

ACMUN XIX

Appleby College Model United Nations Conference 2024



International Monetary Fund

Intermediate Committee

Chair: Arman Rai

Co-Chair: Jade Chahal

Topic 1: Humanitarian Aid in Crisis States within Africa

Introduction

A crisis is "an event or series of events that represent a critical threat to health, safety, security, or well-being of a community" (UNISDR, 2009). Unfortunately, ten countries within the continent of Africa fit under this umbrella. Many of these obstacles include "conflict, poverty, hunger, violence, and political instability" (Yusuf, 2024). Although garnering some attention amongst the public, the feeling of panic and worry within the borders of these countries cannot be overstated. Africa is the poorest continent on the globe, with an average Gross Domestic Product per capita valued at roughly 20.3 thousand U.S. dollars (International Monetary Fund, 2023). With limited resources, it is difficult to move past predicaments without assistance. Thus, the International Monetary Fund must step in with funding to support humanitarian aid efforts that combat the adverse circumstances in certain African states.

ACMUN XIX

Appleby College Model United Nations Conference 2024



History/Case Study

The hardship crisis states in Africa have been experiencing is not a sudden occurrence. There are many factors that have led these countries to be in the positions they are currently in, such as internal conflict, government instability, external debt, and underdevelopment. Firstly, internal conflicts have plagued certain African states for generations. Unfortunately, many of these devastating situations spawn from religious, political, and economic disputes (Kim, 2009). The First Congo War, for example, was a by-product of the Rwandan Genocide in 1994 which was fueled by religious extremists. Congo is still experiencing conflict, leaving thousands dead and millions displaced (Mwanamilongo, 2023). In addition to internal conflict, government instability is also a massive contributor when looking at the economic downfall of African states. The governments in many African countries are consistently being challenged with the threat of conflict. In most cases, this is met with violent outlashes. Ultimately these endeavors lead to the suffering of innocent people. Furthermore, amidst these stresses, some African countries have amounted to a considerable amount of external debt. External debt is a country's debt towards international lenders (Kenton, 2023). To many developing countries trying to overcome conflicts, money is a necessity. Without thriving economies, nations are forced to rely on loans from external sources. These governing bodies tend to be stuck in an insurmountable amount of compounding debt. For countries that are still developing, debt is a massive hill to climb

ACMUN XIX

Appleby College Model United Nations Conference 2024



and is one that hinders the state's ability to function. Lastly, and maybe most historically important is the question of 'why'. Surrounding the history of African countries is the looming realism of colonialism. European colonists' influence on the continent of Africa has fielded unsurmountable instability and made these countries reliant on their imports and exports. Moreover, this history has pushed back the natural progression of African countries for centuries and thus has led to a need for humanitarian aid.

Questions to Consider

1. Does humanitarian aid address the root of the issue? Is it a short-term or a long-term solution?
2. Is this the best way to help crisis states in Africa?
3. Should the funds supporting these countries come from the members of the International Monetary Fund, or are there other countries responsible for these crisis states' position?
4. Could the funds be allocated to a better cause?

ACMUN XIX

Appleby College Model United Nations Conference 2024



Topic 2: Effects of the Pandemic on Economies in Developing Countries

Introduction

COVID-19 sent a shock throughout the world, affecting everyone on the planet as individuals and nations. During the pandemic, economic activity was at a standstill, due to the implementation of tight restrictions to halt the spread of the virus (The World Bank, 2020). Specifically, the COVID-19 pandemic "[slashed] economic output by \$8.5 trillion over the [past] two years" (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2023). In simple terms, the COVID-19 virus created a global recession that left broken and vacant homes across the globe. One of the more unique aspects of this topic is its scope, as every country in the world was impacted. Moreover, the nations that suffered the most monetary loss were mainly developed nations including Russia, and the United States, which triggers some contemplation as to where emergency funding from the IMF should go and how it should be spent. The International Monetary Fund now plays an integral role in shaping the future of the world as it moves past a global pandemic.

History/Case Study

On a small scale, COVID-19 appeared in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 (Sheikh, 2023). Firstly, there is the need for governments to provide resources. The sheer amount of

