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Eco4

Health evaluations

Question 1)

The nature of healthcare financing in Nigeria defines the structure, the behavior of different stakeholders and quality of health outcomes. Health care financing however does not only involve how to raise sufficient resources to finance health care needs of countries, but also on how to ensure affordability and accessibility of healthcare services, equity in access to medical services as well as guarantee financial risk protection. . Carrin, Evans, and Xu (2007) documented that how health systems are financed largely determines whether people can obtain needed health care and whether they suffer financial hardship at the instance of obtaining care.

The funding of health care in Nigeria has often been described as inadequate with budgetary provision to health hardly exceeding 3% of the nation's total budgetary provisions (Orubuloye and Oni, 1996; Ogunbekun, 1991).

The budgetary allocation for health in 2003 and 2004 represented 2% and 1.2% respectively, out of the total budgetary estimates for those years. This allocation falls below the World Bank recommendation of 15%. Budgetary allocation to the health sector since then has not exceeded 2%. There is uneven distribution of finance and facilities, especially in the primary health care. Despite the budgetary provision for health, many of the health institutions still lack adequate personnel and facilities to provide quality care for the citizenry. There is gross inadequacy in the number of these facilities, and the few available are unevenly distributed.

Question 2)

A global, novel virus that keeps us contained in our homes—maybe for months—is already reorienting our relationship to government, to the outside world, even to each other. Some changes we expect to see in the coming months or years might feel unfamiliar or unsettling, but then crisis moments also present opportunity: more sophisticated and flexible use of technology, less polarization, a revived appreciation for the outdoors and life's other simple pleasures. As a special adviser from United Nations on the containment of coronavirus in Nigeria, here are my plans on how to contain the spread based on my knowledge of welfare and economic evaluations.

Economically, the virus will have both supply and demand impacts:

Supply will be reduced by the direct worker impact (sick people), quarantining (school closures forcing parents to stay home) and higher business costs (supply chain disruptions).

Demand will be lower due to increased uncertainty (reducing business and possibly house purchases), worried consumers (not going to restaurants) and containment efforts (travel restrictions hitting airline bookings).

Financial markets are likely to remain risk averse, at least until there are signs of slowing of the spread of the virus. It could also change both the amount that consumers save (increasing saving ratio) and the composition (more money in cash, less in equities).

The IMF has indicated that around one-third of the economic cost comes from the direct impact (sick people, quarantines, work closures) and two-thirds from indirect impacts (risk aversion by consumer, businesses and financial markets).

Lower demand will impact the economy but particularly sectors involved with public gatherings (tourism, transportation, entertainment, tourism, retail). Most at risk are highly leveraged firms and SME's who are likely to face cash flow problems. Contract workers will also be vulnerable. Government policies can help limit job losses.

The potential impact on inflation from the virus is mixed. Supply problems and panicked buying causing shortages leading to higher inflation. This is at the same time as food prices (eg, beef) will be higher reflecting re-stocking post the drought. But falling demand will lead to lower prices for other goods and services. For example, there has been a large drop in oil prices due to lower global demand (and a lack of agreement from OPEC and Russia about the appropriate supply response). Firms are likely to offer bargains to try and attract consumers to come to restaurants or take holidays.

In order to boost back the economy after all of this is over, the agriculture ministry should prepare financial aid and additional grants for farmers and also invest into local farmers so as to improve their methods of productions.

First, the huge amounts of money to be spent on recovery from the coronavirus must deliver new jobs and businesses through a clean, green transition.

Second, where taxpayers' money is used to rescue businesses, it must be tied to achieving green jobs and sustainable growth.

Third, fiscal firepower must drive a shift from the grey to green economy, empowering societies and people to be more resilient.

Fourth, public funds should be used to invest in the future, not the past, and flow to sustainable sectors and projects that help the environment and the climate. Fossil fuel subsidies must end, and polluters must start paying for their pollution.

Fifth, climate risks and opportunities must be incorporated into the financial system as well as all aspects of public policy making and infrastructure.

The bottom line is that strong fiscal relief for states is one of the most important and badly needed steps federal policymakers can take now.

The government should see to the provision of a lifeline of emergency supplies, food banks are likely to become more needed than ever in the coming weeks and months. The government should ensure that they help get struggling families back on their feet by providing this supplies (I.e donation of hygiene products to help people stay protected amid the Covid-19 outbreak). This would help in containing the spread because a good percentage of the nation's population feed from hand to mouth, meaning that they work daily in order to feed, by providing this essential supplies, they won't be need for them to come out of their homes thereby reducing the spread of the virus.

Many charities are also stepping up their vital work at this time and supporting them is a great way to help those who are most in need. The government should partner with or support this charities so as to reach a wider range of people in need. Organizations should also be set up to provide companionship, advice and support for older people. By doing this 'friendship calls' to people who are lonely during coronavirus self-isolation, their hopes are kept alive and they would be rest assured that they are not alone in this trying times.

More involvement of international donor agencies in the health intervention programmes of the country. Nigeria still requires the support of foreign partners in fighting the scourge of disease within and around the country.

The government is also urged to introduce testing and emergency housing for homeless people during the pandemic. This is due to the fact that the average age of death of someone who is homeless is 45, substantially lower than the general population. "Given the obvious vulnerability, the only answer can be to provide housing that allows people to self-isolate."

People who are homeless face a particular risk from Covid-19, according to experts. They have poorer health in general, including pre-existing conditions that have weakened their immune systems. Donation of high quality antibacterial hand sanitizer should also be carried out as people who sleep on the streets are likely to be unable to wash their hands regularly.