



Mechanisms for adapting to health crises in Algeria

Dr. LAMINE HEMMACHE

University of Chadli Bendjedid El Tarf

l.hemmache@univ-eltarf.dz

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Abstract:

This research paper aims to highlight the effectiveness of the mechanisms adopted to adapt to health crises in Algeria, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, which served as a real test of the health system's ability to respond quickly and adapt flexibly to emergency health crises. Algeria adopted an integrated system to confront this pandemic, which began to spread gradually, combining legislative, regulatory, institutional, and awareness-raising aspects. Therefore, this study aims to evaluate the governmental and societal mechanisms adopted to address this pandemic and to provide a comprehensive overview of the mechanisms for adapting to health crises in Algeria.

Keywords: Adaptation mechanisms, health crises, crisis management, effectiveness.

Introduction :

Health crises are considered the most prominent challenges facing countries today, especially emerging epidemics for which there are no specific vaccines. The international community has experienced many health crises since ancient times, and significantly since the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the millennium for various reasons, including biological warfare, undeclared economic factors, medical experiments, climate change and global warming, and the deterioration of the ecosystem in general. This has necessitated the adoption of an effective system to address these crises and manage them in a way that ensures rapid response, adaptation and mitigation of their effects, as witnessed by various countries around the world in 2020 with the spread of a new virus called COVID-19, which posed a direct threat to global collective security. Countries adopted a health crisis management system as the spread of the coronavirus caused widespread panic among the international community. Governments and countries rushed to take a series of precautionary and preventive measures to limit its spread, such as Algeria, which took a series of institutional, legislative and regulatory measures aimed at containing and addressing the crisis. This has been achieved through strategic planning, including the development of a national health emergency plan, the organisation of central and local operations rooms to monitor the spread of the virus, the provision of medical equipment to hospitals to combat shortages, and the use of all forms of media to raise public awareness of the seriousness of the pandemic.

Study objectives :

_ This study **aims** to clarify the overlapping concepts of health crisis and pandemic management by relying on a modern medical lexicon.



_ To analyse the health crisis adaptation strategies adopted in Algeria and their effectiveness in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

_ To provide a comprehensive overview of the mechanisms for coping with health crises in Algeria, focusing on the legislative, regulatory, institutional, community and technical aspects that contribute to building a resilient health system capable of responding to health emergencies.

Research question :

The COVID-19 pandemic was characterised by its suddenness and rapid spread, which made it difficult to control at the outset and posed a comprehensive threat to health security in countries. On this basis, the Algerian state adopted a set of mechanisms to manage this health crisis. The problem of the study is therefore represented by the following question :

To what extent have the measures taken by the Algerian state contributed to adapting to the health crisis represented by the COVID-19 pandemic?

Methodology :

In order to answer the above question, this study followed a set of approaches that contribute to understanding the nature of the study variables, relying on the **descriptive approach** used to describe the different aspects of the study topic, along with **an analytical approach** based on analysing the legislative and regulatory frameworks for health crisis management and their effectiveness in addressing such crises.

The first axis: Terminological control of the study variables:

Terminological control is necessary for such studies due to the overlap of concepts with other fields of knowledge. This axis will be addressed in the following points:

First: The concept of crisis:

1- Definition of crisis in language:¹ The earliest origins of the word crisis can be traced back to ancient Greek medicine, where it was used to denote an important turning point or a decisive moment in the development of a disease, after which the patient would either recover within a short period of time or die.

Linguistically, the term "crisis" is derived from the Greek word "krisis," which means "moment of decision" and refers to sudden change, often for the worse. This term also appears in Chinese in the form of two words, wei-ji, which is composed of two syllables: danger and opportunity. In other words, a crisis involves a danger that must be avoided, but it also involves an opportunity that must be seized. In Arabic, the dictionary defines crisis as hardship and famine, while Lisan al-Arab defines it as "hardship, as in 'the year or era was a crisis for them', meaning that the famine was severe and its benefits were few." In English, The American Heritage Dictionary defines it as:

- A dangerous and decisive situation and a turning point.
- Unstable situations in political, economic or global affairs. Which is about to undergo a decisive change.
- A sudden change in a chronic illness, either for the better or for the worse.

