

COVID-19 and ENTERPRISES

Briefing Note [No. 6]

Published: 31 March 2020

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The COVID-19 pandemic has been affecting enterprises of all sizes and types in unprecedented ways. This brief aims to highlight key information resources available on the functioning of enterprises in the crisis, including its impact on enterprises, responses by enterprises and policy measures to support affected enterprises.

Disclaimer: Due to the rapid evolution of the situation around the COVID-19, there has been a large and growing amount of information resources related to enterprises and the pandemic. Therefore, this brief contains not only the resources of the ILO, but also those from external organizations. Reference to those external resources does not constitute an endorsement by the ILO of the opinions expressed in them.

Visit the ILO website for regular updates on responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

► ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus

1. Resources for enterprise response

[ILO - Keys for effective teleworking during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) | 26 March 2020

ILO Working Time expert, Jon Messenger, explains how to get the best out of teleworking. Six practices are recommended: 1) Management Support – from top management to frontline supervisors; 2) Appropriate Tools and Training; 3) Clear Expectations; 4) Time Sovereignty; 5) A Boundary Management Strategy; and 6) Trust.

[ILO - COVID-19 has exposed the fragility of our economies](#) | 27 March 2020

The Coronavirus pandemic is not just a medical crisis, but a social and economic one too, says ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. If our response is to be effective it must take into account all these factors, and be delivered in a co-ordinated, global way. In particular, it must answer the needs of the most vulnerable.

[ILO welcomes G20 commitment as a first global step in responding to the COVID-19 crisis](#) | 26 March 2020

The Director-General of the ILO calls on G20 countries to work together to protect people, jobs, incomes and enterprises from the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic. The DG also stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic has quickly turned into a global economic crisis that could easily become a global recession, and called for specific measures to support workers, jobs and incomes. These measures include extending social protection, supporting employment retention (i.e. short-time work, paid leave, other subsidies), and financial and tax relief, including for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

[ITUC - Putting people first – 12 governments show the world how to protect lives, jobs and incomes](#) | 27 March 2020

New ITUC analysis of government responses from 69 countries to the COVID-19 pandemic has identified 12 governments which are putting people first as they tackle the economic fallout from lockdown measures to stem the spread of the virus.

[McKinsey - Materials from the March 25 webinar on Business and COVID-19](#)

| 25 March 2020

You can access the Business and COVID-19 webinar recording of the Business Fights Poverty briefing with McKinsey, UNDP and the Connecting Business Initiative, and other resources. The webinar deep-dives into the impacts of COVID-19, and what action businesses can take, particularly to support those who are most vulnerable in their value chains and in the communities in which they operate.

[Gartner resource platform on COVID-19](#)

It provides a collection of research, tools, and webinars for managers including on business continuity management (BCM), scenario planning for economic uncertainty, effective remote work programmes, management of workforce, and leadership.

2. Government support to enterprises

[Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit Statement on COVID-19](#) | 26 March 2020

The G20 is committed to do whatever it takes to overcome the pandemic, along with international organizations working within their existing mandates. The G20 will act both individually and collectively, to: 1) Protect lives; 2) Safeguard people's jobs and incomes; 3) Restore confidence, preserve financial stability, revive growth and recover stronger; 4) Minimize disruptions to trade and global supply chains; 5) Provide help to all countries in need of assistance; and 6) Coordinate on public health and financial measures.

[Le G20 va injecter 5 000 milliards de dollars dans l'économie mondiale](#) | 26 March 2020

Réunis dans le cadre d'une visioconférence, les leaders du G20 ont annoncé ce

jeudi 26 mars vouloir “*contrer les impacts sociaux, économiques et financiers de la pandémie*”.

[UK - Rishi Sunak unveils rescue package for self-employed workers](#) | 26

March 2020

The UK has announced a £3bn-a-month package of support for up to 3.8m self-employed workers hit by the fallout of coronavirus, but higher earners making profits above £50,000 will lose out. The scheme will pay a cash grant worth 80 per cent of average monthly trading profit over the past three years capped at £2,500 a month, benefiting 95 per cent of people who receive the majority of their income from self-employment.

[Morocco to offer financial relief to informal workers](#) | 24 March 2020

Morocco’s Economic Watch Committee (CVE) reached an agreement to provide financial relief to informal workers suffering from the economic impact COVID-19. The CVE will put in place a mobile payment mechanism to distribute compensation for informal sector workers. The compensation method involves a digital platform where aid applicants will have to fill out their personal details including an ID number, phone number, and evidence of their occupation.

