

POTENTIAL SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN ANGOLA: A BRIEF ANALYSIS

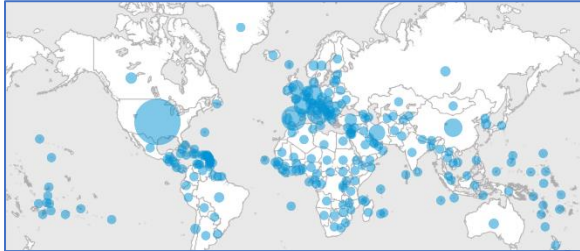
Brief n. 1 – 7 April 2020¹

¹ Due to the rapid change in the global pandemic of COVID-19, it is a living document. Updated issues will follow based on new information. The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations, including UNDP, or the UN Member States. For any comment, please contact UNDP Angola.

1. Situation of coronavirus pandemic

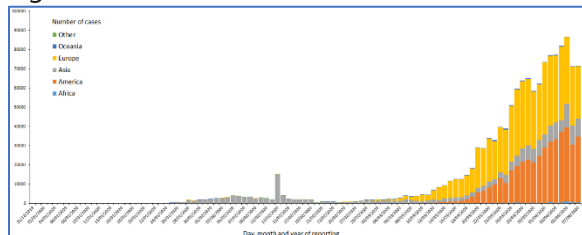
The number of confirmed cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) worldwide has skyrocketed since January 2020 to more than 1.3 million on April 7th, with total deaths exceeding 70,000 (Map 1 and Fig. 1).

Map 1. Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) situation



Source: WHO, Coronavirus disease (COVID-19). 7 April 2020

Fig. 1. World distribution of COVID-19 cases



Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. 7 April 2020

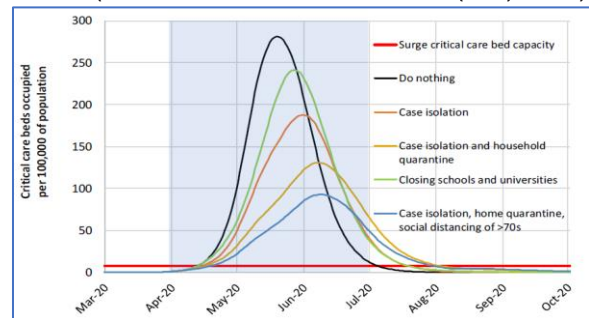
On 23 March 2019, the two first cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Angola by the Ministry of Health (MINSa). Since then, the number of confirmed cases raised to 16, with two deaths. Also, MINSa informed currently 1709 people are in quarantine (818 in domestic and 891 in institutional) in the country, being more than half in Luanda (919), but with relevant numbers also in Cunene (217), Uige (158) and Cabinda (129).

Countries have adopted different strategies to face the pandemic. A recent study by the Imperial College distinguishes between two fundamental strategies: i) mitigation, aimed at slowing the epidemic spread and reducing peak healthcare demand; and ii) suppression, targeted to reverse epidemic growth and reducing cases.

The study simulates different mitigation strategies for Great Britain and reveals that the

type of mitigation measures adopted may affect significantly the number of intensive care unit (ICU) beds required (Fig. 2). According to that study, the optimal mitigation policy is the combination of home isolation of suspect cases, home quarantine and social distancing.

Fig. 2. Mitigation strategy scenarios for Great Britain (number of intensive care unit (ICU) beds)



Source: Ferguson et al. (2020). Version 16 March 2020

To face the rapid spread of coronavirus pandemic, the UN Secretary-General launched a US\$2 billion Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19. Led by the UN Resident Coordinator in Angola, UN agencies are working on a UN/IFI strategy to support Government in its response.

2. Response

Angola declared the state of emergency for COVID-19, on March 27th, for 15 days, and approved the National Contingency Plan to Control the Epidemic.²

Government is expected to adopt several measures, among which the implementation of: i) the US\$2 billion Integrated Plan of Intervention in the Municipalities (PIIM) targeted at infrastructure development in the municipalities; ii) Action Plan to Promote Employability (PAPE) targeted at youth employment; iii) the project of strengthening the National Social Protection System Project/Cash Transfer, funded by a US\$320 million World Bank's loan; iv) cash transfer programme "Valor Criança" funded by the EU with €9 million.

² See: Decreto Presidencial n. 81/20 and 82/20.

