

COVID-19 and ENTERPRISES

Briefing Note [No. 22]

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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 - Grasp the silver lining of the COVID-19 pandemic](#) | 5 June 2020

This blog highlights how COVID-19 has prompted enterprises and communities to adopt environmentally sustainable practices and reflects on the need for a sustainable COVID-19 recovery building on these positive changes.

[UNESCAP - A post COVID-19 green deal for the garment sector in Asia?](#) | 3 June 2020

In this blog, an ILO specialist and a research director at the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney state while the impact of COVID-19 on the textile and garment supply chain is immense and may be permanent, the crisis offers a chance for transforming the sector to become more environmentally and socially sustainable.

[UN Global Compact - Impact of COVID-19 on Sustainability](#) | 9 June 2020

UNGC launched eight issue briefs on the impact of COVID-19 on corporate sustainability. The issue brief on decent work highlights a number of ILO tools and resources including the ILO Helpdesk for Business and policy briefs on restructuring for recovery and resilience and on interventions to support enterprises. These pages will be updated on a monthly basis.

[OECD - Global economy faces a tightrope walk to recovery](#) | 10 June 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic has triggered the most severe recession in nearly a century and is causing enormous damage to people's health, jobs and well-being, according to the OECD's latest Economic Outlook. Even if a second wave of infections is avoided, it expects the global output to fall by 6% in 2020. The recovery will take a long time to bring output back to pre-pandemic levels, and the crisis will leave long-lasting scars - a fall in living standards, high unemployment and weak investment. Job losses in the most affected sectors, such as tourism, hospitality and entertainment, will particularly hit low-skilled, young, and informal workers.

OECD - Building Back Better: A Sustainable, Resilient Recovery after COVID-19 | 5 June 2020

This policy brief examines how government stimulus packages can create a recovery that “builds back better”, i.e. not only getting economies and livelihoods back on their feet quickly, but also safeguarding prosperity for the longer term. This means triggering investments and societal changes that will both reduce the likelihood of future shocks and improve our resilience to those shocks when they do occur, whether from disease or environmental degradation. At the heart of this approach is the transition to more inclusive, more resilient societies with net-zero GHG emissions and much reduced impacts on nature.

OECD - Supporting businesses in financial distress to avoid insolvency during the COVID-19 crisis | 27 May 2020

In order to mitigate liquidity shortages and avoid unnecessary bankruptcies that may follow from the COVID-19 pandemic, national authorities can adopt a range of temporary measures. This policy note provides an overview of such measures that individually or in combination may be used to bridge the financing gap for the corporate sector and make sure that productive capacity is maintained to support the recovery.

OECD - Tourism Policy Responses to the coronavirus | 2 June 2020

The tourism economy has been heavily hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures. Depending on the duration of the crisis, revised scenarios indicate that the potential shock could range between a 60-80% decline in the international tourism economy in 2020. Beyond immediate measures to support the tourism sector, countries are also shifting to develop recovery measures. These include considerations on lifting travel restrictions, restoring traveller confidence and rethinking the tourism sector for the future.

OECD - Fisheries, aquaculture and COVID-19: Issues and policy responses | 4 June 2020

This policy brief examines the impact of the pandemic on global fisheries and

aquaculture and how government policies can alleviate hardship while contributing to sustainable use of resources and ecosystems.

[Sedex Insights Report - COVID-19 impacts on businesses](#) | 27 May 2020

In this report, Sedex has analysed feedback from 3,346 businesses, located across 118 countries to understand the impacts COVID-19 is having on businesses and their supply chain. The key findings include: 1) 99% of respondents are taking actions to protect the health and safety of their workforce during the pandemic; 2) disruption to supply chains and inability to get input or raw materials is the most commonly reported challenge; 3) 37% of businesses have a surplus of workers; and 4) over half of suppliers state that their customers are taking supportive action. Report contains recommendations for how businesses can take action to respond to COVID-19 and its challenges.

Events and webinars

[ILO virtual debate - COVID-19 and Child Labour: Looking forward in times of crisis](#) | 12 June 2020, 16:30-17:45 (CEST)

On the occasion of the World Day Against Child Labour, the ILO will organize a high-level virtual debate on the importance of protecting children from child labour in COVID-19 response and recovery plans. Speakers will include ILO DG, UNICEF Executive Director, FAO DG, Minister of Labour of Costa Rica, IOE Secretary General, and ITUC Secretary General.

[ILO webinar - International Domestic Workers' Day: Making decent work a reality beyond COVID-19](#) | 16 June 2020, 14:30-16:00 (CEST)

Rather than let COVID-19 roll back important gains, please join the ILO in hearing from domestic workers about some of their most urgent needs for protection, and make sure they enjoy decent work now and in the future.

[ILO webinar - WE Check: Impactful, gender-responsive business support for sustainable service providers](#) | 17 June 2020, 16:30 (CEST)

This webinar will introduce the revised Women's Entrepreneurship Self Check (WE Check). WE Check is an institutional self-assessment tool to help BDS providers better target and serve women entrepreneurs as a means to improve their performance and enhance their impact and sustainability.

[ILO Global Summit on COVID-19 and the World of Work: Building a Better Future of Work | 1-9 July 2020](#)

The Global Summit will provide a high-profile platform for the tripartite constituents to address the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in particular to draw on the Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work to contribute to building back better in the post-pandemic recovery. The Summit is organized in two parts: regional events (1-3 July) followed by three global events (7-9 July). All events are scheduled to allow remote participation from all time zones and will be broadcast live with interpretation in several languages. A web platform with information on the Summit will be available shortly.

