



The Coronavirus and its Implications for the Economy, Peace and Security of Nigeria.

By

Francis, Kenneth Olusanmi

Institute of Peace, Security and Governance

Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria

Tel: +234 (0) 7030138865, 08088883522, kennethfrancis7ng@yahoo.com

&

Kwede, Cornelius Ishaya

Department of Political Science,

Federal University Wukari, Taraba State, Nigeria

Tel:+2348066209316, kwedecollinsk@gmail.com

Abstract

The outbreak of coronavirus, later christened COVID-19 and declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization has spread across the globe, weakening and killing infected persons. As a result, many countries across the world has imposed travel restrictions, order self- isolations and closed public places and institutions, except for medicals and other essential service providers thus leaving both private and public businesses to their fate with the attendant consequences. Clearly, the restrictions have badly affected the global economy as well as that of Nigeria, as prices of commodities and most human essentials keep surging while production has drastically reduced. Human security, peace and mutual co-existence are also threatened. This paper examines the implications of the Coronavirus pandemic on the economy, peace and security of Nigeria. The study adopted a qualitative method relying solely on the secondary sources of data with the linkage theory as a framework of analysis. It discovered that COVID-19 is not only a deadly and highly infectious disease, but one that is capable of grounding the economy, eliminating the entire population of the country and the world at large if urgent attention is not given to it. It recommends the encouragement and observation of individual and collective hygiene at all levels in the country, release of funds by government, NGOs and other humanitarian organizations for research aimed at the development of vaccines to combat the pandemic, legislations for regular air and land fumigations of communities by all levels of government among others. The paper concludes that every conscious effort should be made to address the negative economic effects of the pandemic by government in order to arrest the attendant problem of insecurity and distortion of peace in the country.

Keywords: COVID-19, Economy, Insecurity, Pandemic, Peace and Security.

Introduction

The world never saw the outbreak of coronavirus which hit the Chinese port city of Wuhan in December 2019 as having the power to disrupt the global activities. Neither the 11 million residents of Wuhan nor the world powers ever envisaged that it would bring the world into a standstill. Nigeria, the US, UK, Germany, Italy, including the World Health Organisation saw it as local Chinese problem which China could handle. Five months after, 188 countries have been adversely affected. More than 340 thousand people have been killed and about 5.27 million confirmed to be infected by the pandemic, according to John Hopkins University (2020).





In an effort aimed at curtailing the spread of the deadly virus, the Federal Government of Nigeria joined the global community to impose both international and local travel restrictions, social distancing, curfews and a shutdown of business activities including the closure of schools and markets etc. A technical term called "total lockdown" being used to describe the above restrictions has featured prominently both in the print and electronic media for the past few months. State governments have quickly followed suit by imposing "lockdowns" in their states as well. Thus, the nation's activities have become paralysed; government's expenditure has also increased without the corresponding revenue generation. Private business owners have either been forced to work from home or stay idle.

Cybercriminals have equally seized the opportunity to hack into peoples' social media accounts, sent out fake palliative forms through the social media platforms with the hope of using the information of anyone who fills the forms to break into their bank accounts. Miscreants were reported to have terrorized helpless members of communities in Lagos and Ogun states. Given the above scenario, this paper, therefore, seeks to examine the implications of the pandemic on the economy, peace and security of Nigeria. In doing this, we begin with a conceptual clarification of some terms as used in the paper, a theoretical framework, the infectious capacity of the virus, and the effects of the virus on global economy before its impact on the economy, peace and security of Nigeria among other issues.

Conceptual Clarifications

Coronavirus: Encyclopaedia Britannica (2020), described Coronavirus (COVID-19) as any virus belonging to the family of Coronaviridae; the viruses have enveloped virions (virus particles) that measures approximately 120nm (1nm=10⁻⁹ metre) in diameter. The Club-shaped in the envelope gives the viruses a crownlike, or coronal appearance. The nucleocapsid made up of a protein shell known as a capsid and containing the viral nucleic acids is helical or tubular. The coronavirus genome consists of a single strand of positive-sense RNA (ribonucleic acid). Coronaviridae is generally considered to contain two genera, coronavirus and torovirus, which differ in nucleocapsid morphology, the former being helical and the latter being tubular. Coronaviruses are important agents of gastrointestinal disease in humans, poultry, and bovines. Coronavirus as used in this paper refers to an infectious disease which affects human lungs. Its symptoms include dry cough, fever and weakness of the body among others.