Ministry of Finance announced to mobilize US\$1.5 billion from the Sovereign Fund of Angola (FSDEA). Moreover, a presidential decree will identify 22 medical goods to be included in the regime of monitored prices.

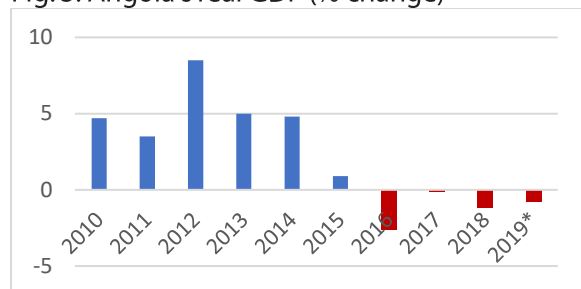
Ministry of Economy and Planning will also continue to promote the Credit Support Programme (PAC). Total funding from commercial banks to the PAC amounted to AOA109 million, with 37 projects authorized since June 2019.³ The National Development Bank (BDA) will support the initiative. However, BDA may need additional capitalization.

3. Context analysis

3.1 Macroeconomic

The Angolan economy contracted for three consecutive years since 2015 and shrank 0.8% in the first three quarters of 2019 (Fig. 3), largely affected by the contraction of the oil sector, which account for about 30% of GDP.⁴

Fig. 3. Angola's real GDP (% change)



Source: INE, National Account, third quarter 2019

The depreciation of the kwanza has accelerated, currently trading at USD1=AOA547, compared to AOA482 on January 1st, 2020. A further weakening in the currency may raise the debt burden and debt service. On the other hand, gap between official and parallel exchange market has narrowed but it is unclear how it will evolve.

The depreciation has been associated with sustained inflation. Consumer price inflation (CPI) was 18.6% in 2018 and 16.9% in 2019.

Inflation is expected to remain at two-digit in 2020; accumulated inflation in January-February rose to 3.8%, up from 2.2% in the same period of 2019.⁵ Panic buying could ignite speculation and inflation in essential goods. Also, a depreciated kwanza may increase the import bill: food import amounted to US\$3.2 billion in 2018, about 20% of country's import.⁶

Central bank BNA has kept the main interest rate (taxa BNA) at 15.5%. The required reserve ratio in domestic currency was increased from 17% to 22%, a move to ease inflation and stabilize the currency, while the reserve ratio for foreign currency was kept at 15%. Net international reserves have gradually declined since 2013 and stood at about 5 months of Imports of goods and Services in 2019.⁷

Private sector development remains constrained. Angola ranked 177th out of 190 economies in the World Bank's 2020 Ease of doing business.⁸ In the context of COVID-19, limited access to credit and foreign currency could create serious obstacles to businesses. Moreover, the expected decline of oil revenues is already creating a temporal shortage of U.S. dollar. The purchase of imported medical supplies and equipment from abroad may be affected.

3.2 Social

The pandemic is expected to create a tremendous challenge for the most vulnerable groups and the weak social services.

The Human Development Report 2019 ranked Angola 149th out of 189 countries, with a medium Human Development Index (HDI) score of 0.574. Life expectancy is 60.8 years, with 5.1 mean years of schooling and 11.8 expected years of schooling.⁹ The female HDI value for Angola is 0.546 in contrast with 0.605 for males.

INE's IDREA 2018-2019 survey revealed that 40.6% of the population live below the national poverty line – with higher incidence in rural areas (57.2%) versus urban areas (29.8%) –

³ Jornal de Angola, Financiamentos do PAC atingem 108 mil milhões, 14/2/2020.

⁴ Source: INE, National Account, third quarter 2019.

⁵ Source: INE, Folha de Informação Rápida n. 2_IPC Nacional.

⁶ Source: BNA. Statistical Bulletin, December 2019.

⁷ Source: BNA. Statistical Bulletin, December 2019.

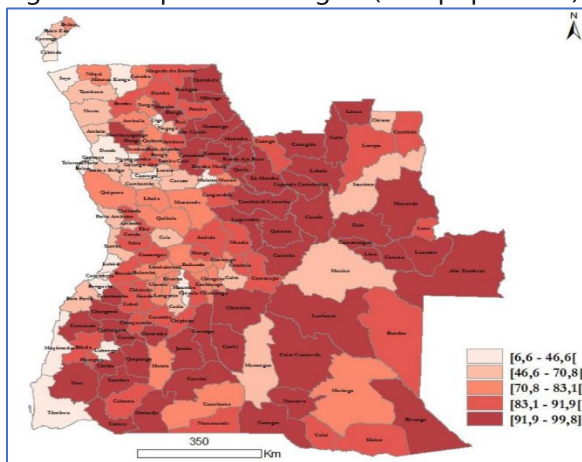
⁸ Source: World Bank. Doing Business 2020. Note: the country ranked 185th for getting credit and 186th for enforcing contracts.

