

Iraq and The Multi-Dimensional Response To The Outbreak of Covid 19 Pandemic

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Abstract

At the end of 2019, a deadly virus called Covid19 infected millions of the world's population and claimed many lives. It required preventive measures to curb its spread, including curfews, disruption of government and private institutions, and staying at home. In addition, oil prices collapsed due to low global demand. The research aims to develop a digital assessment of the efficiency of dealing with the pandemic in Iraq compared to the performance of other countries, so the "Pandemic Response and Recovery" guide is designed to achieve this monitoring in four dimensions: health response efficiency, effective economic response (economic recovery and accelerated recovery), community response (people's protection and social cohesion), and development response (staying on the development path).

respond to the pandemic. Previous approaches have relied on general and partial monitoring of the manifestations of this treatment. For example, economists preferred to focus on economic indicators such as economic growth rate, and health studies focused on how health systems respond to the pandemic. The book of social sciences was interested in monitoring the individual, family, and social impacts of the pandemic, not developed - As far as we know, a comprehensive approach to assessing success/failure in the face of the pandemic and monitoring the quality of government actions taken around the world. Based on Iraq's experience in dealing with the pandemic, an Iraqi researcher developed a comparative approach to understanding the quality of government actions, mainly since the Iraqi government was the least performing in terms of spending, launching economic recovery programs, and continuing stone measures.

Research methodology and data and Method

The research adopted the inductive approach by collecting data on the response to policies applied by governments around the world, where data were collected for only 93 countries, through which the manual could be calculated in the four dimensions of the manual:

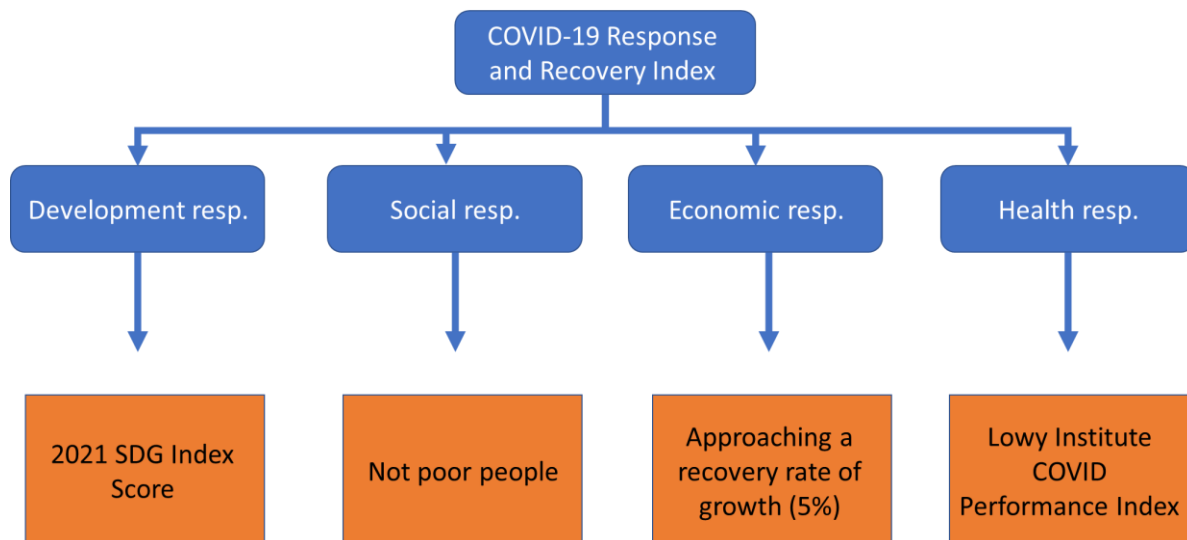
Introduction

Iraq is one of the countries that has been severely affected by this epidemic as a result of the significant drop in world oil prices and the lack of government response to the requirements the response to the pandemic, which has damaged the Iraqi economy and affected most members of society due to the low living conditions as a result of the closure, which coincided with the political crisis in the country, the pandemic disrupted most of the economic sectors, and this portends a significant economic shock reflected on both sides of supply and demand in the economy in an economy characterized by flexibility and excessive dependence on oil which accounts for more than 40% of GDP.