[India - Supporting informal workers during the COVID-19 crisis](#) | 26 March 2020

Farmers, agricultural labourers, and informal sector workers are the worst hit by COVID-19 and the resulting lockdowns. Vijay Mahajan, CEO of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, recommends some steps that the government and banks can take to help them cope financially.

[India - Protecting the informal sector from economic consequences of COVID-19](#) | 27 March 2020

This policy brief explores four simple suggestions that can potentially have significant impact in easing the hardships of unorganised sector households: 1) Ensuring cash-less health care services for victims of COVID-19; 2) Operationalising cash transfers to cover income loss and unemployment; 3) Measures that the Reserve Bank of India can take to (a) alleviate the debt stress

on low-income households, (b) shore up financial institutions, (c) assist the government to increase fiscal expenditure; and 4) Other measures that the government can take.

[Paraguay - la ayuda para trabajadores informales consistiría en dos pagos de unos G. 500.000](#) | 24 March 2020

La ministra Liz Cramer, de Industria y Comercio, comentó que la propuesta presentada al Congreso prevé una ayuda específica a los trabajadores informales que consistiría en dos pagos de un cuarto del salario mínimo, equivalente a G. 548.000. También señaló que habrá un apoyo a los trabajadores formales, que sería a través de IPS.

[Argentina - El Gobierno implementará el Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia \(IFE\) para aliviar la situación de los trabajadores más afectados por la emergencia](#) | 23 March 2020

Se establece el Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia (IFE) para los trabajadores informales y monotributistas, de entre 18 y 65 años, con mayor grado de vulnerabilidad, quienes a mediados de abril cobrarán \$10.000 por única vez, aunque podría repetirse en mayo si las circunstancias lo ameritan.

[US - Senate passes \\$2tn disaster aid bill](#) | 26 March 2020

The US Senate has passed a \$2 trillion (£1.7tn) coronavirus aid bill that is the largest economic stimulus in US history. The vote was delayed by a last-minute row between Republican and Democratic senators over unemployment benefits. The plan includes direct payments of \$1,200 to most American adults and aid to help small businesses pay workers.

[Spain - El Gobierno restringe temporalmente los despidos provocados por el coronavirus](#) | 27 March 2020

El Consejo de Ministros ha restringido temporalmente los despidos mientras dure el estado de alarma, según ha anunciado la ministra de Trabajo, Yolanda Díaz, en la rueda de prensa posterior. [La medida fue reclamada por los sindicatos UGT y CC OO el jueves.](#)

[El plan de choque europeo encalla por la resistencia de Alemania y Holanda](#)

| 27 March 2020

La esperada cumbre europea sobre la crisis del coronavirus se ha saldado este jueves con un choque frontal entre los países partidarios de un *plan Marshall* de reactivación económica, liderados por el presidente del Gobierno, Pedro Sánchez, y los socios reacios a una intervención masiva, con Alemania y Holanda como grandes obstáculos.

[Europe - Les Vingt-Sept se donnent deux semaines pour répondre à la crise](#)

| 27 March 2020

Après un sommet laborieux, les dirigeants de l'Union européenne ont accordé quinze jours à l'Eurogroupe, qui rassemble les ministres des Finances de la zone euro, pour trouver des solutions à la crise économique, conséquence de l'épidémie de Covid-19.

[IDB Group announces priority support areas for countries affected by COVID-19](#) | 26 March 2020

The priority areas include: 1) The Immediate Public Health Response; 2) Safety Nets for Vulnerable Populations (including extraordinary transfers to workers in the informal sector and support for companies in sectors particularly affected by the crisis); 3) Economic Productivity and Employment (Assistance to SMEs through financing programs and short-term liquidity guarantees, foreign-trade financing and guarantees, loan restructuring, and support for strategic supply chains); and 4) Fiscal Policies for the Amelioration of Economic Impacts.

3. Enterprises response

Employee protection

[Which companies are coming through during the coronavirus crisis?](#) | 29 March 2020

Some firms have stepped up to support employees, key workers and the NHS – but others have fallen well short.

Internal management

[Así manejan la crisis los jefes de las empresas](#) | 29 March 2020

Una decena de consejeros delegados explican sus primeras decisiones para afrontar el coronavirus, proteger a sus empleados y la continuidad del negocio.

