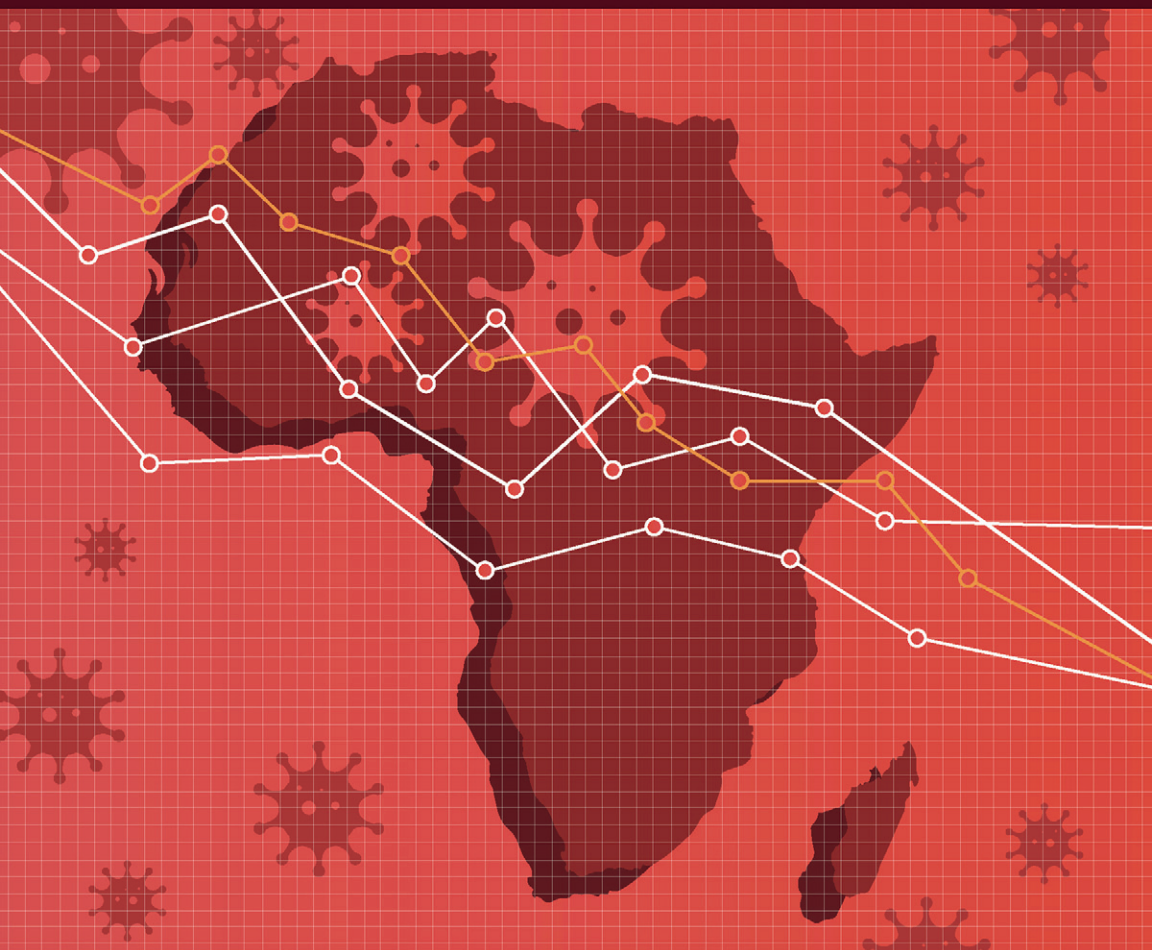


COVID-19 in the African Continent

Sustainable Development
and Socioeconomic Shocks



Edited by

Evans Osabuohien, Gbadebo Odularu,
Daniel Ufua, Romanus Osabohien

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Foreword

In the first quarter of the year 2020, most African countries experienced socio-economic and political lockdown and social distancing measures to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Consequently, many African countries and the African Union Commission (AUC) implemented the COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (CARES) programme. CARES programme intervention focused on three result areas in Africa: (1) increase social transfers, essential services, and livelihood support to poor and vulnerable households; (2) increase food security and safe functioning of food supply chains for poor households and (3) facilitate the recovery and enhance capacities for micro and small enterprises.