[Webinar - Vision China to focus on corporate response to COVID-19 | 12 June 2020](#)

The role that businesses have played in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic will be the focus of the latest Vision China to be broadcast on Friday. Themed "Fighting COVID-19: The Corporate Response", the event will invite corporate executives and experts to share their companies' stories in the fight against COVID-19 and discuss how enterprises can better fulfill their social responsibility in pandemic prevention and control, and economic and social development.

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.

[French government puts jobs and environment first in €15bn aerospace bailout](#) | 9 June 2020

France's government has unveiled a €15 billion financial support programme for the aerospace sector, intended to save jobs and transform smaller businesses while underscoring the need for environmental progress.

[EU grants €314 million to innovative companies to fight the coronavirus and to support the recovery](#) | 8 June 2020

The European Commission has announced that it has awarded 36 companies with nearly €166 million, via the European Innovation Council Accelerator Pilot, will work on pioneering projects: bio-decontamination wipes, developing low-cost mass casualty ventilation monitoring systems, and an antibody platform to treat severe cases of infection. Over €148 million will be granted to another 36 companies set to contribute to the recovery plan for Europe, for example by the development of stronger and taller wind turbine towers made from wood modules.

[China vows more efforts to help foreign trade companies overcome difficulties](#) | 10 June 2020

To stabilize foreign trade and investment, China has introduced a string of measures including financing support and simplified procedures. The government has also increased focus on fostering new trading models such as cross-border e-commerce. The commerce ministry said it would make targeted efforts to support exporters in selling their goods in the domestic market and to expand imports to promote quality development of foreign trade.

[Colombia - Suspensión del contrato de trabajo para gestantes y personas enfermas en el marco del COVID-19](#) | 8 June 2020

La figura de la suspensión del contrato de trabajo utilizada por muchos empleadores para enfrentar las consecuencias del COVID-19 no debe ser aplicada para trabajadores con problemas de salud graves, mujeres en embarazo o en período de lactancia, debido a la protección constitucional que les asiste.

3. Enterprises response

Support to customers and communities

[Alibaba, TikTok, Huawei among other Chinese companies emerging as global donors during COVID-19 pandemic](#) | 09 June 2020

Chinese enterprises and billionaires have been active in philanthropy during the crisis. For example, Huawei technologies Ltd has given medical and communication supplies in more than 20 countries including Spain and Ireland. Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba Group helped to pay for 1,000 ventilators delivered to New York in April. While being of great relief, these donations mark a very interesting change of paradigm in international relations. The author also questions the “struggle for influence” under the “politics of generosity”.

Recovery and post-recovery planning

[Coface Barometer - From a massive shock to a diversified recovery](#) | 8 June 2020

The economists of the Coface group have studied the impact of the pandemic on different sectors for the 2nd quarter of 2020. While almost all sectors have been affected by this unprecedented crisis, their recovery patterns are expected to be different. A statistical study has been carried out in order to classify the

sectors likely to be the most durably affected by the health crisis. Among the resilient sectors, pharmaceuticals and ICT stand out. Automotive and metals are among the most distressed.

World Economic Forum - How will Africa manage the post-COVID economy?

| 8 June 2020

In this article, Dr Martyn Davies, managing director of emerging markets and Africa at Deloitte explores the challenges of the recovery era for African economies. He discusses the “de-globalization” trend and “the digitalization” of the economies as responses to the crisis. “The current crisis will leave lasting scars in a new but challenging world order. How African states respond and adapt in the coming months to these destabilizing forces will have significant implications for their future economies and societies.”

Sénégal - environ 90% des PME impactées par la crise, selon une enquête

10 Juin 2020

Au Sénégal, la COVID-19 a affecté 65% des entreprises. Selon le directeur général de l'Agence de Développement et d'Encadrement des PME (ADEPME), 40% ont cessé leurs activités. Selon la même source, la crise causée par la pandémie de COVID-19 affecte environ 90% des PME sénégalaises. Ces chiffres se basent sur l'étude «Aar Sunu Kom Kom » publiée mardi et diligentée par l'ADEPME. Il est entre autres intéressant de noter que 74% des entreprises affirment ne pas connaître les mesures d'accompagnement prises par le gouvernement et les institutions financières.

Other/multiple response

ICC - World Environment Day: New partnership looks to help SMEs thrive in post-COVID-19 world

| 5 June 2020

On the occasion of World Environment Day, ICC and the Exponential Roadmap Initiative, with the support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), have announced a new partnership – “The SME Exponential Race to Zero”. The partnership will explore the development of a

global platform to help SMEs build business resilience by providing them with concrete climate action support and financial resources necessary to thrive in a post-COVID-19 world.

Could employees on boards make corporate America more COVID-19 resilient? | June 2020

COVID-19 presents an opportunity to re-invent the relationship between workers and corporate America to one that is based in partnership and collaboration. So, it is not surprising that new proposals to include workers on the boards of companies are cropping up - from Elizabeth Warren to Theresa May and in shareholder resolutions presented at corporate shareholder meetings. These efforts are highlighting the desire to have worker considerations more valued within company decision-making.

4. Workers/multi-stakeholders response

World Bank - An inclusive response to COVID-19 for Africa's informal workers | 29 May 2020

This blog introduces how the World Bank Group is helping countries protect the poor and vulnerable populations, support businesses and bolster economic recovery, particularly through the community-driven development (CDD) programmes based on productive partnerships between community groups, civil society, private sector and governments.

What about Africa's small, medium businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic? | 5 June 2020

The article reflects on how the pandemic has been affecting SMEs and informal economy workers, pushing the health and economic questions in parallel. It also contains a quick session of "Questions and answers" with Safia Boly, Minister of Investment Promotion, Small and Medium Enterprises and National Entrepreneurship in Mali; and Dr Rebecca Moeti, WHO Regional Director.