

COVID-19 and ENTERPRISES

Briefing Note [No. 28]

Published: 24 July 2020

Contents

- [1. Resources for enterprise response](#)
- [2. Government response for enterprises](#)
- [3. Enterprises response](#)
- [4. Workers/multi-stakeholders response](#)

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: Jump-start a green recovery with more and better Jobs](#) | 21 July 2020

As governments respond to the COVID19 pandemic, the multiple links between public health and the environment have become evident. Sustaining environmental and health gains can therefore help prevent future pandemics and climate-related crises. The ILO policy brief describing [how to jump-start this green recovery](#) is available now.

[ILO: Building back better: Equality at the centre](#) | 16 July 2020

The crisis starkly demonstrates the relevance of changing the development paradigm in line with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, particularly those relating to inequality. It is urgent to build back better with equality and environmental sustainability. A full global reset with political leadership to agree on a social compact between the public and private sectors, and society to reach universal social protection and create more resilient societies that are equipped to weather social, economic and environmental shocks is needed.

[ILO: Disability inclusion in company responses to COVID-19](#) | 09 July 2020

In May 2020, the ILO Global Business and Disability Network conducted two surveys – one for National Business and Disability Networks (NBDN) and one for those networks' company members – to identify good practices and gaps in responding to the COVID-19 crisis in a disability-inclusive way. In total, 159 companies from 22 countries (representing four regions) participated in the company survey, and 19 national networks participated in the NBDN survey.

[UNDP: Temporary Basic Income to protect the world's poorest people could slow the surge in COVID-19 cases](#) | 22 July 2020

The effect of Covid-19 on socio-economic disparities at global and national levels is worrying. The most vulnerable groups are bearing the brunt of the

economic crisis, among those are informal workers, low-waged, women, refugees, migrants etc.. This report by the United Nations Development Programme pleads for “The immediate introduction of a Temporary Basic Income for the world’s poorest people”; a minimum guaranteed income (cash transfer) above the poverty line for vulnerable people in 132 developing countries. The report states that it is feasible and necessary.

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.

[The EU’s €750bn covid-19 plan is historic—but not quite Hamiltonian](#) | 21 July 2020

The deal struck by the EU’s 27 national leaders has two elements: the regular EU budget, or multiannual financial framework (MFF), worth nearly €1.1trn over seven years; and a €750bn “Next Generation EU” (NGEU) fund to help countries recover from the covid-19 recession. Rows over the second of these explain the summit’s length. First, Europe’s leaders agreed that the European Commission can incur debt at an unprecedented scale. Starting some time in 2021, the NGEU will be funded by borrowing over six years, with bonds at a range of maturities extending to 2058. Second, a total of €390bn will be distributed as grants, and hence will not increase recipient governments’ debt burden. The recovery funds will be distributed to governments using an allocation key based on criteria such as unemployment and income per person.

[France : Chiffres clés de la mise en œuvre des mesures de soutien financier aux entreprises confrontées à l’épidémie de Covid-19](#) | 17 July 2020

Le secteur du commerce, réparation d'automobiles et de motocycles est le secteur le plus fortement mobilisateur des dispositifs de soutien. Les dispositifs se répartissent entre les régions, notamment en fonction de leur poids économique relatif. Les dispositifs couvrent les entreprises de toutes tailles, et 98 % des entreprises bénéficiaires du PGE sont des entreprises avec moins de 50 salariés.

[The Economist: As the economy recovers fiscal policy has to shift](#) | 11 July 2020

As they first battled the pandemic with lockdowns earlier this year, governments in the rich world pumped cash into the economy almost indiscriminately. Output was collapsing and the speed and scale of support rightly trumped any worries about its cost, accuracy or side-effects. Now lockdowns are easing, there are tentative signs of economic recovery (even in places where covid-19 is still raging) and political debate has shifted to whether, when, and how far to pare back these dauntingly expensive emergency fiscal policies.

[Italie : La régularisation à durée déterminée des travailleurs migrants se poursuit](#) | 19 July 2020

L'effort de régularisation temporaire des travailleurs en situation irrégulière se poursuit en Italie. [Lancé en mai](#) pour des raisons sanitaires face à la pandémie mais aussi pour pallier le manque de main-d'œuvre, la mesure concerne essentiellement les travailleurs opérant dans l'agriculture, l'élevage, la pêche et le travail domestique. Les délais de postulation ont désormais été prolongé jusqu'au 15 août. Les [résultats obtenus](#) semblent loin des résultats escomptés pour le gouvernement italien.

3. Enterprises response

Production innovation and adaptation

[Kai-Fu Lee on how covid spurs China's great robotic leap forward](#) | 25 June 2020

The pandemic is accelerating a shift towards people-less companies that will eventually characterise business everywhere.

Recovery and post-recovery planning

[Adam Grant on how jobs, bosses and firms may improve after the crisis](#) | 01 June 2020

A legacy of the coronavirus may be more work satisfaction, more ethical leadership and a deeper sense of trust.

[Article: COVID-19 - a Green Climate Deal Not a Smart Way Out of the Depression](#) | 20 July 2020

The *COVID-19* pandemic represents an unprecedented disruption to the global *economy*. Alongside “digitalization” many have naturally agreed that “green” is now the way to go. In this very critical editorial, Bjorn Lomborg shares his point of view on the matter. Besides generating the debate, the article has the merit of questioning the relevance of such measures in this time of urgency. The controversial author is the president of the Copenhagen Consensus. He is known to challenge mainstream concerns about development and policies.

4. Workers/multi-stakeholders response

[Joint recommendations on safe and healthy workplaces in the Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Plastics and Rubber Industries in times of COVID-19](#) | 17 July 2020

The Social Partners of the Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Plastics and Rubber Industries, industriAll European Trade Union and the European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG), issued joint recommendations on workplace health

and safety in times of COVID-19. The recommendations draw attention both to the guidelines issued by tripartite entities such as EU-OSHA or ILO on the safe return to work and national-level sector recommendations/agreements.

France : « Face à l'urgence écologique et sociale, nous ne pouvons plus nous contenter des vœux pieux des grandes entreprises » | 30 June 2020

Un collectif rassemblant des associations écologistes et des syndicats demande dans une tribune au « Monde » à ce que le soutien de l'Etat à une grande entreprise soit assorti de conditions environnementales et sociales, inscrites dans la loi.

Suisse : la pandémie bénéficie à l'initiative sur les multinationales responsables | 22 July 2020

Depuis 2015, une initiative populaire visant à étendre la responsabilité des multinationales suisse relatif aux conséquences de leur activité et de celles des entreprises qu'elles contrôlent sur les droits de l'homme et de l'environnement tient en haleine le peuple suisse. Selon un sondage récent près d'un tiers des participants a un jugement plus positif sur le texte qu'avant la pandémie. « Cette période d'intenses bouleversements a ébranlé de nombreuses certitudes. C'est une occasion unique pour inclure davantage les droits humains dans la reconstruction » selon l'une des autrices de l'étude. Peut-être qu'une nouvelle ère se dessine.