

Does COVID-19 Disrupt the Achieving of 2030 Sustainable Development Goals?

Eman Mostafa Fouad

Lecturer of Economics

Al-Azhar University

Assiut Branch

Eman.mostafa@azhar.edu.eg

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Abstract

Since December 2019 and the world suffers from dangerous pandemic which results in big losses such as deaths, decrease in growth rate, increased unemployment rate, etc .

While the world is trying hard to achieve Sustainable development goals 2030 during the agreed period which approved by the United Nations Assembly in 2015, this epidemic has caused some results that could disrupt the achievement of these goals, so this paper is trying to clarify some of the consequences of this epidemic, which could disrupt the achievement of some of these goals. Because this pandemic is an international crisis and affected the achieving SDG all over the world we will talk about it internationally and concentrate on four goals which is no poverty, no hunger , reduced inequality, and good education .

Key words :

COVID19; Sustainable Development Goals; 2020 pandemic 2030 ;Agenda; Corona Virus, poverty; Economic Stability; Hunger, inequality ;economic crises .

(2-1) Introduction

The world suffer from the COVID-19 since December 2019 till now ,(2020/10/04) it has already infected almost 35,206,664 people in 260 countries ,resulting in more than 1,039,119 deaths, unfortunately, it has the potential to reach a large proportion of the global population. Some estimates suggest that 70-40 per cent of the world's population could become infected. This pandemic has a lot of effects on health, poverty, employment, income and safe .

There is no doubt that all of these effects causes many sequences such as increased number of unemployment, huge number of poor people and increasing in people who don't find food .

In the same time all countries all over the world are trying hard to achieve Sustainable development goals 2030 during the agreed period which approved by the United Nations Assembly in 2015 and all these sequences and more affect the plans of implementation of sustainable development goals2030 .

This paper presents how the COVID-19 sequences can disrupt the achievement of 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, but it will present only 4 goals which are no poverty, zero hunger, reduced inequality and quality in education .