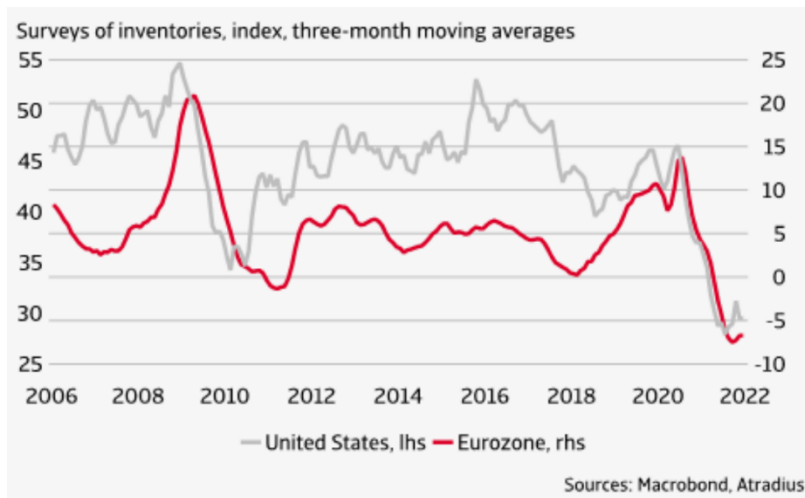
ACMUN XIX

Appleby College Model United Nations Conference 2024



ACMUN XIX

capital given toward primary preventative practices, treatments, and PPE on a global scale is possibly the most in history (Hagener, 2022).



(Figure 1)

Furthermore, this is seen in the loss of inventory across Europe and the United States, which can be analyzed in the image above (Figure 1). In addition to the loss of funds due to the allocation of materials, the pandemic stopped economies from expanding. In society, communities thrive with a distribution of wealth. Whether this be from supporting businesses, working jobs, or taxation, the distribution of money is a crucial part of a thriving financial district. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the global population was socially and physically isolated. With no money being exchanged, the entire monetary landscape was halted (Jones,

ACMUN XIX

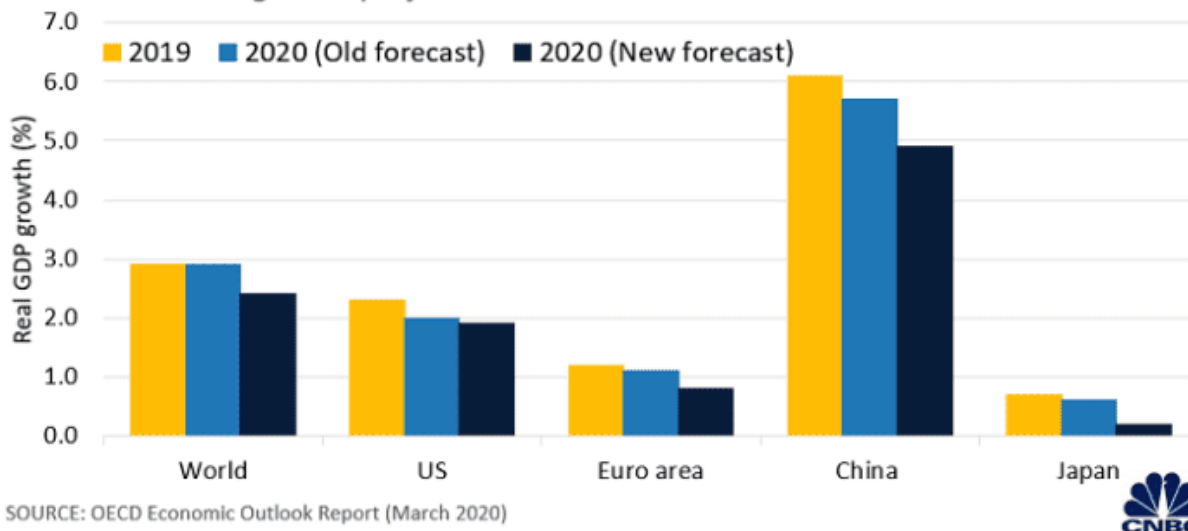
Appleby College Model United Nations Conference 2024



2021). Maybe the most shocking are the predictions from economists in 2021, which truly highlight the decline in the expected fiscal expansion (Figure 2)

Global economic growth slowdown

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) downgraded its 2020 real GDP growth projections for almost all economies



(Figure 2)

Lastly, the pandemic has had a drastic negative impact on developing nations. According to an article published by the World Bank, the COVID crisis "has not affected everyone equally" (2021). Most issues found in developing countries boil down to their means. In places where access to clean drinking water, basic education, and electricity are hard to obtain, swift action was not taken to combat disease (Bundervoet, 2021). Woefully, the same people who must suffer through disease and conflict were also harmed the most by COVID-19.

ACMUN XIX

Appleby College Model United Nations Conference 2024



ACMUN XIX

Questions to Consider

1. If everyone suffered from the pandemic, should everyone get monetary compensation for their hardships?
2. What quantifies a country in need when discussing a global pandemic? Which countries need money and why?
3. Logistically, what is the most effective method to solve economic hardships and support these developing countries?
4. Are there any negative long-term financial implications of supplying money to developing countries?
5. How does external international debt play a role in a global recession?
6. What role does the distribution of wealth play in this conversation? Should the IMF balance previous percentages of distribution, or favor those lacking the assets?