For instance, the World Bank – Nigeria CARES Programme is a \$750 million state-driven initiative to alleviate the tumultuous impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on households, communities and businesses. The World Bank – Nigeria – Bank of Industry CARES Programme is to implement Result Area 3 as a targeted relief programme for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). A good understanding of the impact of the pandemic on the African economies requires a well-articulated compilation of studies that presents the copying strategies implemented by households, businesses and governments towards adjusting to the unprecedented shock. For instance, about four in five Africans suffered a reduction in income due to the inability to work or earn income. Furthermore, due to low demand and declining supply chains stemming from movement restrictions and financial closure, more than half of employers were unable to meet the salaries of their staff. Consequently, the insightful findings collated from this edited book will be disseminated to policymakers for tailoring appropriate and evidence-based programmatic support to Africans, especially, the vulnerable households and firms.

Consequently, the years 2021 and 2022 are critical for the socioeconomic and geopolitical recoveries for an equitable and resilient Africa. In this regard, this edited book presents an in-depth analysis of how COVID-19 scaled the pre-existing socioeconomic weaknesses in Africa. Based on available data and evidence, this book discusses the workable policy recommendations that lend themselves to re-positioning Africa for its sustainable development trajectory. At this crucial growth juncture, there is an increasing need for a systemic paradigm change. African national and continental experts, technocrats, and decision-makers should collaborate with the Socio-Economic Research

Applications and Projects (SERAP) towards optimising global resources, networks, innovations and best practices for unlocking Africa's socioeconomic potentials.

As African governments attempt to better their businesses and economies, it is essential to leverage technology to democratise access and reach the last mile. However, innovative technology needs to be combined with other interventions like awareness raising, education, inclusion, diversity and equity principles.

Based on the policy recommendations contained in this edited book, SERAP is interested in striking strategic alliances with African governments towards creating awareness programmes, and applying adaptation strategies for overcoming the impact of future socioeconomic shocks on Africa's vulnerable households and minority businesses.

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The editors appreciate the contributions of individuals and institutions for giving conspicuous support to the development of this edited volume. Foremost on our list is to acknowledge the concerted efforts made by our authors who contributed immensely with their chapters' submission towards the achievement of the edited book project. Editors equally recognise the efforts of our reviewers who provided constructive criticisms and suggestions for improvement of submitted chapters considered in this edited volume.

We wish to acknowledge the inflicting support of the providers on the various online platforms used to advertise the call for chapters for this project. We acknowledge the broad spread of the call for chapter proposals which resulted in massive turn in of chapter proposals from which the constituent chapters and sections of the current project were built.

While this edited book project took off during the COVID-19 lockdown and its challenges, the editors appreciate the support and responses to queries by Emerald publishers all through the development of this edited volume. Also, the editors gratefully acknowledge the support and encouragement from members of their family all through the development of this project.

On a final note, we thank God, the Almighty, for the grace bestowed upon us to start and finish this edited volume in good time.

Evans Osabuohien, Gbadebo Odularu, Daniel Ufua and Romanus Osabohien
September 2021

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Introduction

The outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) has resulted in diverse challenges ranging from health-related complications to food security, business development and humanitarian crisis management, among others, in the African continent. These challenges highlight the urgent need for African countries to muster the necessary apparatus to develop resilience in addressing the complex challenges associated with the COVID-19 amidst limited resources (Odularu, Osabuohien, Ufua, & Osabohien, this volume; Osabuohien, Gershon, Oye, & Efobi, 2020).

The edited book examines how the challenges occasioned by COVID-19 and the associated socioeconomic situations can be tackled in the African continent. Also, it explores the range of economic interventions that can alleviate the immediate impact of COVID-19 by offering an in-depth understanding of the disruptive impacts of COVID-19 on the African continent (Edoho, 2015; Osabuohien, Oduntan, Gershon, Onanuga, & Ola-David, 2021; Ufua, Emielu et al., 2021; Ufua, Osabuohien et al., 2021).

One of the prominent uniquenesses of this book is the lessons it offers on challenges and complications interrelated COVID-19 and other socioeconomic shocks in Africa. Also, the interdisciplinary positions of diverse authors from different African countries provide interesting cases and understanding that enriches the readers' knowledge of these salient issues.

The Organisation of the Book

The edited book is organised into five sections that contain 22 Chapters altogether.