¹ - Azotar's Dreams, Crisis **Management**, Political Encyclopedia, published on 12 June 2020, available at the following link:

<https://political-encyclopedia.org/dictionary/>, accessed on 19 December 2025.



Webster's Dictionary defines it as "a critical and unstable period or a malfunction."

2- Terminology: A sudden change from normal behaviour – It means a series of reactions that result in a sudden situation that poses a direct threat to the fundamental values or interests of the state, requiring quick decisions to be made in a short time and under uncertain circumstances in order to prevent the crisis from escalating² .

- It is a state of tension and a turning point that requires a decision that results in new situations, whether negative or positive, that affect the various entities involved. Some have defined it as: an unusual situation that is beyond control and leads to a halt or unusual decline in work, threatening the achievement of the required objectives within the specified time frame"³ .

3- Characteristics of a crisis: ⁴

- **The element of surprise:** the event is sudden, which usually leads to confusion that disrupts normal life, as well as a breakdown in the system and all its structures as a result of the tension and panic caused by the crisis.

- **The time factor:** This is a pressing factor, as the element of surprise creates a problem in terms of the time available to deal with the risks of the crisis. As events escalate rapidly and consecutively, those involved in crisis management lose the ability to properly comprehend the situation. Therefore, the time factor is one of the most important characteristics of a crisis, as decision-makers find themselves faced with the dilemma of making decisive and rapid decisions.

- **Information:** Having enough info is key to making decisions during a crisis, so not having the right info and data makes it really hard to make the right decisions for the situation. Therefore, in the context of the coronavirus crisis, the lack of information about the virus had a profound impact on its rapid and widespread geographical spread, which put most governments in a dilemma when it came to making appropriate decisions regarding the epidemic situation.

- **Physical and human threat:** The crisis poses a direct threat to public order, both physically and humanly. The coronavirus crisis is an example of the extent of the threat it has caused, resulting in countless material losses across all sectors, most notably the economic sector, which has experienced a recession similar to that of 1929, and severe human losses, with the number of deaths from the virus reaching record levels, exceeding one million deaths.

4- The concept of crisis management:

A. It is a purposeful activity based on researching and obtaining the necessary information that enables management to predict the locations and directions of the expected crisis and

² - Sameh Ahmed Zaki Al-Hafni, **Crisis Management**, Journal of Financial and Commercial Research, Volume 18, Issue 2 - Part 2, Port Said University, Egypt, 2017, p. 04.

³ - Subhi Rashid Al-Yazji, **Crisis Management Inspired by the Holy Quran – An Objective Study**, Islamic University Journal (Islamic Studies Series), Volume 19, Issue 2, Islamic University – Gaza, June 2011, p. 324.

⁴ - Noura Al-Hafyan, **International Policies and Coronavirus Crisis Management: Experiences and Lessons Learned**, Political Studies, Egyptian Institute for Studies, 9 November 2020, pp. 25, 26.



create the appropriate climate to deal with it by taking measures to control and eliminate the expected crisis or change its course in favour of the organisation⁵.

B- It is how to overcome the crisis with various scientific management tools, avoid its negatives, and take advantage of its positives. It is a continuous management process that focuses on predicting potential crises by sensing and monitoring internal or external environmental variables that generate crises and mobilising available resources and capabilities to prevent or prepare to deal with crises as efficiently and effectively as possible possible efficiency and effectiveness and with the least possible damage to the organisation, the environment and employees⁶.

- **Fahad Ahmed Al-Shaalan** defines crisis management as a special administrative process that produces a strategic response to crisis situations through a group of pre-selected administrators who use their skills and special procedures to minimise losses, referring to the crisis management team. **Mohammed Muhanna believes** that crisis management means overcoming crises using various scientific and administrative tools, avoiding their negative aspects and taking advantage of their positive aspects. The science of crisis management is the science of managing balances, monitoring the movement and trends of power, adapting to various changes, and examining their effects in all areas. **Nawaf Qatish** defines it as a specific technique or method used when facing emergencies, dealing with crises that must be confronted, and planning how to deal with them in advance based on assumptions built on information that predicts the occurrence of such crises⁷.

