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The coronavirus outbreak, which was first detected in China, has infected people in 185 countries. Its spread has left businesses around the world counting the costs.

Here is a selection of maps and charts to help you understand the economic impact of the virus so far.

Global shares take a hit

Big shifts in stock markets, where shares in companies are bought and sold, can affect the value of pensions or individual savings accounts (ISAs).

The FTSE, Dow Jones Industrial Average and the Nikkei have all seen huge falls since the outbreak began on 31 December.

Investors fear the spread of the coronavirus will destroy economic growth and that government action may not be enough to stop the decline.

In response, central banks in many countries, including the United Kingdom, slashed interest rates.

That should, in theory, make borrowing cheaper and encourage spending to boost the economy.

Global markets did also recover some ground in late March after the US Senate passed a \$2 trillion (£1.7tn) coronavirus aid bill to help workers and businesses.

But some analysts have warned that they could be volatile until the pandemic is contained.

More people seeking work

In the United States, the number of people filing for unemployment hit a record of high , signalling an end to a decade of expansion for one of the world's largest economies.

The catchphrase of the COVID-19 crisis, which has engulfed nearly the entire world and carries severe consequences for countries' populations and economies, is uncertainty.

The IMF recently published the World Uncertainty Index for 143 countries from 1996 onwards. The index is constructed by counting the number of times the term

'uncertainty' is mentioned in connection with the terms 'pandemic' or 'epidemic' in the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) country reports. The study reveals that the

coronavirus is associated with the highest level of uncertainty in the economic context since the index started recording data. On 14 April, the International Monetary Fund

(IMF) updated its global growth projections from only three months ago, indicating that the global economy is expected to experience its worst recession since the Great

Depression, surpassing the deep economic slump following the global financial crisis a decade ago. Earlier in April, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social

Affairs (UNDESA) analysed the effects of the containment measures and projected that the world economy could, in the worst-case scenario, contract by up to 1 per cent.

Similarly, the OECD stated in early March that increasingly stringent lockdown measures in most of the world's advanced economies would inevitably result in significant declines in GDP growth. The ILO's previously predicted rise in unemployment of up to 25 million in 2020, with losses in labour income in the range of USD 860 billion to USD 3.4 trillion, seems accurate, if not underestimated. According to the ILO, these numbers may underestimate the real magnitude of COVID-19's impact. The ILO's latest summary states that the current containment measures are affecting close to 2.7 billion workers, representing around 81 per cent of the world's workforce. Developing countries are expected to suffer the most

The crisis is expected to hit workers in low- and middle-income countries particularly hard, where the share of those working in informal sectors, and who therefore have limited access to adequate health and social protection, is higher. To make matters worse, the expected massive job losses among migrant workers will likely have knock on effects on economies that heavily depend on remittances. Furthermore, the containment measures in advanced economies have already started impacting less developed countries through lower trade and investment.

Capital flight from developing countries at unprecedented rates

The rattling of financial markets, together with tightened liquidity conditions in many countries, have led to unprecedented outflows of capital from developing countries. UNCTAD illustrates the net debt and equity outflows from the main emerging economies, which amounted to USD 59 billion in the month since the COVID-19 crisis went global (21 February to 24 March).

COVID-19 will set back the achievement of the SDGs

The United Nations (UN) has expressed concern that the COVID-19 crisis will lead to a reversal of decades of progress in the fight against poverty, and that already high levels of inequality within and between countries will be further exacerbated. The crisis will therefore inevitably and adversely impact the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to negatively influence almost all SDGs. The current crisis will also severely affect the prospects for industrialization in developing countries.

Impact on trade and manufacturing production

COVID-19 is severely impacting manufacturing production in developing countries because: 1) demand from high-income countries for manufacturing goods and raw materials is decreasing; 2) value chains are being disrupted due to delays in the delivery of necessary components and supplies from more technologically advanced countries; 3) other factors, including policies (e.g. restriction of movement of goods and people), inability of employees to reach the workplace or financial constraints, which affect the normal production process. UN economists have estimated a USD 50 billion decrease in manufacturing production in February 2020, and the IMF warns that the negative economic effects will be felt "very intensively" in developing countries that sell raw materials. All these negative channels will inevitably have an impact on exports

from developing countries. The losses in export volume will be further intensified by the decline in energy and commodity prices. UNCTAD projects that developing countries as a whole (excluding China) will lose nearly USD 800 billion in terms of export revenue in 2020.

Impacts in Africa

Fully in line with the global economic prospects, a recent report of the African Union (AU) states that "Regardless of the scenario whether optimistic or pessimistic, Covid-19 will have a harmful socioeconomic effect on Africa" (p. 30). Losses related to the fall of the global oil price are estimated at USD 65 billion. Losses amounting to USD 19 billion are expected in Nigeria alone. The crisis will also affect manufacturing firms. According to the AU report, the automotive industry (-44 per cent), airlines (-42 per cent) and energy and basic materials industries (-13 per cent) face even higher losses. MNE perspectives of profits in developing countries have been revised downwards by 16 per cent. This revision amounts to 1 per cent in Africa compared to 18 per cent in Asia, and 6 per cent in Latin America.