

COVID-19 and ENTERPRISES

Briefing Note [No. 5]

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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

[IOE business response Covid-19 platform](#)

IOE is mobilising its network to provide information on business and employer organisations' efforts to support members with safety and health measures, preventive actions to minimise disruption to productivity, strategies for mitigation of financial losses, and overview of government initiatives to reduce economic stress on business. You will get useful information, in particular on the [digital conferences](#).

[McKinsey - Coronavirus: Leading through the crisis](#)

McKinsey's portal provides a number of useful resources on how organizations can respond, and what can happen next and is frequently updated. Its [Executive Briefing on COVID-19: Implications for business](#) was updated on 25 March focusing on five sections: the current COVID-19 situation; scenarios and path forward; sector-specific impact; planning and managing COVID-19 responses; and leading indicator dashboard.

[Eurofound's topic portal of COVID-19](#)

This page lists key resources on the impact of COVID-19 on employment in Europe. Latest articles include a [blog post from Eurofound's Executive Director](#); and an article on [sick pay void for platform workers](#). A report that will focus on evaluating employment effects and looking at measures implemented to limit negative effects in Europe is forthcoming.

[Impact investing and philanthropy responses to COVID-19](#)

This page by Mission Investors Exchange features resources, synthesis, and opportunities to help those in need related to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. It includes a [searchable database](#) of investment and grant funds available for COVID-19 responses.

[WEBINAR: Collaboration for Healthier Lives - How the CHL team in China worked together during the Covid-19 crisis](#) | 31 March 2020 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CEST

The Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) is launching a [series of webinars](#) on Covid-19 and actions being taken by its members across several key business areas and geographies. The first edition provides an opportunity to learn from the Collaboration for Healthier Lives team in China on how they worked together to support employees, customers and operations (both in store and online) during the Covid-19 crisis. Speakers from: Carrefour; Nestlé; and Alibaba/Freshippo.

2. Government support to enterprises

OECD - Supporting people and companies to deal with the Covid-19 virus | 20 March 2020

This note and the accompanying [overview table of countries' policy responses](#) contribute to evidence-sharing on the role and effectiveness of various policy tools. The table is being continuously updated.

Trinidad and Tobago - COVID-19 Social Assistance

To mitigate the financial challenges experienced by persons who were Retrenched, Terminated or experienced Reduced Income as a result of the COVID-19, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development (MOLSED), have put in place varied measures to support affected persons who are citizens or permanent residents of Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry of Finance released [financial and economic support measures](#).

Jamaica - Fiscal Stimulus Response to the COVID-19

The Government of Jamaica announced a \$25 billion stimulus, the largest fiscal stimulus in the country's history. The options include waives and deferral of taxes; deferral of principal payments; new lines of credit; temporary cash transfer for businesses to keep workers. The government is finalizing the details.

3. Enterprises response

Workplace safety and working conditions

[Kairouan – coronavirus : 150 ouvrières se confinent au sein de leur usine pour continuer à travailler](#) | 21 March 2020

Consomed, une société basée à Kairouan et spécialisée dans la conception, la fabrication et la distribution des produits médicaux à usage unique destinés essentiellement aux établissements de santé. Dans ce contexte très particulier, quelques 150 ouvrières de ladite société ont décidé de se confiner au sein-même de l'usine afin que la production ne s'arrête pas. Ces ouvrières seront confinées durant quinze jours a confirmé à Webdo, Mr Hamza Alouini, directeur de l'usine Consomed.

Employee protection

[Unilever contributes more than €100m to continue helping people affected around the world](#) | 24 March 2020

The consumer goods manufacturer of brands including Dove, Knorr, Omo and Lifebuoy, announced a wide-ranging set of support measures including: donations of soap, sanitiser, bleach and food (€100m); cash flow relief to support livelihoods across its extended value chain including SMEs (€500m); and protection of workforce (employees, contractors and others) from sudden drops in pay, as a result of market disruption or being unable to perform their role, for up to three months.