Economy: Oxford free online dictionary refers to economy as the system of making and trading things of value usually divided into physical things and services. It is a term describing the contribution of creativity, innovation and design skills to economic competitiveness. Economic agent can be individual, businesses, organizations or governments. Within the ambit of this paper, economy refers to a social domain which involves buying and selling of goods and services within and outside a country.

Peace: Literarily, the term peace means the end of war or settlement of conflict between two or more people. The military would understand peace to mean absence of war. However, many scholars do not view peace as the absence of war. To Albert Einstein and earlier scholars such as Johan Galtung, peace includes the presence of justice, law and order. Coretta (2008) dwelt on Martin Luther King Jr's true peace as not merely the absence of tension, but presence of justice.





In its own definition of peace; Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English defines peace as: a state where there is no war or fighting, a very quiet and pleasant situation where there is no interruption and a feeling of being calm, happy and no worries. However, this paper adopts the definition of peace by the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, which described peace as a situation or period in which there is freedom from disturbance, tranquillity, calm and quiet, freedom from worry, freedom from fear or pain. The outbreak of coronavirus has actually created worry and fear of being infected to everyone and disturbance of freedom.

Security: According to Human Development Report, HDR (1994) security has to do with the presence of peace, safety, gladness and protection of human and physical resources. HDR enumerated human security to include: Economic Security which is the assurances of basic income for individuals from productive and remunerative work or from public financed safety net; Food security, which requires that all humans at all times have both physical and economic access to basic food; health security, an assurances of protection from diseases and unhealthy daily life; Environmental Security, the protection of everyone from short and long term negative effects of nature; Personal Security, the protection of individuals from physical violence from or outside the state; Community Security, the protection of people from the loss of traditional relationship, values from sectarian and ethnic violence and the Political Security which is the guarantee of the fundamental rights of the citizens.

These various forms of human securities are threatened by various factors ranging from poverty, unemployment, deprivation or inability to work; major threat to food security is hunger, lack of physical or economical access to food, while the health security is threatened by infections and diseases, as well as inadequate healthcare. In this paper, security is defined as the condition of not being threatened especially physically, psychologically or emotionally. It can also be described as the assurances of safety, freedom from fear of intimidation or harassment which COVID-19 tends to generate.

Theoretical Framework

This paper is hinged on the Linkage theory as popularized by Joseph Frankel (1973) in his book, "International theory and Behaviour of States". The theory draws a lot of inference from David Easton's input and output analysis projected in the systems theory (Adelusi, 2019). Joseph Frankel (cited in Adelusi, 2019) argues that what he refers to as Linkage implies "any recurrent sequence of behaviour that originates in one system and is reacted to in another." Adelusi (2019) further opines that the initial and the terminal stages of linkage are described as "inputs" and "outputs" here they are differentiated according to their origin within the state or its external environment. The Input and output are linked together by three major types of linkages namely; the Penetrative; the Reactive and the Emulative.

Penetrative Linkage is one in which one polity serves as a participant in the political processes of another and shares the authority to allocate values within the penetrated units. This category embraces not only political and military but also economic penetration, while Reactive linkage is what is caused by boundary-crossing reactions without direct foreign participation in the decisions made within the unit, and Emulative linkage is where the response takes essentially the same as the action triggering it off. The "linkage" approach is useful because it neither denies nor exaggerates the relevance of national boundaries.





This theory is apt in explaining the current coronavirus pandemic and its attendant impact on the peace and security of Nigeria as well as its economy. Within the confine of the theory, coronavirus (covid-19) is a disease that is not indigenous, meaning it has its origin, not within Nigeria but has penetrated (penetration linkage) into the country and as a result, there have been reactions (reactive Linkage) in the form of border closures (both land, air and sea), restriction of movements within the country similar to what we have seen in other countries of the world. The penetration is so possible because the world has become a global village due to technological advancement so that in the modern world, time and space is not a challenge to movement. There are speed aeroplanes that can move around the earth within hours.

