



Impact of COVID-19 in Africa: A scenario analysis to 2030 (July 2020)

Approach and methodology

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Last updated 07 November 2022 using IFs v7.45

Approach and methodology

This report presents three scenarios on the potential impact of COVID-19 in Africa and compares that to a pre-COVID-19 baseline, using the International Futures (IFs) forecasting platform. The likely impacts are then examined on economic growth, per capita income, poverty and the attainment of selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets with a forecast horizon to 2030. [1]

The report concludes with four main policy recommendations aimed at reducing vulnerability and strengthening Africa's resilience. These recommendations aim to make a robust contribution to the debate about policy options for Africa facing the international community, African governments and in-country stakeholders.

In addition to the scenarios presented in this report, a parallel qualitative approach involved a series of three dialogues that provided a platform for deliberation between economists, political analysts, public health experts and other development practitioners from Africa as well as global experts on Africa. The focus of the dialogues was on 15 African countries considered to be broadly representative of Africa's developmental, regional and cultural diversity. [2]

Participants had an opportunity to share perspectives with counterparts, test their assumptions about alternative future scenarios for the pandemic in Africa, and comment on various iterations of the scenarios presented in this report. Perspectives from the dialogues are woven into this report and are more fully reflected in a report to be issued by the Gordon Institute of Business Science titled *Navigating the Post-COVID Business Environment in Africa: An Alternative Scenarios Approach*.

For validation and feedback, the successive versions of the macro scenarios in this report were presented to the roughly 100 participants of the dialogue sessions, as well as to a project reference group comprising representatives of development agencies and experts. In addition, the scenarios were circulated for comment by means of a questionnaire with a request for detailed feedback. A separate presentation was made to macro-economic experts at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as well as a small group of public health experts. As such, this report synthesises the combined perspectives of a wide-ranging and inter-disciplinary community of experts.

Endnotes

1. For a useful mapping of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets to the African Union's Agenda 2063, see: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), [Integrating Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into national development plans](#), 2017
2. Algeria, Tunisia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo), Angola, Malawi, South Africa and Mauritius.

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Jakkie Cilliers (2025) Impact of COVID-19 in Africa: A scenario analysis to 2030 (July 2020). Published online at futures.issafrica.org. Retrieved from <https://futures.issafrica.org/special-reports/other/covid/> [Online Resource] Updated 07 November 2022.

About the authors

Dr Jakkie Cilliers is the ISS's founder and former executive director. He currently serves as chair of the ISS Board of Trustees, head of the African Futures and Innovation (AFI) programme at the Pretoria office of the Institute, and is an extraordinary professor at the University of Pretoria. His 2017 best-seller *Fate of the Nation* addresses South Africa's futures from political, economic and social perspectives. His three most recent books, *Africa First! Igniting a Growth Revolution* (March 2020), *The Future of Africa: Challenges and Opportunities* (April 2021), and *Africa Tomorrow: Pathways to Prosperity* (June 2022) take a rigorous look at the continent as a whole.

About African Futures & Innovation

Scenarios and forecasting can help Africa identify and respond to opportunities and threats. The work of the African Futures & Innovation (AFI) program at the Institute for Security Studies aims to understand and address a widening gap between indices of wellbeing in Africa and elsewhere in the world. The AFI helps stakeholders understand likely future developments. Research findings and their policy implications are widely disseminated, often in collaboration with in-country partners. Forecasting tools inspire debate and provide insights into possible trajectories that inform planning, prioritisation and effective resource allocation. Africa's future depends on today's choices and actions by governments and their non-governmental and international partners. The AFI provides empirical data that informs short- and medium-term decisions with long-term implications. The AFI enhances Africa's capacity to prepare for and respond to future challenges. The program is headed by Dr Jakkie Cilliers.