Section I: COVID-19, Socioeconomic Shocks and Development in Africa

In brief, the first section provides the efforts made in African countries in tackling the socioeconomic shocks to put their economies on the development path in the face of COVID-19 and the associated socioeconomic challenges. It assesses the

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nature of resilience and preparedness to respond to emerging social and economic challenges such as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The section is made up of five chapters covering the following summary areas. Chapter 1 by Leoba Nyathi, Rachel Chinyakata and Leah Gwatimba explores the availability of social services and their reliance levels and uncovers the weaknesses of the social services provision structure and highlights the adverse effects in terms of preparedness to respond to socioeconomic shocks. The authors conclude with the suggestion for an improved social services structure that enhances the readiness to address social and economic shocks in the future. In the second chapter, Olusola Joshua Olujobi examines the legal systems in Africa and their support to the recovery process from the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The author compares the legal system in selected African countries (Angola, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa); and develops a model for effective legal system practice to support social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the following chapter, Christopher O. Ugwuibe, Francisca N. Onah and Jennifer I. Eze focus on insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic to analyse policy gaps and prospects for inclusive security outfits in Nigeria. The authors identify the criminality of bandits, kidnappers, protests as critical factors affecting security in Nigeria. They conclude by recommending that government should take advantage of the recent security loopholes in the country to establish a state police force, which will lead to significant improvement in police service delivery.

In the fourth chapter, Mohd Nayyer Rahman, Badar Alam Iqbal and Nida Rahman examine the impact of foreign direct investment (FDI) and trade on African economies, focusing on developing neural network feedforward structure for a COVID-19 scenario. The chapter reveals the impacts of socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions, using a sample of 36 African Economies. It identifies the significance of these economic variables for gross domestic products (GDP). It also finds that services exports (SEMP), services imports (SIMP), and FDI inflows have a significant and robust relationship with GDP for the African Economies. Tariff Measures (TRFF), Anti-Dumping measures (ADP) and Foreign Direct Investment Outflows (FDIO) have no significant relationships.

In Chapter 5, Ifeoluwapo Oluwaseun Amao, Iyabo Bosede Adeoye, Bala Abdulahi Idris, Temitope Olorunwa Yomi-OWOJORI and Olubunmi Lawrence Balogun investigate the socioeconomic shocks and value chain development, focusing on the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19 on the income stream of tomatoes farmers in Kano, Nigeria. Their results further reveal a significant relationship in the income of marketers' pre and during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, a non-significant relationship was observed in the income of producers, processors and transporters before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. There was also no significant difference in the economic value of seeds, manure and fertiliser before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their study recommends that a mechanism be devised to improve the availability of inputs to producers and disseminate adequate market information to stakeholders in the tomato value

chain to improve the contribution of the commodity to food security and economic development.

Section II: Performance of Africa's Health and Educational Sectors in the 'New Normal'

This section focuses on the emerging issues in the health and educational sectors in Africa. It provides an understanding of the disruptive impacts of contextual instabilities and other health and educational systems challenges. It also provides suitable approaches to address critical issues identified, detailing the areas of improvement and suggestions for better health and educational practices in a new normal in Africa.

This section comprises four chapters. Chapter 6, authored by Musediq Olufemi Lawal, Alidu Olatunji Kareem and Dominic Olalekan Adebayo, investigates the disposition and adherence to preventive measures of Coronavirus in Osun State, Nigeria. The findings demonstrate that the knowledge of public health advice for controlling COVID-19, such as maintaining social distancing, using face masks in public spaces and adhering to personal hygiene measures, are necessary for effective public health management in a new normal. According to the authors, this led to the violation of the strict lockdown regulations introduced by the government by the populace, who were saddled with the responsibility to care for their families.

Nceba Nyembezi and Rosemary Chimbala-Kalenga, in the seventh chapter, examine how women understand and account for their behaviour concerning the traditional forms of communication that underpin the ideology of motherhood, which has been socially constructed as a critical aspect of womanhood. The findings reveal that women's breastfeeding knowledge and attitudes and degree of education are connected to their practice of exclusive breastfeeding. At the same time, cultural views are also connected to breastfeeding practices. The chapter submits that public advocacy empowers people to demand infrastructural social or policy change in their communities.

