

DESARROLLO FUTURO

Financiación y gestión de la deuda para economías de mercados emergentes.

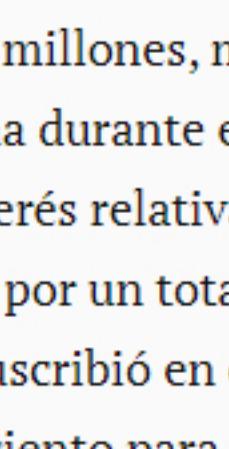
José Antonio Ocampo · Martes 26 de mayo de 2020

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Dos de los principales problemas en la gestión económica de la crisis actual de COVID-19 son cómo garantizar la financiación para los países emergentes y en desarrollo, y cómo gestionar sus deudas pendientes. La magnitud del desafío es inmensa: tanto el [Director Gerente del FMI](#) y [La UNCTAD](#) ha argumentado que el mundo necesita \$ 2.5 billones de financiamiento para estos países.

El financiamiento debe provenir de múltiples fuentes. El financiamiento oficial de los bancos multilaterales de desarrollo y el FMI es, por supuesto, crucial, como lo fue durante la crisis financiera de 2008-09. La asistencia oficial para el desarrollo también desempeña un papel fundamental en los países pobres. En relación con la deuda, ya se ha tomado alguna medida sobre las deudas oficiales de los países de bajos ingresos y se insta a una mayor suspensión de la deuda. Pero un tema crucial para las economías emergentes es el financiamiento del sector privado y la reestructuración de la deuda.

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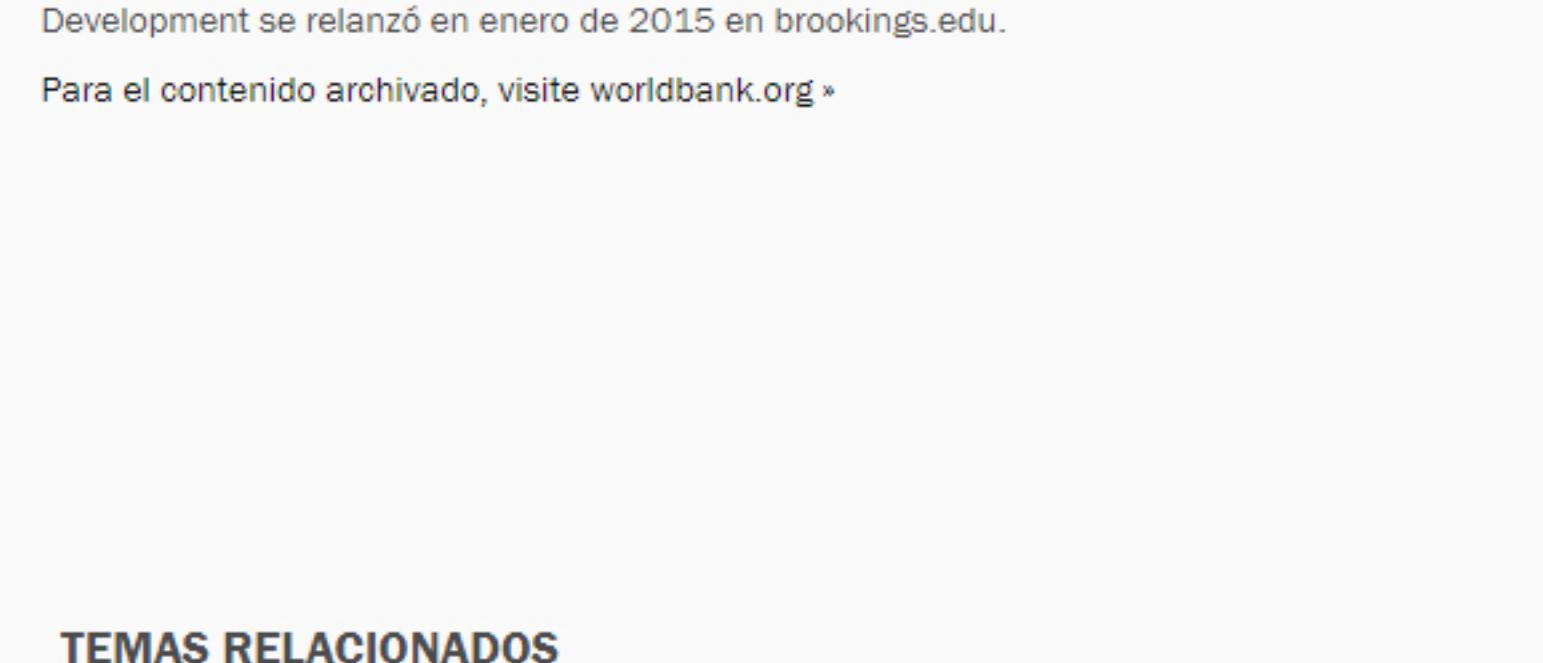
A medida que se desarrollaba la crisis de COVID-19, el mundo volvió a experimentar una "parada repentina" en la que se interrumpió el flujo de financiación privada a los países emergentes. Durante la primera fase de la crisis, el FMI estima que [Más de \\$ 100 mil millones de capital de cartera privada abandonaron las economías emergentes](#), una salida mucho mayor que después del colapso de Lehman Brothers en 2008.

