Assessing the effectiveness of the Djiboutian Government during the covid 19: Focusing on the Djiboutian perspective.

Kadir Aden Dirir¹

Abstract

This study examines government effectiveness in the context of covid management by taking into account four factors that contributed to this effectiveness, Trust in government, Government responsiveness, Covid information, and government leadership. The data were pooled from the Djiboutian citizens between 4 march to 21 May 2022, 283 questionnaires were collected in order to complete this study. Exploratory factor analysis and Cronbach's alpha test were used to check the validity and reliability of the data set, and a Pearson correlation model was conducted to test the hypothesis. The results show a strong positive correlation between responsiveness and effectiveness. While a moderate relationship was revealed from covid information and leadership. Therefore, an increase in these three factors increases government effectiveness. However, a weak positive association was found in trust in government.

KEYWORDS: Public management, Government-Effectiveness, Leadership, Covid Responsiveness, Public policy, Djibouti.

Introduction

The first cases of the coronavirus disease were reported in the Wuhan capital city of Hubei province. In December 2019 the virus has progressed very rapidly, forcing the WHO to declare a public health emergency at the international level in end of January 2020. Then as the pandemic progressed further, impacting approximately 215 territories, undermining socio-economics and creating chaos in the public health sector. Many countries decided to act out, consequently, implemented policies to mitigate and limit the spread of the disease. It is no doubt that the Covid-19 tested countries' capacity in terms of dealing with the crises. According to (Kahn M. E., 2005; Raschky, P. A., 2008 and Lin, 2015) state effectiveness can be determined by the policies a country designs implements and in response or countermeasures to natural disasters and pandemics which later, will help evaluate the performance. government's Likewise, government effectiveness can be noticed when authorities' activities and services with citizens' preferences. match subsequently ensuring greater legitimacy and trust among people and public sphere (Huther, 1998). Various papers show that better governance brings development, especially in the context of economic growth, public investment, and lead to an improved social infrastructure as well as decreasing

¹ Gmail : <u>kadir.dirir4@gmail.com</u>

Kadir Aden Dirir had studied at the University of Djibouti Faculty of Law, Economics, and Management. He holds a bachelor's degree in law and a minor in politics.

infant mortality (Boswell, 2003; McKinney & Moore, 200; Kaufmann, 2004; Aden, 2022).

Several research had measured effectiveness but with an excessive focus on organizational effectiveness (Campbell, 1977), however, few papers investigated government effectiveness, (Provan, 2001; Boyne, 2002; Selden, 2004; Brewer, 2006), especially in crises management. the context of Furthermore, most previous studies examine one government agency's effectiveness, or at the federal level, therefore, leaving the country's entire government effectiveness unaddressed. It is no doubt that there is several prominent research that addresses government effectiveness (Yang K. &., 2006). However, they have their own limitation, an elaborate example is when (Putnam, 1992) identified government effectiveness by focusing on three-dimension such as budget legislation, innovation, and cabinet stability, but Putnam's index is limited as it measures capacity more than effectiveness (Yang K. a., 2006). In most published crisis studies, 47% focused on corporations and 26% on individuals, these results illustrate the need for more research on crisis management in the public sector, especially factors that are unique to government crises.

Generally, recent papers cover reactive policies, and medical issues, while government effectiveness is only discussed in a scant number of papers. For instance, (Serikbayeva, 2021) investigated how different stages of government effectiveness affect the covid-19 death levels, democracy, policy responses, the share of the elderly population and health system, and capacity. Moreover, (Dorsch et al, 2022; Cronert, 2020) researched government effectiveness in covid-19 management by analyzing regimes different political such as authoritarian regimes and democratic states.

thus, this paper assesses what factors are in correlation and contributed to the Djiboutian government's effectiveness in covid-19 performance as according to the WHO statics, only 189 death cases were recorded in the Djiboutian territory. Additionally, four factors will be utilized to examine the authority's effectiveness, such as Government leadership, Responsiveness, Trust, and Covid information. The results reveal that Government Responsiveness has positive association with a strong Government effectiveness while both Leadership and Covid information show a moderate positive relationship however Trust in government revealed a weak positive relationship.

Literature review

Government effectiveness and efficiency are both broad terms, they can both include a diverse range of sectors, such as addressing the need of people, lowering the risk of rebel success, improving the healthcare system, raising revenue, and enhancing market regulation (Besley, 2014; Besley, T., & Persson, T., 2010). Most research address the question of organizational effectiveness (Campbell, 1977), Therefore, relatively a scant number of studies address the question of government effectiveness particularly in the context of pandemic and disaster management (Provan, 2001; Boyne, 2002; Selden, 2004). However, while authorities in charge accentuate measures of effectiveness, academicians have yet to develop clear and conclusive ways of elaborating and addressing effectiveness (Rainey, 2009).

According to (Kahn, 2005; Raschky, 2008; Lin, 2015), State effectiveness involves adopting, designing, and implementing policies for crises, which later, will determine the success or failure of the policy in force to pandemics or natural catastrophes. In addition, (Rajkumar, 2008), investigated the

effect of governance quality by the level of corruption and the degree of bureaucracy on the efficiency of public expenditure and presented empirical proof suggesting that clean and genuine governance augments the effectiveness and increases government legitimacy. (Schwartz J. 2003) demonstrated as well that State effectiveness plays a critical role in the context of environmental policy compliance by examining human capital, fiscal strength, and state responsiveness. We can already notice that most countries interfered when the covid pandemic started to spread. This included travel restrictions, social distancing, and protective measures (Masks, self-isolation, school closure, and prohibiting public events) (Chinazzi et al., 2020). Furthermore, several prominent papers have differentiated between authoritarian and democratic countries and their way of dealing with the pandemics. Some of them had gone to the extent of presuming that authoritarian regimes could have advantages in dealing with natural catastrophes. Such as effective mobilization of public transport, and government control over the mass media which according to them, may be key factors for an effective response to the crisis in a nondemocratic setting (Schwartz J., 2012). For instance, Singapore's fast response to the pandemic, and rapid detection of cases through a pragmatic diverse surveillance system and aggressive contact tracing have helped them succeed in the control of the spread of the disease. The same approach was taken by Vietnam in response to the Covid (Lee, 2009; Triggle et al., 2020). However, there is no empirical evidence that proves that non-democratic are better at pandemic management (Rubin, 2012). In this paper, we will investigate four factors that are correlated with the Djiboutian government's effectiveness in the context of tackling the pandemic.