⁹ Source: UNDP (2019).

higher than the 36.6% poverty rate calculated in 2008-2009. INE also revealed that about one in two people (45.7%) live below the international poverty line of US\$1.90 per day. Inequality also rose significantly, with the Gini coefficient bouncing from 0.43 in 2008 to 0.51 in 2019.¹⁰

The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2019 revealed that 51% of the population is multidimensionally poor. Also, the report on Municipal MPI shows that 65 out of 164 municipalities of Angola have above 90% poverty rate (Fig. 4).

Fig. 4. Municipal MPI in Angola (% of population)



Source: INE (2019a)

At global level, ILO (2020) expects that between 5 million and 25 million jobs may be lost and labor income may be reduced between US\$860 billion and US\$3.4 trillion.

In Angola, the unemployment rate¹¹ rose to 31.8% in the fourth quarter of 2019 – 33.5% for women and 30.0% for men – which corresponds to 4.6 million people currently unemployed. Urban unemployment (42.6%) is significantly higher than rural unemployment (17.0%). Youth unemployment (15-24 years) peaked at 56.5% – 55.4% for women and 57.5% for men – that is about 2.7 million young people unemployed.

Informal employment remains widespread: 72.6% of the population aged 15 or above have an informal job.¹² Measures adopted in the state of emergency implied the shutdown of those informal markets lacking basic health

conditions. A prolonged lockdown may severely affect income generation of those informal workers.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) could play a key role in strengthening professional skills and fostering job opportunities and income generation for the youth but remain underfunded. UNDP, in partnership with ILO and Mandume Yandemufayo University, has conducted a study on skill supply and demand in the province of Huila that highlighted the need to strengthen the TVET system and its link with the labor market.

Social protection has for the most part been ad hoc and reactive. Protection for poor and vulnerable groups remains weak. In 2018, the Minister of Family and Social Action declared that only 1.7 million workers, out of total 7.5 million, were covered by social protection; 99% of them were dependent employers, including civil servants.¹³

National budgeted expenditure for 2020 on social protection increased slightly in nominal terms but shrank as share of total budget – 3.3% of total budget compared to 4.9% in the national budget 2019 – corresponding to 1.3% of GDP. People with disabilities will remain highly vulnerable to the economic and health shock caused by COVID-19.

High unemployment and weak social protection are aggravated by limited access to basic services, which will hamper the efforts to combat the pandemic. Despite improvements since 2008, one in two Angolan households remain without access to safe drinking water and electricity (Fig. 5 and 6).

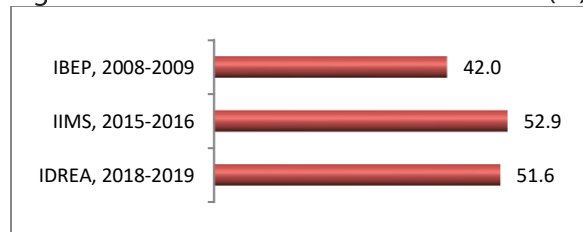
¹⁰Source: INE (2019b).

¹¹ Population aged 15 years or above.

¹²Source: INE (2019b).

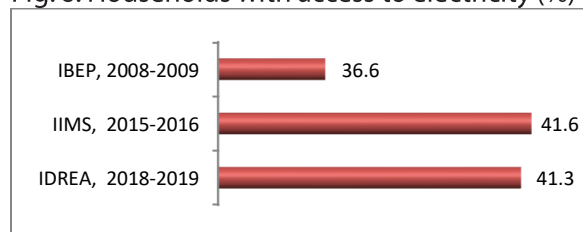
¹³Source: Novo Jornal, 2018. Segurança Social: apenas 1,7 dos 7,5 milhões de trabalhadores estão inscritos. 26/10/2018.

Fig. 5. Households with access to safe water (%)



Source: INE (2019b). Each bar represents a survey.