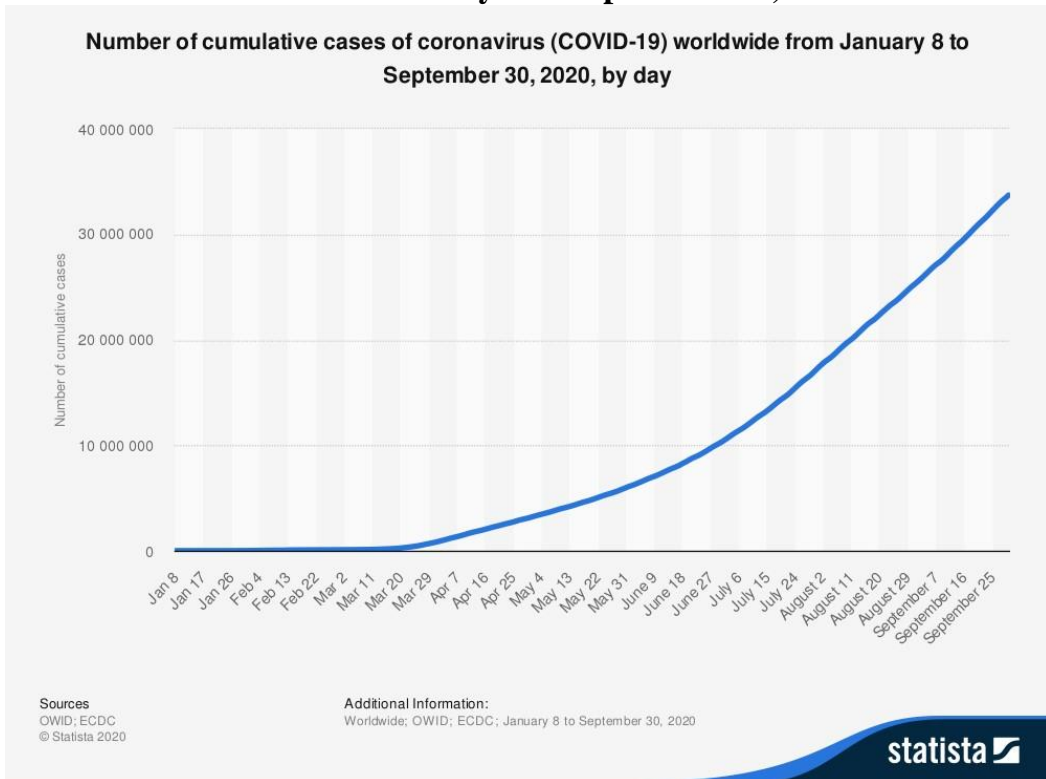
(2-1) Overview of COVID-19

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that range from the common cold to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recent coronavirus is called COVID-19 which can spreads so fast and can pass between people without any symptoms appear, and was first detected in Wuhan, China in

December of 2019 .

Since its first cases in China, COVID-19 has spread to almost every country worldwide ,by January 2020 the virus was transmitted to the countries of Europe, North America, Asia and Africa .According to the World Health Organization, 35,206,664 people in 260 countries, resulting in more than 1,039,119deaths, as of October 4, 2020 .

Figure (1) number of cumulative cases of coronavirus worldwide from January 8 to September 30,2020



Source: www.statista.com/statistics/1103040/cumulative-coronavirus-covid19-casesnumber-worldwide-by-day (2020/10/4) /

This epidemic results in big losses ,One-third of the economic losses from the disease will be direct costs: from loss of life, workplace closures, and quarantines .The remaining

two-thirds will be indirect, reflecting a retrenchment in consumer confidence and business behavior and a tightening in financial markets .

COVID-19 and sustainable development goal (No-Poverty)

The most sustainable development goal that will be affected by COVID19 is (no-poverty) goal, because all the subsequent of the pandemic lead to poverty. We can explain that through :

This pandemic causes in a substantial rise in global unemployment. The (ILO) estimates indicate a rise in global unemployment of between 5.3 million (“low” scenario) and 24.7 million (“high” scenario) (ILO ,2020).The crisis has become an economic shock, impacting not only supply (production of goods and services) but also demand (consumption and investment). Following travel bans, border closures and quarantine measures ,many workers cannot move to their places of work or carry out their jobs, which has knock-on effects on incomes, particularly for informal and casually employed workers. Consumers in many economies are unable or reluctant to purchase goods and services. Given the current environment of uncertainty and fear, enterprises are likely to delay investments, purchases of goods and the hiring of workers .

This increase in unemployment rate will decrease the purchasing power due to the decrease of income or no income so the poverty will increase .

The world Bank announced that COVID- 19is likely to cause the first increase in global poverty since 1998 , when the Asian Financial Crisis hit .

With the new forecasts, global poverty—the share of the

world's population living on less than \$1.90 per day—is projected to increase from 8.2% in 2019 to 8.6% in 2020, or from 632 million people to 665 million people. Compare this with the projected decline from 8.1% to 7.8% over the same time period using the previous World Economic Outlook forecasts. The slight change from 8.2% to 8.1% for 2019 happens because the revised growth forecasts also changed for non-COVID reasons for some countries. Taking this into account, it means that COVID-19 is driving a change in our 2020 estimate of the global poverty rate of 0.7 percentage points — (8.6%-8.2% .(%8.1-%7.8)-(Another way to put this is that the estimates suggest that COVID- 19will push 49 million people into extreme poverty in 2020)WU, 2020(.

