

COVID-19 and ENTERPRISES

Briefing Note [No. 3]

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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

ENTERPRISES Department

1. Resources for enterprise response

[Webinar: Business and COVID-19: Business Fights Poverty Briefing with McKinsey and UNDP](#)

This live webinar with McKinsey, UNDP and the Connecting Business Initiative will deep-dive into the impacts, and what action businesses can take, particularly to support those who are most vulnerable in their value chains and in the communities in which they operate.

2. Government support to enterprises

[China rolls out measures to support enterprises resume work](#) | 20 March 2020

Since February, China has rolled out a slew of supportive measures to help enterprises resume production and reduce the fallout from the outbreak. The measures apply equally to both domestic and foreign enterprises. Check out this one-and-a-half minute video about how China supports enterprises to get back to work gradually.

[Asia turns on the fiscal taps to cushion coronavirus impact](#) | 23 March 2020

This article lists support measures being taken by governments in Asia as of 23 March (China, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, India).

[Germany launches 750 billion euro package to fight coronavirus](#) | 23 March 2020

Germany on Monday agreed a package worth up to 750 billion euros (\$808 billion) to mitigate the damage of the coronavirus outbreak on Europe's largest economy, with Berlin aiming to take on new debt for the first time since 2013. It includes funds of up to 100 billion euros which can be used to take direct equity stakes in companies; 100 billion euros in credit to public sector development

bank KfW for loans to struggling businesses; support for companies under short-term work schemes to protect workers from unemployment.

[European Commission adopts Temporary Framework to enable Member States to further support the economy in the COVID-19 outbreak](#) | 19

March 2020

The Temporary Framework enables Member States to ensure that sufficient liquidity remains available to businesses of all types and to preserve the continuity of economic activity during and after the COVID-19 outbreak. It provides for five types of aid: i) Direct grants, selective tax advantages and advance payments; ii) State guarantees for loans taken by companies from banks; iii) Subsidised public loans to companies; iv) Safeguards for banks that channel State aid to the real economy; and v) Short-term export credit insurance. Since 19 March, support measures by [Germany](#), [France](#), [Italy](#), [Spain](#), [Portugal](#), [Denmark](#), [Luxembourg](#), and [Latvia](#) have been approved under this framework.

[Switzerland - Economic support package](#) | 20 March 2020

On 20 March, the Swiss Federal Council published a package of measures amounting to CHF 32 billion including liquidity and credit support, extension and simplification of short-time work, compensation for loss of earnings for the self-employed and employees, and emergency aid to cultural, sports, and tourism sectors. The measures already adopted on 13 March are intended to provide over CHF 40 billion.

[Benin takes business registration online at critical time](#) | 24 March 2020

Benin this month took its business registration processes 100% digital, setting up an efficient, new online single window that houses all regulatory processes needed to open a business in record time. This is a result of a partnership between Benin and UNCTAD.

[Raising funds for social economy enterprises affected by Covid-19](#) | 21

March 2020

The Korea Social Value and Solidarity Foundation, established as part of the

Korean government's 'Social finance promotion strategy', will launch a fund to mobilize emergency working capital for social economy enterprises severely affected by the crisis. These enterprises are often small-scale and employ a relatively higher percentage of socially disadvantaged people. A national social economy council also established the Covid-19 response task force to provide other support to social economy enterprises including through research, fundraising, and promotion of social and ethical consumption.

3. Enterprises response

Supply chain stabilization

[How China can rebuild global supply chain resilience after COVID-19](#) | 23
March 2020

Companies inside China are still slow to resume their normal productions due to various factors (e.g. shortage of parts from lower-tier suppliers; shortage of workers; stringent requirements on protective measures for workers; and the slow recovery of transportation network capacity). Many global manufacturing OEMs are exploring alternative solutions, including shifting orders to secondary or tertiary suppliers to make up the missed delivery from their primary suppliers and moving some core business priorities back to their own factories. Some OEMs have even ventured to re-tool their production systems to make totally different products.

Production innovation and adaptation

[Coronavirus: ¿Cómo apoyar desde el sector de fomento a la innovación y las pymes?](#) | 21 March 2020

Este blog recoge las contribuciones de especialistas del BID en competitividad, tecnología e innovación. Las pequeñas y medianas empresas (pymes) y los emprendimientos innovadores, si bien sufren duramente los impactos de esta crisis, también pueden ser parte de la solución para salvar vidas. ¿Qué estamos

haciendo y qué podemos hacer ante esta emergencia desde el sector de fomento a la innovación y a las pymes en América Latina y el Caribe?

[Fiat Chrysler to start producing 1 million face masks a month](#) | 23 March 2020

The automaker confirmed production capacity is being installed this week at one of its factories in China. Manufacturing will start in the coming weeks and distribution will be focused on the U.S., Canada and Mexico. All masks will be donated to police, EMTs and firefighters and workers in hospitals and healthcare clinics. Other manufacturers such as GM, Ford, VW and Tesla have started to work on the complex task of producing ventilators, another critical piece of medical equipment for patients hospitalized with COVID-19.

[Jumia adapts Pan-African e-commerce network in response to COVID-19](#) | 23 March 2020

The Nigeria headquartered operation — with online goods and services verticals in 11 African countries — announced a series of measures on Friday. Jumia will donate certified face masks to health ministries in Kenya, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Nigeria and Uganda, drawing on its supply networks outside Africa. The company has offered African governments use of its last-mile delivery network for distribution of supplies to healthcare facilities and workers.

[Healthcare startups Nurx and Carbon Health ship at-home COVID-19 test sample kits](#) | 20 March 2020

Both of these new offerings are the same in terms of approach to testing: They deliver swab-based sample collection hardware that people can use at home to collect a mucus sample, which they then ship back using included, safety approved, projective packaging to be tested by one of the existing commercial labs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Support to customers and communities

[12 innovative ways companies are helping people affected by the coronavirus](#) | 23 March 2020

The coronavirus pandemic is forcing many businesses to close in order to slow the spread of the disease. Larger companies are stepping up to help fill the gaps. They're providing first responders and healthcare workers with vital equipment in short supply, and helping everyday people who have been affected by the disease with free meals, storage, and other services.

[Varsity Tutors launches Virtual School Day for free amid COVID-19 school closures](#) | 16 March 2020

Varsity Tutors, the edtech company looking to connect students with tutors live and on-demand, is today releasing a free product called Virtual School Day for students and parents, as schools close across the globe due to the coronavirus pandemic.

[Facebook - Business resource hub](#)

The hub provides a resilience toolkit for small businesses, quick-action guide to develop plans to minimize downtime, guide on communication with customers, and information on the Facebook Small Business Grants programme of USD 100 million.

Other responses

[Paul Polman: 'Coronavirus is an acid test for stakeholder capitalism'](#) | 20 March 2020

In the interview with Ethical Corporation, Paul Polman, chairman of the International Chambers of Commerce (ICC) and vice-chair of the UN Global Compact, calls for a bigger public and private partnership to solve the pandemic.