

COVID-19 and ENTERPRISES

Briefing Note [No. 18]

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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 - Impact of lockdown measures on the informal economy](#) | 5 May 2020

This brief provides data and analysis that complete what appears in the third ILO Monitor note on the impact of lockdown measures on the informal economy, including on labour income and poverty. It includes data specific to the regions.

[ILO - Rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on enterprises and workers in the informal economy in developing and emerging countries](#) | 30 April 2020

Identifying the needs and priorities of the groups in the informal economy that are the most vulnerable to the COVID-19 crisis is essential to develop adequate policy responses. These guidelines provide a step by step approach to get this knowledge quickly by using methods of collecting information remotely, without interpersonal contact. It is a living methodology that will be improved and enriched on a constant basis.

[OECD 2020 Virtual Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct](#) | 19 May and 17 June 2020

This year's Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct (GFRBC) will be held virtually in two parts: 1) 19 May 2020: RBC and COVID-19: This event will focus on how governments and businesses can use an RBC approach to address the COVID-19 crisis and build more resilient supply chains. 2) 17 June 2020: Access to Remedy.

[EURADA - Economic responses to COVID-19](#) | as of 13 May 2020

The European Association of Development Agencies (EURADA)'s page on the best practices and outstanding measures carried out by Development Agencies around Europe. Most of the European Regional Development Agencies have implemented urgent measures to provide an economic response following the outbreak of COVID-19. This compilation is an inspiration for regional economic development practitioners that are designing effective support measures.

Webinar de International SOS : « préparer la reprise des activités au sein de votre organisation » | 22 April 2020

Ce webinar enregistré le 22 Avril 2020, tente de répondre à l'épineuse question de l'organisation de la reprise des activités au sein des organisations. Fondé en 1985 et présent dans plus de 70 pays, International SOS est une société privée leader proposant des solutions médicales, de sécurité, d'accès aux soins et d'intervention aux entreprises actives à l'international. Le Dr. Philippe Guibert et Madame Cécile Caplin discutent de la complexité des risques et des réponses à donner. Le webinar couvre un éventail de sujets allant des enjeux sécuritaires internationaux à la santé mentale des travailleurs en entreprise.

2. Government response for enterprises

ILO portal on the country policy responses

This ILO portal is being frequently updated to provide recent updates on the measures implemented by governments, employers' and workers' organizations, and the ILO by country and territory.

OECD - Start-ups in the time of COVID-19: Facing the challenges, seizing the opportunities | 13 May 2020

This brief sets out challenges and opportunities for start-ups during COVID-19 and some policy measures focused on supporting start-ups. It suggests that policy interventions should tackle short-term challenges, supporting short-term liquidity and availability of funding, and foster the ability of start-ups to grasp new business opportunities that may arise during and after the pandemics. In the longer-term, policies that reduce barriers to entrepreneurship, provide incentives for start-ups, and boost entrepreneurial potential could help limit the detrimental employment and innovation effects of a missing generation of new firms and help speed up the recovery.

UNCTAD Policy Brief - The need to protect science, technology and innovation funding during and after the COVID-19 crisis | 11 May 2020

UNCTAD makes a case for protecting science, technology and innovation (STI) budgets during the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath, through these four policy measures: 1) During the crisis, support R&D activities as part of emergency measures and recovery packages; 2) After the crisis, revisit and strengthen the budgetary commitments to support R&D; 3) Support a systems approach to policymaking that includes natural sciences, engineering and social sciences; and 4) Ensure international cooperation and coordinated policy responses.

WAIPA - The impact of COVID-19 from the perspective of IPAs | 7 May 2020

Due to the close relationship with their respective governments and profound knowledge of local businesses and markets, Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) can play an important role in alleviating the impact of COVID-19 on their local economy by providing support to the existing businesses. This paper was prepared by the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA) from survey data collected in the first week of April and benefited from peer review. It includes examples of IPAs responses to COVID-19.

