

COVID-19: IMPACTS AND CHALLENGES FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN MALI AND AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease that refers to « Coronavirus Diseases ». The disease caused by a virus of the family Coronaviridae. This infectious disease is a zoonosis, the origin of which is still debated, emerged in December 2019 in the city of Wuhan, in the province of Hubei in China.

It quickly spread first throughout China, then Overseas causing a global epidemic. COVID-19 is a Respiratory illness that can be fatal in patients weakened by age or other chronic illness. It is spread through close contact with infected people. The disease could also be transmitted by asymptomatic patients, but scientific data is lacking to prove this certainly.

Keywords: Covid-19, Pandemic, Infectious Disease.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mali is a continental country located in the heart of the Sahel. It covers an area of 1,241,248 km². It is bounded to the north by Algeria, to the east by Niger and Burkina Faso, to the south by Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, and to the west by Senegal and Mauritania.

A vast Sahelian country, Mali is a low-income economy, not very diversified and exposed to fluctuations in commodity prices. Its strong demographic growth (with a fertility rate of 6 (six) children per woman in 2017) and climate change represent significant risks for agriculture and food security. In addition to these natural disasters, there are the consequences of the Coronavirus disease.

2. SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 ILLNESS

The main symptoms of the disease are fever, fatigue and a dry cough. Some patients also experienced pain, stuffy and runny nose, sore throat and diarrhea. These symptoms are usually mild. But about one in six people have more severe symptoms, including dyspnea. Pneumonia is the most common complication of Covid-19. There are also asymptomatic cases, that is, patients have no apparent symptoms despite detection of the virus.

Those most at risk are the elderly and those with other health problems such as high blood pressure, heart problems and diabetes. The mortality rate increases with age: it is 0.2% for the youngest people (aged 10 to 39), but reaches 14.8% for people aged 80 and over. The average mortality rate is estimated between 1 and 3%.

There is currently no treatment capable of eradicating the virus. Patient care is only intended to treat symptoms. Researchers around the world are exploring many avenues to find an antiviral drug or a vaccine, without convincing results to date. Antibiotics are ineffective against viral infections, as are some traditional herbal or food remedies.

In about 80% of cases, patients recover on their own, without needing any special treatment. The most serious cases are treated in intensive care units in the hospital where they are closely monitored.

3. IMPACTS ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

For Mali the consequences are disastrous, growth forecasts for the year 2020 have fallen from 5% to 0.9% with an immeasurable impact for an economy whose stimulus is informal.

Since the emergence of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, most governments around the world have faced health, infrastructural and humanitarian challenges in controlling the spread of the disease and its impact on human security and the economy.

Among African countries Mali was one of the last to record an outbreak of the virus. The government had taken certain measures to limit the spread of the disease such as the suspension of commercial flights from affected countries, the closure of public and private schools, the ban on social and cultural gatherings. However, the precarious state of a large segment of the population poses a number of problems with the Coronavirus.

- The worsening of poverty and living conditions.
- Food security remains of particular concern.
- The deterioration of health security in urban centers.
- Livelihoods such as farming and animal husbandry were reported to have been the most disrupted.

4. CONCLUSION

COVID-19 is the 'global crisis of our time and the greatest challenge we have faced since World War II. But the pandemic is much more than a health crisis, it is also an unprecedented socio-economic crisis. Putting pressure on each of the countries it affects, it has devastating social, economic and political impacts that will leave deep scars that will be slow to disappear.

Every day, jobs and income are lost, with no way of knowing when there will be a return to "normalcy". Small island nations, heavily dependent on tourism, face empty hotels and deserted beaches. The International Labor Organization estimates that 195 million jobs could be lost. The World Bank projects a drop of \$ 110 billion in remittances this year, which could mean that 800 million people will not be able to meet their basic needs.

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