As a result of the interconnectedness of the world, there is usually a resultant impact of what is happening in the external environment of a country within it. Nigeria's attempt at handling the virus is in many ways similar (emulative linkage) to that of many countries around the globe, a development which makes this theory quite apt for this study.

Coronavirus and its Infectious Capacity

Johns Hopkins University reported that the first human infection must have occurred in November 2019, while 59 suspected cases were also reported at the end of December 2019. However, as of March 22, 2020, a total of 316,186 cases of coronavirus infections were recorded while 13,598 deaths were also reported with cases reported in 169 countries (John Hopkins University, 2020). According to IPAC (2020), the WHO office in China was on 31st December 2019 informed of the cases of pneumonia of unknown etiology detected in Wuhan city, Hubei Province of China, the outbreak began in a seafood and poultry market in Wuhan, a city of 11million people. The newly detected virus has a zoonotic source synonymous to the SARS and MERS-Cov. Since its discovery in China, the disease has spread to many countries in the world within few months. The BBC World News on March 26, 2020; reported that the United States of America has overtaken China with the highest record of infection of 186,000 (BBC, 2020). The coronavirus does not immediately knock down its victim, but until fourteen days after infection (WHO, 2020).

According to the Nigeria National Orientation Agency (NOA), CONVID-19 can be contacted through droplets, coughing, and sneezing. The Agency further went ahead to say that avoiding handshake greetings, regular washing of hands with soap are ways of avoiding it (NOA, 2020). WHO confirmed the contagiousness of the virus when it issued a recommendation and advice to the public to avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections, frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment, avoid unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.

The World Health Organization continues that people with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and washing of hands) and to enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments (WHO, 2020).





The effect of Coronavirus on the Global Economy, Peace and Security

The rapid spread and the contagious nature of coronavirus do not only create illness but also triggers fear, worry, and disrupt global peace as people are afraid and cannot freely move about to perform their daily activities for fear of being infected. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the virus infection a pandemic on March 11, 2020 as the coronavirus continued to spread across the globe with devastating outcomes for lives, livelihoods, and economies (WHO, 2020). Likewise, the UN Secretary-General described the coronavirus infections as a state of war and regarded the fight against the pandemic as a world war against coronavirus (Kristof, cited in New York Times, 2020). Kristof, (cited in New York Times, 2020), in his opinion about the pandemic stated inter alia: “*a pandemic is like an oil tanker; it continues to move forward long after you hit the brake*” emphasising that there will continue to be new infections and much more deaths; even when the world must have celebrated victory over the pandemic.

In its report, Johns Hopkins University (2020) observed that as at April 20, 2020, over 2.4 million people have been infected globally and 168,500 have died from Covid-19 infections. According to the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) (2020), out of the 55 African countries, 52 have reported coronavirus infections amounting to 22,513 cases and 1,126 deaths, except for the Western Sahara, Comoros and Lesotho that have not reported any case.

For Kristalina Georgeva, the Managing Director of International Monetary Fund (IMF) the coronavirus pandemic will cause a global recession in 2020 that could be worse than the one triggered by the global financial crisis of 2008 and 2009. She concluded that the coronavirus pandemic has already disrupted economic growth in China, and a further spread could derail a highly fragile projected recovery in the global economy (Aljazeera, 2020).

Elliot Smith of the CNBC reported on Thursday the 19th of March, 2020 that the global demand shock and supply chain disruption from shutdowns around the world because of the COVID-19 endemic, combined with an oil price war between Russian and Saudi Arabia, threaten to hit emerging economies in sub-Saharan Africa; he maintained that South Africa has earlier in the week declared a ‘state of disaster’ with coronavirus cases risen to 116 and the economy already in technical recession (CNBC, 2020).

