

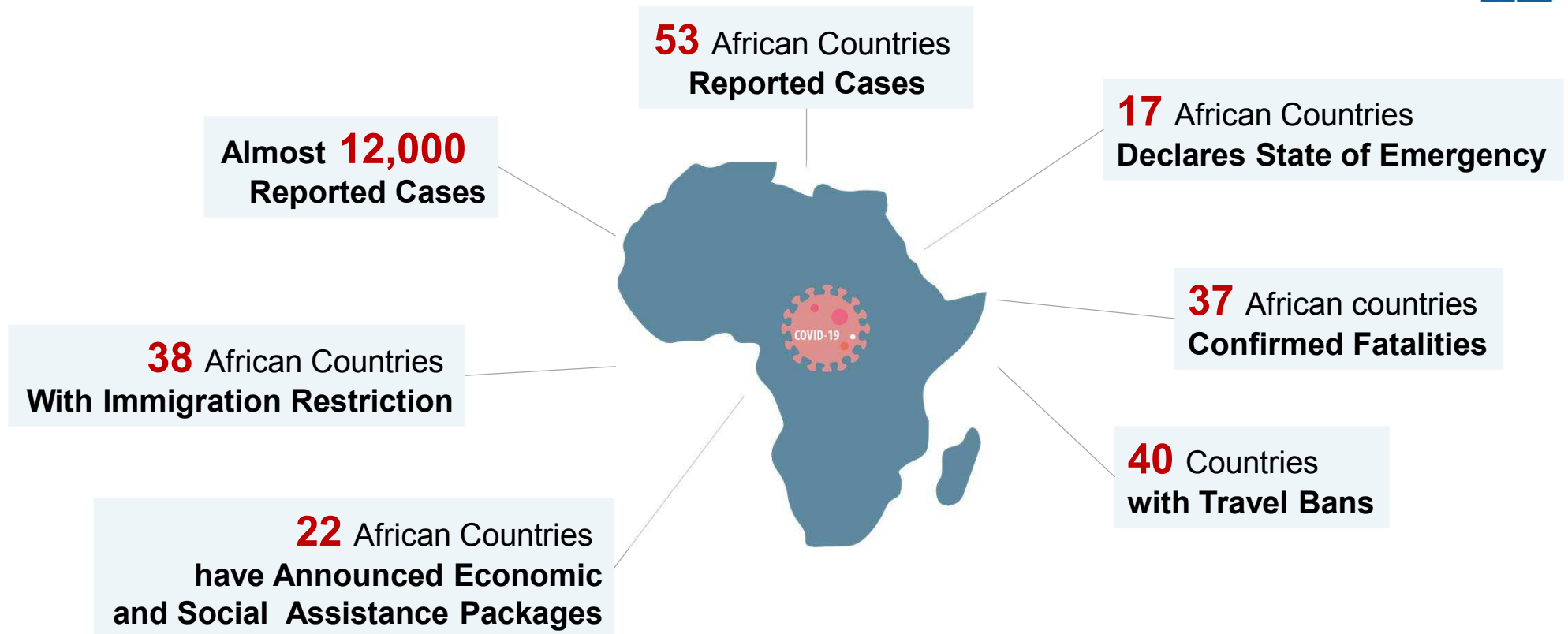
A light blue world map with the continent of Africa highlighted in a darker shade of blue. The map is centered on the African continent.

Understanding and Tackling the Socio-Economic Dimensions of **COVID-19** in Africa