Pero también ha habido una reciente recuperación del financiamiento privado que ha sido ampliamente ignorada. Los [El análisis semanal de JPMorgan de los flujos de capital hacia los mercados emergentes](#) (incluida la inversión en los mercados de bonos locales) indica que hubo una salida neta de \$ 66.1 mil millones en marzo. Pero las salidas netas han sido más pequeñas desde entonces (\$ 11.3 mil millones en abril y \$ 9.6 mil millones durante las primeras tres semanas de mayo) y se han concentrado en los flujos de capital. De hecho, hay [entradas netas en mayo en bonos de divisas](#).

De hecho, varios países emergentes han podido emitir bonos en los mercados internacionales en las últimas semanas en condiciones bastante buenas. Centrándose en América Latina, esto incluye a Chile, Guatemala, México, Paraguay, Perú y Panamá. También lo han hecho dos bancos regionales (el Banco Centroamericano de Integración Económica y el Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina, CAF), así como dos empresas estatales de Chile (Codelco y el Metro de Santiago) y dos de Colombia ([Ecopetrol](#) y Bogotá Electric Energy Company, ambas con algunos accionistas privados).

Desde mediados de abril hasta mediados de mayo de 2020, el total de estas emisiones de bonos ascendió a más de \$ 17 mil millones, mucho más que el financiamiento multilateral para América Latina durante este período. Algunos de los problemas lograron tasas de interés relativamente buenas. La emisión de bonos mexicanos del 22 de abril, por un total de \$ 6 mil millones, fue la más grande en su historia, se suscribió en exceso 4.75 veces y obtuvo una tasa de interés efectiva del 5 por ciento para su bono 2031. La emisión de bonos chilenos en 2031 del 5 de mayo obtuvo una tasa aún más baja de alrededor del 2.5 por ciento.

Esto es consistente con las tendencias en los márgenes de riesgo y el rendimiento de los bonos de mercados emergentes. Es cierto que los diferenciales de los bonos de los mercados emergentes permanecen por encima de los niveles anteriores a la crisis, pero la fuerte reducción en los rendimientos de los bonos del Tesoro de los EE. UU. A los que se agregan esos diferenciales indica que los rendimientos de los bonos de los mercados emergentes son moderados y caen. Medido por el indicador más conocido de esos rendimientos, el EMBI de JPMorgan, el rendimiento máximo durante la crisis actual fue del 6.6 por ciento y ha estado cayendo a menos del 6 por ciento (Figura 1). Como referencia, esto está por debajo de los niveles alcanzados durante la agitación de los mercados emergentes de 2018 y muy por debajo del pico alcanzado después del colapso de Lehman Brothers (cuando alcanzó un máximo del 12 por ciento) y, particularmente, después de la moratoria de la deuda rusa de agosto de 1998 (cuando alcanzó su punto máximo en 17 por ciento).

Figure 1. Risk spreads and yields on emerging market bonds

BROOKINGS

Together with trends in bond yields, this means that some form of "search for yield" seems to have returned. Furthermore, emerging markets have been able to issue bonds only two months after the financial collapse in February, a much shorter period than the 12 months that it took to do so after the collapse of Lehman Brothers in September 2008, and several years after the Russian 1998 debt moratorium.

This has major implications for the management of emerging countries' debts. After the decision taken by the G-20 and the Paris Club to decree a debt standstill for the poorest countries through 2020, some analysts have argued in favor of a similar standstill for emerging economies.

However, debt conditions and market access are so markedly different among emerging economies that no unique way forward is desirable. In fact, there are three entirely different cases. Focusing again on Latin America, the first is that of countries that require major debt restructurings to guarantee sustainable debt levels (e.g., Argentina and Ecuador). The second case is countries that are already benefiting from accessing international capital markets. They can combine external private financing with borrowing from multilateral development banks and local bond financing.

A third group is countries in between these two extremes who need a voluntary debt standstill (supervised by the World Bank or regional development banks), [such as that proposed](#) by Patrick Bolton, Lee Buchheit, and others. According to this proposal, debt amortizations would be postponed and interest payments would be made into a central credit facility that would re-lend those funds to finance countries' spending needs during the pandemics.

It should be added that the implementation of this proposal should go hand-in-hand with two other multilateral policies, which have been surprisingly absent from the international agenda during the current crisis.

The first is to negotiate a formal institutional mechanism to manage the restructuring of sovereign debts, beyond the market-based mechanism that was agreed in 2015.

The second is a major capitalization of multilateral development banks, similar to the one that took place in 2009-10 and that was essential for these banks to significantly increase lending to emerging and developing countries at the time. An agreement to capitalize the World Bank was reached in 2018 and has allowed it to launch a \$160 billion 15-month program. However, regional development banks also need major capitalizations. This is particularly true of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Development Bank of Latin America, the two major multilateral banks serving Latin America.

The way forward should, therefore, be a mix of heterogeneous debt solutions and a major increase of financing from multilateral development banks and, in the case of countries with market access, a return to bond issues in international financial markets.

Caremongering in the time of COVID-19 and the estancamiento de la deuda para África: la acción del G-20 es un primer paso importante que debe complementarse, ampliarse y ampliarse

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