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Dealing with Covid-19 in rural Africa: lessons from previous crises

This note summarises insights from a study commissioned by FCDO, which examines the lessons that can be drawn from previous crises to inform responses to Covid-19 in rural Africa.

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This [briefing note](#) summarises insights from a study commissioned by FCDO (at the time, under DFID), which examines the lessons that can be drawn from previous crises to inform responses to Covid-19 in rural Africa.

Most of the evidence comes from a review of seven viral health crises: HIV/AIDS; H5N1 (avian influenza); Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS); H1N1 (swine flu); Ebola virus disease (EVD) in West Africa and the Democratic Republic of Congo; and Covid-19 in China. Two economic shocks were also considered: the 1997 Asian financial crisis and the 2007/2008 food price spike.

It addresses two main questions:

- What might the consequences be of disease, and responses to it, on agriculture, rural livelihoods, food systems and food security?
- What lessons on dealing with those consequences can be drawn from previous crises?

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Health workers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo wear personal protective equipment before treating people suspected of having Ebola.

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