Covid Responsiveness

African countries were the last ones to be hit by the pandemic (Lone, 2020). However, with their vulnerable health care system, and infrastructure, and without Covid relief measures, the continent was already so fragile for any type of disaster let alone a In Africa, The pandemic. Egyptian government announced the first case on 14 February 2020 (Hassany, 2020). Djibouti was not an exception; the first case was reported on 17 March 2020 when a foreign military who was stationed in one of the military bases in the country entered Djibouti (Reliefweb, 23 March 2020,). One week later on 23 March, two other cases were reported from two nationals returning to the country. Since, the first case was reported on 17 March until the middle of May, the confirmed cases were estimated to be 1,401 with 4 death and a fatality rate of 0.3% (Djibouti, 2020), which forced the country to act before the situation gets worst.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of leaders around the world's first response was to activate an emergency management system and follow a wellestablished policy agenda. According to Al Saidi et al., (2020), the successful leadership and fast government-led agendas resulted in an effective response to the pandemic. For example. The Indonesian authority's response to the covid involved an accurate reporting and analysis of the pandemic, early decisive detection, efforts to prevent the spread, human monitoring, and inspection of transportation such as goods (Djalante et al., 2020; Sukmana, 2020). The Djiboutian government had announced a state of emergency after several cases were reported, as a result, the country had worked with WHO and other regional and international partners to develop a responsive plan. In government-administered addition. the several intervention measures to control the

disease circulation; the plan was reviewed and developed along with WHO. The Djiboutian government plan was designed to identify cases, and limit the covid positive cases to the minimum, by isolating covid holders in treatment and isolation centers prepared by the minister of health department (Djibouti., 2020). This strict policy covered the closure of educational institutions just one day after domestic borders were closed on 18 and 19 march 2020, social gatherings and worshiping places were banned including nightclubs, transportation was limited, and the government employees were placed on leave. later after a few days, general confinement was imposed on the whole country.

As the government made this decision in a time of uncertainty without not fully knowing about the upcoming consequences of it. there was no guarantee that responses implemented by the government against the covid would be effective in terms of adequacy and reliability as the public trust and compliance were other factors that helped with the level of effectiveness. Therefore, it is important to analyze covid strategies, by strategy we mean responsiveness government and trust. separately, examine which factor to contributes more to the government's effectiveness and its success.

H1; There is a relationship between Government responsiveness and Government effectiveness during the pandemic

Government Leadership

Available literatures have proposed various definitions regarding leadership, see; (Kellerman, 2001; Liddle, 2010; Vogel, 2015; Crosby, 2018). It is important to know how leadership operates at different levels of administrative hierarchies but to do so, we should analyze from a point based on the crisis, since, both terms are somehow

intertwined, and interestingly various papers have studied different aspects of leadership in a time of crisis (Hayashi, 2012; Kapucu, 2018). And it is quite clear from now on the life-altering consequences of good or poor leadership in post covid. But many evidence demonstrated the acts of some political or business leaders of their contribution to the covid spread, consequently resulted in a passel of fatalities which could have possibly been avoided if most of them have followed scientist's advice (Telford, 2020; Walker, 2020). The covid pandemic provides us a unique glimpse into leadership, particularly when we focus on public health governance and engaging the community by creating a sense of shared purpose or mission among the public. The Brazilian government is a great example terms pandemic in of mismanagement, for instance, countries in which health care is shared among federal, provincial, and municipal governments often struggle to reach a common ground especially in the context of the provision of public versus private care or over the fundings. Moreover, key reasons for this poor mismanagement of covid regulation are the lack of public health leadership, corruption, the absence of governmental and According effectiveness measures. to (Marreiro, 2020), Crisis tests the capacities of health systems, but crises might not be the only obstacle when we take into consideration of the lack of public health governance, and the appointment of military and inexperienced professionals in the ministry of health which will gradually have lasting effects even beyond the pandemic. Aside, from the Brazilian government, U.S president Donald Trump displayed low reckless incompetence in covid management among global leaders because of ignoring scientific advice, which lead to his leadership skills being heavily criticized; see, (Lipton, 2020; also Evanega et al ., 2020). Boris Johnson in the UK was among others

(Mason, 2020). In contrast, Angela Markel (German chancellor) and her government who provided an early response against the pandemic were praised by the media, mostly because of her scientific background (Miller, 2020).

Decision-making is strongly correlated and affected by leaders' skills to coordinate diverse groups and crises. Despite national and local governments' leadership and strategies during the covid pandemic being widely different, some leaders have shown strong leadership abilities and this can be justifiable to how extent they believed in science and Scientifics (Forster, 2021). New Zealand's leadership and strategies are a significant example. The island nation immediately banned flights from China on February 3, after the WHO confirmed the first death outside China. The state's intention was to go hard and early as a covid response measure, as the PM announced further border restrictions, self-isolation, and measures related to supporting economic and policies regulating mass gatherings (Ardern, 2020). in addition, the government's collaboration with experienced bodies in the matter contributed to the island's fast response, for instance, Otago University professors from the public health department had considerably urged the government to urgently adopt a strict and aggressive approach (Baker, 2020), Which lead the country to upgrade to level four earlier than any other country (Ardern, J., 2020). Slovakia is another prominent leadership example, in terms of epidemiologic aspects (Covid-19) Slovakia was categorized as the most successful country on the European soil in controlling the spread of covid-19 by showing a strong political leadership at all levels (Walker S. &., 2020). Therefore, the following hypothesis is constructed

H2; Leadership is associated with the Djiboutian Government's effectiveness during the Covid pandemic.