South Africa - COVID-19 loan guarantee scheme opens | 12 May 2020

The Covid-19 loan guarantee scheme announced by President Ramaphosa in April will operate from today, 12 May 2020. The initial set of participating banks (Absa, First National Bank, Investec, Mercantile Bank, Nedbank and Standard Bank) are ready to accept loan applications from distressed businesses which bank with them.

Après l'épidémie de coronavirus, un «plan Marshall» pour le tourisme français | 13 May 2020

Pour soutenir le secteur du tourisme durement touché par la crise du coronavirus, le gouvernement français met en place un « plan Marshall » d'investissements. Il doit être validé, jeudi 14 mai 2020, par un comité interministériel.

Malawi commercial banks agree new regulations | 10 April 2020

Commercial banks in the country have suspended interest and principal payments for bank loans for the next three months. The banks, through the umbrella body, Bankers Association of Malawi (BAM), have also reduced by 40 percent all fees and charges on internet banking mobile payments and other related services. Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM) Governor Dalitso Kabambe and BAM Second Vice President Zandile Shaba have announced the new measures in Lilongwe, in line with recent directives by President Professor Mutharika to cushion Malawians from the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

Japan to replenish firms' capital with subordinated loans | 14 May 2020

The Japanese government is considering replenishing capital of businesses hit hard by the new coronavirus pandemic through subordinated loans and preferred shares, sources close to the matter said Thursday. The plan will be included in a new stimulus package to ease the impact of the virus that will be financed by a second supplementary budget for fiscal 2020.

Perú - Trabajadores que ganen hasta S/2.400 recibirán el pago de su CTS hasta este viernes | 13 May 2020

Aquellos trabajadores que tengan una remuneración mensual de hasta S/2.400 así como los que hayan sido comprendidos en la suspensión perfecta de labores recibirán este viernes 15 de mayo sus depósitos por Compensación por Tiempo de Servicios (CTS), recordó la Cámara de Comercio de Lima (CCL).

Peru - ¡Ojo, trabajadores! Tendrán facilidades para atender familiares con covid-19 | 12 May 2020

Los empleadores del sector público y privado están obligados a otorgar facilidades a los trabajadores que tengan un familiar directo con diagnóstico o sospecha de coronavirus covid-19 y que no se encuentre hospitalizado. Así lo dispone el Poder Ejecutivo en el capítulo V del Decreto Legislativo 1499, publicado el domingo 10 de mayo en el diario oficial El Peruano con las firmas del presidente Martín Vizcarra, el titular de la PCM y la ministra de Trabajo, Silvia Caceres.

3. Enterprises response

Workplace safety and working conditions

US - Twitter will let some employees work from home 'forever' | 12 May 2020

Twitter will allow some of its workforce to continue working from home "forever" if they choose. The decision reflects how some measures implemented to deal with the pandemic could lead to a new normal for corporate America, even after the immediate health crisis.

India - Training to fight COVID-19 leads tribal women in Gujarat to digital inclusion | 12 May 2020

Megha Mandali, a cooperative of 1,000 tribal women farmers in Tapi district in southern Gujarat and a member of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Cooperative Foundation, has been spreading awareness about COVID-19 among tribal women who are first time mobile users, through WhatsApp. Megha Mandali works in the agricultural sector and provides training in organic farming and methods of sustainable agriculture.

France - Déconfinement, "la grande majorité des entreprises sont prêtes à accueillir les salariés" | 10 May 2020

Geoffroy Roux de Bézieux, dirigeant d'entreprise et président du MEDEF (principal syndicat d'employeurs français) était l'invité du journal de 20 heures du 10 mai 2020. À la veille du « déconfinement » en France, Il a rassuré sur la capacité de « la très grande majorité » des entreprises françaises à reprendre leurs activités dans des conditions sanitaires idoines. Il évoque aussi les efforts à consentir et la nécessité de soutenir la demande pour faire repartir la machine.