It is on this note that the World leaders at the G-20 virtual summit committed to injecting over \$5 trillion into the global economy to counteract the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN Secretary-General among other things said ‘we are at war with a virus and not winning it...’, he continued knowing fully well that the global economic security is at the recession and said ‘we must work together now to set the stage for a recovery that builds a more sustainable, inclusive and equitable economy’ (Guterres, 2020).

Vera Songwe, the Executive Director of UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), posits that coronavirus crisis posed a serious threat to the continent’s already stagnant growth. He further warned that oil-exporting nations stand to lose up to \$65 billion in revenues as crude oil prices continue to fall. The BBC World News reported that the United State jobless claims hit 3.3million nearly the five times recorded in 1982 because of the coronavirus pandemic which has badly hit the country and its economy (BBC, 2020).





According to the BBC World News of March 26, 2020; The South African government declared a 'three weeks stay home nation shutdown' after 900 infections (making it the highest in Africa), as a measure to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 among its people. The consequence of this is that there would be no work and other economic activities throughout the South African nation and the country will be losing billions of Dollars to wages, taxes, internal and external generated revenues.

The Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres in expressing his concerns for global peace and security in the midst of the pandemic was quoted thus, “the pandemic poses a significant threat to the maintenance of international peace and security.... potentially leading to social unrest and violence that would greatly undermine our ability to fight the disease” (Clarke 2020). And while efforts aimed at curtailing conflicts across the African continent were being pursued, the coronavirus pandemic has to a large extent stalled these efforts. Accordingly, conflict prevention and mediation efforts have been affected. The novel coronavirus has delayed the implementation of critical peace agreements and hampered mediation efforts at the local level. Smail Chergui opined that “The armed group negotiation in Sudan, the implementation of the Central African Republic Peace Agreement as well as the ongoing discussions in Libya have taken a backseat. The recently established transitional governments in South Sudan and Sudan are also in need of robust mediation and diplomatic support in addition to economic support, efforts that have been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic” (Chergui 2020). Furthermore, terrorist and non-state armed groups have capitalized on the pandemic to increase attacks. In the words of Sail Chergui (2020):

In West Africa, Boko Haram insurgents launched an offensive against an army base claiming lives of hundreds of peacekeepers. In the Horn of Africa, Al-Shabaab has continued to attack civilian populations in Somalia and Kenya with the most recent attack on a UN compound in Somalia. In Southern Africa, the Islamic State affiliated jihadi group have increased their attacks in Mozambique. While the spread of terrorism and extremism on the continent is worrisome, it is even more alarming to see terror groups leverage the outbreak of coronavirus to spread misinformation as well as utilize diverse social media platforms to spread extremist ideologies and foster recruitment.

Occurrences of violence carried out by security officers that were deployed to enforce curfews and various governments' 'stay at home' order across Africa nations and confinement measures are being reported (News Wire, 2020). Deaths and injuries resulting directly from actions by State security personnel have also been reported in a number of African countries including Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and South Africa (News Wire, 2020).

The Impact of Coronavirus on the Nigerian Economy

Nigeria confirmed its first case of coronavirus in Lagos on February 27, 2020, through the Federal Ministry of Health (NCDC, 2020). The government through the Federal Ministry of Health put up measures to ensure an outbreak in Nigeria is controlled and contained. It was first social distancing, use of hand sanitizer, and the use of nose guard. But, as the cases kept increasing borders were closed, social gathering and close contacts were restricted, and travel





restrictions were also imposed. Businesses both public and private which include schools were closed thus putting the nation's economic activities on a standstill.

Essential workers in the public sector such as medicals, security agents, fire fighters, et cetera are permitted to work; while private sector worker are to work from home except those that are essential such as filling stations, banks (to work for few hours), and food vendors. Others are restricted completely. It is no doubt that the private sector stands at a vintage point in the Nigerian economy. Accordingly, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, remarked that out of the total 100% of the Nigeria nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the private sector accounts for 90% while the public which is the formal sector takes the rest 10%. Thus, only a handful of Nigerian workers are engaged, while over 90% of the businesses are locked down. (Dickson 2020).

