CAPITAL FLOWS AFTER THE COVID SHOCK

Gian Maria Milesi Ferretti IMF. Research Department

The Red Zone: mid February to late March

- □ Severe (but short-lived) stress
- Collapse in stock market valuations (-34 percent for MSCI world)
- …and other market gyrations/disfunctions
- □ Sharp exchange rate movements
- □ Sharp reversal of portfolio flows to emerging markets
- □ Collapse in oil prices
- Massive policy intervention by major Central Banks (and fiscal authorities)

Market rebound, GDP collapse and recovery (April-onwards)

- Recovery in market sentiment, risk appetite
- Rebound in exchange rates for several EMs...
- □ And stabilization of portfolio flows, but at modest levels
- Substantial issuance April-onwards....
- ...but not for many frontier economies
- □ More appetite for FX debt than local currency debt
- □ BOP strains concentrated in more stressed economies
- □ Later normalization in oil markets, and recovery in metal prices

The dollar and global sentiment: COVID vs GFC



Real exchange rate developments, April-September





The decline and recovery in portfolio flows



Financial flows to emerging markets: subdued



Latest observation: Q2 2020 (preliminary and incomplete)

Some loss in reserves (pegged exchange rates)



What next?

Hard to disentangle all factors at play

- Large policy interventions (eg asset purchases in EMs)
- Many idiosyncratic factors
- Data lags

Differentiation

- China vs the rest
- Vulnerable vs other EMs
- "traditional" EMs vs frontier markets

Massive uncertainty

- Path of the pandemic
- Market sentiment
- Pace of recovery
- Debt restructuring needs