

# **Covid-19 Epidemic and Socioeconomic Impacts in Africa**

## ***(Epidemiological Review of the Lake Chad Region)***

**By**

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### **Abstract**

The Covid-19 pandemic is one of the critical health crisis affecting individual, societies and economies at their core. The increasing epidemic impact both human lives and livelihoods at a global scale making achievement of SDGs even more urgent. This paper seek to underscore the need to compliment the UN health interventions, Donor partners and cooperates social humanitarian response in Nigeria and lake chad region with a long term sustainable social behavioral change communication strategies and economic recovery programs focusing on individual response including Infection prevention, social protection and ownership couple with emergency preparedness connecting health to social vulnerability, human rights, economic and environmental wellbeing linking the present to the future under a coordinated policy to further improve lives, strengthen integrated healthcare delivery and Covid-19 related services in national, Sub-national and community level towards scaling both SDGs and Covid-19 related needs by 2030.

### **Preamble:**

Covid-19 Epidemic couple with rapid population growth, poverty, income inequality and age structure are key development challenges facing low and middle-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Social protection is increasingly being seen by the international community, regional bodies (AU) and national

government as a policy tool to address the region's huge demographic challenges especially in ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources to vulnerable population including children, youth, women and aged, but this has not resulted in a more fairer or sustainable transition of poverty and inequality in the region.

## **Introduction**

The Covid-19 pandemic is one of the critical health crisis affecting individual, societies and economies at their core. The increasing epidemic impact both human lives and livelihoods at a global scale making achievement of SDGs even more urgent. Given the scale of spread and scope of socioeconomic impact in sub-Saharan Africa, global and regional imperatives support investment in social protection as tool to improve a more equitable pro-poor growth model especially as in Nigeria where strong economic growth is not benefiting the poor by supporting both economic and social development. The study set out to accomplish the SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5 and 10 objectives of No poverty, zero hunger, Health and reducing inequality as well as examine gaps in the current status of social protection policy with Nigeria as baseline for measuring program effectiveness and strengthening policy framework for government and development partners towards sustainable demographic dividend and a more fairer transition of poverty and inequality in the lake chad region. This paper seek to underscore the need to compliment the UN health interventions, Donor partners and cooperates social humanitarian response in Nigeria and lake chad region with a long term sustainable social behavioral change communication strategies and economic recovery programs focusing on individual response including Infection prevention, social protection and ownership couple with emergency preparedness connecting health to social vulnerability, human rights, economic and environmental wellbeing linking the present to the future under a coordinated policy to further improve lives, strengthen integrated healthcare delivery and Covid-19 related services in national, Sub-national and community level using existing structures as mechanism for scaling optimal performance in achievement of both SDGs and Covid-19 related needs by 2030.

## Covid-19 Impact Assessment in the Lake Chad Region

**Table 1: Selected site Impact Assessment criteria**

Countries	Event	Grade	Date Notified to WCO	Start of Reporting Period	End of reporting Period	Total cases	Cases Confirmed	Deaths/Reco	CFR
Chad	COVID-19	Grade 3	19-Mar-20	19-Mar-20	1-Aug-21	4973	4973	174/4793	3.50%
Cameroon	COVID-19	Grade 3	6-Mar-20	6-Mar-20	21-Jul-21	82064	82064	1334/80588	1.60%
Niger	COVID-19	Grade 3	19-Mar-20	19-Mar-20	30-Jul-21	5616	5616	195/5338	3.50%
Nigeria	COVID-19	Grade 3	27-Feb-20	27-Feb-20	1-Aug-21	174315	174315	2149/165015	1.20%