Fig. 6. Households with access to electricity (%)

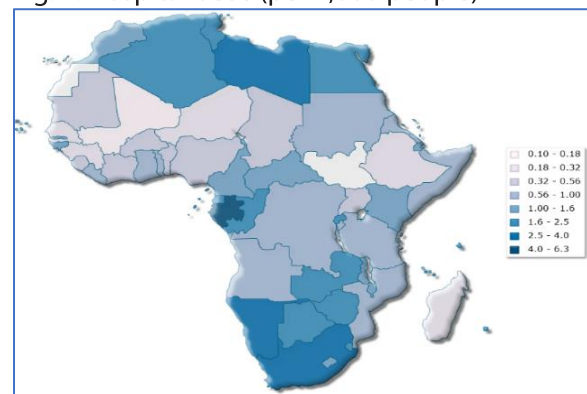


Source: INE (2019b). Each bar represents a survey.

It is noteworthy that the national budget allocation to health sector increased in nominal terms for 2020 but shrank as share of total budget – 5% of total budget compared to 5.7% in the budget for 2019 – corresponding to about 1.9% of GDP. However, the Abuja Declaration (2001) commits countries to allocate at least 15% of their annual budgets to health.

Availability of hospital beds remains very low across all Africa, with less than 1 bed per 1000 people in Angola in 2005 (Fig. 7).

Fig. 7. Hospital beds (per 1,000 people)



Source: Indexmundi. Based on WHO and country data.

People living with HIV and infected with malaria and tuberculosis will be particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. As the Principal Recipient for the Global Fund HIV Grant in Angola and designated Principal Recipient for the malaria

and tuberculosis grants, UNDP will contribute to the Government’s COVID-19 Response Plan.

As mentioned, income inequality rose significantly in Angola. The territorial dimension of this inequality is translated in informal settlements in the urban area. Angola has been drastically reducing the prevalence of slums in its cities since the end of the Civil War. In 2005, 86.5% of the urban population was living in slums. This number decreased to 76.2% in 2007, 65.8% in 2009 and 55.5% in 2014, when the country was hit by the oil price crisis and was forced to discontinue the massive housing and urban development programme. This new trend is an evidence that the prevalence of urban dwellers living in slum conditions in 2020 may have increased from 2014.

The population living in slums usually faces major challenges in terms of housing and basic services, relying on community water pumps which can be a major focus for COVID-19 contamination and community spreading. Also overcrowding in these areas together with the strong reliance of slum dwellers in the informal economy will pose additional challenges to social distancing policies.

Another major threat during the COVID-19 pandemic is the lack of tenure security affecting significant numbers of slum dwellers. Forced evictions and termination of renting contracts due to lack of payment should be prohibited during the period.

Homeless, especially elders and street children, are also a major vulnerable group in the COVID-19 crisis. As referred by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, “in the face of this pandemic, a lack of access to adequate housing is a potential death sentence for people living in homelessness and puts the broader population at continued risk”. Policies should take into consideration these specific vulnerable groups and address and mitigate the impact of social distancing in their livelihoods.

One in three (32.5%) of ever-partnered Angolan women and girls aged 15 years and older were subjected to physical violence.¹⁴ The state of emergency and economic crisis may have the potential to increase the risks of domestic

¹⁴Source: INE, SDG baseline indicators report 2018.

violence. Significant increase in gender-based violence (GBV) and in unpaid domestic work and care burdens may arise, among other effects, in the context of COVID-19. Government should consider these factors in the contingency plan to ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are included in response and recovery strategy.

Finally, Angola was hit by a severe drought last year, which affected 2.3 million people in the provinces of Huila, Bie, Cunene and Namibe. Local communities remain vulnerable – e.g. limited access to basic services in rural areas – and more exposed to additional economic shock caused by the pandemic. Efforts to strengthen resilience should continue despite the health emergency.

3.3 Finance

More than half (61%) of Angola's budgeted expenditure for 2020 was allocated to public debt operation. Public debt is projected to rise from 89% of GDP in 2018 to 111% of GDP in 2019.¹⁵ Debt service will rise from US\$6.4 billion in 2018 to US\$14.9 billion in 2019, of which US\$7.9 billion external.¹⁶ Debt service rose to 27.6% of export goods and services in 2019, from 22.9% in 2018.¹⁷ China Development Bank is the major external creditor, US\$14.9 billion.¹⁸

A sharp fall in oil revenues is likely to prevent the government from pursuing its debt management strategy of paying down short-term debt. Indeed, oil revenues are expected to account for 13.2% of GDP and 64.8% of fiscal revenues in 2020. Overall fiscal balance is expected to remain positive in 2019 at 1% of GDP with the assumption of oil price averaging US\$55 per barrel.¹⁹

However, lower oil prices will curb state revenues and Government's borrowing requirements will likely increase. Ministry of Finance has already announced that Angola will issue US\$3 billion of Eurobonds in 2020.²⁰ However, borrowing costs soared: Angola's 2026 Eurobonds yields surged from about 7% in

early March this year to above 24% at the beginning of April 2020.