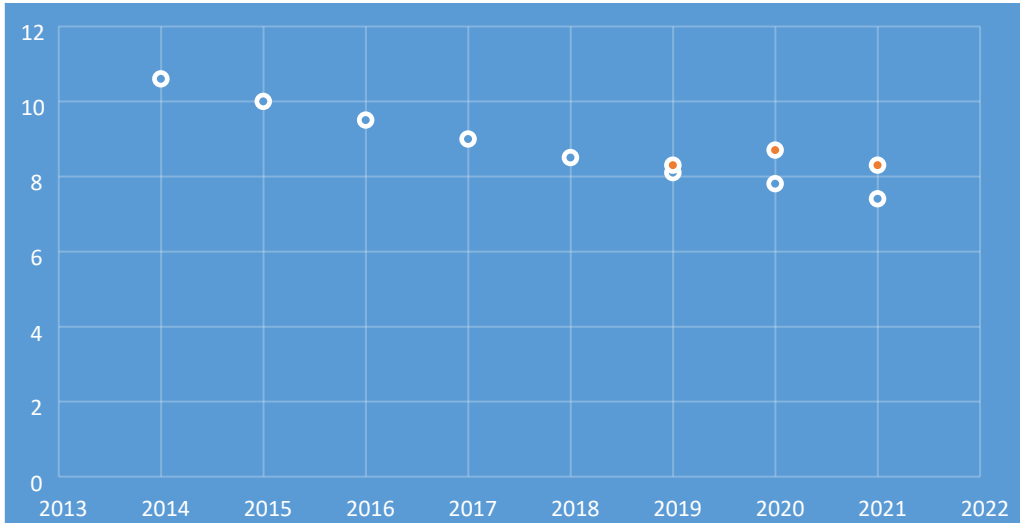
In another side we can say that the the COVID-19 shock will cause a recession in some countries and depress global annual growth this year to below 2.5%, the recessionary threshold for the world economy. All the analysis indicate to Losses of consumer and investor confidence are the most immediate signs of spreading contagion .A preliminary downside scenario sees a \$2 trillion shortfall in global income with a \$US220 billion hit to developing countries (excluding China). The most badly affected economies in this scenario will be oil-exporting countries ,but also other commodity exporters, which stand to lose more than one percentage point of growth, as well as those with strong trade linkages to the initially shocked economies .

Growth decelerations between 0.7% and 0.9% are likely to occur in countries such as Canada, Mexico and the Central American region ,in the Americas; countries deeply inserted in the global value chains of East and South Asia, and countries in the immediacy of the European Union (UNWTO .(2020 ,

THE COVID- 19seems to be the first cries that will increase the global poverty to the highest percentage since 1998, when the Asian Financial Crisis hit. All the factors indicates that the global poverty is projected to increase from

8.2% in 2019 to 8.7% in 2020, or from 632 million people to 667 million people .

Figure (2) poverty rate prediction



Source: PovcalNet •the global poverty rate is measured as the share of the world's population living on less than \$1.90 per day .

This figure shows the comparison between the increased ratio of global poverty in 2019 (orange points) with the projected decline from 8.1% to 7.8% over the same time period using the previous World Economic

Outlook forecasts (white points). The slight change from 8.2% to 8.1% for

2019 happens because the revised growth forecasts also changed for nonCOVID reasons for some countries. Taking this into account, it means that COVID-19 is driving a change in our 2020 estimate of the global poverty rate of 0.7 percentage points — (8.6%-8.2%)-(7.8%-8.1%). Another way to put this is that the estimates suggest that COVID- 19 will push 49 million people into extreme poverty in 2020.

Although the poverty will increase all over the world after this pandemic but it will differ from country to another because of several reasons such as, the economic level of the country, the country strategy in facing the virus and the number of people who are at poverty line or near of it. From this point of view and from the real events until now the African countries will suffer from the increased level of poverty .

After reviewing the above we find that the corona epidemic has led to more poverty and this result will delay the achievement of SDG No.1 which is no poverty .

COVID-19 and sustainable development goal (Zero Hunger)

This goal aims to end any kind of hunger and deliver food to all population, but pandemics can disrupt our lives, including our ability to get food .

The current COVID-19 pandemic will add to and amplify existing challenges facing food systems, especially in vulnerable countries .The near breakdown of food supply chains in many developing countries and the sharp increase in people suffering from acute food insecurity as a result of COVID 19 show that food systems have been unprepared to face such emergency .This has also been the case, albeit at a smaller scale, for other epidemics or pandemics, such as Ebola, SARS and MERS. Our food systems must be substantially re-thought in terms of their resilience in two ways: (a) ensure that epidemics and pandemics do not turn into food security and nutrition crises and (b) limit or eliminate transmission of animal diseases to humans)zoonotic diseases(

(sustainabledevelopment.un.org, 2020). With COVID -19 it is expected that more than 820 million people went to bed hungry, including 110 million people who were living in acute

food insecurity .