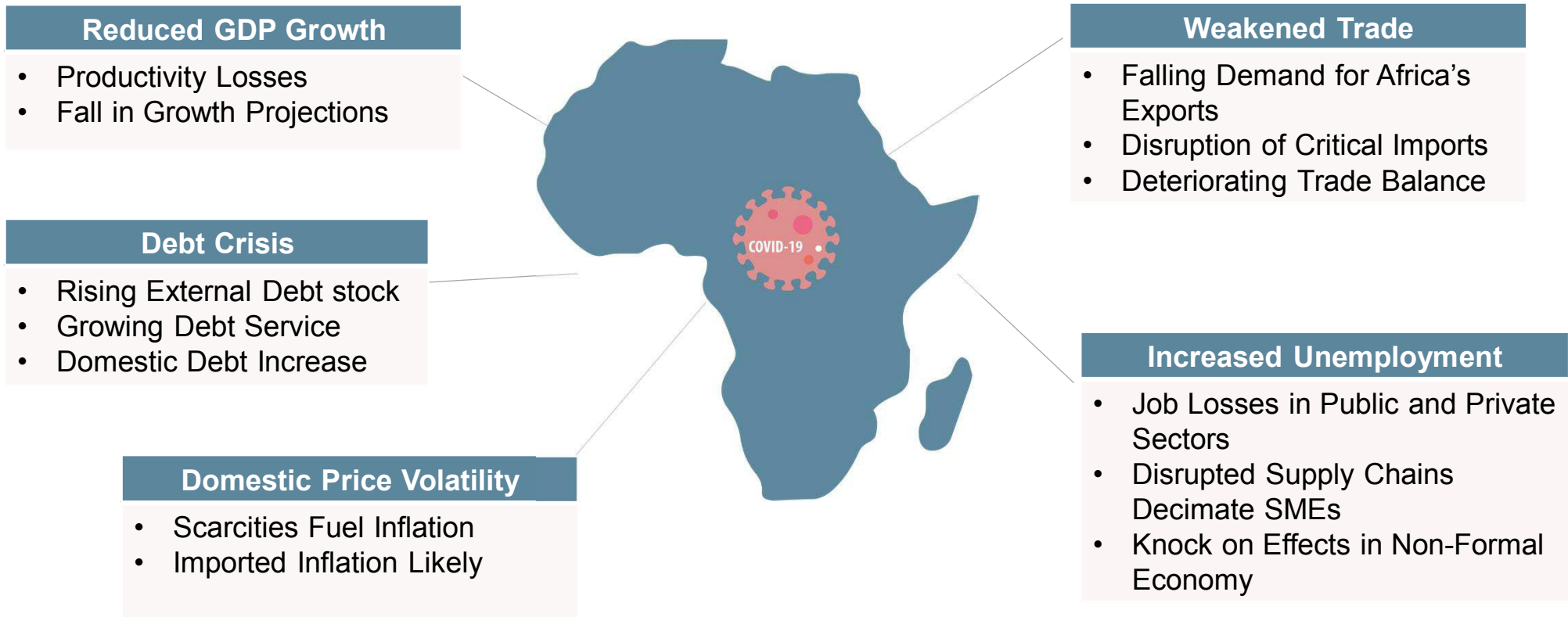
Regional Bureau for Africa



Current Status -- Epidemiology + Response



Current Status – Macroeconomic Impacts



Diverse Country Contexts

The COVID-19 Spectrum

	Prevention	Response	Recovery
A. Robust Response (The Singapore Model)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective screening • Tracking system in place • Messaging and cultural adaptation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective tracing + tracking • Expanded and accessible testing • Augmented medical infrastructure • Adequate + protected response and support staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition and recovery plan in place • Focus on individuals and communities • Rebuilding SMEs
B. Uneven Response (The Hong Kong Model)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective, but inconsistent screening • Tracking in place • Mixed messages over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patchy and unsustainable tracking + tracing • Some testing, but not consistent • Augmented, but inadequate medical facilities and staff • Sporadic social distancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition and recovery plans, not comprehensive • Focus on resuming business as usual • Interventions not coordinated
C. Weak Response (The Italy Model)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak and delayed screening • Delay in tracking • Weak messaging and poor cultural adaptation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak tracing + tracking • Incomplete coverage or testing • Overwhelmed facilities, inadequate equipment • Delayed social distancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak or non-existent transition + recovery plans • Focus on resuming business as usual • Interventions not fully closed or coordinated

In some slums

Less than 20% have pipe borne water (Lagos)

71% of households live in a single room (Kampala)

Population density is 9,000 per sq km (Johannesburg)

Medical facilities

Intensive care beds:

Kenya (130)

Uganda (55)

Malawi (25)