ACMUN XIX

Appleby College Model United Nations Conference 2024



Bibliography

Africa: Conflicts, Violence Threaten Rights / Human Rights Watch. (n.d.). Retrieved February 11, 2024, from <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/01/12/africa-conflicts-violence-threaten-rights>

Africa—European Commission. (n.d.). Retrieved February 11, 2024, from https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/africa_en

Africa's Debt Priorities: A Sustainability Perspective and Required Support from the G20—SAIIA. (n.d.). Retrieved February 11, 2024, from <https://saiia.org.za/research/africas-debt-priorities-a-sustainability-perspective-required-support-from-the-g20/>

Africa's Humanitarian Crises Underreported Amid Conflicts in Europe, Middle East. (n.d.). Retrieved February 11, 2024, from <https://www.voanews.com/a/africa-s-humanitarian-crises-underreported-amid-conflicts-in-europe-middle-east-/7444130.html>

Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. (n.d.). Global Conflict Tracker. Retrieved February 11, 2024, from <https://cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violence-democratic-republic-congo>

ACMUN XIX

Appleby College Model United Nations Conference 2024



ACMUN XIX

Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo | Global Conflict Tracker. (n.d.). Retrieved February 11, 2024, from <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violence-democratic-republic-congo>

Continents by gdp per capita 2024—StatisticsTimes.com. (n.d.). Retrieved February 11, 2024, from <https://statisticstimes.com/economy/continents-by-gdp-per-capita.php>

Coronavirus: How the pandemic has changed the world economy. (2020, March 4). <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-51706225>

Covid-19 continues to hobble global economy | Atradius. (n.d.). Retrieved February 12, 2024, from <https://group.atradius.com/press/press-releases/covid-19-continues-to-hobble-global-economy.html>

Disaster | UNDRR. (2007, August 30). <http://www.undrr.org/terminology/disaster>

External Debt: Definition, Types, vs. Internal Debt. (n.d.). Retrieved February 11, 2024, from <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/external-debt.asp>

GDP per capita in Africa, by country 2022. (n.d.). Statista. Retrieved February 11, 2024, from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1121014/gdp-per-capita-of-african-countries/>

In developing countries, the COVID-19 crisis has not affected everyone equally. (n.d.). Retrieved February 12, 2024, from <https://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/developing-countries-covid-19-crisis-has-not-affected-everyone-equally>

ACMUN XIX

Appleby College Model United Nations Conference 2024



Kim, H. S. (2006). *The Determinants of Internal Conflict in the Third World*.

Nations, U. (n.d.). *COVID-19 to slash global economic output by \$8.5 trillion over next two years*. United Nations; United Nations. Retrieved February 11, 2024, from <https://www.un.org/en/desa/covid-19-slash-global-economic-output-85-trillion-over-next-two-years>

Rath, L. (n.d.). *Coronavirus History: Origin and Evolution*. WebMD. Retrieved February 12, 2024, from <https://www.webmd.com/covid/coronavirus-history>

Report for Selected Countries and Subjects. (n.d.). Retrieved February 11, 2024, from <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2023/October/weo-report?c=512,914,612,171,614,311,213,911,314,193,122,912,313,419,513,316,913,124,339,638,514,218,963,616,223,516,918,748,618,624,522,622,156,626,628,228,924,233,632,636,634,238,62,960,423,935,128,611,321,243,248,469,253,642,643,939,734,644,819,172,132,646,648,915,134,652,174,328,258,656,654,336,263,268,532,944,176,534,536,429,433,178,436,136,343,158,439,916,664,=0&sic=0&sort=country&ds=.&br=1>

Rwandan Genocide—Facts, Response & Trials. (2023, May 19). HISTORY.

<https://www.history.com/topics/africa/rwandan-genocide>

Rwandan Genocide—Facts, Response & Trials / HISTORY. (n.d.). Retrieved February 11, 2024, from <https://www.history.com/topics/africa/rwandan-genocide>

ACMUN XIX

Appleby College Model United Nations Conference 2024



ACMUN XIX

The Global Economic Outlook During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Changed World. (n.d).

World Bank. Retrieved February 11, 2024, from

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/06/08/the-global-economic-outlook-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-a-changed-world>

War in Congo: One of the world's deadliest conflicts – DW – 12/19/2023. (n.d.). Retrieved

February 11, 2024, from <https://www.dw.com/en/war-in-congo-one-of-the-worlds-deadliest-conflicts/video-67628465>

What are considered crisis states in the UN - Google Search. (n.d.). Retrieved February 11, 2024, from

https://www.google.com/search?q=What+are+considered+crisis+states+in+the+UN&sca_esv=6ebfc8b5f04ce8ec&rlz=1C1GCEA_enCA1071CA1071&sxsrf=ACQVn0-W2sNb-mtJWe-eOOrQZs0vBZzSEQ%3A1707679666185&ei=sh_JZffzCrCs0PEPycqOsAg&ved=0ahUKEwj3lJK_gqSEAxUwFjQIHUmlA4YQ4dUDCBA&uact=5&oq=What+are+considered+crisis+states+in+the+UN&gs_lp