COVID-19	For the African response to COVID-19, the WHO has been hands on with preparing its healthcare system. Africa does have a high amount of movement and travel from/to China to which testing capacities at ports and borders are being expanded. Also, in order to prepare, the WHO has trained 11,000 health workers through online programs and provided 30,000 sets of protective gear for the African frontliners.	Mansoor, Sanya. 2020. "Inside the Efforts to Prepare African Countries for COVID-19." *Time,* 26 February 2020. https://time.com/5788873/covid-19-africa-response/
Africa's response to COVID-19	From 2016 to 2019, Africa has already been struggling with a series of outbreaks and other diseases (ex. Cholera, measles and etc.). Because of this, in 2019 they became part of the Joint External Evaluation of International Health Regulations to understand, detect and learn how to respond to these health threats. Through this, countries in Africa where put in a state of heightened alert as many more other programs and projects are laid down by the government to contain the virus.	Ihekweazu, Chikwe, and Emmanuel Agogo. 2020. "Africa's Response to COVID-19." *BMC Medicine* 18, no. 151 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-020-01622-w
Americas		
Responding to COVID-19: Education in Latin America and the Caribbean	According to UNESCO, with help from the Regional Educational Working Group, online repository resources are being distributed to Latin America and the Caribbean to cope with the education during the time of the pandemic.	UNESCO. 2020. "National Responses." 15 May 2020. https://en.unesco.org/fieldoffice/santiago/covid-19-education-alc/response

Asia		
Explaining Successful (and Unsuccessful) COVID-19 Responses in Southeast Asia	Abuza evaluated Southeast Asian countries on the grounds of leadership, transparency, legitimacy, and preparedness. On leadership, countries which practice decisive action inclusive of the decision to close borders fared better which was the case for Vietnam and Singapore. On government transparency, both Singapore and Vietnam have effectively communicated the risks and the responses planned in turn. Countries such as Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines have been known to have downplayed the pandemic in its earlier phases. On legitimacy, the factor is related to public trust and government performance indicated better leadership than the process of empowering new leaders (electoral or appointment processes). On preparedness, countries which allot low allocations for their healthcare have fared worse than those which had more supported health care systems. This also indicated testing capabilities to which countries like Vietnam and Thailand have fared better than the Philippines, Singapore, and Indonesia which are facing higher volumes than their capacities.	Abuza, Zachary. 2020. "Explaining Successful (and Unsuccessful) COVID-19 Responses in Southeast Asia." *The Diplomat,* 21 April 2020. https://thediplomat.com/2020/04/explaining-successful-and-unsuccessful-covid-19-responses-in-southeast-asia/
Europe		
Timeline of EU action - Commission strengthens preparedness for future outbreaks	The European Commission discussed the need for "first-aid" short term measures for possible future outbreaks like the COVID-19. This includes, "testing and contact tracing, improved public health surveillance and widened access to medical countermeasures" to be able to reduce the possible impact of this future outbreak.	European Commission. 2020. "Timeline of EU Action." https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/timeline-eu-action_en
A recovery plan for Europe: EU leaders agree on EU	During the Special European Council meeting held on July 17 to 21, 2020, European leaders agreed on the need to	European Council: Council of the European Union. 2020. "A Recovery Plan for Europe."

recovery plan and budget 2021-2027	allot a budget for the recovery plan to help Europe rebuild itself from year 2021 to 2027. The comprehensive package is worth 1,824.3 billion euros to support jobs, workers, businesses, and member states to deal with the crisis in all parts of Europe. The package shall be acquired from seven programs in the form of loans and grants and will be signed by 31 December 2023.	28 July 2020. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-recovery-plan/
Oceania		
How New Zealand and Australia are tackling COVID-19	Evidently, Australia and New Zealand have set a record in handling the pandemic. New Zealand imposed a lockdown in its early stages. This was accompanied by public addresses daily to assure the public which was a move also taken by the Australian prime minister. Both countries have taken the approach towards aggressive mass testing and contact tracing. The only drawback from the public and experts is the risk of compromising personal health data to which security must be improved on. Generally, both Australia and New Zealand are considered to have treated the pandemic non-politically by referring to scientific experts on the matter.	Kurlantzick, Joshua. 2020. "After Containing COVID-19, Can New Zealand and Australia Show How to Reopen?" *World Politics Review,* 06 May 2020. https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/28737/after-containing-covid-19-can-new-zealand-and-australia-show-how-to-reopen

GLOBAL

COVID 19 Responses (In the World)

Title	Abstract	Annotated Bibliography
COVID 19: A Comparative Study of Asian, European, American continent	According to a study by Deshwal in India, imposing lockdowns plays a crucial role in the containment of the virus for high density population countries with weak medical systems like India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Compared to Europe, the Americas, and neighboring countries in Asia, even though data has shown that they have faster transmission with increasing numbers of cases per day (40-100 cases) with increasing death rates, a country with a better healthcare system is still better off. The most these countries with weak health systems can do is impose a lockdown to buy some time to plan and make strategies to address the pandemic.	Deshwal, V.K. 2020. "COVID 19: A Comparative Study of Asian, European, American continent." *International Journal of Scientific Research and Engineering Development* 3, no. 2 (Mar-Apr 2020): 436-440. http://www.ijsred.com/volume3/issue2/IJSRED-V3I2P63.pdf
The Best Global Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic	It has been months now and the world has been busy dealing with COVID-19. America is now deemed to be the epicenter of the virus and countries are being assessed on how they have responded to the pandemic. With this the Eurasia group has compared different countries according to the following criteria: 1) health care management, 2) political response, and 3) financial response. Using this criterion, it has shown that Taiwan, Singapore, South Korea, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Germany, Iceland, UAE and Greece are among those who handled the pandemic better than most in the world.	Bremmer, Ian. 2020. "The Best Global Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic." *Time,* 12 June 2020. https://time.com/5851633/best-global-responses-covid-19/
Cross-Country Analysis: Trends and Key Lessons	The main policy responses of many countries all over the world focuses on preventing transmission, ensuring physical infrastructure and workforce capacity, providing effective health services, paying for services, and governance. Under preventing transmission, the strategy of	COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor. "Cross-Country Analysis." Accessed 26 July 2020. https://analysis.covid19healthsystem.org/

	"find, test, trace, isolate, and support" still shows to be the most effective along with enforcing physical distancing and having a clear health communication strategy. Other policies focus on giving financial support. protection of health care homes, health service delivery, and allocating a significant amount to be able to help all sectors affected by the pandemic.	
Coronavirus Global Response	Coronavirus Global Response is a global action launched by the World Health Organization and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, which aims to support countries all over the world both in terms of health assistance and economic recovery. They aim to encourage those countries who have been critically hit by the pandemic by offering funding. As of now, the summit has raised funds amounting to 15.9 billion euros to help with the universal access to tests, treatments, and vaccines for the coronavirus.	European Commission. "Global Goal: Unite for Our Future | The Concert." Coronavirus Global Response. Accessed 26 July 2020. https://global-response.europa.eu/index_en