The importance of the research lies in the fact that it examines the economic effects of the pandemic and its impact on critical economic variables, particularly GDP, unemployment, poverty, etc., to monitor the development results for Iraq compared to the rest of the world for which data were available for the evaluation using a compilation guide called covid-19 Response and Recovery Index.

literature review

There is no literature on integrating health, economic, and development dimensions to



of 2021. In terms of details of changes in consumer prices in 2020, the most significant proportion of changes was in the diversified goods and services section (8%), education (7.4%), health (6.6%), while food accounted for only 0.5% of the annual change rate. Therefore, positive changes lead to a rise in the last six months of 2021. However, food has increased further due to the increase in the prices of milk, cheese, and eggs by up to 10%, an increase in the health department by more than 12%, as well as a rise in the transport and telecommunications departments by 15.1% and 6.6%, respectively. In addition, prices this year were affected by the devaluation of the dinar on December 19, 2020, and this decision resulted in financial savings of up to 20% of the oil revenues that financed the federal budget. However, the lack of demand resulting from the epidemic recession and the reduction of public spending have discouraged the real sector and curbed inflation. Therefore, the past months have not seen a significant increase in its rates.

Community response: protection of people and social cohesion, measured by the proportion of individuals living without poverty. Poverty is when an individual lacks income (or access to living basics) to sustain their basic personal needs, including food, housing, and clothing. Poverty has a wide range of potential causes linked to the country's social, economic, and cultural

Overall, these indicators indicate governments' quality and mismanagement during the pandemic. Q Of this, grade 0 indicates that the country had the worst average score during the evaluation.

Health response efficiency: The health system's response to the pandemic challenge and its ability to respond effectively means that we have relied on the Lowy Institute calendar in Australia and have so far issued four calendars, most recently on March 31, 2021, and the institute's evidence measures the average performance over time for countries in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 36 weeks following the 100 confirmed cases of the virus, which included 98 countries based on the availability of data across the six indicators used to build this indicator, which include: confirmed cases, confirmed deaths per million people, confirmed deaths per million, confirmed cases as a proportion of tests, and tests per 1,000 people. New Zealand, Bhutan, and Thailand ranked first in this calendar, with Iraq ranked 76th, Colombia, Mexico, and Peru in the last three.

Effective economic response: The government's ability to revive the economy and accelerate recovery is measured by how the growth rate achieved in 2020 approaches an average target of 5% for all countries. In Iraq, the most famous pandemic did not see a significant price increase, yet the CONSUMER PRICE INDEX rose by 106.3% in 2020 and by 109.9% in the first six months

Development Response: It means staying on the sustainable development path and has been measured based on the 2021 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Guide (SDGs Index Score), and has been based on the values of the 2021 Index, as it absorbs the development implications of the pandemic on the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations estimates that there are 4.1 million people in Iraq in need of assistance, including 2.4 million with severe humanitarian needs in 2020 and 2021 because of the circumstances and repercussions of the complex crisis. While it was derailed in 2021 with the worst performance among the targets, it has now returned to levels that may have prevailed during economic sanctions due to inadequate recovery measures adopted to counter the repercussions of the crisis. As a result, the work is fragile and unprotected.

The general guide is measured on the basis that it is the arithmetic average of the four dimensions, with a maximum value of 100%:

$$COVIDrsp = \frac{Hrsp + Ecrsp + Srsp + Drsp}{4} \dots \dots (1)$$

$$COVIDrsp \leq 100 \dots \dots (2)$$

Results

The average value of the pandemic response and recovery manual was 72.9, a relatively high value indicating the convergence of this response and the reliance of most countries on policy to minimize the effects of the pandemic. The calendar revealed that New Zealand had ranked first in pandemic response efficiency by ensuring a high response rate of 92.0 degrees. Followed by Latvia (86.9) and Cyprus (86.8). On the other hand, Iraq ranked 81st with a total score of 64.1, while Guatemala ranked 93rd and last with a total score of 54.5.

conditions, government policies, or ongoing armed conflict.

According to the World Bank, the impact of the pandemic is the greatest for the world's poorest countries. In 2021, the average income of people in the bottom 40% decreased by 6.7% compared to pre-pandemic expectations, while the average income in the top 40% decreased by 2.8%. Between 2019 and 2021, the average income of the lowest 40% dropped by 2.2%, while the average income of the top 40% decreased by 0.5%. It has led to a sharp increase in global poverty. Some 97 million people live on less than \$1.90 a day because of the pandemic, and the global poverty rate has increased from 7.8% to 9.1%, which also means that three to four years of progress towards ending extreme poverty have been lost.