In his Sustainability plan submitted to Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari on 11th June, 2020, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo wrote that Nigerian may lose 13million jobs as the effect of COVID-19 (TVC News, 2020). According to Chukwuka&Ekeruche (2020), before the pandemic, the Nigerian government had been wrestling with weak recovery from the 2014 oil price shock, with GDP growth narrowing around 2.3 per cent in 2019. In February, the IMF revised the 2020 GDP growth rate from 2.5 per cent to 2 per cent, as a result of relatively low oil prices and limited fiscal space. The country's debt profile has also been a source of concern for policymakers and development experts as the most recent estimate puts the debt service-to-revenue ratio at 60 per cent, which is likely to worsen amid the steep decline in revenue associated with falling oil prices. These hold back factors will heighten the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and make it more difficult for the government to weather the crisis.

The Nigeria government in its effort to cushion the effect of its increased expenditures and the tax cut for businesses increased the public budget from 8.83 trillion naira (\$24.53 billion) in 2019 to 10.59 trillion naira (\$29.42 billion) in 2020, representing 11 per cent of the national GDP. The National Assembly made a downward review of the 2020 budget from the initial 10.59 trillion Naira to 10.27; this is largely due to the fall in global oil price as result of the pandemic. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) ordered credit facilities of commercial banks to be reviewed, while small businesses are exempted from company income tax, and the tax rate for medium-sized businesses has been revised downwards from 30 to 20 per cent. The nation's expenditures continue to rise while its GDP continues to fall. The implication is that developmental projects which are aimed at creating employment will be cut short; and that employment and payment of salary of workers will be difficult in the future. There is also a possible cut down of the workforce in Nigeria.

The National Executive Council (NEC) on Thursday the 19th of March, 2020 received the report of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council (PEAC) on Nigeria's economy; the report indicated that before the outbreak of the coronavirus, the economic condition of Nigeria was fragile, vulnerable and deteriorating. The report shows how external influences drive the Nigerian economy, trade, capital inflows policy, diaspora transfers etc. The report concluded that the impact of coronavirus on Nigeria economy has affected the oil sector, stressing that both price and quantity are expected to fall.

The effect of this expert projection is that both the state and federal government which largely depend on oil for the sustenance of its various budgets and payments of workers' salaries





might run into trouble doing so. Justice Nwafor (2020) observes the effects could push the country back into recession, which it experienced in 2016. The Banks and other institutions whose profits could not meet up with its obligations are threatened to lay-off staffers while other private individual and small scale enterprises whose businesses have been badly affected as the result of the lockdown and travel restrictions are counting their losses. 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 effectiveness of policy measures, and the reaction of economic agents to these measures, as well as negative investor sentiments, which are causing turbulence in capital markets around the world. Indeed, the crisis has led to a massive decline in stock 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.

Before the coronavirus outbreak, Nigeria had been designated as the poverty headquarters of the world, with some 87 million Nigerians, or around half of the country's population, thought to be living on less than \$1.90 a day. With the pandemic and the current measures put in place by the federal and state governments to curb the pandemic, the figure is set to spike and the poverty conditions set to worsen.

The aviation industry and its associated businesses are set to lose billions of dollars (Nwafor, 2020). Small businesses, which rely heavily on imports to augment their value chains, will suffer from supply shortages while looming job cuts will intensify. The aviation sector is already suffering, as businesses will cut down on travel plans. The struggling service sector will feel most of the heat, as the manufacturers will cut back the budget to survive. Nigerian manufacturers are already feeling the heat as access to critical raw materials needed to sustain their operations has been impacted. The Director-General of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dr Muda Yusuf, said the performance of key sectors that can facilitate economic diversification is largely constrained (Nwafor, 2020).

The President of Phones and Allied Dealers Products Association (PAADPAN), Ifeanyi Akubue said computer hardware worth over \$100 million belonging to some Nigerian phone and computer vendors are currently stuck in China. Many Nigerian manufacturers and service providers are already experiencing an acute shortage of raw materials and intermediate inputs because of the interstate travel restrictions. Livestock farmers who rely on vaccines and other services such as feeds, hatchery, chicks etc. from third party have been forced to pay heavily for inflated services because of the shortage of materials and high demand; which has in turn affected their production projections.