Moody's has recently downgraded Angola Government's long-term issuer rating, which is considered speculative and subject to high credit risk. The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) rate the sovereign risk of Angola at the CCC band.²¹

Fiscal stimulus will be needed to support aggregate demand. However, Angola's capacity to smoothen negative impact on economic growth will remain constrained by a tight fiscal space, high debt and deteriorating terms-of-trade. Concessional financing from donors and international financial institutions may play a key role.

In 2018, the IMF approved a three-year Extended Arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EAEFF) to Angola of about US\$3.7 billion to support economic reforms, of which US\$1.48 billion has been already disbursed.

In this regard, World Bank's president declared that the poorest countries face official bilateral debt service payments of US\$14 billion in 2020.²² African Ministers of Finance recommend the immediate waiver of all interest payments on public debt and sovereign bonds estimated at US\$44 billion for 2020 with possible extension to the medium term.

On the other hand, net Official Development Assistance (ODA) was 0.2% of GNI in 2018²³ and will likely continue to have a minor role in the context of Angola's graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) in February 2021. The Committee for Development Policy confirmed in March 2020 that Angola meets the income-only criterion for graduation.

Finally, it is noteworthy that, according to a study by the Natural Resource Governance Institute, Angola received the largest amount of resource-backed loans in sub-Saharan Africa. Between 2000 and 2016, Chinese lenders committed over US\$24 billion worth of oil-

¹⁵ Source: IMF, 2019. Note: 34.4% of GDP of domestic debt and 76.5% of GDP of external debt.

¹⁶ Source: IMF, 2019.

¹⁷ Source: BNA, Statistical Bulletin, December 2019.

¹⁸ Source: Ministry of Finance. 3Q 2019.

¹⁹ Source: ibidem.

²⁰ The country already issued US\$1.5 billion Eurobonds in 2015, US\$3.5 billion in 2018 and US\$3 billion in 2019.

²¹ Source: EIU. Angola: risk assessment.

²² Source: Reuters.

²³ Source: OECD.

backed loans and credit lines to Angola, most of which have been disbursed.²⁴

3.4 External sector

The external sector will be a major source of economic shock in the context of the pandemic, especially through exports. The ratio between export and import of goods and services in 2019 was about 152%.²⁵ Export of goods represented about 40% of GDP in 2019.²⁶

Angola maintained a positive current account balance in 2019 (4.8%).²⁷ However, the oil price shock will negatively affect the country's external position, raising pressure on the exchange rate. A large share of country's exports will be highly impacted by the deteriorating global economic outlook. Indeed, Angola exported US\$40.7 billion in 2018, of which US\$39.4 billion from oil and gas (97% of total export) and US\$1.2 billion from diamond, 2.8% of total export (Table 1).²⁸

Table 1. Angola's export in 2018 (US\$ million)

Export product	Amount	% total
Oil and gas	39,408.7	96.7%
Diamonds	1,151.9	2.8%
Fish	85.3	0.2%
Marine and aviation	48.1	0.1%
Wood	31.5	0.08%
Beverage	21.0	0.05%
Granite	6.9	0.02%
Cement	3.0	0.01%
Coffee	1.3	<0.01%
Marble	0.0	<0.01%
Salt	0.0	<0.01%
Total	40,757.8	100%

Source: BNA, Boletim Estatístico, December 2019

Amid a deteriorating global economic and oil demand outlook due to COVID-19, oil prices crashed in March 2020 (Fig. 8). In Angola, oil revenues already decreased in February to about AOA405 billion due to progressive decline in oil production, from an average of 1.5 million barrels per day in 2018, to 1.35 million barrels per day in 4Q 2019²⁹ – owing to maturing fields and a lack of investment in recent years.

²⁴ See references.

²⁵ Source: Source: BNA, Statistical Bulletin, December 2019.