1 doctor per 5,000



The Economist



Understanding COVID-19 Transmission in Africa

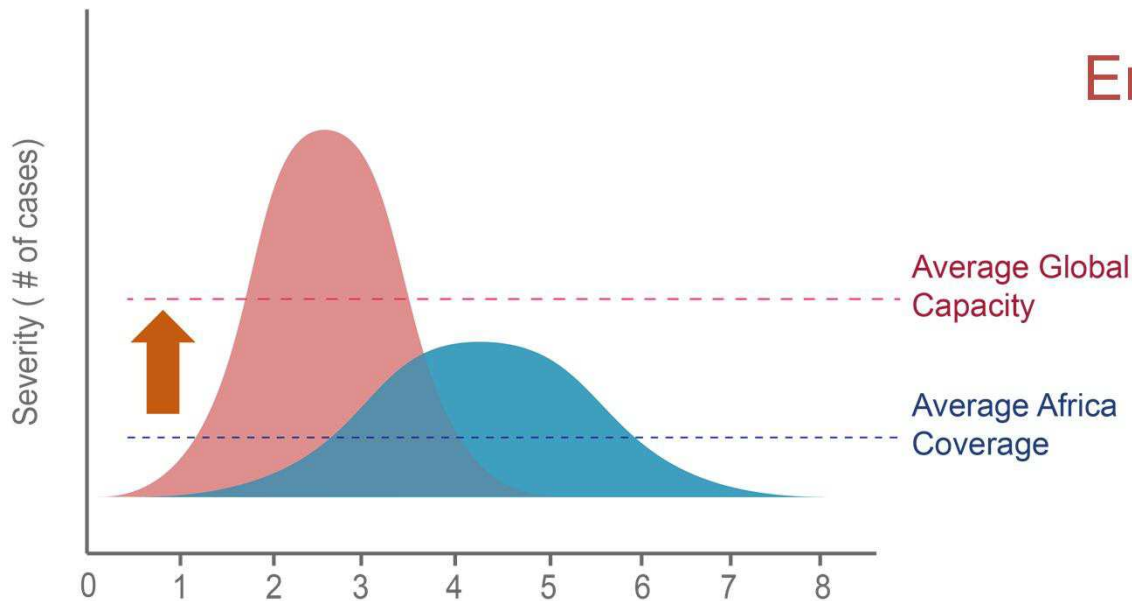
African Countries are **NOT** Exempt

- While some African countries might prevent domestic transmission,
- Africa's COVID-19 wave might be lagged.
- Where there is domestic transmission, COVID-19 is likely to overwhelm health care infrastructure in most countries.

- The experience from other countries gives some indication of SSA's potential COVID-19 trajectory.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Iran	2	43	245	4747	12729
France	12	191	663	4499	
Italy	3	152	1036	6362	21157
Spain	8	674	6043		
South Africa ?	13	402	927	1845	