Source WHO-2021

**Table 2: COVID-19 Economic Impact and Social Investment Programs in the Lake Chad Region.**

Countries	Sector	Scale of Impact	Social Investment/Response Strategies
Cameroon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agriculture</li> <li>- Education</li> <li>- Health</li> <li>- Hotel/Tourism</li> <li>- Industries</li> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Energy</li> <li>- Financial Institution</li> <li>- Insurance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in working hours</li> <li>- Laid-off of workers</li> <li>- Wage Reduction</li> <li>- Delay wages</li> <li>- Personnel Rotation</li> <li>- Poor turnover</li> </ul>	<p>The Cameroon Government Implementation of Prevention and response strategies with aim of limiting the spread of the pandemic such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporarily Closure of schools, business, Worship places, travel restrictions etc.</li> <li>- Measure were taken by the government through the prime minister to reduce economic impact;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Informal sector</li> <li>- Daily earners</li> <li>- Petty traders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Losses</li> </ul>	<p>although difficult to quantify range from: Relaxing Rules to support economic activity by the payment of VAT for the benefit of businesses, tax exemption for workers in the informal sector (Petty traders), and formal public/private sector workers receive family allowances.</p>
Chad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agriculture</li> <li>- Education</li> <li>- Health</li> <li>- Hotel/Tourism</li> <li>- Industries</li> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Energy</li> <li>- Financial Institution</li> <li>- Insurance</li> <li>- Informal sector</li> <li>- Daily earners</li> <li>- Petty traders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in working hours</li> <li>- Laid-off of workers</li> <li>- Wage Reduction</li> <li>- Delay wages</li> <li>- Personnel Rotation</li> <li>- Poor turnover</li> <li>- Losses</li> </ul>	<p>The Chad Government Implementation of Prevention and response strategies with aim of limiting the spread of the pandemic such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporarily Closure of schools, business, Worship places, travel restrictions etc.</li> <li>- Measure were taken by the government through the prime minister to reduce economic impact; although difficult to quantify range from: Relaxing Rules to support economic activity by the payment of VAT for the benefit of businesses, tax exemption for workers in the informal sector (Petty traders), and</li> </ul>

			formal public/private sector workers receive family allowances.
<b>Niger</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agriculture</li> <li>- Education</li> <li>- Health</li> <li>- Hotel/Tourism</li> <li>- Industries</li> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Energy</li> <li>- Financial Institution</li> <li>- Insurance</li> <li>- Informal sector</li> <li>- Daily earners</li> <li>- Petty traders.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in working hours</li> <li>- Laid-off of workers</li> <li>- Wage Reduction</li> <li>- Delay wages</li> <li>- Personnel Rotation</li> <li>- Poor turnover</li> <li>- Losses</li> </ul>	<p>The Niger Government Implementation of Prevention and response strategies with aim of limiting the spread of the pandemic such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporarily Closure of schools, business, Worship places, travel restrictions etc.</li> <li>- Measure were taken by the government through the prime minister to reduce economic impact; although difficult to quantify range from: Relaxing Rules to support economic activity by the payment of VAT for the benefit of businesses, tax exemption for workers in the informal sector (Petty traders), and formal public/private sector workers receive family allowances.</li> </ul>
<b>Nigeria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agriculture</li> <li>- Education</li> <li>- Health</li> <li>- Hotel/Tourism</li> <li>- Industries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in working hours</li> <li>- Laid-off of workers</li> <li>- Wage</li> </ul>	<p>The Nigeria Government Implementation of Prevention and response strategies with aim of limiting the spread of the pandemic such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Temporarily Closure of schools, business,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Transport</b></li> <li>- <b>Energy</b></li> <li>- <b>Financial Institution</b></li> <li>- <b>Insurance</b></li> <li>- <b>Informal sector</b></li> <li>- <b>Daily earners</b></li> <li>- <b>Petty traders.</b></li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Delay wages</b></li> <li>- <b>Personnel Rotation</b></li> <li>- <b>Poor turnover</b></li> <li>- <b>Losses</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Worship places, travel restrictions etc.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Measure were taken by the government through the prime minister to reduce economic impact; although difficult to quantify range from: Relaxing Rules to support economic activity by the payment of VAT for the benefit of businesses, tax exemption for workers in the informal sector (Petty traders), and formal public/private sector workers receive family allowances, N-Power(Graduate/Non Graduate)NHGSFP(Fee ding of Pupils) CCT, GEEP(loop scheme) and National Social register( Households)</b></li> </ul>
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Source ILO Policy Brief -2020

**Recommendations/ Conclusion:**

Given the scale of spread and scope of socioeconomic impact in sub-Saharan Africa, global and regional imperatives support investment in social protection as tool to improve a more equitable pro-poor growth model especially as in Nigeria were strong economic growth is not benefiting the poor by supporting both economic and social development