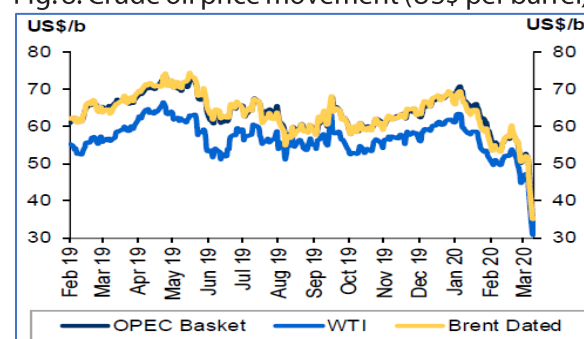
²⁶ Source: IMF Country Report n. 19/371, Dec. 2019.

²⁷ Source: ibidem.

²⁸ Source: BNA, Boletim Estatístico, December 2019.

Within this context, Government will adjust downward the national budget 2020, which was based on a projection of US\$55 per barrel, on average.

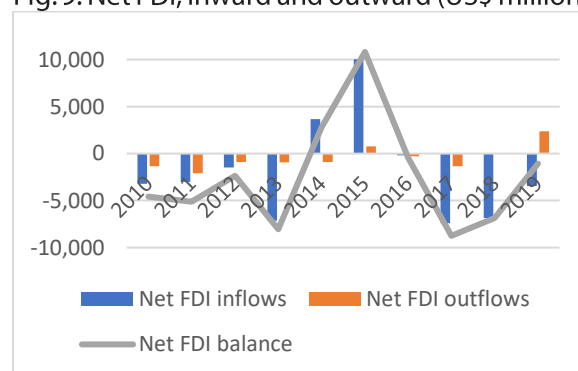
Fig. 8. Crude oil price movement (US\$ per barrel)



Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report, March 2020. Based on Argus, OPEC and Platts.

UNCTAD expects that COVID-19 could cause global foreign direct investment (FDI) to shrink by 30%-40% during 2020-2021.³⁰ FDI inflow to Angola remained negative in the last three years, mainly due to disinvestments in the oil sector – owing to large repatriations of earnings by foreign parent companies and decline in oil production that affected new investments (Fig. 9). FDI inflow in the non-oil sector rose from US\$185 million in 2018 to US\$461 million in 2019 but remains limited compared to the oil sector.

Fig. 9. Net FDI, inward and outward (US\$ million)



Source: National Bank of Angola

COVID-19 is impacting air transport and tourism industry across the world, which will likely impact the infant tourism sector in Angola – 218,000 tourist arrivals in 2018³¹ – and the

²⁹Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report, March 2020.

Based on secondary sources.

³⁰ Source: UNCTAD, Investment Trends Monitor, March 2020.

³¹ Source: UN World Tourism Organization.

national airline company TAAG. Pressure caused by the pandemic may push Government to increase TAAG's borrowing on commercial terms and accelerate its privatization. External debt accumulated with TAAG is US\$214 million.³²

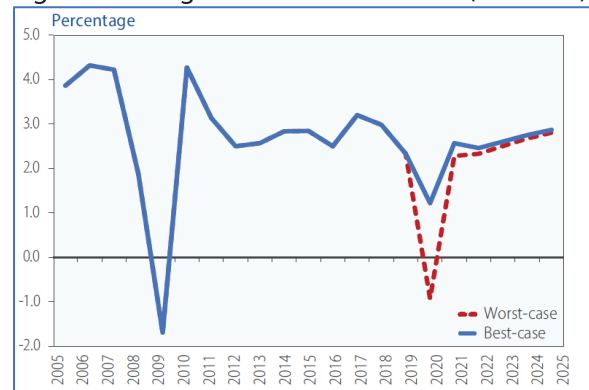
The national oil company Sonangol may also be affected by the oil crisis. As the company subsidizes about 60% of the cost of fuel, expenditure in fuel subsidies amounted to US\$1.4 billion in 2019.³³ About US\$5 billion of Angola's external debt is related to Sonangol.³⁴

Finally, Africa Growth Initiative estimates that illicit financial flows from Angola amounted to US\$45 billion in 1980-2018, being among the top African emitters of illicit flows.³⁵ Government has already promoted actions to recover illicit financial flows in the last years and may strengthen its efforts in search of more resources to tackle the economic crisis.

3.5 Economic scenario

According to United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), in the worst-case scenario, the world economy could contract by 0.9% in 2020 (Fig. 10).