Africa Transmission Analytics

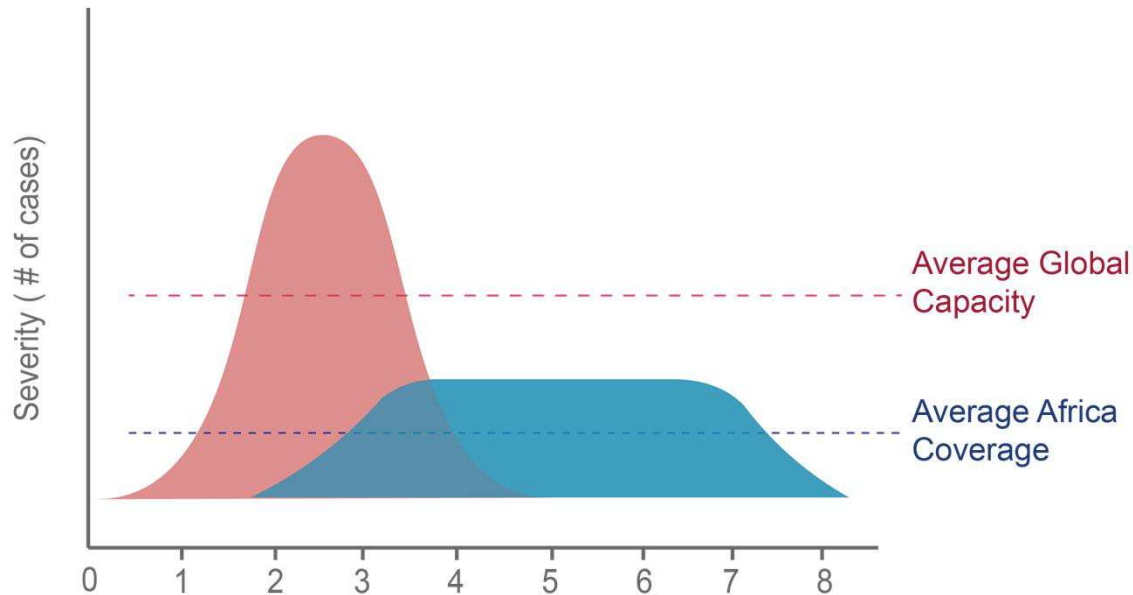


Capacity constraints could undermine the effort, even with a flatter curve

Enhance Core Capacity

- Improve existing facilities.
- Train medical and medical support staff.
- Provide additional facilities - convert school + hotels.
- Bolster primary health care infrastructure.
- Sharpen the narrative.
- Community engagement/outreach.

Africa Transmission Analytics

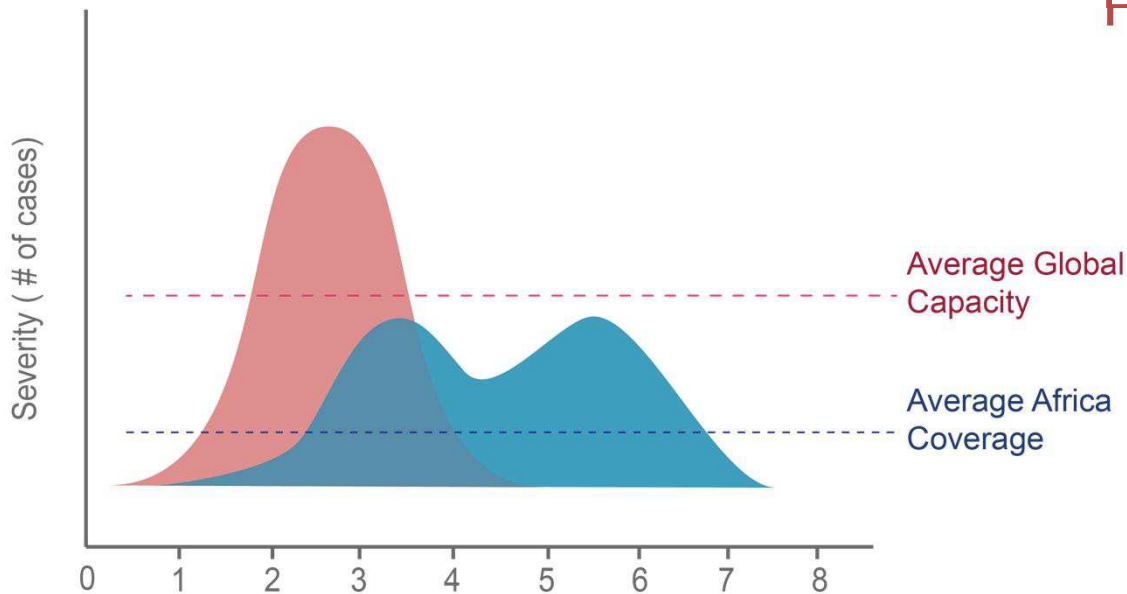


The flattened curve could hang a protracted “HUMP” because of cultural and capacity issues.

Beware of the Plateau

- Prepare for a much longer response phase.
- Decentralized stocks and response capacity.
- Cater for much larger population of COVID-19 infections.
- Develop more sustained community engagement strategies.
- Expand non-traditional partnerships.

