Causes, effects and outcome of covid-19 as it relates to our society, state and country.

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Abstract

The outbreak of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) and the virus has now spread to many countries and territories. While a lot is still unknown about the virus that causes COVID-19, we do know that it is transmitted through direct contact with respiratory droplets of an infected person (generated through coughing and sneezing). Individuals can also be infected from touching surfaces contaminated with the virus and touching their face (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth). While COVID-19 continues to spread it is important that communities take action to prevent further transmission, reduce the impacts of the outbreak and support control measures.

Keywords: Environment, Annual rate, Global crisis, Foreign investors

Introduction

The World Health Organization (WHO) first declared COVID-19 a world health emergency in January 2020. Since the virus was first diagnosed in Wuhan, China, it has been detected in over 190 countries and all United States. In early March, the focal point of infections shifted from China to Europe, especially Italy, but by April 2020, the focus shifted to the United States, where the number of infections was accelerating. The infection has sickened more than 3.2 million people, about one-third in the United States, with thousands of fatalities. More than 80 countries have closed their borders to arrivals from countries with infections, ordered businesses to close, instructed their populations to self-quarantine, and closed schools to an estimated 1.5 billion children.

In late January 2020, China was the first country to impose travel restrictions, followed by South Korea and Vietnam. Over the five-week period from mid-March to late-April 2020, more than 30 million Americans filed for unemployment insurance, raising the prospect of a deep economic recession and a significant increase in the unemployment rate.3 Preliminary data for the first quarter of 2020 indicate that U.S. GDP fell by 4.8% at an annual rate, the largest quarterly decline in GDP since the fourth quarter of 2008 during the global financial crisis when the U.S. economy contracted by 8.4%. Foreign investors have pulled an estimated $26 billion out of developing Asian economies and more than $16 billion out of India, increasing concerns of a major economic recession in Asia. Some estimates also indicate that 29 million people in Latin America could fall into poverty, reversing a decade of efforts to narrow income inequality. In Europe, over 30 million people in Germany, France, the UK, Spain, and Italy have applied for state support of their wages, while first quarter 2020 data indicate that the Eurozone economy contracted by 3.8% at an annual rate, the largest quarterly decline since the series started in 1995 [1-3].

The pandemic crisis is challenging governments to implement monetary and fiscal policies that support credit markets and sustain economic activity. In doing so, however, these policy approaches are displaying differences between countries that promote nationalism versus those that argue for a coordinated international response. They also are intensifying policy differences between developed and developing economies and in Europe between northern and southern members of the Eurozone.

After a delayed response, central banks are engaging in an ongoing series of interventions in financial markets and national governments are announcing fiscal policy initiatives to stimulate their economies. International organizations are also taking steps to provide loans and other financial assistance to countries in need. These and other actions have been labeled “unprecedented,” a term that has been used frequently to describe the pandemic and the policy responses. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that government spending and revenue measures to sustain economic activity adopted through mid-April 2020 amounted to $3.3 trillion and that loans, equity injections and guarantees totaled an additional $4.5 trillion.

Mitigation have been rigorously analyzed and are being encouraged or enforced by many governments in order to slow or halt viral transmission. Population-wide social distancing of the entire population plus other interventions (e.g., home self-isolation, school and business closures) is strongly advised. These policies may be required for long periods to avoid rebound viral transmission.

According to the NCDC, individuals at high risk of infection include persons in areas with ongoing local transmission, healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19, close contacts of infected persons, and travelers returning from locations where local spread has been reported.
The NCDC has also provided recommendations for individuals who are at high risk of COVID-19–related complications, including older adults and persons who have serious underlying health conditions (e.g., heart disease, diabetes, lung disease). Such individuals should consider the following precautions. Symptoms in children with infection appear to be uncommon, although some children with severe COVID-19 have been reported [4-6].

**Diagnosis of Corona Virus**

COVID-19 should be considered a possibility in patients with respiratory tract symptoms and newly onset fever or in patients with severe lower respiratory tract symptoms with no clear cause. Suspicion is increased if such patients have been in an area with community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 or have been in close contact with an individual with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 in the preceding 14 days.

Microbiologic testing is required for definitive diagnosis. At present, such testing is of limited availability. Patients who do not require emergency care are encouraged to contact their healthcare provider over the phone. Patients with suspected COVID-19 who present to a healthcare facility should prompt infection-control measures. They should be evaluated in a private room with the door closed (an airborne infection isolation room is ideal) and asked to wear a surgical mask. All other standard contact and airborne precautions should be observed, and treating healthcare personnel should wear eye protection.

**Background to the cause of Corona Virus Disease**

Coronaviruses comprise a vast family of viruses, 7 of which are known to cause disease in humans. Some coronaviruses that typically infect animals have been known to evolve to infect humans. SARS-CoV-2 is likely one such virus, postulated to have originated in a large animal and seafood market.

The fall in household consumption in Nigeria will stem from

Partial (or full) restrictions on movement, thus causing consumers to spend primarily on essential goods and services

Low expectations of future income, particularly by workers in the gig economy that are engaged on a short-term/contract basis, as well as the working poor in the informal economy

The erosion of wealth and expected wealth as a result of the decline in assets such as stocks and home equity. The federal government has imposed a lockdown in Lagos and Ogun states as well as Abuja (which have the highest number of coronavirus cases combined). Subnational governments have quickly followed suit by imposing lockdowns in their states. Nigeria has a burgeoning gig economy as well as a large informal sector, which contributes 65 percent of its economic output. Movement restrictions have not only reduced the consumption of nonessential commodities in general, but have affected the income-generating capacity of these groups, thus reducing their consumption expenditure.

Investments by firms will be impeded largely due to the uncertainties that come with the pandemic-limited knowledge about the duration of the outbreak, the measures markets around the world. Indeed, the crisis has led to prices, as the Nigerian Stock Exchange records its worst performance since the 2008 financial crisis, which has eroded the wealth of investors. Taking into consideration the uncertainty that is associated with the pandemic and the negative profit outlook on possible investment projects, firms are likely to hold off on long-term investment decisions.

On the other hand, government purchases will increase as governments, which typically can afford to run budget deficits, utilize fiscal stimulus measures to counteract the fall in consumer spending. However, for governments that are commodity dependent, the fall in the global demand for commodities [6-9].

**What are the policy responses by the Nigerian government?**

Already, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has arranged a fiscal stimulus package, including a 50 billion naira ($138.89 million) credit facility to households and small and medium enterprises most affected by the pandemic, a 100 billion naira ($277.78 million) loan to the health sector, and a 1 trillion naira

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**Figure 1.** How the covid-19 pandemic affects the components of aggregate demand.
Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic is a wake-up call to policymakers as the unusual and unprecedented nature of the crisis has made it impossible for citizens to rely on foreign health care services and more difficult to solicit for international support given the competing demand for medical supplies and equipment. A more integrated response spanning several sectors including the health, finance, and trade sectors is required to address structural issues that make the country less resilient to shocks and limit its range of policy responses. In the long term, tougher decisions need to be made, including but not limited to diversifying the country’s revenue base away from oil exports and improving investments in the health care sector in ensuring that the economy is able to recover quickly from difficult conditions in the future.

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