Fig. 10. World growth outlook to 2025 (real GDP)

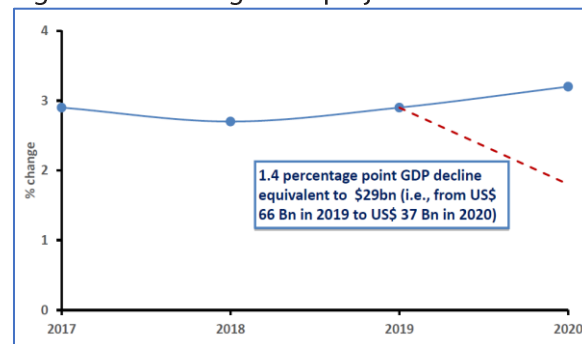


Source: UNDESA, Monthly Briefing n. 136, April 2020

The UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) warned the unfolding coronavirus crisis could affect Africa's economic growth falling from 3.2% to about 2% in 2020 (Fig. 11), with oil exporting nations losing up to US\$65 billion in

revenues. ECA's pointed out that Africa needs an immediate emergency economic stimulus of US\$100 billion.

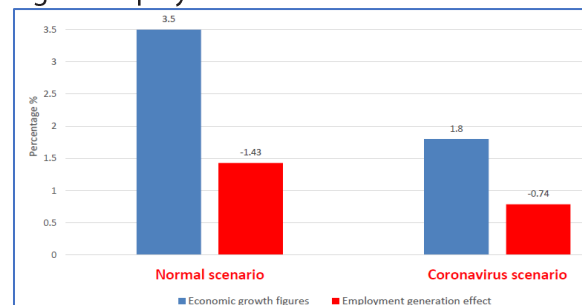
Fig. 11. Economic growth projections for Africa



Source: UNECA (2020)

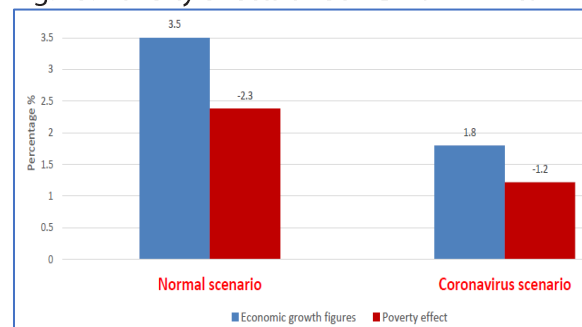
For Africa, ECA estimates that COVID-19 will cause a 48% decline in employment in the region and 48% fewer people will be lifted out of poverty (Fig. 12 and 13).

Fig. 12. Employment effects of COVID-19 in Africa



Source: UNECA (2020)

Fig. 13. Poverty effects of COVID-19 in Africa



Source: UNECA (2020)

McKinsey & Company (2020) projected that Africa's GDP growth could decline by 3-8% in

³² Source: Ministry of Finance. Report on the execution of national budget 2019. Third quarter 2019.

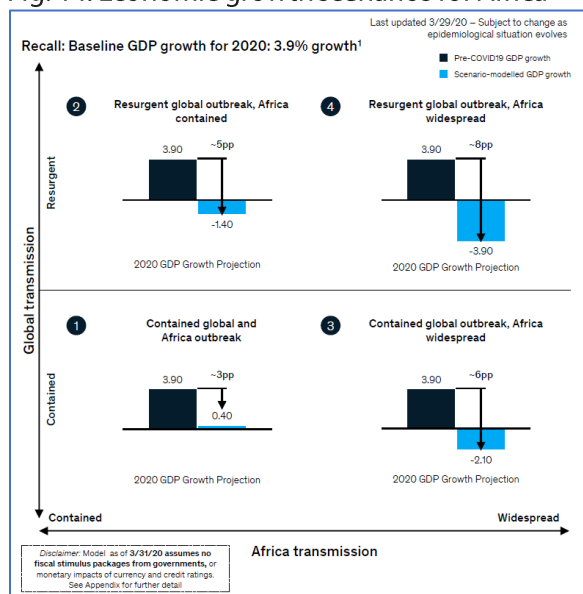
³³ Source: Sonangol. March 2020

³⁴ Source: Ministry of Finance. Report on the execution of national budget 2019. Third quarter 2019

³⁵ Source: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/illicit-financial-flows-in-africa-drivers-destinations-and-policy-options/>.

2020, depending on the scenarios for global and regional transmission (Fig. 14).