Trust in Government

Dahl (2008) stated in his paper, that government effectiveness depends on public trust. this fiduciary trust is a mutual trust that governments and elected officials establish. According to (Keele, 2007), authorities create a social contract with the citizens, and failure to accomplish these tasks will be perceived as a disappointment (Thomas, 1998). Government trust can be undermined by political expediency especially when crises occur which require adequate actions (Olsen, 1989). Consequently, for the public to acknowledge these measures, they must be credible and effective to satisfy the expectation on which the authorities in charge depend (Luhmann, 2018). Anderson (2010)and Clarke et al., (1993),performance demonstrated policy when they contribute particularly to economic performance, automatically stimulates political trust, however, others revealed no effect between government trust and economic performance (Hakhverdian, 2012).

Although the notion of trust contains different meanings; (Jackson et al, 2018; Mayer, 1995) suggests that trust can be interpreted as the readiness of individuals or their willingness to surrender to the actions of the trusted party without desiring to monitor or control them. But with the expectation of effectiveness, competence, and integrity from this trusted party (Grimmelikhuijsen S. &., 2017). Furthermore, good governance is required as a mediator to attain a maximum level of public trust in the government (Jameel, 2019), as this encourages the government's strategies to include everyone and interact with the public (Speer, 2012). Similarly, the government's response to the public's demands enhances the authority's

legitimacy and trust among the people (Linde, 2020). In other words, this responsiveness is linked to how that particular government pays attention, provides efficient feedback measures, and responds to queries (Qiaoan, 2020). Such is the case of responding to the pandemic demands which involve a mass swath of the population. Therefore, the responsibility of the government is to organize this collective response (Jetten, 2020). But without trust in the authorities, there is no hope of achieving an effective response from the population. Several researchers have confirmed that trust in government is a key predictor of vaccination intention (Jamison et al., 2019; Miyachi et al., 2020; Đorđević, 2021; Trent et al, 2022). However, these studies were limited to the correlation that exists between trust and vaccination intention as well as adopting protective behavior, in this paper, we consider that government trust can play a significant kev role in government effectiveness in crises period. Hence, we propose the following hypothesis

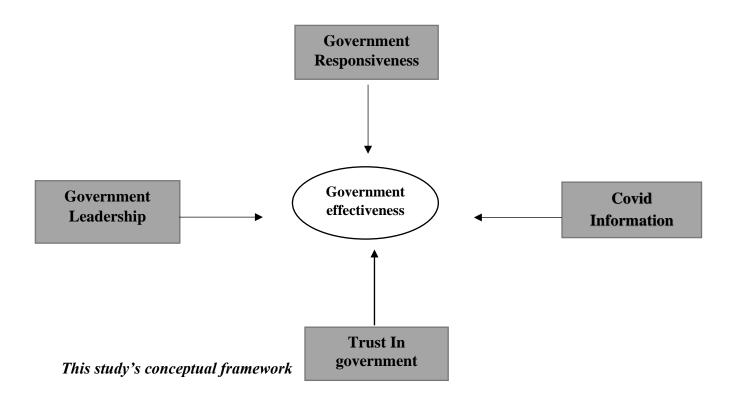
H3: Trust in government is correlated with the authorities' effectiveness in the context of covid management.

Covid Information

Because of the attention the virus was getting, as it was broadcasted from every channel and social media, the public paid close attention to these details. This can be a good thing as it facilitates information transfer. However, as this information pandemic-related continues to overload from different sources it becomes complex and overwhelming (Fan et al., 202; Shaw, 2011). Although, the dissemination of accurate and comprehensive information about the pandemic helps educate the public so they can adopt necessary preventive measures 2020). However, (Zhang, the false information and rumors regarding the Covid are accelerating thus resulting in a major obstacle for the government (Cuan-Baltazar, 2020), as they need to minimize the spread of these rumors in order to not create panic and manage the public opinion (Sriwijitalai, 2020). for example, the Singapore government created a national WhatsApp account during the early outbreak of the pandemic to inform people residing in the country about the covid pandemic and the preventive measures (Abdou, 2021).

China has taken the same initiative, the WCI of the people's daily WeChat scored the highest rank in obtaining official Covid-19 information (Fan et al., 2021). In some cases, it might be difficult, especially with globalization, however, the most effective method is to supply reliable information that meets the public demand and needs, for this, it is required to analyze the spread of covid information related to help and control the virus while at the same time guarantee the correct and accurate preventive measures and transmission process (Fan et al., 2020). The republic of Djibouti had taken the same measures, a collaboration was established between the Minister of Media and the Minister of health where most covid information related was broadcasted from the national channel.

H4; Covid information is associated with the government's effectiveness in terms of covid management



Research methodology

The research investigates the Djiboutian government's effectiveness during the covid pandemic by focusing on the Djiboutian perspective. However, many interesting subjects refused to participate in this research because government rating especially in terms of effectiveness is a sensitive affair. However, we focused more on their background to collect the most experienced subjects for the paper. For the sociodemographics variables, a simple frequency distribution will be employed. this means an entire table of sample characteristics, such as age, occupation, education, and gender will be included in this paper, to show the readers how many people have responded, therefore the first category of the survey is identifying the respondent's demographic profile. 283 out of 335 questionnaires were collected and found to be valid from the Djiboutian population, the data collection period was ranging from 3 April to 21 May 2022 it would have been completed earlier since it was an online questionnaire, however, because of the

poor internet of the country, most respondents were struggling to complete the questionnaire, for instance, a study conducted by (Ang., 2021), found that Djibouti is considered one of the slowest speed internets in the world, ranking 216 with 1.5 Mbps, therefore collecting the data wasn't easy and time-demanding. For the questionnaire design, an online questionnaire consisting of 25 questions was distributed to the targeted respondents.

Dependent variable

Our dependent variable was government effectiveness. To avoid any misunderstanding, we made it easy for the participants to grasp easily the research objective. Respondents were asked directly for their perception of the government's effectiveness during the Covid. The item for the latent variable was "I think the government provided strong and effective measures against the covid" which is inspired by (Chan A. P., 2010). However, a five-point Likert scale was employed for this research.