Africa Transmission Analytics

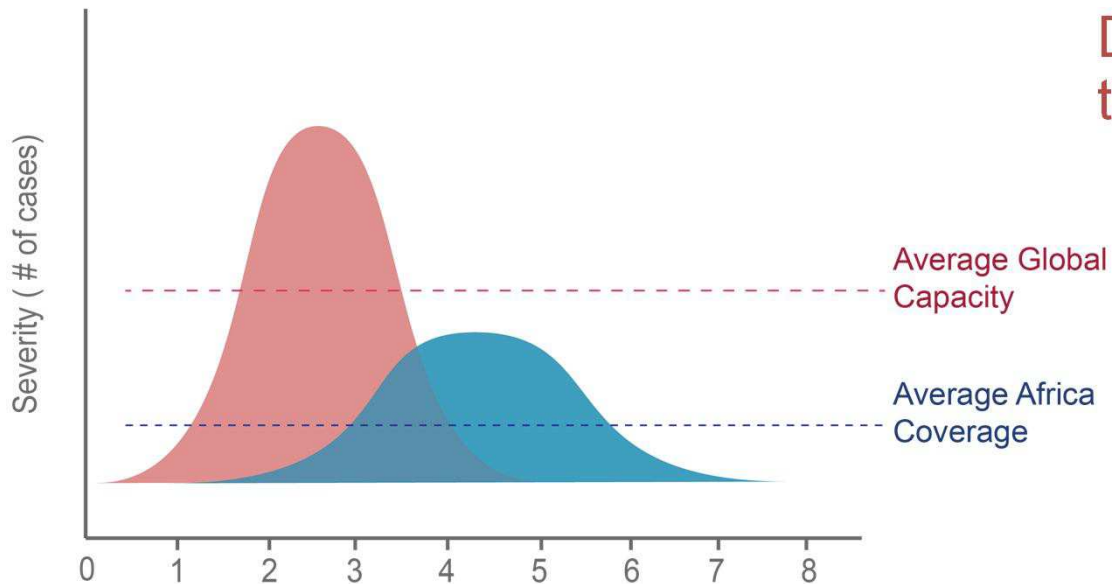


Initial gain could be undermined or reversed if response is inconsistent; creating double, or multiple, humps.

Prepare for Multiple Humps

- Prioritize sustained consistency in response effort.
- Longer term efforts should be programmatic; not isolated projects.
- Premature declarations of victory should be avoided.
- Politically- motivated timeline should be avoided.
- Invest in sustained community level response.
- Sustain messaging and community education.

