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A REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN ON NIGERIANS.

The country Nigeria, with over 200 million people is Africa's most populous nation while some 20 million reside in the megacity of Lagos. Health experts have raised alarms over the impact of a major coronavirus outbreak, warning that the country's underdeveloped and underfunded healthcare system could quickly become overwhelmed. The lockdown and restriction of movement has also added to the hardship of millions of Nigerians living hand-to-mouth, often on less than one dollar a day.

The virus was said to have begun in Wuhan, China and has sickened more than three million people and at least 205,000 people have died. It was discovered that the coronavirus first surfaced in a Chinese seafood and poultry market late last year but the first known death caused by the virus was said to have occurred on Jan. 11, 2020 and its victim was a 61-year old man who was believed to be a regular customer at the market in Wuhan. The World Health Organisation then proposed an official name for the disease the coronavirus causes: Covid-19, an acronym that stands for coronavirus disease 2019, in order not to make any reference to any of the people, places or animals associated with the coronavirus, given the goal to avoid stigma.

It is of no doubt that the decision of lockdown and restriction of movement has made its impact to all and sundry. It's a mark of the impact of the ongoing lockdown in Nigeria that has left lower income households especially vulnerable. A lot of people do not feed except they go out to hawk, even a lot of those who are paid salaries do not have enough again during this lockdown as salaries which are saved are spent both to cater for their nuclear and extended family. With the extension of the lockdown, a lot of human rights activists fear that a lot of deaths would be recorded in Nigeria not because of the deadly virus but due to hunger. Palliatives which are being funded by the federal and state government to be distributed to the poor and vulnerable are shared among

those who are held responsible bring the needy in hunger and suffering. Apart from even food items, these ones even need money to buy essential services like water, soap and even the sanitizers that are needed to maintain good hygiene, hence this becomes a big problem.

The ongoing lockdown over COVID-19 is also taking a huge toll on the youths leaving them unemployed. A lot of people stand the risk of losing their jobs and source of livelihood and income as their employers lay-off the workers due to the lockdown and the inability to pay salaries. Youths also especially in parts of Lagos who have no home to stay but had depended on the infamous Lekki 'bodge' as shelter are forced to retreat to help curtail the spread of the coronavirus leaving them in a state of jeopardy.

The lockdown has also led to high rate of increase in crime. Since the lockdown, news have it that about four Turkish citizens were rescued by the police and the kidnappers arrested. Cases of armed robbery, stealing have been rampant as people have to do anything just to survive. Meanwhile, police sare on Monday that they were bolstering forces in Lagos and Ogun after almost 200 suspects were arrested and fears of a spike in crime during the lockdown.

The Nigeria's economy is also being threatened by this COVID-19 pandemic which causes a sharp fall in the international oil prices. By International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s estimation, Nigeria's economy is expected to shrink by 30-4 percent this year and the nation could face a recession lasting until 2021. Relatedly, the country's debt profile has been a source of concern for policymakers and development practitioners as the most recent estimate puts the debt service-to-revenue ratio to 60%, which is likely to worsen amid the steep decline in revenue associated with falling oil price.

This virus has certainly caused a lot of bad effects on all Nigerians but the best way to prevent and slow down its transmission is to be well informed about the virus and protect yourself and others by washing your hands frequently and not touching your face.