Independent variable

To analyze what affects government effectiveness, four independent variables were measured using 22 items. 11 items were newly created others were modified and taken from previous studies to match our research. 3 items regarding trust in government were inspired and modified from (Grimmelikhuijsen S. P., 2013), 2 other items on government responsiveness were taken from (Conway III, 2020), four items on government leadership were subtracted from (Nelson, 2011), and 2 items related to covid information adapted from (Park, 2016). All the items were evaluated with a five Likert scale from (1-strongly disagree, 2-Disagree, 3-Neutral, 4-Agree, 5- strongly agree).

Statistical Tools and Analysis

Several methods were employed in this research, first to check the reliability and validity of this study, the Kaiser–Meyer–Olkin test (KMO) and Cronbach's alpha were used to test the sampling adequacy and the reliability of the dataset.

Furthermore, factor analysis was run on to test the validity of all the 22 items to find which items belong to whom. Lastly, the remained factors were used to conduct a Pearson correlation to test the aforementioned hypothesis. There have been some arguments and idea divergence about analyzing the Likert scale with a parametric test. (Gardner, 2017; Jamieson, 2004) suggest that Likert data is of an ordinal nature and therefore only non-parametric tests will be suitable to get a correct result. However, 2010), demonstrated (Norman, that parametric tests such as Pearson correlation and regression analysis can be utilized in a data that was collected through a Likert scale data, and hence without any worries of getting the wrong results researchers can conduct their data on it, if they find it adequate for their research. Therefore, we will employ a correlation analysis in this research.

	N=283	
Education	Age	Gender
High School 42	18-25 (121)	
Bachelor 111	26-35 (80)	Female (134)
Master 83	36-45 (50)	
PhD 47	46-60 (32)	Male (149)

Table 1 Demographic information

Research finding

Exploratory factor analysis

After conducting the factor analysis, the Kaiser Meyer Olkin (KMO) demonstrates a score of **0.90**, and according to (Kaiser, 1974 which was supported by Chan L. L., 2017) it is considered a meritious score which is higher than 0.6, while our Cronbach alpha provides a score of 0.89 which is greater than 0.7 as recommended by (Carmines, 1979), while (Hair, 2009) emphasized that all the items should be at least greater than 0.5, especially for exploratory research. Table 2 shows the Cronbach alpha, therefore, we can deduce that this research is reliable. In addition table 2 provides a detailed view of the exploratory factor analysis in order to demonstrate the divergent validity of the items. However, two items were deleted from the questionnaire after running the factor analysis. Four factors were extracted and they perfectly match our conceptual framework.

Results

In order to test the aforementioned hypotheses Pearson correlation method was

utilized to establish and find an association between variables. The data analysis and hypotheses exclusively testing were performed on SPSS version 26. The results from the output correlation between government effectiveness and government responsiveness showed a strong positive correlation (0.958) with a p value less than 0.001 (p < .001), consequently we reject the null hypothesis. Furthermore, the Pearson government correlation product of effectiveness and government leadership demonstrated a positive moderate association .308, and it is significant at the level of 0.001 (p < 0.001) therefore we fail to accept the null hypothesis. Covid information and government effectiveness revealed а moderate positive correlation .278 with a level of significance of 0.001 (P<0.001) hence our alternative hypothesis is supported. However, Government trust and government effectiveness displayed a weak correlation with a score of .101, in other words as the effectiveness government increases government trust increases as well, although they have a weak correlation which is not statistically significant P (.91>0.01) hence it is difficult to accept the null hypothesis.

			Government Responsiveness	Government leadership	Covid information	Government trust
Government effectiveness	Pearson Correlation	1				
	Sig. (2- tailed)					
	Ν	283				
Government responsiveness	Pearson Correlation	.958**	1			

Table 2: Pearson correlation

	Sig. (2- tailed)	.000				
	Ν	283	283			
Government leadership	Pearson Correlation	.308**	.294**	1		
	Sig. (2- tailed)	.000	.000			
	Ν	283	283	283		
Covid information	Pearson Correlation	.278**	.279**	.200**	1	
	Sig. (2- tailed)	.000	.000	.001		
	Ν	283	283	283	283	
Government trust	Pearson Correlation	.101	.156**	.189**	.098	1
	Sig. (2- tailed)	.091	.008	.001	.158	
	Ν	283	283	283	283	283

******. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

	F 1	F 2	F 3	F 4
Government Responsiveness				
GR	.952			
GR	.948			
GR	.909			
GR	.905			
GR	.897			
GR	.878			
Government Leadership				
GL		.947		
GL		.931		
GL		.910		
GL		.902		
GL		.866		
GL		.851		
Covid info				
CI			.955	
CI			.933	
CI			.929	
CI			.928	
Trust in Government				
TIG				.974
TIG				.955
TIG				.929
TIG				.851
Eigenvalue	6.967	4.363	2.900	2.727
Proportion of variance (%)	34.836	21.813	14.500	13.634
Cumulative of variance (%)	34.836	56.649	71.150	84.78
KMO test	0.9025			
Cronbach's alpha test	0.8982			

Table 3: Exploratory Factor Analysis

Discussions

Our empirical results shows that there is a strong correlation between government effectiveness and responsiveness during the Covid pandemic, this is mostly due to the severe measures taken by the Djiboutian government during the covid crisis. Only after a few cases had been detected the local government imposed a national lockdown, this rapid decision helped the country avoid a public disaster. for instance, the most active cases were on June 06, 2020, with 2328 positive cases however, it started to diminish gradually on July 03 with 96 active cases which likely demonstrated the government's effective strategies to tackle the daily positive cases.

