



Covid-19 Macroeconomic Policy Research in Africa Project

The Macroeconomic Impact of Covid-19 in Africa

3 February 2020, 15h00 – 17h00 (GMT+2), Zoom

The measures introduced worldwide to slow down the spread of COVID-19 have a significant socioeconomic impact on all countries. In low- and middle-income countries this impact is compounded by the limited financial, monetary and social instruments and the associated resilience at a state and societal level. Low- and middle-income countries need to engage on 3 central issues: (1) how to improve the efficacy of various fiscal and monetary interventions in a way that reflects their specific developmental context, (2) what viable (as opposed to available) financing options exist, with specific emphasis on vulnerable groups, and (3) how to align the COVID-19 stimulus with broader technological and social system transformation to support more climate-resilient and sustainable economies.

The Covid-19 Macroeconomic Policy Research in Africa (CoMPRA) project was initiated following a call for rapid response policy research to the Covid-19 pandemic by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The project's overall goal is to inform macroeconomic policy development in response to the coronavirus pandemic by low and middle-income countries (LMICs) and development partners that result in more climate-resilient and gender responsive measures through evidence-based research. The project will focus broadly on Africa and specifically on Benin, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria and South Africa.

The purpose of this event is two-fold: to introduce stakeholders to the CoMPRA project and to present initial research findings from the project. Initial research focussed on 4 different dimensions of Covid-19 on African countries: 1) the macroeconomic impact of the Covid-19 on African economies; 2) the policy response of African countries to the pandemic; 3) policy and finance options to promote environmental sustainability; and 4) how different policy options impact on marginalised groups. Findings from this research will be shared at this event.

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Time (GMT+2)	Covid-19 Macroeconomic Policy Research in Africa Project Launch
15h00 – 15h30	<p>Welcoming and Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) ● Ms Erin Tansey, Director: Sustainable Inclusive Economies, International Development Research Centre (IDRC) ● Dr Chukwuka Onyekwena, Executive Director, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)
	<i>The Macroeconomic Impact of Covid-19 in Africa</i>
15h30 – 16h50	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr Bhim Adhikari, Senior Program Specialist: Sustainable Inclusive Economies, IDRC <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ‘Comparative Study of Policy Responses to COVID-19 in LICs in Africa’, Dr Adedeji Adeniran, Senior Fellow, CSEA ● ‘Green Finance Mechanism in Developing Countries – Emerging Practice’, Dr Ian Heffernan ● ‘Drivers of Disparities: How Policy Responses to COVID-19 Can Increase Inequalities’, Ms Mma Amara Ekeruche, Research Fellow, CSEA <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr Oswald Mashindano, The Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF, Tanzania) ● Dr Susan Kavuma, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE, Uganda) ● Dr Arthur Minsat, Head of Unit for Africa and Middle East - Senior Economist, OECD Development Centre <p>Q&A Session</p>
16h50 – 17h00	<p>Closing Remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms Neuma Grobbelaar, Director of Research, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)