In fact, the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Godwin Emefiele, put the impact of the COVID-19 on the Nigerian economy in clear terms when he read out a communiqué issued by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The communiqué stated inter alia:

The Manufacturing and non-Manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Indices (PMIs) declined significantly to 42.4 and 25.3 index points, respectively, in May 2020, compared with 51.1 and 49.2 index points in March 2020. The decline in manufacturing PMI was significant following thirty-six consecutive months of





expansion, while the non-Manufacturing PMI contracted for the second consecutive month. The contraction in the manufacturing and nonmanufacturing PMIs was attributed to slower growth in production, new orders, employment level, raw materials and input prices. The employment level index for the manufacturing and non-manufacturing PMIs also contracted further to 25.5 and 32.0 index points, respectively, in May 2020 compared with 47.1 and 47.3 index points in March 2020. Generally, the purchasing managers' activities in May 2020, were largely affected by the lockdown of the global economy to curtail the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic..... The Committee also noted with concern the persisting uptick in inflation for the eighth consecutive month as headline inflation (year-on-year) rose to 12.34 per cent in April 2020 from 12.26 per cent in March 2020. The uptick largely reflected the increase in both the food and core components, which rose to 15.03 and 9.98 per cent in April 2020 from 14.98 and 9.73 per cent in March 2020, respectively. The MPC noted that the recent increase in inflationary pressure was largely due to a combination of factors including; disruptions in supply chain owing to restrictions on inter-state travels; reduced domestic supply of foreign exchange; continued impact of deteriorating domestic infrastructure; and spillover effects of the Pandemic on global supplies, amongst others (Central Bank 2020).

Nigeria's Peace and Security in the Context of COVID-19

Nigeria's peace index has been erratic due to the activities of Boko Haram since 2008. There has been considerable fear of its intensification arising from the Coronavirus pandemic. The International Crisis Group remarked that " the global outbreak has the potential to wreak havoc in fragile states and trigger widespread unrest....." (ICG 2020). The group noted that the disease is likely to disrupt humanitarian aid flows as there are already reports of diversions of palliatives by those saddled with the responsibility of distributing the palliatives. This can exacerbate domestic conflict.

The restriction of movement (lock downs) has evidently been a difficult experience for the unemployed Nigerian youth and as argued by Adeniran (2020) restricting the movement of these set of people who already live below one dollar per day without adequate palliatives is already a disruption of peace waiting to happen. An instance of this is the reported cases of increased criminal activities in Alagbado in Lagos during the lockdowns which hitherto had been a very peaceful community by the one million boys (Aljazeera 2020). Majority of the young men arrested cited hunger and idleness as the reason for their involvement in such activities. Many of them claimed that the lockdown prevented them from carrying out petty trades which serve as their daily sources of income and feeding. There is also an increase in gender based violence and rape which has not only left victims with perennial nightmares and terrifying memories but has resulted in the death of many young girls and women. This has been attributed to both the lockdown arising from the pandemic as husbands are made to remain at home with their wives and idleness on the part of the youths which has turned their mind to a devil's workshop. In fact,





Nigeria has recorded the highest level of rape cases and sexual violence within the past three months of the lockdown.

Cybersecurity has witnessed a decline. In the words of Mouton (2020) "the environment is just right for cybercriminals to strike". This is because a lot of countries have shut down and have asked their citizens to work from home. Meaning there is a rise in the level of reliance on technology and working from home had hitherto not been fully adopted by some organizations. This portends a great danger if adequate measures are not put place to secure the cyber landscape. The central bank of Nigeria has warned the general public on the rising cases of cybercrimes stating that "the criminals steal sensitive information or gain unauthorized access to computers or mobile devices using various techniques" (The Guardian 2020).