These measures were effective to the extent of establishing a correlation between effectiveness and responsiveness. Several countries had responded rapidly when the first cases were reported; New Zealand (Baker, 2020); Singapore (Triggle et al ., 2020); and Slovakia (Walker P., 2020). In addition, if the government implements an adequate response the crisis at hand, government effectiveness might increase, as the two factors are associated with each other, therefore, good responsive strategies are important to increase the government effectiveness perception. It is important to note that responsiveness doesn't limit to management it covers citizen covid satisfaction during the covid pandemic, for instance, the Djiboutian government provided a covid relief and microfinance for financially unstable families and small business who were affected by the pandemic, which helped them to carry out their measures effectively with full compliance from the public. These results are affirming earlier studies; (Mizrahi, 2021) stated, to specific effectiveness, achieve responsiveness must be established, and tools should be coordinated while mobilizing

resources which makes these factors significant in preparing and overcoming crises. (Boin, 2015; Boin A. H., 2018) who found an association, went on to add that prior planning and readiness are crucial. Such as the case of East Asian countries (SARS in Taiwan) whose prior experience with crises eventually helped them to deal with the pandemic more effectively (Boin A. L., 2020b).

Government leadership and Covid information are positively correlated with government effectiveness, this is because the Djiboutian government was shared a common interest and concerns consequently matching their goals. This common interest will not only strengthen their leadrership but as well how they manage effectively the pandemic. A prominent example is the U.S leadership, trump was supporting protests against government lockdowns, opposing state governor's decisions to impose social distance measures, and declaring whether state borders should be open, which lead to discrepancies and poor covid management. Another piece of evidence comes from South Africa when a policy part of Covid regulating, the authority unilaterally imposed a ban on smoking (Imray, 2020). Although, we can't ignore that compliance played an important factor to ignite effective governmental policies during the pandemic, it is unlikely to exclude imposing full authority on the public and resource control to control public behavior; e.g., rewards, punishments, Infromation (French, 1959). This seems likely, as the full lockdown, social distancing, and mask mandate undermined the democracy terms. Such as when the french government mandated the wearing of masks in public indoor spaces (Patel, 2020). Which raises the questions between democratic countries and authoritarian regimes, a series of published demonstrated that democratic papers countries suffered from more Covid deaths

than any authoritarian regimes (Frey, 2020; Cassan, 2021). However, again, this can be justifiable with many arguments such as social and health security. This result coincides with (Privono et al, 2021; Newman, 2018 ; Ler, 2017 ; Light, 2001) who found a positive relationship between government service effectiveness and leadership, according to them, government effectiveness depends on good leadership. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the quality of public services which in turn, will increase the value of satisfaction in the community (Scupola, 2016 ; Bavel et al., 2020). Generally, the covid was a critical phase, as uncertainty was high, thus leadership was important to guarantee effectiveness and coordination during the whole stage of the disease. For the Covid information, despite having a weak moderate correlation, one may account for the government not disclosing full information to the public amid public panic avoiding or given the size of the different ethnicity that resides in the country and their cultural belief and scientific understanding, or in some cases, when the direct massage contains a large number of information which ccould be overwhelming. Covid information might have played a weak moderate association with the government's effectiveness. This result is consistent with (Ansell et al., 2010), according to him the capacity of a government to share information and communicate the crisis is considered an essential element in an effective response but the message should be understandable. We have a low correlation between government trust and government effectiveness, trust occurs when the ruled believes the reliability of the trusted figure in the power. Several factors establishes trust between citizens and governmen. However, in the case of Covid 19, many people have their own perceptions about the pandemic, such as cultural beliefs, and political learnings, which interfered with their trust, particularly in the case of vaccine development. Although, if trust existed this would have not played any significant role in the face of pandemic, as many states imposed full lockdowns without single a consideration of the public interest but prioritizing the whole state's health safety first.

Conclusion

Many people have suffered from the covid pandemic, the overwhelming pandemic made it to the surface the endurance of the public health and authorities in the face of a global crisis. the paper examines the relationship government effectiveness. between leadership, trust, responsiveness, and covid information disclosures. All the factors were found to be in correlation with government effectiveness thus explaining how these factors contribute to and associate with each other. Although we found a weak positive correlation, especially, trust in government, we deduced that there is a relationship between effectiveness and trust in authority in charge, which helped the Djiboutian authority manage the pandemic. The relationship between responsiveness, leadership, and covid information disclosure played a significant role in managing the crisis. Despite the low death rate, the impact of the post covid is becoming obvious as it affected household welfare, employment, access to goods and services, and food insecurity as the country is already struggling with severe drought due to climate change.

Limitation

The paper examined only a limited people which limits the data and results (relies solely on a small percentage of people), and their responses might not in any way represent the whole Djiboutian perspective. Age is another limitation since most respondents were in their twentieth, particularly since they are young and educated, they have responded in a desirable way (They want to portray socially acceptable responses) which would have influenced our research. In other words, people would definitely express what other's wants to hear from them, instead of conveying their personal opinion. Hence, further studies can be done from the

ORCID

https://orcid.org/ 0000-0002-1350-7252

References

Abdou, A. M. (2021). Good governance and COVID-19: The digital bureaucracy to response the pandemic (Singapore as a model). *Journal of Public Affairs*, 21(4), e2656.

Al Saidi, A. M. O., Nur, F. A., Al-Mandhari, A. S., El Rabbat, M., Hafeez, A., & Abubakar, A. (2020). Decisive leadership is a necessity in the COVID-19 response. *The Lancet*, *396*(10247), 295-298.

Anderson, M. R. (2010). Community psychology, political efficacy, and trust. *Political Psychology*, *31*(1), 59-84.

aden, sadik (2022): Analyzing the national debt of several selected East African countries An application of a longitudinal panel data.. *figshare*. *Journal contribution*.

Ang., C. (September 29, 2021). Mapped: The Fastest (and Slowest) Internet Speeds in the World. *Visual Capitalistic*.

Ansell, C., Boin, A., & Keller, A. (2010). Managing transboundary crises: Identifying the building blocks of an effective response system. *Journal of contingencies and crisis management*, 18(4), 195-207.

Ardern, J. (2020 a). Coronavirus: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's full Covid-19 speech. The New Zealand Herald. Accessed on 1 may at <u>https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/covid-19-</u>

coronavirus-prime-minister-jacinda-ardernsweek-in-apandemic

Ardern, J. (2020 b). Coronavirus: Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's full Covid-19 speech. The New Zealand Herald. https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/covid-19coronavirus-prime-minister-jacinda-ardernsweek-in-a-pandemic Accessed 3 May. perspective of the people who are older than twenty. Furthermore, our variables were only focusing only on four factors without including moderators, consequently, upcoming studies can examine the effect to other variables such as availability, Compliance, Reliability, and transparency.

