Latin America Scenarios for Coronavirus Impact

Optimistic scenario

- GDP will fall -4%
- Quarantines will be lifted in the majority of Latin American countries by mid-May.
- Local fiscal policies are effective and will contain currency rates at average levels of Q1 2020.
- Global supply chains will have a quick recovery outside China
- Demand will return close to normal in the third quarter and the economies that rely on exports won't suffer a large impact.
- There will not be a second wave of Covid-19 during 2020.

Probable scenario

- GDP will see a decrease of -5.3% in 2020.
- Quarantines will be lifted in the majority of Latin American countries by late-May.
- Latin America currencies stay at the April 2020 rates through second half of the year.
- Unemployment rate is expected to reach around 11.5% (increase of 3.4% versus 2019) (CEPAL)
- Poverty levels will increase by 4.4% and extreme poverty around 2.5% given the drop in GDP and rise in unemployment to (CEPAL).
- Decreased demand by USA and Europe will lead to decreased exports from Latin America.
- Remittance flows to Latin America will contract by double-digits in 2020.

Pessimistic scenario

- Expected GDP growth will be negative, greater than -6.0%
- Quarantines will be lifted in the majority of Latin American countries in June or beyond.
- Latin American currencies will continue to lose value versus the US dollar in 2020.
- Temporary increase in poverty levels from economies shutting down leads to longer-term poverty impact.
- Local manufacturing severely impacted by global supply chain dynamics.
- Health system will be deficient against the infected population and quickly becomes overwhelmed.
- There will be a second wave of Covid-19 during 2020.
- Earlier social unrest in the region is on stand-by, but will return in 2020.