In Chapter 8, Chukwudi C. Olumba, Cynthia N. Olumba and Chukwuma Ume focus on gender and COVID-19 response strategy in Africa from the Nigerian perspective. The chapter underscores significant heterogeneity in vulnerability to the COVID-19 shocks between the male-headed households and female-headed households. The chapter provides insights for designing inclusive social protection interventions and gender-sensitive COVID-19 recovery policies. Chapter 9 by Nkechinyere R. Uwajumogu, Ebele S. Nwokoye, Lasbrey Anochiwa, Anayochukwu Basil Chukwu, and Emmanuel I. Agupusi explores COVID-19 and entrepreneurship in Africa using the case of Nigeria. The chapter identifies the adverse impact of the pandemic and different government responses to the pandemic on economic growth as the essential adverse impact of the pandemic on entrepreneurship. It also highlights opportunities embedded in the pandemic for entrepreneurs, in which few are utilised and many unutilised or partially utilised.

Section III: Sectoral Development and Trade in Post-COVID-19 Africa

This section covers the issues and prospects of sectoral development and trade performance in Africa by focusing on the challenging and critical factors in the continent. It highlights the key issues affecting these sectors and also suggests improvement approaches.

The section entails five chapters starting with Chapter 10 by Akintoye Victor Adejumo, Oluwabunmi O. Adejumo and Uchenna R. Efobi. The chapter investigates finance schemes and small business development, on the one hand, and the informal associations are typical features of farm and non-farm ventures, especially within rural communities, on the other. The chapter draws on the interrelationships between finance options (including formal, informal and social networks) and small business development. The study recommends that government institutions recognise and formalise these informal systems, which will aid access to government interventions and programmes and foster collaborations with existing formal institutions and investors for sustainable rural business financing.

In Chapter 11, Olanrewaju Omosehin, Oseni Joseph, Adewale Olutumise and Evans Osabuohien dwell on the economic importance of palm oil in food requirements, income generation, production and consumption have led to a significant increase in its demand. The findings show that the short-run estimates, palm oil price and the exchange rate had adverse and significant effects on the welfare of palm oil producers. In contrast, the inflation rate positively and significantly influenced welfare. Therefore, the welfare programme should adopt policies that will stabilise the palm oil price and other foodstuffs to increase the standard of living of palm oil producers and raise its literacy levels in Nigeria.

Marvellous Ngundu, in the 12th chapter, investigates economic growth and its response to Chinese loans to African countries. The author explores the dynamic relations between Africa's growth and Chinese loans using China Africa Research Initiative (CARI) dataset. The findings suggest that Chinese loans can boost Africa's growth through physical capital accumulation. The author argues that these loans should be effectively invested in productive economic sectors that can generate productivity-enhancing economic incentives and enough savings for repayment. Chapter 13, authored by Omowumi Monisola Ajeigbe and Olumide Sunday Adesina, examines the dynamics of socioeconomic shocks on energy sector performance in Africa. The chapter identifies the effects of COVID-19 on the energy sector's operations, affecting the demand and supply of energy products and services in the market. Findings revealed that the COVID-19 pandemic transmits a negative shock to oil production and GDP per capita while a positive shock is transmitted to electricity price. The study recommends that policies should be directed towards putting in place a shock-absorbing mechanism to cushion the effect of the identified shocks on the performance of the energy sector and the economic development of the countries.

In Chapter 14, Alidu Olatunji Kareem, Musediq Olufemi Lawal, Dauda Ayodele Morakinyo and Comfort Ojoago Adah explore COVID-19 impact on small and medium scale agro-allied enterprises in Southwest Nigeria. It explores

the effects of the pandemic on these enterprises. The chapter identifies critical impacts such as job losses, bankruptcy, inadequate staff strength, insufficient raw materials, lack of access to equipment and services, inability to access finance and closed sales outlets. The study recommends mitigating the effects of the pandemic on small and medium scale agro-allied enterprises, which includes lifting of the ban on border closure; provision of palliative measures, partnership with local and financial services providers; provision of technology in Nigeria.

Section IV: Post-COVID Economic Resilience and Development in Africa

The fourth section unravels how African economics could build resilience for development. It explores household and environmental development. It focuses on crucial impediments and the development of suitable social and economic measures that can support a more habitable environment that can enhance the overall viability of the African continent.