Africa Transmission Analytics

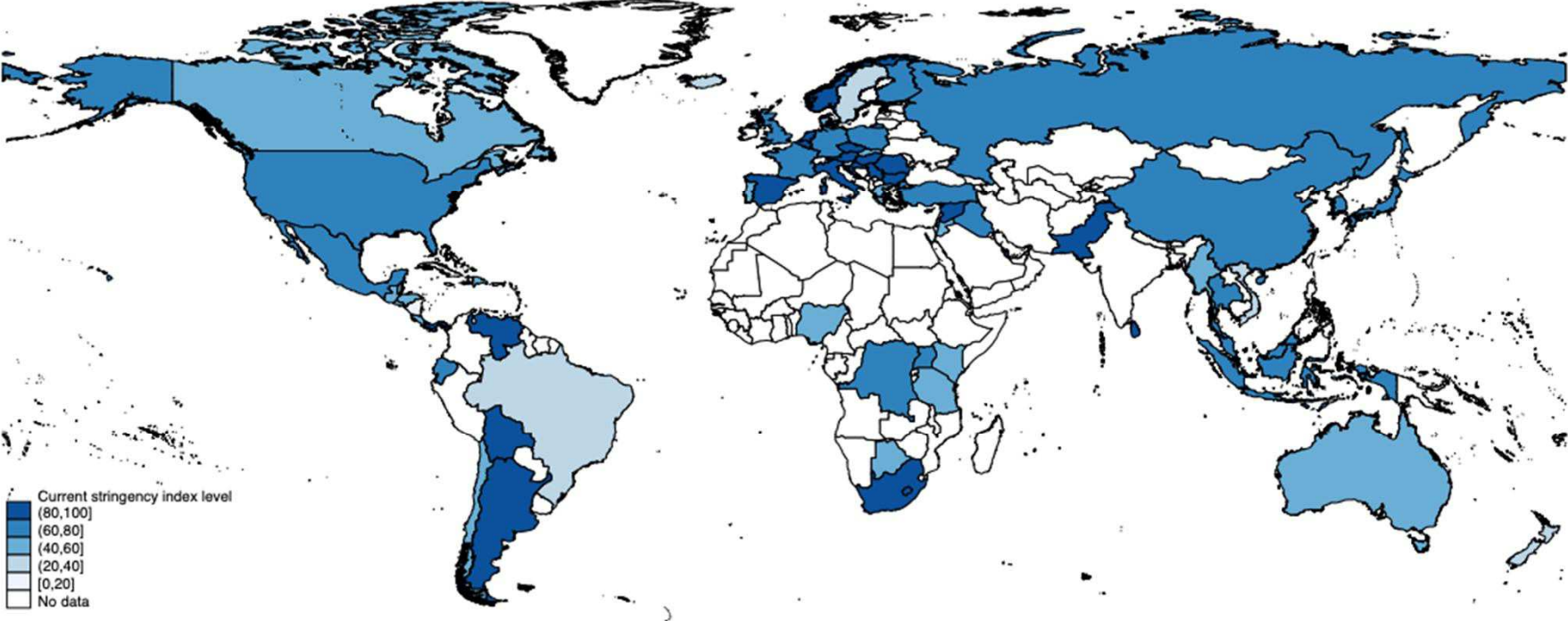


Flattening the curve in Africa would remove much more than traditional hand-washing and social distancing. Community living, non-formal economies, slums and refugee/IOP camps

Develop Innovative Ways to Flatten the Curve

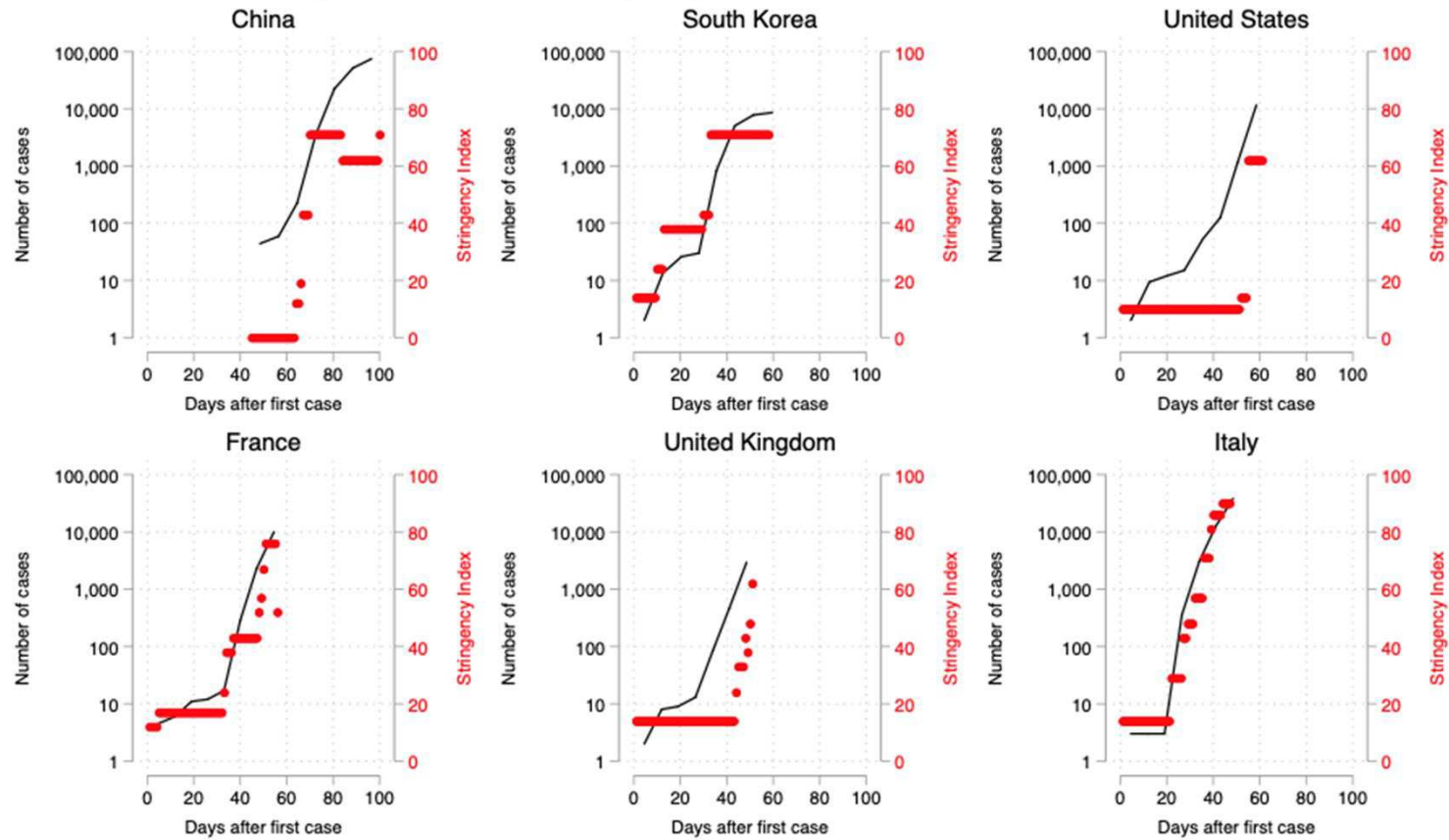
- Create “safe spaces” for household isolation in marginalized/vulnerable communities.
- Intensity creative and continuous civic education campaign.
- Plan for immediate and sustained distribution of water and sanitizers.
- Establish community-based, peer support mechanisms to enforce social distancing.
- Introduce income generation and retail opportunities.