Although the global supply of food still strong, but questions remain over supply chain, due to quarantine regulations and partial port closures, which are causing slowdowns and logistical hurdles in the shipping industry .

The virus has proved to be especially deadly for those who already have underlying health problems, and this is also likely to include those suffering the effects of chronic hunger and malnourishment: Around 20 per cent of the African population fall into this category .

We must indicate to that FAO's response strategy during the COVID-19 pandemic targets countries already facing food crises, like Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, where nearly 12 million people had already found themselves in dire circumstances due to extended droughts and back-to-back harvest failures before hordes of desert locusts descended on their crops and pastures from late December to early January. Africa's Sahel region also faces a food crisis (UN, 2020) .

Communities in rural areas depend on agricultural production, seasonal jobs in agriculture, fishing, or pastoralism. If they become ill or constrained by restrictions on movement or activity, their livelihoods will be destroyed, he explains .

Finally, we can say that with this epidemic we will find the problem of hunger is raised and we need more time to eliminate the hunger all over the world which mean that this goal will be disrupted .

COVID-19 and sustainable development goal (Reduced Inequalities)

This goal aims to end any kind of inequality and try to prevent any reason lead to it, but pandemics and economic

crises can affect some groups of people, not the other which increase the problem of inequality .

Unfortunately, the COVID19 affects group of people so it delays the achievement of eliminating inequality as follow :

Women are over-represented in more affected sectors (such as services) or in occupations that are at the front line of dealing with the pandemic (e.g. nurses). The ILO estimates that 58.6 per cent of employed women work in the services sector around the world, compared to 45.4 per cent of men. Women also have less access to social protection and will bear a disproportionate burden in the care economy, in the case of closure of schools or care systems (ILO, 2020) .

Globally, women undertake more than three quarters of unpaid care. In rural communities and low-income countries, women spend up to 14 hours a day on care work (Ahlen, 2020) . Free employment that does not work in the public or private sector, they do not have access to pay or sick leave mechanisms and are less protected by conventional social protection mechanisms and other forms of income smoothing .

Migrant workers are particularly vulnerable to the impact of the COVID19 crisis, which will constrain both their ability to access their places of work in destination countries and return to their families .

As we said above, any epidemic can affect some groups of people, not the other so. The problem of inequality will need some more time to be solved and this time may be after the deadline of 2030 agenda .

COVID-19 and Sustainable Development Goal (quality in education)

The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, affecting nearly 1.6

billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents. Closures of schools and other learning spaces have impacted 94 per cent of the world's student population, up to 99 per cent in low and lower-middle income countries .With the coronavirus spreading rapidly across Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States, countries have taken swift and decisive actions to mitigate the development of a full-blown pandemic. Most governments around the world have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of the COVID- 19pandemic.

These nationwide closures are impacting over 60% of the world's student population. Several other countries have implemented localized closures impacting millions of additional learners (unesco, 2020) .

The closure of schools, colleges and universities not only interrupts the teaching for students around the world; the closure also coincides with a key assessment period and many exams have been postponed or cancelled .

Internal assessments are perhaps thought to be less important and many have been simply cancelled. But their point is to give information about the child's progress for families and teachers. The loss of this information delays the recognition of both high potential and learning difficulties and can have harmful long-term consequences for the child (Murphy, 2020) .

