Case Study: Alexandria, Egypt
August 17, 2020
Agenda

1. City Location and Profile
2. Brief description of Covid-19 crisis in the city
3. Main economic and financial impacts
4. Crisis response
5. Examples of local response and recovery measures
6. Mid- to long-term economic recovery strategy/plans
1. City Location and Profile

- **Alexandria is one of the few ancient cities in the world**
- **Founded by Alexander the Great around 331 BC.**
- **Located in the north of Egypt, on the Mediterranean Sea.**
- **Population ~ 6 million people**
  - 23% working population
  - 10.6% unemployed (estimates for 2019)
- **Attractive touristic destination for Egyptian and foreign tourism.**
1. City Location and Profile

- **City’s economic contribution value in Egypt**: 3rd
  (8% of the total GNP)

- **It has the country’s main port which accounts alone for nearly 55% of total Egypt’s foreign trade.**

- **Alexandria is a major industrial city with nearly 40% of total Egypt’s manufacturing output.**
2. Brief description of Covid-19 crisis in the city

- **13th March**: First positive case recorded in the city.
- **16th March**: Suspending all flights in the international airports in the city until end of March.
- **19th March**: Applying a partial lockdown starting 7 pm till 6 am.
- **2nd April**: The governor of Alexandria formed a Crisis Management Committee.

**10th March**: Applying the general ban of public events.

- **14th March**: Suspending all nurseries, schools and universities until end of March 2020. (Prime Minister Decree no. 717 for 2020)
- **17th March**: Implementing a set of measures to reduce workforce at the administrative units.
- **22nd March**: Launching the “Support Daily Workers” initiative to provide food rations to casual workers who are badly hit by the lockdown measures.

**24th June**: Curfew is canceled, opening facilities according to precautionary guidelines.
3. Main economic and financial impacts

- Labor Markets
- Business Environment
- Financial Environment
3. Main economic and financial impacts

- Labor Markets
  
  • Hundreds of workers who depend on “daily wages” were out of jobs since the start of the lockdown.

  • Mainly affected sectors were
    • Hospitality (restaurants, cafes)
    • Casual workers
    • Artisanal workers
    • People working in the hotel and tourism sector (touristic transportation and ride hailing services).
3. Main economic and financial impacts

• On the national level;
  
  CAPMAS studies estimate that:
  
  • 62% of total workers have been affected negatively in their jobs due to the COVID-19 crisis
  • 26% lost their jobs.
3. Main economic and financial impacts

- **Business Environment**
  - Registration of new companies at the Investors’ Service Center declined by nearly **56%** during the period from March 2020 till June 2020.
  
  - The new commercial business licenses declined by **28%** for the same period.
3. Main economic and financial impacts (cont’d)

- **Financial Environment.**
  
  - Revenues of the city from the public beaches plunged by **82%**
  
  - Revenues of the parking lots and toll stations declined by **64%**
  
  - Revenues of other properties leased by the city declined by at least **37%**
  
  - The city’s financial allocations from the central government were **normally allocated**
  
  - **Budget reallocation within the city** was carried out for efficient use of resources

  - Many of the supplies and equipment was provided directly from the central government
4. Crisis response

- Crisis management strategy
- Role of local government and other stakeholders
- Challenges in implementation of response / coordination
4. Crisis response

Crisis Management Strategy

Pillar 1
Training and increasing awareness

Pillar 2
Launching Initiatives for fund raising and provision of medical supplies

Pillar 3
Continuous Sanitization and disinfection of public facilities

Pillar 4
Institutionalizing the crisis management efforts
4. Crisis response

- Role of local government and other stakeholders

All stakeholders including central government, local government, NGOs and Private Sector were effectively coordinating and working in harmony to streamline all efforts, measures and initiatives targeting to respond and mitigate the negative effects of the crisis.
4. Crisis response

   - **Challenges in implementation of response / coordination**

   The major challenges were
   
   • Ambiguity of the situation
   • Difficulty to predict the progress of epidemic

   This was mitigated by
   
   • Developing mathematical models for forecasting the numbers of cases
   • Continuous communication among stakeholders
   • Open channels which facilitated the exchange of data and allowed for timely actions from the local authorities.
5. Examples of local response and recovery measures

- Local government
- Chamber of Commerce
- Alexandria Business Association
5. Examples of local response and recovery measures

- Local government

  • Ensuring the readiness of the health services of the city to provide relevant healthcare for COVID-19 patients without disrupting the healthcare system of the city, this included the following:

  • Improving the Crisis Management process
5. Examples of local response and recovery measures

- **Local government**
  - Launching “Support Daily Workers” initiative
    Type of support: food rations
    Total number of beneficiaries: 140,000
  - Launching “Your Support equals Life” initiative
    Type of support: medical equipment

*Both initiatives are still focusing on community needs*
5. Examples of local response and recovery measures

- Chamber of Commerce
  - Financial support to the most vulnerable business owners
  - Lobbying and coordination with authorities

- Alexandria Businessmen Association
  - Supporting daily workers
  - Streamlining and facilitating the terms of microfinancing
6. Mid- to long-term economic recovery strategy/plans

Areas of intervention:

Precautionary measures before the complete opening of administrative buildings

• Assessment of the quality of infrastructure
• Improving the service levels
• Commitment to health precautions (sanitization, social distancing, PPE, monitoring of employee health status)
• Installing glass windows over the counters offering services to clients
The response and recovery measures of the city have prioritized the following principles of the New Urban Agenda:

- Leave no one behind
- Ensure sustainable and inclusive urban economies
- Ensure environmental sustainability
Thank you for your attention