Ardern, J. (2020 c). Major steps taken to protect New Zealanders from COVID-19. Available.at

https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/majorsteps-taken-protect-new-zealanders-covid-19 [Press release], Accessed on 3 May.

Baker, M. G. (2020). Why New Zealand needs to continue decisive action to contain coronavirus. The Conversation, 19, 1-3. <u>https://theconversation.com/why-new-zealandneeds-to-continue-decisive-action-to-contain-</u> coronavirus Accessed on 4 May

Bavel, J. J. V., Baicker, K., Boggio, P. S., Capraro, V., Cichocka, A., Cikara, M., ... & Willer, R. (2020). Using social and behavioural science to support COVID-19 pandemic response. *Nature human behaviour*, 4(5), 460-471.

Besley, T., & Persson, T. (2014). The causes and consequences of development clusters: State capacity, peace, and income. *Annual Review of Economics*, 6(1), 927-949.

Boin, A., & Bynander, F. (2015 a). Explaining success and failure in crisis coordination. *Geografiska Annaler: Series A*, *Physical Geography*, 97(1), 123-135.

Boin, A., Hart, P. T., & Kuipers, S. (2018 b). The crisis approach. In *Handbook of disaster research* (pp. 23-38). Springer, Cham.

Boin, A., Lodge, M., & Luesink, M. (2020 c). Learning from the COVID-19 crisis: an initial analysis of national responses. *Policy Design and Practice*, *3*(3), 189-204.

Boswell, N., & Richardson, P. (2003). Anticorruption: Unshackling economic development: commentary. *Economic Perspectives*, 8(2), 16-18.

Boyne, G. A. (2002). Theme: Local government: Concepts and indicators of local

authority performance: An evaluation of the statutory frameworks in England and Wales. *Public Money and Management*, 22(2), 17-24.

Brewer, G. A. (2006). All measures of performance are subjective: More evidence on US federal agencies. *Public service performance: Perspectives on measurement and management*, 35-54.

Pennings, J. M., & Goodman, P. S. (1977). *New perspectives on organizational effectiveness.* Jossey-Bass.

Carmines, E. G., & Zeller, R. A. (1979). *Reliability and validity assessment*. Sage publications.

Cassan, G., & Van Steenvoort, M. (2021). Political regime and COVID 19 death rate: Efficient, biasing or simply different autocracies? An econometric analysis. *SSM-Population Health*, *16*, 100912.

Chan, A. P., Lam, P. T., Chan, D. W., Cheung, E., & Ke, Y. (2010). Critical success factors for PPPs in infrastructure developments: Chinese perspective. *Journal of construction engineering and management*, *136*(5), 484.

Chan, L. L., & Idris, N. (2017). Validity and reliability of the instrument using exploratory factor analysis and Cronbach's alpha. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 7(10), 400-410.

Chinazzi, M., Davis, J. T., Ajelli, M., Gioannini, C., Litvinova, M., Merler, S., ... & Vespignani, A. (2020). The effect of travel restrictions on the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. *Science*, *368*(6489), 395-400.

Clarke, H. D., Dutt, N., & Kornberg, A. (1993). The political economy of attitudes toward polity and society in Western European democracies. *The Journal of Politics*, *55*(4), 998-1021.

Conway III, L. G., Woodard, S. R., & Zubrod, A. (2020). Social psychological measurements of COVID-19: Coronavirus perceived threat, government response, impacts, and experiences questionnaires.

Cronert, A. (2020). Democracy, state capacity, and COVID-19 related school closures.

Crosby, B. C., & Bryson, J. M. (2018). Why leadership of public leadership research matters:

and what to do about it. *Public Management Review*, 20(9), 1265-1286.

Cuan-Baltazar, J. Y., Muñoz-Perez, M. J., Robledo-Vega, C., Pérez-Zepeda, M. F., & Soto-Vega, E. (2020). Misinformation of COVID-19 on the internet: infodemiology study. *JMIR public health and surveillance*, *6*(2), e18444.

Djalante, R., Lassa, J., Setiamarga, D., Sudjatma, A., Indrawan, M., Haryanto, B., ... & Warsilah, H. (2020). Review and analysis of current responses to COVID-19 in Indonesia: Period of January to March 2020. *Progress in disaster science*, *6*, 100091.

Djibouti, M. o. (2020 a). Covid cases Statistics. <u>https://covid19.gouv.dj/statistic</u>, Accessed on 28 April

Djibouti., M. o. (2020 b). National Action Plan for preparedness and response to COVID-19 pandemic in Djibouti.

https://sante.gouv.dj/storage/publications/A pril2020/cMcQEVZc9fS4wLjvUSqA.pdf Accessed on29 April

Đorđević, J. M., Mari, S., Vdović, M., & Milošević, A. (2021). Links between conspiracy beliefs, vaccine knowledge, and trust: Antivaccine behavior of Serbian adults. *Social Science & Medicine*, 277, 113930.

Cepaluni, G., Dorsch, M. T., & Branyiczki, R. (2022). Political regimes and deaths in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of public finance and public choice*, *37*(1), 27-53.

Evanega, S., Lynas, M., Adams, J., Smolenyak, K., & Insights, C. G. (2020). Coronavirus misinformation: quantifying sources and themes in the COVID-19 'infodemic'. *JMIR Preprints*, 19(10), 2020.

Fan, K. S., Ghani, S. A., Machairas, N., Lenti, L., Fan, K. H., Richardson, D., ... & Raptis, D. A. (2020). COVID-19 prevention and treatment information on the internet: a systematic analysis and quality assessment. *BMJ open*, *10*(9), e040487.

Fan, Z., Yin, W., Zhang, H., Wang, D., Fan, C., Chen, Z., ... & Guo, H. (2021). COVID-19 Information Dissemination Using the WeChat Communication Index: Retrospective Analysis Study. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 23(7), e28563.