There is already a dire food situation in Nigeria as a result of years of insurgency, terrorism and the Herders-framers conflict. The pandemic has further deepened the situation with the restrictions and border closures. Even though there are food supplies ongoing, the possibility of sustaining it in the nearest future seems very slim as a result of the pandemic. In the view of Eje (2020):

Border closures, restriction of movements and numbers of individuals gathering at a time will reduce movement of food and food-preparation commodities. This may interrupt market operations and preposition of commodities in the different locations, hence a threat to regular food assistance support. If the markets are interrupted that supply cannot meet demand, this may lead to an increase in prices. The likelihood of reduced productive activities may also affect production, hence further reducing food availability.

Conclusion

The paper has shown that the Nigerian economy has experienced severe macroeconomic shock caused by the fatal spread of the novel COVID-19 pandemic, which first started as a health crisis in December 2019 in China and quickly metamorphosed into global economic crises across the globe within a few months. The pandemic- induced economic shock is mainly characterized by the disruptions of global production and supply chain, on account of the critical control measures including lockdowns, travel bans and quarantines put in place by various governments to contain the spread of the disease. The impact of the pandemic on the economy, peace and security of the country remains monumental obvious and require drastic measures from both the government, NGOs, humanitarian groups and the private sector in order to reverse them. Fear has impeded social and religious activities, while there is a rise in the level of crime which has invariably destroyed the already fragile security situatio in the country.

Recommendations

The paper recommends that individual and collective hygiene should be encouraged at all levels in Nigeria. The Federal government should invest in technological research and development for the construction and installation of high-tech walk-through equipment in all entry points and borders to detect virus-infected persons within and for those entering Nigeria. More funds should be made available to all scientific researches to develop vaccines and other treatments to curtail such outbreak in future. Laws should be made to empower government at all levels to carry out regular air and land fumigation of all communities (whether rural or urban).



National, State and Local governments (as the case may be) should establish a state of the art quarantine or disease control centers to house infected persons. The National Assembly should also make law that will compel every corporate organization and adult individuals to make financial contributions towards the control and eradication of not only the COVID-19 but other contagious diseases. Nigeria should now begin to be engaged in multi-sectoral revitalization so that the economy does not rest on oil alone. This will not only enhance a speedy economic recovery but a quicker stability in the post COVID-19 era.

The aftermath of the pandemic carries a lot of uncertainties for Nigeria's peace and security sector therefore, there should be training and retraining of security personnel and conflict managers to curtail the rise in criminal activities and resolve conflict arising from the struggle for scarce resources. The training should contain strict adherence to the principles of human rights. In order to quickly breathe life into both private and public businesses that have been affected by the measures put in place, government should make available credit facilities at single digit interest repayment rate as this will not only aid but fast track the economic recovery process.

References

- Adelusi, O.P (2019) "Linkage Theory at https://www.academia.edu/6246913/linkage_theory. Accessed 17 April 2020.
- Adeniran R. L (2020) "Covid-19 and its Implication on Youth Peace and Security in Nigeria". Building block for peace at <https://bblofpeace.org/event>. Accessed on 17 April 2020.
- Africa Center for Disease Control* (2020), "COVID-19: Latest Updates on the COVID-19 Crisis from the Africa CDC," available at <https://africacdc.org/covid-19/> accessed on 20 April, 2020.
- Aljazeera* (2020). "Lagos Resident Defend Homes Against Curfew Bandits". Retrieved from www.aljazeera.com. Accessed on 16 May, 2020.
- Aljazeera*, (2020): "Effects of Coronavirus". Live discussion of the Effects of Coronavirus by Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the IMF, March 23rd, 2020. Accessed from www.aljazeera.com on May 4 2020.
- BBC News* (2020): BBC World News on coronavirus of March 26, www.bbc.com *BBC News* (2020): Coronavirus: Greatest Test Since World War Two says UN Secretary-General
- BBC News* (2020): World News on Coronavirus of March 23, www.bbc.com.
- Central Bank of Nigeria* (2020), Central Bank of Nigeria Communiqué No. 130 of the Monetary
- Chappell, B. (2020): "Coronavirus: COVID-19 Is Now Officially A Pandemic, WHO Says". National Public Radio.
- Chergui, S. (2020). *Peace and Security Amidst COVID-19*. Addis Ababa: AU Commission.
- Chukwuka, O. & Ekeruche, M. A. (2020). Understanding the Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on the Nigerian Economy. Brookings; Africa in Focus. Wednesday, April 8.
- Clarke, G (2020). "Covid 19 Threatening Global Peace and Security, UN Chief Warns". Accessed from news.un.org/en/story on May 17, 2020.