- **Definition of a health crisis:** a difficult situation or complex health system affecting humans in one or more geographical areas, mainly caused by natural hazards, from a specific location to the entire planet. Crises generally have a significant impact on the health of society, with losses in terms of lives and the economy. They may be caused by disease, industrial processes or poor policies⁸.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines a health crisis as "an unstable situation of danger or

extreme difficulty, indicating a turning point, arising from the inability of local health systems to respond to the needs of citizens"⁹.

- **The emergence of the health crisis management system:**

⁵- Muhammad al-Fatih Mahmoud Bashir al-Maghribi, **Crisis and Disaster Management**, Modern Academy for University Books, Manama, Bahrain, 2019, p. 61.

⁶ - Mahmoud Kazem Mahmoud Al-Tamimi, **Crisis Guidance**, Debono Centre for Thinking Education, Amman, Jordan, 2016, pp. 131, 132.

⁷ - Ahlam Azotar, **op. cit.**

⁸-Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation, **DICTIONNAIRE TERMINOLOGIQUE COVID-19 (English-French-Arabic)**, Bureau de Coordination d'Arabisation, Morocco, 2020, p. 47.

⁹ Toufik Bouraas, **Health Crisis Management in Algeria: Limits of Response and Requirements for Activation, Case Studies: Measles 2017, Cholera 2018, COVID-19**, Doctoral Thesis, Specialisation in Public Policy, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of 08 May 1945, Guelma, Algeria, 2022-2023, p. 40.



Crisis management science has been associated with the field of public administration since the early 1950s, becoming a multidisciplinary science involving political science, economics, psychology and public health. . This led to the emergence of the concept of health crisis management, particularly after the spread of avian influenza in 2003 in various parts of the world, prompting the World Health Organisation to issue a report in 2004 entitled: Responding to the Health Aspects of Crises," which outlined the causes of health crises and ways to address them in three basic stages¹⁰ , namely:

5- Crisis management steps: There are a number of steps for managing a crisis and emerging from it with minimal damage. In this study, we will rely on the following model:¹¹

- **Steve Albrecht's model:** The crisis life cycle in relation to the organisation is divided into the following stages through which the crisis can be managed:

1- Pre-crisis stage: Management efforts focus on performing the following tasks:

- Scanning the environment and sensing potential crises that may erupt in the future.
- Gathering information about these crises or problems and assessing their severity.
- Take the necessary preventive measures to prevent the crisis from arising.
- Learning from the experiences of others.

2- Crisis escalation phase: Crises escalate on their own without the need for management assistance, but there are some management environments that are more prone to crises than others. These environments are characterised by the following features:

- Weak communication networks between departments and work sites.
- Slow decision-making and bureaucracy.
- Weak sense of belonging, low enthusiasm, and prevailing indifference.
- Neglecting to study competitors and lack of clarity regarding strategic objectives.

3- Crisis management phase: This phase can also be called the "crisis containment" phase, and it includes the following tasks:

Recognising the crisis. Allocating specific resources and a specific team to deal directly with the crisis. Mobilising external support and assistance. Developing a contingency plan to overcome the crisis quickly and decisively.

4- Post-crisis phase:

- Learn from past experiences and update the crisis management plan based on the recent crisis, laying the necessary foundations for developing a new crisis prevention plan and making adjustments to the existing plan.
- Assess the impact of the crisis on relationships and communications with customers and external parties.
- Assess the impact of the crisis on internal relationships and workplace culture.

6- Definition of coronavirus: There are several overlapping terms that need to be clarified as follows:

¹⁰ Toufik Bouraas, Assia Belkhir, **Health crisis management in Algeria: a study of the cholera (2018) and coronavirus (2020) crises**, *Algerian Journal of Security and Development*, Volume 10, Issue 03, Security Laboratory in the Mediterranean Region, Faculty of Law and Political Science, University of Batna 1, Algeria, July 2021, p. 39.

¹¹ - Ahlam Azotar, **op. cit.**



- **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):** The name given by the World Health Organisation on 11 February 2020 to the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, which manifests itself as fever, cough, shortness of breath and fatigue. Severe cases of infection can lead to death. The number 19 refers to the year 2019, when the first cases were discovered.¹² .