The section encapsulates four chapters. Chapter 15 is authored by Daniel Ufua, Olusola Joshua Olujobi, Romanus Osabohien, Gbadebo Odularu and Evans Osabuohien. It explores the adverse effects of COVID-19 lockdown on Nigerian households. It offers suggestions for tackling the household conflicts relevant to society and its contributions to Nigeria's broad economic activities. The chapter unearths learning about the critical sources of household conflict and explores the effects on households in Nigeria due to the lockdown. The chapter concludes with the need for a better legal framework that can regulate household conflicts. It also emphasises increased government effort to intervene in household challenges, especially during an emergent issue like the COVID-19 pandemic. The study suggested the need for a broad social services structure in Nigeria that can provide social security to households during an unexpected emerging situation such as COVID-19.

In Chapter 16, Tafadzwa Chitenderu and Ronney Ncwadi investigate the implications of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank loans towards the COVID-19 crisis on the development of African countries. It explores the lack of fiscal space that forces countries to turn to IMF loans to finance COVID-19 policy responses using historical data of loans received by African countries from the IMF and World Bank. Chinedu Lilian Mba, Thecla I. Akukwe, Chukwudi Nwokolo, Chukwudi Cornelius Mba, Felicia Osondu Okwueze and Godson C. Asuoha, in Chapter 17, explore edible backyards and household food security during COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria. The findings show that lockdown improved household backyard food production and pushed towards a positive behavioural change towards food security. The Chapter also shows that land and capital unavailability were significant barriers to taking farming as a significant occupation. It concludes by proposing policy options to improve food production at household levels to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on food security.

The 18th chapter by Elvin Shava and Shikha Vyas-Doorgapersad explores the Unintended Consequences of COVID 19 Pandemic on achieving smart cities

in Africa. The study is based on three selected African cities *viz*: Accra, Johannesburg, and Lagos. Their experiences regarding COVID-19 and their responses to the pandemic towards achieving a smart city in Africa.

Section V: Services and Sustainable Development in Post-COVID-19 Africa

The last section covers the services sector (apart from education and health) in relation to sustainable development in response to COVID-19 in Africa. It explores critical information management systems, stakeholder involvement in tandem with sustainable development. The section covers four chapters starting with Chapter 19 by Constance Gunhidzirai, Shingirayi Florence Chamisa and Vongai Sarah Ruzungunde, which investigates South African social and auxiliary worker's experiences during COVID-19. The chapter highlights the gap, requiring the government to provide more support for the mental and physical wellbeing of health workers in South Africa.

Chapter 20, authored by Ayodele Asekomeh, Smith I. Azubuike and Obindah Gershon explores the post-COVID-19 and African agenda for a green recovery, drawing lessons from the European Union and the United States of America. The chapter focuses on building on the African Union's existing agencies and arms. It argues that an African Union (AU) Green Deal post-COVID-19 is crucial to achieving sustainable economic growth and development within AU's Agenda 2063. In the next chapter, Felicia O. Olokoyo, Rowland E. Worlu, Valerie Onyia Babatope and Oghenekparobo E. Agbogun examine the financial effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Nigerian tourism sector. The chapter found that the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic increased the cost of transport, sharply reduced revenue inflow into the accommodation industry, increased travel agency and resort/tourist site costs.

In Chapter 22, Esther Olajumoke Oluwatayo, Evans Osabuohien, Victoria Okafor and Romanus Osabohien investigate cashless policy instruments and financial transactions in Nigeria, covering digital technologies and their significance to the organisation. Based on their findings, the authors recommend creating more awareness of the cashless policy instruments and increasing the number of these instruments. The study concludes that telecommunication companies and network providers need to resolve network challenges confronting the various cashless policy instruments to enhance faster financial transactions.

In the concluding chapter titled 'Conclusion: COVID-19 and Pandemic Preparedness in a Digital Age', it is noted that the unprecedented effects of COVID-19 for businesses, communities and governments. It surmises socio-economic shocks and the development of the African continent in a post-COVID-19 era and how emerging occurrences such as police brutality and divergent inequality intersectionality could be tackled. This is essential as some of the crucial fallouts from the COVID-19 occurrence for the African continent are the need for improved resilience, productive capabilities across sectors, strong value chain development and strategic delivery cum exchange systems.

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