[Aldi and McDonald's make staff-sharing deal in Germany](#) | 23 March 2020

Aldi has signed a personnel partnership with McDonald's Germany, which will allow employees of the burger chain to take up temporary positions with the discounter in Germany. As part of the agreement, McDonald's employees affected by restaurant closings and restricted working hours due to the coronavirus crisis will be referred to Aldi and hired as required.

[UK's Sainsbury's to assist smaller suppliers during coronavirus pandemic](#) |

25 March 2020

Sainsbury's, Britain's second largest supermarket group will help its smaller suppliers during the coronavirus emergency by paying them immediately and making finance available to increase production volumes. It will pay nearly 1,500 suppliers who have less than 100,000 pounds (\$119,450) annual turnover with it immediately.

[BBC News suspends 450 job cuts to ensure Covid-19 coverage](#) | **25 March 2020**

BBC News has suspended plans to cut 450 jobs as it faces the demands of covering the coronavirus pandemic. The job losses were announced in January and were part of a plan to complete a £80m savings target by 2022.

Production innovation and adaptation

[Dyson is building 15,000 ventilators to fight COVID-19](#) | **25 March 2020**

As the world faces ventilator shortages in the growing COVID-19 pandemic, Dyson—the U.K. company known best for making vacuums, air purifiers, and hair dryers—designed and built a new ventilator in 10 days in coordination with [The Technology Partnership](#) (TTP). Dubbed CoVent, it's a bed-mounted, portable ventilator that can run from battery power in field-hospital conditions.

[Tesla CEO Elon Musk: New York gigafactory will reopen for ventilator production](#) | **25 March 2020**

New York has been hit particularly hard by the coronavirus, with 285 deaths and more than 30,000 cases. The company's factory in Buffalo, New York will open "as soon as humanly possible" to produce ventilators.

Support to customers and communities

[Orange Tunisie offre la connexion Internet gratuitement aux étudiants de l'université virtuelle](#) | **23 March 2020**

Suite à l'annonce du confinement général décrété par le Président de la République en réponse à la crise COVID- 19, le Ministère des Technologies de la Communication et de l'Economie Numérique a demandé aux trois opérateurs d'offrir gratuitement la connexion internet sur leurs réseaux mobile, pour la continuité des cours en ligne des étudiants de l'université virtuelle de Tunis.

Italian retail cooperatives collaborates with governments for free delivery of groceries | 20 March 2020

The National Association of Consumer Cooperatives (ANCC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Association of Italian Municipalities (ANCI) and the Department of Civil Protection to provide free home delivery services of groceries for people who can not go shopping by themselves (e.g. the elderly, people at high risk, workers engaged in emergency services). Migros, Swiss consumer cooperative, also [starts a free home delivery service](#) for people at high risk in cooperation with Pro Senectute, an association for the elderly. Coop Denmark is teaming up with the Danish Red Cross to [connect volunteers](#) and those in need of help.

Mondelēz to support communities during COVID-19 crisis | 23 March 2020

Mondelēz International, Inc. today announced it will donate \$15 million in financial and in-kind support to community partners advancing critical food stability and emergency relief efforts across the world in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

4. Other noteworthy resources

More than 3m Americans file for jobless benefits as lockdowns hit US labour market | 26 March 2020

According to Department of labour data, nearly 3.3 million people filed a claim for unemployment benefits last week in the US, as the coronavirus pandemic shut down businesses, cities and entire states. That is a jump from 282,000 in

the previous week and nearly five times more than the previous record of 695,000 set in 1982.

World Economic Forum - How responsible businesses can step forward to fight coronavirus | 20 March 2020

Governments, central banks and the WHO will not defeat coronavirus alone; the private sector must play a key role. As companies respond to COVID-19, business leaders who back moral statements with practical action will stand out. Protecting employees and redeploying their unique capabilities to meet society's immediate needs could build more loyal workforces and public good will while helping to fight a global crisis.