- The terms "**coronavirus**" and "COVID-19" are often used to refer to the same infection, but coronaviruses are actually a family of viruses, some of which cause disease in humans, while others do not. The virus that is currently causing serious concern is called SARS-CoV-2, or severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, and should not be confused with the SARS virus that everyone feared in 2003, as it is SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19¹³ .

- Coronaviruses are a widespread family of viruses known to cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)¹⁴ .

- **Novel coronavirus:** The novel coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that has not previously been detected in humans¹⁵ .

Second axis: Algerian state efforts in managing the COVID-19 health crisis:

After COVID-19 spread in Algeria at the beginning of 2020, a series of preventive and therapeutic measures were taken to mitigate the pandemic. In this section, we will address the following:

First: The scale of the threat at the national level:

When the coronavirus pandemic spread rapidly across the world, most countries were unable to fully prepare to combat it, especially since this virus is new, spreads quickly and is highly contagious, and there are no internationally approved vaccines or treatments available for it yet. Therefore, these countries were divided into two groups. The first group prioritised the health of its citizens over economic considerations and freedom of movement, which is what Jordan did from the outset, helping it to control the situation and limit the risk of the pandemic spreading. The second group of countries, preferred to give priority to economic mobility and the freedom of individuals to move without restrictions or with very few precautions compared to the existing danger, which led to the spread of the pandemic and the collapse of their health systems, and a rapid and terrifying increase in the number of infections and deaths¹⁶ .

¹² - Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation, **ibid** , p. 24.

¹³ -**OP CIT**, p. 23.

¹⁴ - **Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)**, World Health Organisation, available at: <https://www.who.int/ar/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>, accessed on 19 December 2025.

¹⁵ - **Same reference.**

¹⁶- Tareeqa Nouara, **Legal Mechanisms to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic - COVID-19: The Case of Jordan**, Journal of the University of Algiers 1, Volume: 34, Special Issue: Law and the COVID-19 Pandemic, University of Ben Youssef Ben Khedda, Algiers, July 2020, p. 243.



The **2020** coronavirus pandemic spread in Algeria starting on **25 February 2020**, when a sample from an Italian citizen tested positive for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Other cases of **COVID-19** were then detected¹⁷ As of **24 March 2021**, the number of coronavirus infections had reached **116,438**, with a total of **3,069** deaths and a total of **81,065** recoveries¹⁸.

Second: Measures taken to manage the COVID-19 pandemic crisis:

The Algerian state has adopted a strategy to manage this emerging health crisis, which has a direct impact on the health of members of society. These measures are numerous and cover multiple sectors, the most notable of which are:

First: Quarantine:

The quarantine measures that countries are implementing are as follows:¹⁹

- Quarantining specific areas and not allowing people to leave in order to prevent the spread of infection.
- Preventing passengers on ships and aeroplanes from entering any country if they are infected, to avoid transmission to the country's citizens.
- Quarantining ships and aircraft.
- Prohibiting people who may be infected from travelling.
- Prohibiting infected persons and those at risk of infection from moving within the country and meeting with the general public.
- Avoid public celebrations and suspend gatherings.

Executive Decree No. 20-69 of 26 Rajab 1441, corresponding to 21 March 2020, on measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus(COVID-19) and combating it, a set of measures relating to social distancing and avoiding physical contact between citizens in public spaces and workplaces, including the following: ²⁰

- Suspension of passenger transport activities in: public air transport services for passengers on the domestic network and land transport in all directions, semi-urban and inter-municipal transport, inter-state transport, rail passenger transport, and guided transport: metro, tramway, aerial transport, and collective transport by taxi.

¹⁷ - The Coronavirus Pandemic in Algeria 2020, article available at the following link: <https://www.kachaf.com/wiki.php?n=5ed55767b4d0a03c2a78235f>, accessed on: 20-12-2025.