Map of government responses to COVID-19



Data as at 24 March 2020
Source: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker. More at: bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker

Comparison of six country responses to COVID-19 as cases rise



Data as at 24 March 2020

Source: Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker. More at: [bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker](https://www.bsg.ox.ac.uk/covidtracker)



Tackling Socio-Economic Effects

Potential Socio-Economic Pathways in Africa



COVID-19 Shocks

- Global
- Domestic

First Order Effects

Economic

- GDP drops
- Trade Balance worsens
- Job and livelihood losses

Social

- Social spending reduced
- Disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups
- Social services disrupted

Political

- Politicized responses

Second Order Effects

Economic

- Domestic supply chains collapse
- Economic activity stalls
- Increased non-formal activity

Social

- Widespread deprivation
- Social disaffection
- Breakdown in social services

Political

- Erosion of trust
- Politicization of law enforcement

Third Order Effects

Economic

- Recession
- Debt crisis
- Financial distress

Social

- Vulnerable groups victimized
- Societal unrest

Political

- Political unrest
- Political violence

Socio-Economic Political Impacts



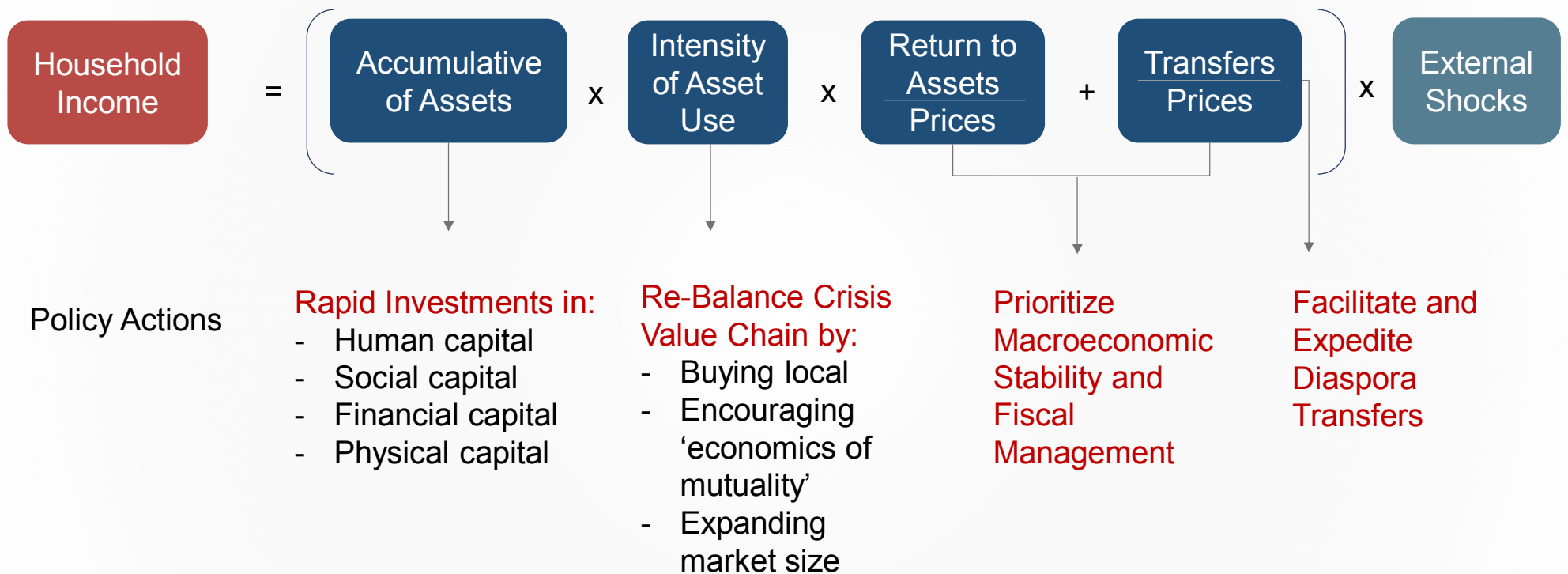
Societal Effects

- Cuts in social spending will affect the poor disproportionately.
- Women and children will be “left behind.”
- Daily-waged (particularly in the non-formal sector) will experience rapid asset depletion.
- Existing health challenges exacerbated – e.g. HIV and malaria
- IDPs and refugee camps are particularly vulnerable.
- Increases in prices of basic commodities will heighten tensions.
- Cultural and religious adaptation of protocols (like social distancing) could be problematic.

Political Effects

- Potential politicization of the government’s response could increase political animosity.
- Weak government responses could further undermine the social compact and erode trust.
- COVID-19 restrictions could be instrumentalized for electoral purposes. Guinea's 22 March parliamentary elections were not postponed. Upcoming: Burundi (20 May); Malawi (2 July); Ethiopia (16 August); Cote d’Ivoire (31 October).

Economic Policy Responses: An Assets-Based Approach



Source: adapted from Lopez-Calva, Land Rodriguez-Castelan (2016)



Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities



- **Explore new markets** for exports from SSA within the context of AfCFTA and regional trade arrangements. Prioritizing, facilitating and promoting intra-African trade could forestall losses in productive and jobs.
- **Identify niche opportunities**, that could trigger manufacturing and service sectors, by filling supply gaps created by the COVID-19 crisis. UK-based Mologic plans to start producing COVID-19 diagnostic kits in Senegal.