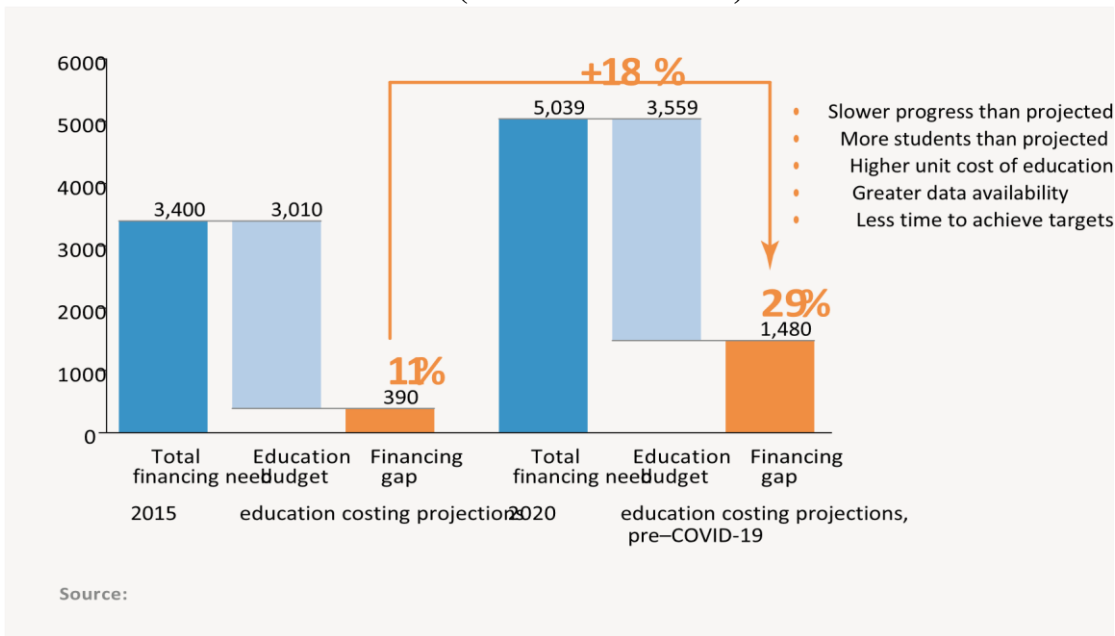
In higher education many universities and colleges are replacing traditional exams with online assessment tools. This is a new area for both teachers and students, and assessments will likely have larger measurement error than usual. Research shows that employers use educational credentials such as degree classifications and grade point averages to sort applicants

)Piopiunik ,(2020 ,The increase in the noise of the applicants' signals will therefore potentially reduce the

matching efficiency for new graduates on the labour market, who might experience slower earnings growth and higher job separation rates .

From a financing point of view, the challenge was already daunting before COVID-19. The early 2020 estimate of the financing gap to reach Sustainable Development Goal 4 – quality education – in low and lowermiddle-income countries was a staggering 148\$ billion annually.⁵ It is estimated that the COVID-19 crisis will increase this financing gap by up to one-third (UNESCO, 2020) .

Figure : (3) pre- COVID-19 financing gap to reach SDG 4 (millions of dollars)



Source :UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report .(2020)
New realities for education affected by COVID Cost predictions .

These changes have also highlighted that the promising future of learning, and the accelerated changes in modes of delivering quality education, cannot be separated from the imperative of leaving no one behind. This is true for children

and youth affected by a lack of resources or enabling environment to access learning. It is true for the teaching profession and their need for better training in new methods of education delivery, as well as support .

Finally ,the coronavirus pandemic has changed how millions around the globe are educated .Schools need resources to rebuild the loss in learning once they open again. How these resources are used, and how to target the children who were especially hard hit, is an open question. Given the evidence of the importance of assessments for learning, schools should also consider postponing rather than skipping internal assessments (Simon Burgess ,(2020 ,For new graduates, policies should support their entry to the labour market to avoid longer unemployment periods .The pandemic is also an opportunity to remind ourselves of the skills students need in this unpredictable world such as informed decision making, creative problem solving ,and perhaps above all, adaptability. To ensure those skills remain a priority for all students, resilience must be built into the educational systems .

Conclusion

The coronavirus crisis has highlighted the importance of having the right skills for strategic sectors to perform and for individuals to navigate through life and professional transitions. In particular, it has accentuated the need of digital skills in many aspects of people's daily lives and for business continuity .

Having the right skills means being able to more easily stay employed and master job transitions. This requires providing equal access to additional up-skilling opportunities for people across the EU, regardless of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, and including low-qualified/skilled adults and people with a migrant background .

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