¹⁸ - **S.A.**, Latest Coronavirus Figures in Algeria, article available at the following link: <https://www.elkhabar.com/press/article/183688/%D8%A2%D8%AE%D8%B1-%D8%A3%D8%B1%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%85-%D9%83%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%86%D8%A7-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%B2%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%B1-57/>, accessed on: 20-12-2025.

¹⁹ - Samah Sahila, **Preventive measures to combat coronavirus in Algeria**, *Al-Risala Journal for Humanitarian Studies and Research*, Volume 05, Issue 03, University of Arab Tebessa , October 2020, p. 30.

²⁰ - People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Executive Decree No. 20-69 dated 26 Rajab 1441, corresponding to 21 March 2020, **Supplementary measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic** and combating it, *Official Gazette*, No. 15, Articles 03, 05, 06,



- Closure of beverage outlets, entertainment and leisure establishments and venues, and restaurants in major cities.
- Adoption of a system of exceptional leave for at least 50 per cent of the employees of each public institution and administration, with the exception of certain employees specified in Article 07 of the same decree.

Executive Decree No. 20-70 of 29 Rajab 1441, corresponding to 24 March 2020, also includes **additional measures to prevent and combat the spread of the coronavirus pandemic**, which we list below:²¹

- Establishment of a home quarantine system in provinces or municipalities designated by the national health authority as coronavirus hotspots.
- Obligating individuals not to leave their homes or places of residence during the period or periods determined by the public authorities.
- Preventing the movement of persons during periods of quarantine from and to the state or municipality concerned, as well as within these areas.

These measures were implemented gradually in Algeria. **On 13 March 2020**, all public activities of the National People's Council **were** postponed until a later date, spring break was brought forward, and all schools (primary, middle and secondary), universities, vocational training centres, Zawiyas and Koranic schools, and literacy classes. On 24 March 2020, a complete lockdown was imposed on the province of Blida and a curfew was imposed on the capital from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Partial lockdown measures were also extended to the following nine provinces: Batna, Tizi Ouzou, Setif, Constantine, M'Sila, Oran, Boumerdes, El Oued, and Tipaza. This measure will be applied in the nine provinces from Saturday, 28 March 2020, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. New quarantine measures were imposed, effective from Sunday, 5 April 2020, and will remain in force until Sunday, 19 April 2020. The province of Blida remains subject to total lockdown, and partial lockdown has been extended to 38 new provinces, covering the period between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., with the hours extended from 3 p.m. to 7 a.m. for the following 39 provinces: Algiers, Oran, Bejaia, Setif, Tizi Ouzou, Tipaza, Tlemcen, Ain Defla and Medea. **On 18 April 2018**: The government approved the renewal of the current quarantine system and all accompanying preventive measures for an additional period of ten days until 29 April 2020. The system currently in force consists of a comprehensive quarantine for the province of Blida, and partial quarantine from 3 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following day for the following nine provinces: Bejaia, Tlemcen, Tizi Ouzou, Algiers, Setif, Medea, Oran, Tipaza and Ain Defla, as well as partial lockdown from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. the following day for the remaining 38 provinces²². The partial lockdown measures continued for 15 days, with provinces being added or removed from the list depending on the increase or decrease in the spread of the virus in each province. At the beginning of 2021, life began to return to near normal as the lockdown was lifted in many provinces.

²¹ - People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Executive Decree No. 20-70 dated 29 Rajab 1441, corresponding to 24 March 2020 **Supplementary measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic** and combating it, Official Gazette, No. 16, Articles 02, 04, 05.

²² - Coronavirus pandemic in Algeria 2020, **previous reference**.



Second: At the level of the health sector and hospitals: During the first months of the spread of the epidemic in Algeria, a series of measures were taken at the level of the health sector, despite the challenges and difficulties facing this sector, whether in terms of equipment and the shortage of medical supplies (respirators, masks, sterilisation equipment, labour shortages, etc.). The Ministry of Health postponed the granting of leave to all health sector employees, including those working under professional integration contracts, to ensure health coverage for citizens, especially in light of fears of the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. The Ministry of Health has issued instructions to provincial health directors and hospital managers to suspend all holidays for workers in hospitals and health centres across the country in anticipation of any emergency. The instruction applies to all heads of departments, including ambulance workers, emergency department staff and laboratory workers involved in testing, as well as all workers in sensitive departments in hospitals²³.