- **Invest in retraining staff and repurposing spare industrial capacity** (in countries like South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire) to meet the demand for supplies, equipment and food that may arise.
- **Institutionalize basic health care standards and facilities** in fragile communities and for vulnerable group (women and youth). Improved human capital will yield significant dividend.
- **Promote sustainable livelihoods** develop agriculture and natural resources based regional value chains and value addition through agribusiness, agro-processing, eco-tourism

Challenges



- Cultural and behavioral: resistance to COVID-19 response protocols.
- Impracticality of standard COVID-19 protocol: social distancing not practical in congested urban settlements; hand-washing not possible in the absence of potable water; communal living arrangements.
- Reaching the non-formal economy with immediate economic and financial relief packages.
- Finding alternate sources of food, medicine and basic consumer goods. China's bounce-back might take a couple of quarters, and both Europe and the US are currently affected.
- Ongoing peace support (Sahel) and peace making (South Sudan) would be undermined because of COVID-19 disruptions and delays/reductions regarding necessary supplies.
- Operationalizing AfCFTA expeditiously.
- Financing effective interventions, while export earning plummet and fiscal revenues dry up.
- Stigma and fear: false information through social media and lack of trust in national systems slowing down appropriate response.

Key Messages for Private Sector

SECTOR	FOCUS	ACTIONS
Finance	Catalyze Solutions “It’s raining!”	Domestic/regional liquidity Pension funds, etc
Manufacturing	Seize Opportunities “COVID-19 is a disrupter”	Manufacture COVID necessities Kick-start AfCFTA-related firms
Industry	Re-Tool Capacities “Procurement and logistics emergency”	Map viable logistics paths Pooled procurement?
The Arts	Reshape the Narrative “Overcome societal barriers”	COVID-19 is not Ebola This is a socio-economic emergency
Advocacy	Evidence-Driven Change “Move the needle”	Argue against “cut and paste” approaches Support research
Philanthropy	Fill the Gap “Leverage long-term solutions”	Build coalitions Have a “theory of change”

Key Messages



- Africa is not exempt, its COVID-19 wave would be lagged.
- COVID-19 would impact African countries differently, and transmission mechanisms would differ.
- First order epidemiological effects would rapidly translate into social, political and security impacts.
- COVID-19 provides Africa with unique opportunities to examine new industrial opportunities, expand regional markets and invest in critical capital.
- However, to make the most of these opportunities Africa must address existing and emerging challenges, and invest in critical assets.