Fig. 14. Economic growth scenarios for Africa



Source: McKinsey & Company (2020)

For Angola, Ministry of Finance's latest economic forecasts remain negative: -1.1% in 2019 and -1.2% in 2020.

4. Policy recommendations

Angola faces a deteriorating global economic outlook, volatility of oil prices, increasing fiscal and external vulnerability, growing poverty and unemployment and limited access to basic social services. Response and recovery to the pandemic of COVID-19 require immediate action.

Based on the context analysis, key policy recommendations are:

1. Act to prevent the further spread and suppress the transmission of COVID-19. Social distancing to avoid and diminish community spreading and self-quarantine for those entering the country are still the best measures to flatten the COVID-19 curve. Increasing tests is also key to assess the epidemic.
2. Target and quickly implement disaster relief initiatives for the most vulnerable groups that are already at risk, such as unemployed and informal workers – especially women – people living in highly concentrated areas or lacking access to basic social services and

drought and flood-affected communities.

3. With about 73% of the population having an informal employment, policy measures need to clearly address the livelihood of informal workers, who will be strongly hit by the shutdown and economic crisis. The Action Plan for the Reconversion of Informal Economy should be revised to address the emergency of COVID-19.
4. As one in two people at national level live in multidimensional poverty (global MPI) – with more than 40% of the municipalities having more than 90% MPI – response and recovery measures should be intersectoral and targeted at the most vulnerable groups, at national and local level, including children.
5. Revise the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2022 to prioritize programmes to improve the health sector and end poverty, including review of targets and shut down of ineffective programmes.
6. Accelerate the delivery of key social programmes, such as the Integrated Programme of Local Development and Combat Poverty and PAPE.
7. Reorient the PIIM to more labor-intensive activities, including an employment guarantee scheme.
8. Revise the state budget 2020 to prioritize expenditure to health, education and social protection for the most vulnerable groups.
9. Ensure prevention and response of gender-based violence (GBV).
10. Expand and improve emergency food assistance and support smallholder farmers to keep the food supply chains working.
11. Promote effective dialogue and coordination between local and national actors, including the implementation of participatory budget.
12. Foster local manufacturing of basic material and inputs needed to face the health emergency, such as masks.

For informal settlement and slums (musseques):

13. Based on current schemes (community-based and neighbourhood associations), assignment of clear responsibilities at community level and establishment of communication channels/mechanisms with local authorities; this will include the appointment of responsible community members to identify the most vulnerable, promote local solidarity, supervise the implementation of control measures, ensure two-way communication with communities.
14. Working with civil society organizations and community leaders to organise for water distribution, toilets, waste collection and cleaning campaigns, improvement of hygiene conditions e.g. soap distribution, disinfection, etc.
15. Organisation of mini-cash transfer and food distribution in times of crisis and forced confinement.
16. Organization of wide vaccination, especially focusing on elders and vulnerable groups to other diseases with similar symptoms to reduce number of suspected cases and improve local immunity.
17. Radio and megaphone distribution for improving community communication and ensure local & regular awareness-raising while being confined; this will include the dissemination of preparedness, response and solidarity messages.
18. Coordination of waste collection groups and provision of personal protective equipment along with guidelines to safely support municipal waste collection services
19. Cease any form of forced eviction during the COVID-19 pandemic and establishing compulsory 3-months contract extensions to rented housing units with contracting expiring during the pandemic.
20. Ensure that women, children and youth who may need to leave a household due to domestic violence do not fall into homelessness and are provided with adequate alternative accommodations that ensure safety and provide access to water/sanitation, food, social supports, health services and testing for COVID19

For urban destitute and homeless people:

21. Immediately provide accommodation to all homeless people living 'rough' or on the streets with a view to transitioning them to permanent housing so that they do not return to a situation of homelessness once the pandemic is over. This may require procuring hotel or motel rooms, or repurposing buildings such as army barracks, or unused public facilities.
22. Ensure that food banks, and other support services for homeless people, are included in the list of essential service providers and are allowed to continue and expand their services during a lockdown. Local authorities must ensure that service providers can have access to up-to-date health information, masks, hand sanitizers and any other necessary personal protective equipment required to safely continue providing support services.
23. In order to prevent spreading of COVID through homeless support services or foodbanks, WHO hygiene and social distancing recommendations should be applied as far as possible and a more decentralized delivery of services, including on-site support or "home" delivery should be considered.

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