- **Laboratories for daily testing** have also been **set up** at the regional level in the capital, Constantine, Oran and Bechar, after previously being limited to the Pasteur Institute in the capital. This has helped to ease the pressure and speed up the availability of test results, allowing the necessary measures to be taken to limit the spread of the virus. The process of detecting the virus was then transferred to private laboratories using PCR technology.

- **National Health Security Agency and Coronavirus Monitoring and Follow-up Committee:** This agency was established by Presidential Decree No. 20-158 of 21 Shawwal 1441, corresponding to 13 June 2020, which provided for the creation of a National Health Security Agency. Professor **Kamal Sanhaji** was appointed as its president. A Coronavirus Monitoring and Follow-up Committee was also established, chaired by Professor Abdelrahman Ben Bouzid, Minister of Health, Population and Hospital Reform. This committee is responsible for providing daily statistics on the spread of the virus and taking various decisions with the relevant sectors on all matters relating to the health of individuals.

- **Establishment of an exceptional allowance for health sector employees:** Pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 20-79 dated 6 Sha'ban 1440, corresponding to 31 March 2020, establishing an exceptional allowance for health sector employees, published in the latest issue of the Official Gazette, the categories and value of allowances and hazard pay that workers in the sector will receive have been determined, effective as of the date this decision comes into force. Employees of health facilities and public institutions affiliated with the health sector who are mobilised in the prevention and control of the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus will receive will benefit from allowances and grants ranging from 10,000 to 40,000 dinars, As announced by the President of the Republic during a press conference with representatives of the national media, the presidential decree states that this allowance will be paid monthly according to the penalty amounts allocated to each category for a renewable period of three months, provided that the exceptional allowance is not subject to income tax or social security contributions. The benefit of this allowance may also be extended to other categories of employees under a special provision, as specified in the decision, which sets the value of the

²³ - Lili-K-, **Postponement of holidays for all health workers due to the pandemic**, El Bilad newspaper, published on 16 March 2020, available at: <https://www.elbilad.net/article/detail?id=105745>, accessed on 20 December 2025.



grants to be paid to them. Administrative and support staff will receive a grant of 10,000 centimes, while paramedical staff will receive a grant of 20,000 dinars and doctors will receive 40,000 dinars. The same decision states that this allowance will be paid for a renewable period of three months, and the manner of application of this decree will be determined, where necessary, by a special provision²⁴.

Third: At the legislative level: In order to protect the safety of citizens from the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus and to ensure the continuation of the state of health emergency in accordance with the established objectives, the rules of criminal law have been employed to serve the health emergency and protect medical staff, in addition to financial penalties. Decrees No. 20/06 of 21 March 2020 and No. 20/70 of 22 March 2020 were issued concerning measures to prevent and combat the spread of this epidemic, as well as granting half of the workers and employees exceptional leave and suspending many of the activities mentioned above. These decrees also affirmed the principle of preventive criminalisation as a mechanism for criminal proceedings against those who violate quarantine measures and expose others to the risk of contracting coronavirus²⁵.

Executive Decree No. 20-70, which includes measures to prevent and combat the coronavirus, and Executive Decree No. ..., which includes the mandatory wearing of protective masks, referred to the application of penalties to violators under the provisions of the Penal Code. With reference to the latter

we find that the legislator introduced, under Article 8 of Law No. 20-06 amending and supplementing the Penal Code, Article 290 bis, which states that: "Endangering the life and physical integrity of others: Anyone who directly endangers the life and physical safety of others by deliberately and clearly violating the duty of care or safety imposed by law or regulation shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of six months to two years and a fine of 60,000 to 200,000 dinars. The penalty shall be imprisonment for a term of three to five years and a fine of 300,000 to 500,000 dinars if the above acts are committed during a period of quarantine or during a natural or biological disaster or other disasters..." According to this article, violating quarantine and preventive measures endangers the life and physical safety of others by transmitting the coronavirus infection²⁶.