Supply chain stabilization

[How are food supply networks coping with coronavirus?](#) | 26 March 2020

Continuing pictures of empty shelves at UK supermarkets have sparked ongoing worries about food shortages. The supermarkets are confident that they can cope, not least because there is a limit to how much people can sensibly stockpile. So they believe that shopping patterns should return to normal eventually.

Production innovation and adaptation

[Designer brand Ralph Lauren to make masks and gowns](#) | 27 March 2020

Ralph Lauren is to start making medical masks and gowns - the latest designer brand to lend its support to the coronavirus fight. The fashioner designer announced the shift in production through its charitable arm on Thursday.

[How innovation is helping ease a dangerous ventilator shortage](#) | 30 March 2020

Ventilators for patients with severe cases of COVID-19 are in short supply globally. The new coronavirus has infected more than half a million people worldwide. Companies including Dyson and Ford Motor Company are stepping up to meet the demand for ventilators, alongside other innovations.

[Johnson & Johnson is already ramping up production on its \\$1 billion coronavirus vaccine](#) | 30 March 2020

Johnson & Johnson subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceutical was handed \$450 million to work on a preventative treatment for COVID-19. Later, the pharma giant confirmed the coronavirus vaccine could roll out to the public by early 2021. Now the company's chief scientist says it will also spend \$500 million as part of a \$1 billion partnership with the U.S. government to research and produce a vaccine.

Support to customers and communities

[Telefónica mantiene el pago de dividendo](#) | 27 March 2020

La operadora recorta los plazos de pago a proveedores y crea un fondo de 25 millones para equipos sanitarios.

[The COVID-19 outbreak update from Legacoop, Italy](#) | 27 March 2020

This update provides insights on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Italian cooperative enterprises, and measures being taken by them to support workers, members/customers, and people in their communities affected by the crisis.

[The COVID-19 response by SEWA, India](#) | 30 March 2020

The Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Cooperative Federation in India shares its health, livelihood and social protection strategies for immediate and long-term relief among women informal economy workers.

Other responses

[EasyJet grounds entire fleet of planes due to virus](#) | 30 March 2020

EasyJet has grounded its entire fleet of planes and said it cannot give a date for when they will restart. The budget airline said it had made the move due to the "unprecedented travel restrictions" imposed by governments globally due to the virus pandemic.

[Covid-19. Le secteur immobilier grand perdant de la crise sanitaire](#) | 24 March 2020

Parmi les secteurs les plus touchés, l'immobilier ressent déjà les effets de la crise. Acheteurs qui fuient le virus, visites rendues impossibles par les mesures de confinement... Partout dans le monde, les ventes sont au point mort.

[Les géants d'Internet réhabilités par la crise du Covid-19](#) | 30 March 2020

Au centre de nombreuses polémiques avant la crise du Covid-19, les géants des hautes technologies semblent désormais bénéficier d'une meilleure image. Ils pourraient même être les grands gagnants de la pandémie mondiale qui confine une grande partie des habitants de la planète.

[Apoyo sindical, críticas empresariales](#) | 30 March 2020

Los agentes sociales fueron de la mano durante los primeros compases de la crisis, pero no han recibido de la misma manera la última decisión del Gobierno de paralizar las actividades no esenciales.

4. Other noteworthy resources

[UN calls for \\$2.5tn emergency package for developing nations](#) | 30 March 2020

The United Nations has called for a \$2.5tn emergency package to help developing countries cope with the crippling impact of the [Covid-19](#) pandemic on their vulnerable economies.

[FAO. A battle plan for ensuring global food supplies during the COVID-19 crisis](#) | 27 March 2020

Low and middle-income countries account for around a third of the world's food trade, which provides very significant contributions both to incomes and welfare. Countries that depend on imported food are especially vulnerable to slowing trade volumes, especially if as has been happening their currencies

decline. While retail food prices are likely to rise everywhere, their impact is more adverse when sudden, extreme and volatile, and where food costs account for a larger share of household budgets and where spikes can have longer-term effects on human development and economic productivity in the future.

Covid-19. Refus du télétravail (alors que ce serait possible) : des expatriés dénoncent leurs entreprises | 27 March 2020

Les expatriés français sont nombreux à devoir continuer à travailler malgré la crise sanitaire. Alors qu'ils pourraient faire du télétravail, leurs entreprises les obligent à venir et ne les protègent pas.