

THE ILO PRETORIA CONTRIBUTION

Pretoria Office support to South Africa on COVID-19

- The Office in partnership with the ITC- Turin developed a distance-learning module on SME survival strategies, which is an on-line tool that trainers or BDS providers can use to support small enterprises during the present COVID-19 crisis.
- Publication of a database of social economy enterprises was shared with Government to facilitate its efforts at ensuring that services and COVID-19 relief packages reach people, particularly in rural and hard to reach areas. Drawing from the ILO Social Economy Policy Development Cooperation project.

Support to the National Department of Trade Industry and Competition as secretariat of the inter-ministerial task team to coordinate the government response to the COVID-19 crisis. Advisory support also directed on procurement from the social economy.

- Technical assistance through the EPWP project towards the development of COVID guidelines for Public Works programmes.
- Support towards the development of an on-line platform for COVID-19 virtual responses for public works programmes targeting EPWP beneficiaries – in particular EPWP project and programme managers, youth, women and persons with disability.
- Development of a briefing note to Government for the infrastructure led COVID-19 recovery programme.
- E-learning platform for Employment Intensive Investment Programmes training upgraded through increased content including COVID-19 response.
- COVID-19 response mainstreamed in public work programmes through the development and dissemination of guidelines on COVID-19 prevention.
- The EPWP project provided assistance to the Provincial Department of Public Works in the development of a business plan for 39 quarantined places in Limpopo.
- The Office has contributed resources towards a joint UN initiative for the production and airing of both Radio and TV Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The Office also provided support to the Employers Organization (Business Unity South Africa) towards designing a tool with infographics for “Workplace Readiness Guidelines” for employers.
- The ILO collaborated with the Institute of Economic Justice to conduct a rapid impact assessment of the Covid-19 pandemic on the South African labour market and economy (published [here](#)).
- The ILO is supporting the Department for Employment and Labour (DEL) in the formulation of a National Employment Policy. A Situational Analysis has been developed which takes into account the impacts of COVID-19, and the policy is expected to strongly focus on measures towards recovering from the employment losses resulting from the crisis.
- The office supported Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) with various enterprise tools such as the Guidelines for Enterprises, Business Continuity Plan, and Policy Statements on the impact of COVID-19 on business, and an online survey tool for the collection of data on the impact of COVID-19, which can be used by the membership of BUSA.
- The Office facilitated the participation of an estimated 600 South African based individuals including employers and workers’ representatives, academia, media, OSH Inspectorate officials from Labour, Health and Mines, local authority officials, researchers and OSH professionals in a series of on-line courses hosted by the ILO-AUDA-NEPAD. The on-line courses were administered from 18th – 28th May 2020. The online courses sought to enhance the capacity of OSH professionals and practitioners to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in workplace and covered a number of topics. These topics included the following; Setting up COVID-19 coordination team and work streams, Epidemiology and management of COVID-19 in the workplace, Return to work post COVID-19 illness & lock-down, Implications of COVID-19 in the workplace, as well as COVID-19 Health Risk Assessment and workplace control measures.
- ILO is supporting the Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) and the Compensation Fund (CF) in developing guidelines to enhance mitigation of COVID-19 in different sectors as well as prevention and recording of COVID-19 exposure incidents in teleworking arrangement. Consultations meetings have been held in this regard.
- The Office undertook an Impact assessment of the COVID-19 pandemic on labour migration and migrants in the SADC region. One of the key objectives of the impact assessment was to identify the socio-economic challenges brought about by the pandemic to migrant workers in the SADC. The findings of the study will hold policy implications for the South African National Labour Migration Policy that is under formulation.
- As part of the efforts at supporting Government and the Social Partners to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ILO is working with the national partners to support the installation of wash stations in at least 10 COVID-19 high-risk communities and informal markets in South Africa.
- ILO supported 750 migrant domestic workers through an on-going cash pilot transfer program in South Africa **(still on-going)**

- The ILO commissioned a study to examine the feasibility of a basic income grant in South Africa. This study was undertaken to assist the National Department of Social Development in identifying feasible options to cover the social protection gap in South Africa where many unemployed South Africans between the ages and 59 years do not benefit from social assistance programmes. The social protection gap has been cruelly exposed by the CoViD-19 pandemic.
- Support towards developing a scenario modelling for green economic recovery post COVID.
- The ILO Office mobilized resources to support Government and Social Partners' efforts at mitigating the health and socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 on enterprises and workers in the informal economy, and medium and long term transitioning to formalization.