

## **7. Covid-19 pandemic: prevalence and implications**

Three months after its appearance in China last December, Covid-19 turned from a crisis specific to China, into a global pandemic, according to the World Health Organization on March 11. Before it was classified as a pandemic, Covid-19 had manifested across the globe, in all countries bar 22; and as of April 4, it had caused the death of nearly sixty thousand (58,929) and with more than one million and one hundred thousand cases (1,100,283), with the numbers rising by the minute. The number of deaths is expected to reach hundreds of thousands before any treatment is attained.

The pandemic has brought about a global paralysis in various economic and navigational sectors, halting normal education and closing all places of worship.

Reasons for the cause of the virus vary, and its transmission from China to Western countries has revealed vulnerabilities and imbalances in governments' spending in the health sector. Meanwhile, analysts are predicting that the global system, led by the US, is changing due to the rise of international powers contesting its leadership.

This assessment of the situation examines the geography of the epidemic's spread and the weaknesses it has demonstrated. It will also endeavor to explore its temporal range in light of the scientific efforts to reach a treatment / vaccine, in addition to the economic and political implications.