Instead of alleviating people's suffering due to pandemic poverty, the government in Iraq adopted the most controversial resolutions in late 2020, when it devalued the dinar by 22%, which meant a reduction in the real income of all national currency holders of society, particularly the most vulnerable groups, which led to a reduction in the real income of all national currency holders. As a result, more of them are trapped in poverty and deprivation. According to conservative estimates issued by the Ministry of Planning, raising the exchange rate has increased the poverty line to 115,000 dinars. Yet, the poverty rate has fallen to 29.6% by 2.1% compared to the ministry's previous estimate in mid-2020. According to the World Food Programme, some 3.5 million people have experienced a crisis in inadequate food consumption. These effects have affected large segments of the population due to the health and economic crisis. However, families focus on buying essential commodities, mainly food.

Table 1: Some results of the Pandemic Response and Recovery Guide 2021 calculation

	Lowy Institute COVID Performance Index	Approaching a recovery rate of growth (5%)	Not poor people	2021 SDG Index Score	COVID-19 Response and Recovery Index	Ranking 2021
New Zealand	93	96.0	100	79.1	92.0	1
Latvia	77	91.4	100	79.2	86.9	2

	Lowy Institute COVID Performanc e Index	Approachin g a recovery rate of growth (5%)	Not poor people	2021 SDG Index Score	COVID-19 Response and Recovery Index	Ranking 2021
Cyprus	82.3	89.9	100	74.9	86.8	3
Cuba	74.6	95.0	100	73.7	85.8	4
Bhutan	93	88.2	91.8	70.0	85.8	5
Japan	47.4	95.0	84.3	79.8	76.6	30
Bahrain	50.5	89.2	100	66.1	76.4	31
Qatar	47.3	91.3	100	66.7	76.3	32
Israel	40.1	92.6	83.1	75.0	72.7	45
Ukraine	22.6	91.0	98.7	75.5	71.9	52
Russian	33.4	92.0	87.1	73.8	71.6	55
Saudi Arabia	39.3	90.9	87.3	66.3	70.9	56
United Kingdom	34.4	85.2	81.4	80.0	70.2	59
Spain	32.7	84.2	79.3	79.5	68.9	65
USA	18.8	91.5	82.2	76.0	67.1	72
Iraq	26.9	84.6	81.1	63.8	64.1	81
South Africa	26.8	88.0	44.5	63.7	55.8	91
Mexico	6.3	86.8	58.1	69.1	55.1	92
Guatemala	23.8	93.5	40.7	59.9	54.5	93

to achieve the 2030 plan, as well as directing policies to alleviate poverty that has been increased by the economic and health crisis and raising the exchange rate of the Iraqi dinar against the U.S. dollar. Furthermore, the government must address increases in inequality and poverty by accelerating economic recovery and focusing on poor provinces in the south. This includes equal access to financial services, technology, safety nets, and social insurance investment. In a very fragile economy, short-term results for small businesses and small businesses are expected to produce disastrous long-term consequences, as the widespread decline in small businesses due to the pandemic, economic crisis, and currency devaluation policy can be observed as businesses across the country have seen general closure of small businesses due to the inability to sustain work. Therefore, the government should work to revive the private sector, reducing borrowing costs, which are still very high, at a rate of 3.4-6%, at much higher rates than private banks,

Conclusions and discussion

An international guide can be developed to assess the response of different countries of the world to the pandemic in multiple dimensions, health, economic, social, and development, which, if adopted by international institutions, can provide indicators to improve this response and diagnosis the gaps in countries that rank low in the manual.

As for Iraq, the government must change its policy, consider the conditions and needs of the economy, avoid the traditional view of deficit financing and focus more on reviving the economy by stimulating sustainable and robust growth and getting it out of recession after the pandemic subsided. In addition, focus on ways to improve the response to the pandemic by directing resources towards improving the efficiency of the health system, promoting economic growth, and conducting reviews of sustainable development policies and their commitments

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and a rate of up to 25% for informal creditors and lenders.

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