Forster, T., & Heinzel, M. (2021). Reacting, fast and slow: how world leaders shaped government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Journal of European Public Policy, 28(8), 1299-1320.

French, J. R., Raven, B., & Cartwright, D. (1959). The bases of social power. *Classics of organization theory*, 7, 311-320.

Frey, C. B., Chen, C., & Presidente, G. (2020). Democracy, culture, and contagion: Political regimes and countries responsiveness to Covid-19. *Covid Economics*, (18).

Gardner, H. J., & Martin, M. A. (2007). Analyzing ordinal scales in studies of virtual environments: Likert or lump it!. *Presence: Teleoperators and Virtual Environments*, 16(4), 439-446.

Grimmelikhuijsen, S., & Knies, E. (2017 a). Validating a scale for citizen trust in government organizations. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 83(3), 583-601.

Grimmelikhuijsen, S., Porumbescu, G., Hong, B., & Im, T. (2013 b). The effect of transparency on trust in government: A crossnational comparative experiment. *Public administration review*, *73*(4), 575-586.

Hair, J. F. (2009). Multivariate data analysis.

Hakhverdian, A., & Mayne, Q. (2012). Institutional trust, education, and corruption: A micro-macro interactive approach. *The Journal of Politics*, 74(3), 739-750.

Hassany, M., Abdel-Razek, W., Asem, N., AbdAllah, M., & Zaid, H. (2020). Estimation of COVID-19 burden in Egypt. *The lancet infectious diseases*, 20(8), 896-897.

Hayashi, C., & Soo, A. (2012). Adaptive leadership in times of crisis. *Prism*, 4(1), 78-86.

Huther, J., & Shah, A. (1998). *Applying a simple measure of good governance to the debate on fiscal decentralization* (Vol. 1894). World Bank Publications.

Imray, G. (2020). Virus ban gives tobacco illegal drug status in South Africa. <u>www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/ban-</u> <u>gives-tobacco-illegal-drugstatus-in-south-africa/</u> The Washington Post, accessed on 28 May.

Jackson, R. B., Le Quéré, C., Andrew, R. M., Canadell, J. G., Korsbakken, J. I., Liu, Z., ... & Zheng, B. (2018). Global energy growth is outpacing decarbonization. *Environmental Research Letters*, *13*(12), 120401.

Jameel, A., Asif, M., & Hussain, A. (2019). Good governance and public trust: Assessing the mediating effect of E-government in Pakistan. *Lex Localis*, *17*(2), 299-320.

Jamieson, S. (2004). Likert scales: How to (ab) use them?. *Medical education*, *38*(12), 1217-1218.

Jamison, A. M., Quinn, S. C., & Freimuth, V. S. (2019). "You don't trust a government vaccine": Narratives of institutional trust and influenza vaccination among African American and white adults. *Social Science & Medicine*, 221, 87-94.

Jetten, J. (2020). *Together apart: The psychology of COVID-19*. Sage.

Kahn, M. E. (2005). The death toll from natural disasters: the role of income, geography, and institutions. *Review of economics and statistics*, 87(2), 271-284.

Kaiser, H. F. (1974). An index of factorial simplicity. *psychometrika*, *39*(1), 31-36.

Kapucu, N., & Ustun, Y. (2018). Collaborative crisis management and leadership in the public sector. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 41(7), 548-561.

Kaufmann, D., Kraay, A., & Mastruzzi, M. (2004). Governance matters III: Governance indicators for 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002. *The World Bank Economic Review*, *18*(2), 253-287.

Keele, L. (2007). Social capital and the dynamics of trust in government. *American Journal of Political Science*, *51*(2), 241-254.

Kellerman, B., & Webster, S. W. (2001). The recent literature on public leadership: Reviewed and considered. *The Leadership Quarterly*, *12*(4), 485-514.

Lee, S. Y., & Whitford, A. B. (2009). Government effectiveness in comparative perspective. *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*, *11*(2), 249-281.

Ler, E. (2017). *Improving the quality of east and west european public services*. Routledge.

Liddle, J. (2010). Debate: Twenty-firstcentury public leadership within complex governance systems: some reflections. *Policy & Politics*, *38*(4), 657-663.

Light, P. C. (2001). *The new public service*. Brookings Institution Press.

Lin, T. H. (2015). Governing natural disasters: state capacity, democracy, and human vulnerability. *Social Forces*, *93*(3), 1267-1300.

Linde, J., & Peters, Y. (2020). Responsiveness, support, and responsibility: How democratic responsiveness facilitates responsible government. *Party Politics*, 26(3), 291-304.

Lipton, E., Sanger, D. E., Haberman, M., Shear, M. D., Mazzetti, M., & Barnes, J. E. (2020). He could have seen what was coming: Behind Trump's failure on the virus. *The New York Times*, *11*.

Lone, S. A., & Ahmad, A. (2020). COVID-19 pandemic–an African perspective. *Emerging microbes & infections*, 9(1), 1300-1308.

Lone, S. A., & Ahmad, A. (2020). COVID-19 pandemic–an African perspective. *Emerging microbes & infections*, 9(1), 1300-1308.

Ortega, F., & Orsini, M. (2020). Governing COVID-19 without government in Brazil: Ignorance, neoliberal authoritarianism, and the collapse of public health leadership. *Global public health*, *15*(9), 1257-1277.

Mason, R. (2020). Japan's capricious response to coronavirus could dent its international reputation. *The Conversation*.

Mayer, R. C., Davis, J. H., & Schoorman, F. D. (1995). An integrative model of organizational trust. *Academy of management review*, 20(3), 709-734.

Miller, S. (2020). The secret to Germany's COVID-19 success: Angela Merkel is a scientist. *The Atlantic*, 20(4), 2020.

Miyachi, T., Takita, M., Senoo, Y., & Yamamoto, K. (2020). Lower trust in national government links to no history of vaccination. *The Lancet*, *395*(10217), 31-32.

Mizrahi, S., Vigoda-Gadot, E., & Cohen, N. (2021). How well do they manage a crisis? The government's effectiveness during the Covid-19 pandemic. *Public Administration Review*, *81*(6), 1120-1130.

