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REPORT ON THE PANDEMIC CRISIS OF COVID-19.

DEFINITION

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is a highly transmittable and pathogenic viral infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Genomic analysis revealed that it is related to the SARS-like bat viruses, therefore bats could possibly be the primary reservoir.

ORIGIN

On the 11th February, 2020, the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV) announced "severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)" as the name of the new virus which is genetically related to coronavirus. WHO also announced "COVID-19" as the name of the new disease on the same day.

COVID-19 emerged in Wuhan, China, a 55-year-old individual from Hubei on the 17th November, 2019. This was more than a month earlier before doctors noted cases in Wuhan, China. This first case confirmed that the virus is transmitted by human contact. From November 17 case, about 1-5 new cases were reported everyday. By 20th December, total cases were 20. By March 13, there were nearly 148,000 cases globally & more than 81,000 case in China, with cases in every continent except Antarctica.

Presently, there are 2,481,287 coronavirus cases globally, recording 170,436 deaths and 646,854 recovery cases. 97% of these cases are in mild condition while 3% are critical.

WHO recently recorded 225 countries in the world are affected with US having the highest number of cases.

COVID-19 AND NIGERIA

On February 27th, 2020, Nigeria announced their first case of coronavirus, an Italian citizen who was tested positive in Lagos. On March, a second case was reported in Ewekoro, Ogun State, a Nigerian citizen who had contact with the Italian citizen.

On March 13, the 3rd case was confirmed in Lagos, a 30-year-old female who returned from UK. On March 18, 5 new cases were confirmed and after then, there was an increase in the cases recorded everytime.

Presently, On April 20, by 11:10p.m, the Nigeria Center for Disease Control (NCDC) had confirmed a total of 665 cases, 188 recoveries and 22 deaths recorded.

LOCKDOWN AND RESTRICTION OF MOVEMENT ON NIGERIANS

On January 31, 2020, WHO listed Nigeria among other 13 countries identified as high-risk for the spread of the virus, due to the population at hand. With the cases increasing in the country, the President announced a 2 weeks lockdown in the three major states that are homes to 30 billion people and can promote a rapid spread of the virus. The 3 states were Lagos, Abuja and Ogun states. The lockdown, which led to restriction of movements, brought about shutdown of social gatherings such as the markets, churches, mosques, schools, self-owned businesses and lots more. Transportation companies were shutdown to further restrict movements in and out of states and the country. The primary importance of these actions were to curb the spread of the virus. Though the actions had great intentions but they had a crippling effect on the economy of Nigeria. Employment decreased due to disruption of educational systems, commerce (shutdown of factories and supply chains), travel and tourism industries, events, etc. Increase in unemployment leads to an increase in hunger and poverty. The lockdown was further extended for 2 more weeks on the 13th of April. With the rate of hunger and poverty increase, insecurity climaxed. Armed robbery and other illicit hustles became the major worry in states as people were not longer safe at home as they battled with starvation.

CONCLUSION

Government has approved free electricity for citizens and everyday text messages to constantly remind the people of the virus. Door-to-door tests are been carried out. Isolation centers are constructed to further proper treatment of those infected. Government is trying to figure out ways to feed the people while they stay at home. NGOs are assisting citizens in the supply of provisions. There is no cure for the virus but frequent washing of hands, use of sanitizers, thorough cleaning of surfaces and most importantly self isolation can curb the spread of the virus.