- Coretta,S.K., (2008) ‘The Legacy of Martin Luther King’; Sage Journals at <http://doi.org/10.1080/00220080802287444>. Accessed on June 11, 2020.
- Dickson, E. (2020). Fear Grips Nigerians over Economy as COVID-19 Intensifies., *The Guardian*, June 4.
- Eje, U. (2020). How to Address Food Security in Nigeria. Accessed from www.premiumimes.com on June 10, 2020
- Encyclopaedia Britannica (2020): Definition of Coronavirus. Available on <http://www.britanica.com>. Accessed on 18 May, 2020.
- Federal Task Force, (2020): Report of Presidential Task Force on COVID-19, on 21st March 2020 at NTA Network News
- Food Security Cluster (2020) FSS Guidance Notes on COVID-19 Food Assistance, Accessed from https://fscluster.org/ne_nigeria/document/fss-guidance-notes-covid-19-food on 9th April 2020.
- Frankel, J. (1973) *Contemporary International Theory and Behaviour of States*. England: Oxford University Press.
- Guterres, A. (2020). “The Global Impact of COVID-19”. Live appearance on BBC, April 01, 2020. Accessed from www.bbc.com on June 5, 2020.
- Human Development Report (HDR), (1994). ‘Human Security: Seven Categories’. Accessed from <http://gdrc.org>, on 11th June, 2020.
- International Criminal Crisis (2020): “Covid-19 and Conflict, Seven Trends to Watch”. Accessed from www.crisigrup.org on March 9th, 2020.
- IPAC (2000): Infection Prevention and Control in Canada. Accessed from www.ipac.canada.com, on March 30, 2020.
- Johns Hopkins University (2020); “Issues on Coronavirus”. Available at <https://coronavirs.jhu.edu>. Accessed on April.2, 2020.
- Johns Hopkins University, “COVID-19: Dashboard by the Center of Systems Science and Engineering.”. Available at <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>. Accessed on June 6, 2020.
- Mouton, F. (2020). COVID-19: Impact on the Cyber Security Threat Landscape, Available at www.researchgate.net/publication. Accessed on April 17, 2020.
- National Orientation Agency (NOA) (2020). Sensitization on CONVID-19,. Available at www.NOA.org. Accessed 17th March 2020
- New York Times* (2020). UN Secretary General Says COVID -19 is War, April 16.
- News Wires*, (2020). “Security Forces Use Violent Tactics to Enforce Africa’s Coronavirus Shutdowns,” *France 24*, April 1.
- Nigerian Center for Disease Control* (2020) Report on Covid-19, Available <https://ncdc.gov.org/disease> . Accessed on May 22, 2020.
- Nwafor, J. (2020). Nigeria at the Brink of Recession, *Tribune Business*, June 3.
- Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary*, Accessed from www.oxfordlearners.com on May 27, 2020. Policy Committee Meeting held on thursday 28th May.
- Presidential Economic Advisory Council*, PEAC (2020). NTA News, March 4. Smith E. CNBC (2020). “Report on the Global Effect of Coronavirus”. CNBC, Thursday 19th March.





- The Guardian*(2020). COVID-19: CBN Cautions Nigerians on Activities of Cybercriminals, April 6.
- TVC News* (2020). Sustainability Report by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, June 11.
- Washington Post* (2020): Mapping the Spread of the Coronavirus in the U.S. and Worldwide, March 4.
- WHO* (2020). World Health Organization's Declaration of Coronavirus as a Pandemic. Available at ww.who.int/covid-19/info. Accessed on March 11, 2020.
- World Health Organization (2020): Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report. Available at www.who.int/covid-19/information. Accessed on March 11, 2020.