Nelson, K. L., Gabris, G. T., & Davis, T. J. (2011). What makes municipal councils effective? An empirical analysis of how council members perceive their group interactions and processes. *State and Local Government Review*, *43*(3), 196-204.

Newman, A., Herman, H. M., Schwarz, G., & Nielsen, I. (2018). The effects of employees' creative self-efficacy on innovative behavior: The role of entrepreneurial leadership. *Journal of Business Research*, 89, 1-9.

Norman, G. (2010). Likert scales, levels of measurement and the "laws" of

statistics. *Advances in health sciences education*, 15(5), 625-632.

March, J. G., & Olsen, J. P. (2010). *Rediscovering institutions*. Simon and Schuster.

Park, M. J., Kang, D., Rho, J. J., & Lee, D. H. (2016). Policy role of social media in developing public trust: Twitter communication with government leaders. *Public Management Review*, 18(9), 1265-1288.

Patel, B. (2020). Riot police are sent to Marseilles to enforce mask-wearing as increasing number of restrictions is met with violent resistance. <u>www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-</u> 8636211/Riot-police-sent-Marseilles-

enforcemask-wearing.html, Daily Mail, Accessed on 29 May.

Presidency., R. o. (2020). Journal Officiel N°6 du 31 mars 2020, <u>https://www.presidence.dj</u>, Accessed on 25 May.

Priyono, A. H., Widagdo, S., & Handayani, Y. I. (2021). The Effect of Hard Skill and Soft Skill Competency on Improving the Quality of Services in Public Services Malls at Banyuwangi Regency. *International Journal of Innovative Science and Research Technology*, 6(9), 325-329.

Provan, K. G., & Milward, H. B. (2001). Do networks really work? A framework for evaluating public-sector organizational networks. *Public administration review*, *61*(4), 414-423.

Putnam, R. D. (1992). *Making democracy work: Civic traditions in modern Italy*. Princeton university press.

Qiaoan, R., & Teets, J. C. (2020). Responsive authoritarianism in China--a review of responsiveness in xi and Hu administrations. *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, 25(1), 139-153.

Rainey, H. G. (2009). Understanding and managing public organizations. John Wiley & Sons.

Rajkumar, A. S., & Swaroop, V. (2008). Public spending and outcomes: Does governance matter?. *Journal of development economics*, 86(1), 96-111.

Raschky, P. A. (2008). Institutions and the losses from natural disasters. *Natural hazards and earth system sciences*, 8(4), 627-634.

Reliefweb. (23 March 2020,). Republic of Djibouti: COVID-19 Situation Report. Djibouti: *UNCT Djibouti*.

Rubin, O., & Rossing, T. (2012). National and Local Vulnerability to Climate-Related Disasters in Latin America: The Role of Social Asset-Based Adaptation. *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, *31*(1), 19-35.

Schwartz, J. (2003a). The impact of state capacity on enforcement of environmental policies: The case of China. *The Journal of Environment & Development*, *12*(1), 50-Y.

Schwartz, J. (2012b). Compensating for the 'authoritarian advantage'in crisis response: A comparative case study of sars pandemic responses in China and Taiwan. *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, *17*(3), 313-331.

Scupola, A., & Zanfei, A. (2016). Governance and innovation in public sector services: The case of the digital library. *Government* Information *Quarterly*, 33(2), 237-249.

Selden, S. C., & Sowa, J. E. (2004). Testing a multi-dimensional model of organizational performance: Prospects and problems. *Journal of public administration research and theory*, *14*(3), 395-416.

Serikbayeva, B., Abdulla, K., & Oskenbayev, Y. (2021). State capacity in responding to COVID-19. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 44(11-12), 920-930.

Shaw, R. J., & Johnson, C. M. (2011). Health information seeking and social media use on the Internet among people with diabetes. *Online journal of public health informatics*, 3(1).

Speer, J. (2012). Participatory governance reform: a good strategy for increasing government responsiveness and improving public services?. *World development*, 40(12), 2379-2398.

Sriwijitalai, W., & Wiwanitkit, V. (2020). Exaggerated information and COVID-19 outbreak. *European journal of clinical investigation*.

Sukmana, M., Aminuddin, M., & Nopriyanto, D. (2020). Indonesian government response in COVID-19 disaster prevention. *East African Scholars Journal of Medical Sciences*, 3(3), 81-86. Telford, T., & Kindy, K. (2020). As they rushed to maintain US meat supply, big processors saw plants become covid-19 hot spots, worker illnesses spike. *The Washington Post*.

Thomas, C. W. (1998). Maintaining and restoring public trust in government agencies and their employees. *Administration & society*, *30*(2), 166-193.

Trent, M., Seale, H., Chughtai, A. A., Salmon, D., & MacIntyre, C. R. (2022). Trust in government, intention to vaccinate and COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy: A comparative survey of five large cities in the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia. *Vaccine*, 40(17), 2498-2505.

Triggle, C. R., Bansal, D., Farag, E. A. B. A., Ding, H., & Sultan, A. A. (2020). COVID-19: learning from lessons to guide treatment and prevention interventions. *Msphere*, *5*(3), e00317-20.

Vogel, R., & Masal, D. (2015). Public leadership: A review of the literature and framework for future research. *Public Management Review*, *17*(8), 1165-1189.

Walker, P. (2020). Boris Johnson missed five coronavirus Cobra meetings, Michael Gove says. *The Guardian*, 19.

Walker, S. &. (5 May 2020). Why has Eastern Europe suffered less from coronavirus than the west. available at https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/0 5/why-has-eastern-europe-suffered-less-fromcoronavirus-than-the-west, The Guardian. Accessed on 1 April.

Yang, K., & Holzer, M. (2006). The performance–trust link: Implications for performance measurement. *Public administration review*, 66(1), 114-126.

Zhang, K. C., Fang, Y., Cao, H., Chen, H., Hu, T., Chen, Y. Q., ... & Wang, Z. (2020). Parental acceptability of COVID-19 vaccination for children under the age of 18 years: crosssectional online survey. *JMIR pediatrics and parenting*, *3*(2), e24827.