Perú - Alrededor de 1 millón de trabajadores con obesidad no podrán regresar a sus empleos por la COVID-19 | 7 May 2020

En el Perú existen 1 millón 200 mil trabajadores con obesidad. Así lo afirma

Ricardo Márquez, presidente de la Sociedad Nacional de industrias, quien también manifiesta preocupación por las restricciones elaboradas por el Ministerio de Salud ante el regreso paulatino de la actividad laboral dentro del brote de la COVID-19. A través de una resolución ministerial, que lleva el visto bueno del ministro de salud, Víctor Zamora, se indica que no podrán regresar a sus trabajos aquellas personas que tengan el índice de masa corporal mayor a 30, es decir resulten con obesidad. Tampoco podrán hacerlo aquellos mayores de 60 años, entre otras restricciones.

Internal operation management

Credit Suisse a absorbé l'impact du coronavirus sans peine | 23 April 2020

Publié dans le quotidien Bilan, cet article traite de la très bonne performance de Credit Suisse durant le premier trimestre 2020 malgré la crise sanitaire. Alors que la banque a objectivement surpassé les attentes, elle se montre aussi optimiste quant aux mois à venir. La gestion de crise passera nécessairement par la gestion des réserves et le maintien des provisions opportunes. Le Crédit Suisse fait partie du groupe des Bulges Bracket (BB) comprenant les banques d'investissement les plus importantes pour le système financier mondial.

Suisse - le Groupe Mutuel se dit armé financièrement face au Covid-19 | 11 May 2020

Alors que la compagnie d'assurance suisse s'attend à une année 2020 financièrement difficile à cause du Covid-19, son directeur général Thomas Boyer a tenu à rassurer quant à la solidité du Groupe Mutuel. Il met en exergue le rôle des réserves accumulées afin de faire face à des événements exceptionnels. En plus de l'évidente hausse des coûts liés aux dépistages et aux traitements, la baisse des revenus des placements jouera un rôle important. Le Groupe Mutuel est une des principales compagnies d'assurance maladie de Suisse.

Supply chain stabilization

[McKinsey - How to use the crisis to make fashion sourcing more agile and sustainable](#) | 6 May 2020

McKinsey & Company has published a new report "Time for change: how to use the crisis to make fashion sourcing more agile and sustainable" which is based on a survey with 116 sourcing executives revealing immediate responses to the crisis and detailing strategies to reshape sourcing for a demand-driven, sustainable future.

[Coop Denmark will increase sales of Danish goods by 5 billion kroner in line with consumer-members' demands](#) | 28 April 2020

During the coronavirus sanitary crisis, Coop Denmark asked its consumer-members where to start back again after the emergency. One clear message regards the need to source more Danish food and this is why Coop Denmark has decided to invest 5 million Danish kroner in stepping up efforts on this topic.

Production innovation and adaptation

[China - Vanke charts new path with hog breeding](#) | 13 May 2020

A Chinese property giant's decision to try its hand at hog raising has led to in-depth discussions about the major move, especially as the coronavirus outbreak continues to come under control. China Vanke Co Ltd announced a plan to recruit managers and professionals for its hog farms in Guangdong province, thus revealing its foray into the agricultural sector. The real estate group also recently announced the establishment of a new food supply business unit in March. Following quarantine measures, people have had to rely on nearby stores or online channels for grocery purchase during the height of the pandemic, causing sales of many food e-commerce providers to soar. In comparison, the property sector has been hit hard during the pandemic. In the first quarter, home transaction volume in China declined by almost 24.7 percent year-on-year, said the National Bureau of Statistics.

India - MIT, Stanford to make a billion masks with women's self-help groups | 12 May 2020

Innovators at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and medical professionals at Stanford University School of Medicine in association with the Hyderabad-based healthcare start-up, Parisodhana Technologies, is planning to make over a billion, breathing, cotton, social masks for healthcare professionals and the general public in India. The initiative will involve hundreds of women's self-help groups (SHGs) across the country. The initial mandate is to make 5,000 masks for healthcare workers and 50,000 masks for ordinary people a day. The team has also roped in several social ventures such as Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Ahmedabad, SELCO Foundation India, a social enterprise based in Bengaluru and EKAM Foundation.

