

COVID-19 and ENTERPRISES

Briefing Note [No. 4]

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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

[Business and Human Rights Resources Centre - Government & business response](#) | **Last updated 25 March 2020**

This webpage of the Business and Human Rights Resources Centre features the latest actions by governments and business to cope with this global emergency and safeguard workers around the world.

[WEBINAR: Path to Recovery for Travel Businesses – United We Can](#) | **26 March 2020 from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM CET**

HospitalityUnited.Club, a consortium of travel technology companies, will be hosting a webinar to look at how businesses can respond to and recover from the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak and prepare for recovery. The webinar will bring together industry leaders to discuss the evolving business landscape and explore new ways of doing business.

2. Government support to enterprises

[ILO - COVID-19: Social protection systems failing vulnerable groups](#) | **25 March 2020**

Governments must use the momentum created by the COVID-19 pandemic to make rapid progress toward collectively financed, comprehensive, and permanent social-protection systems.

[Companies to receive 3-month extension period to file accounts during COVID-19 \(UK\)](#) | **25 March 2020**

Businesses in the UK will be given an additional 3 months to file accounts with Companies House to help companies avoid penalties as they deal with the impact of COVID-19.

Coronavirus COVID-19 : chefs d'entreprise, le ministère de l'Economie est à vos côtés | 25 March 2020

Face à l'épidémie du Coronavirus Covid-19, le Gouvernement français met en place des 9 mesures immédiates de soutien aux entreprises. Une cellule de continuité économique a été activée pour mieux gérer l'impact sur l'économie à travers une prise quotidienne de décisions.

France announces \$4.3B plan to support startups | 25 March 2020

France's Ministry of State for Digital Affairs Cédric O and public investment bank Bpifrance announced a comprehensive support plan for startups this morning. Some French startups are going to face revenue issues as well as funding issues in the coming months. The French government wants to temporarily bridge that gap with refinancing and liquidity measures — overall it represents \$4.3 billion (€4 billion).

US Senate leaders reach deal with White House on \$2tn coronavirus package | 25 March 2020

The bill would provide up to \$1,200 in direct relief for American adults, create a \$500bn lending program for businesses, cities and states and \$367bn fund for small businesses. The plan also provides \$130bn to hospitals, and expands unemployment insurance.

Fed's Bullard calls for three-month work break to fight pandemic | 23 March 2020

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis President James Bullard said that the U.S. should declare the equivalent of a three-month break for nonessential businesses to fight the spread of the coronavirus.

COVID-19: New Zealand warns subsidized businesses | 25 March 2020

As New Zealand moves towards a nation-wide four-week lockdown from Wednesday mid-night triggered by coronavirus pandemic, local authorities warned businesses which received wage subsidy and still fired employees, the local media reported on Wednesday.

Jokowi relaxes loan settlements to help small businesses cope with COVID-19 effects | Indonesia 25 March 2020

The Financial Services Authority (OJK) will extend loan payment deadlines for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) for up to one year to help them cope with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coronavirus: Kenya president, top officials take pay cut, taxes reviewed | 25 March 2020

The impact on gatherings is an area that most African governments have moved to control. A number of business conferences were cancelled on account of the pandemic. A number of governments have also declared State of Emergencies. This piece highlights the impact on businesses and some measures that have been undertaken in Africa so far.

3. Enterprises response

Internal management

The coronavirus crisis thrusts corporate HR chiefs into the spotlight | 24 March 2020

When the financial crisis rocked the business world in 2007-09, boardrooms turned to corporate finance chiefs. The covid-19 pandemic presents a different challenge. Never before have more firms needed a hard-headed HR boss. This article highlights responses by several companies' HR leaders in the crisis.

Supply chain stabilization

How the Swiss food supply chain is coping with Covid-19 | 25 March 2020

As people began panic-buying in Switzerland, the food retail industry is finding ways to meet people's demand, measures have been taken: doubling the pallet loads, increasing Sunday and night-time trucking and (un)loading and providing low-price groceries to people living under the poverty line.

Support to customers and communities

[MTN removes tariffs on MoMo transfers in Uganda and Cameroon](#) | 20 March 2020

In Uganda and Cameroon, telecom giant, MTN is waiving costs on transfers done with its mobile money platform. MTN is tweaking these tariffs with the aim of reducing contact with cash amid the coronavirus pandemic.

[France launches marketplace to manage essential products against COVID-19](#) | 25 March 2020

French startup Mirakl usually works with e-commerce websites in order to help them build out a marketplace with third-party sellers. This time, the company has developed a marketplace called [StopCOVID19.fr](#) to centralize the supply and demand of essential products during the fight against COVID-19. The French government is backing the project.

Other responses

[GMAC appeals to stakeholders to join hands to tackle manufacturing woes caused by Coronavirus](#) | 25 March 2020

The Garment Manufacturers Association in Cambodia (GMAC) has called for collaboration from all stakeholders in facing the critical situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Big tech could emerge from coronavirus crisis stronger than ever](#) | 23 March 2020

Amazon is hiring aggressively to meet customer demand. Traffic has soared on Facebook and YouTube. And cloud computing has become essential to home workers.

[13 entrepreneurs of colour share how covid-19 has impacted their business](#) | 22 March 2020

One of the most at-risk populations feeling the effects of COVID-19 are business owners—and for business owners of color, the challenges may be even more overwhelming. In this article, 13 business owners of color shared how COVID-19

has positively and negatively impacted their business thus far and what can be done to help their businesses thrive.

[How small business owners are coping with COVID-19 pandemic: 'It was my civic duty to be a part of the solution'](#) | **23 March 2020** Small businesses across America are already feeling the financial crunch from coronavirus restrictions that have millions of people taking refuge from the virus outbreak by staying at home and avoiding unnecessary shopping trips. One analyst predicted that the disruption to businesses from coronavirus could lead to 15,000 permanent retail store closures in 2020, with the [Economic Policy Institute](#) predicting that the disease outbreak could potentially wipe out three million jobs from the U.S. economy before this summer.