²⁴ - Saïd Ksantini, **Details of the exceptional bonuses for health sector employees**, Al-Hiwar Al-Jazairi magazine, date of publication: 2 April 2020, available at the following link: <https://www.elhiwardz.com/national/167153/>, accessed on: 20-12-2025.

²⁵ - Momen Bekouche Ahmed, Badreddine Marghani Hayzoum, **Legal measures to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic at the international and national levels**, *International Journal of Legal and Political Research*, Volume 04, Issue 03, University of El Oued, December 2020, p. 83.

²⁶ - Halima Ben Deris, **Preventive Criminalisation as a Mechanism for Criminalising Violators of Quarantine Measures and Endangering Others by Transmitting COVID-19 - A Study in Light of Developments in Algerian Criminal Law**, *Annals of the University of Algiers* 01, Volume 34, Special Issue: Law and the COVID-19 Pandemic, University of Algiers 01, July 2020, p. 699.



Fourth: On the economic level: The Algerian state has adopted a series of economic measures, especially in light of the international recession and the decline in oil revenues, and the closure of a number of commercial and craft activities, weekly markets, livestock and used car markets, and public and private transport, which are the source of livelihood for many Algerian families. However, the state has provided financial grants to these groups due to the cessation of their activities. Among the economic measures taken are:²⁷

- Reducing the value of the import bill from \$41 billion to \$31 billion.
- Reducing operating budget expenditures by 30 per cent without affecting salaries.
- Suspending the conclusion of study and service contracts with foreign firms, which will save Algeria around \$7 billion annually.
- Delaying the launch of registered or pending projects that have not yet begun.
- Maintain expenditure related to the health sector and strengthen mechanisms to combat the spread of COVID-19 and infectious diseases in general.
- Maintaining expenditure related to the education sector unchanged.
- Covering, in the supplementary finance law when it is prepared, the losses of operators affected by the spread of the coronavirus.
- Task the national company Sonatrach with reducing operating costs and investment expenditure from 14 to 7 billion dollars in order to preserve foreign exchange reserves.

Fifth: In the education and higher education sectors: In these two sectors, classes have been suspended since 12 March 2020, distance learning has been adopted at university level, the number of hours in the education sector has been reduced, and staggered enrolment has been adopted for the 2020-2021 academic and educational year. The number of pupils and students in each class has been reduced, and a health protocol has been adopted requiring all students, pupils, teachers and administrative staff to wear masks and use sanitising products.

Conclusion:

Based on the above, it can be said that the Algerian state has taken a series of urgent measures to combat the spread of the coronavirus, especially in the early months when it faced many difficulties at various levels, particularly in the economic sphere, which was affected by quarantine measures and the suspension of many activities. Among the conclusions reached in this study are the following:

- The management of emerging health crises is considered a threat to the existence of states and societies, especially if the system is deficient.
- The spread of the coronavirus had a negative impact on a number of sectors, particularly on the social aspect of individuals with limited income and daily workers.
- The measures taken to combat the coronavirus had a positive effect in containing it and reducing the number of confirmed cases, especially at the beginning of 2021, when the number of daily infections reached 114 on Friday, 26 March 2021, after reaching a threshold of 1,000 daily infections in 2020.

²⁷ - Samah Sahila, op. cit., p. 33.



- One of the outcomes of the coronavirus crisis is the adoption of remote working in a number of sectors, particularly higher education and scientific research, which is a new gain for the state.

- Civil society organisations played a positive role in spreading health awareness and launching new community activities to combat the scarcity of masks, sanitising materials, etc.

Among the suggestions we offer in this regard are the following:

- The urgent nature of the crisis requires the establishment of a think tank, a foresight ministry or think tanks to provide appropriate solutions at the right time.

- The need for institutional and structural reform of the health system in Algeria.

- Strengthening the role of civil society organisations in health crisis management.

- Building specialised and professional health media to spread health awareness and culture.

- Working to diversify the economic structure as an urgent necessity to maintain living standards in the face of health crises.

- Training health sector personnel to deal with various emerging health crises.

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Book category:

- Al-Hafyan Noura, **International Policies and Coronavirus Crisis Management: Experiences and Lessons Learned, Political Studies**, Egyptian Institute for Studies, 9 November 2020.

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