Algeria producing virus test kits with 15 minutes detection time - govt | 13 May 2020

In Algeria, the government has announced that rapid test kits are being produced. A laboratory in the capital Algiers produces kits which can return results in fifteen minutes. The outfit has a production capacity of 200,000 units per week. The production company is operating with support from two foreign firms – one Jordanian and the other, Canadian.

Coop Italy offers in the Lombardy region a telemedicine service at special prices for members | 6 May 2020

In the Lombardy region Coop Italy offers to its members the possibility to access healthcare via a telemedicine service at special prices. The initiative has been recently developed by the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan.

Economía y coronavirus: 7 emprendimientos de Latinoamérica que se reinventaron en medio de la pandemia y están prosperando | 8 May 2020

La aplastante realidad de la pandemia del coronavirus, con sus estrepitosas consecuencias económicas, ha llevado a muchos negocios a cerrar o, en el mejor de los casos, a replantearse su estructura. Los gobiernos de algunos países de Latinoamérica han empezado a anunciar medidas de auxilio para las

pequeñas y medianas empresas (pymes) en medio de cuarentenas y de una paralización de la actividad. El panorama es desolador: la proyección es que la economía de la región, incluido el Caribe, se contraerá un 5,2%, según estima el Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI). En BBC Mundo reunimos las historias de 7 pymes en diferentes países de Latinoamérica que, forzados por la pandemia, se reinventaron y han logrado no solo sobrevivir, sino crecer.

Togo - L'aéroport de Lomé est fermé, mais pas inactif | 4 May 2020

Le directeur général de la société aéroportuaire confirme que le trafic fret a bondi depuis le 20 mars. Les gros porteurs cargo qui se posent chaque jour ont dans leurs soutes des tonnes d'équipements médicaux destinés à lutter contre le coronavirus. Tout n'est pas destiné au Togo, mais aussi aux pays de la région. De nombreuses rotations fret sont assurées par Ethiopian Airlines depuis Addis Abeba, devenu un hub entre la Chine et l'Afrique. Pour pallier à la baisse du trafic, cette compagnie a transformé des appareils commerciaux (Dreamliner, 737 ...) en avions 100% cargo.

Support to customers and communities

U.S. Nonprofit Nest launches PPE Purchasing Initiative with inaugural funders to help employ artisan businesses | 29 April 2020

An inaugural group of funders, led by long-term Nest supporter, Qurate Retail Group, and joined by key partners, Etsy, Target, Amazon, Mastercard, The Winn Family Foundation and The Cordes Foundation, are lifting Nest's COVID-19 response off the ground to fund artisan and maker businesses as they shift from fashion and home goods to PPE for frontline workers and vulnerable populations.

Nestle announces 3.4 mln USD COVID-19 relief in central, west Africa | 4 May 2020

Swiss-based international food giant Nestle announced that it is supporting more than 850,000 vulnerable people in central and west Africa as part of a 3.4 million U.S. dollars effort to help countries in the region fight COVID-19.

Recovery and post-recovery planning

[New tech infrastructure will help economies recover after COVID-19](#) | 12

May 2020

New internet infrastructure was critical in supporting retail supply chains during quarantine. Smart supply chain and smart logistics will become indispensable to a functioning economy in the future. Companies can seize the opportunity offered by new infrastructure by being flexible and open-minded.

[Boston Consulting Group, Sustainable Apparel Coalition \(SAC\), Higg Co - Rebuilding a more sustainable fashion industry after COVID-19](#) | 30 April

2020

Today, business decision makers and sustainability professionals need practical and actionable guidance to avoid backsliding on progress and to actively prepare for a changing industry: 1) Protect critical assets to survive the economic crisis; 2) Solve immediate inventory challenges in partnership with suppliers; 3) Integrate sustainability throughout business recovery strategies; 4) Accelerate transparency while increasing sustainability ambitions.

4. Workers/multi-stakeholders response

[Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability on how to ensure businesses' response to Covid-19 respects workers' rights](#) | 14 May 2020

The Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability (UCCA) commends the government for acting swiftly and putting in place measures to respond to the coronavirus pandemic. UCCA re-emphasise the government's obligation to protect and ensure that companies respect human rights, including labour rights during the Covid-19 pandemic.