



20
years

Responsible Business Response to COVID-19 in Africa

27 March 2020

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION



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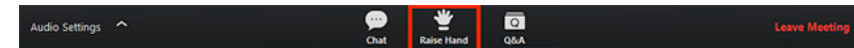


Tiina Mylly
Connecting Business
Initiative

Please use the **Q&A feature to ask questions**

Comments are welcome in the **chat**

During the Open Floor discussion, please use the **“raised hand” button to identify yourself to speak.**



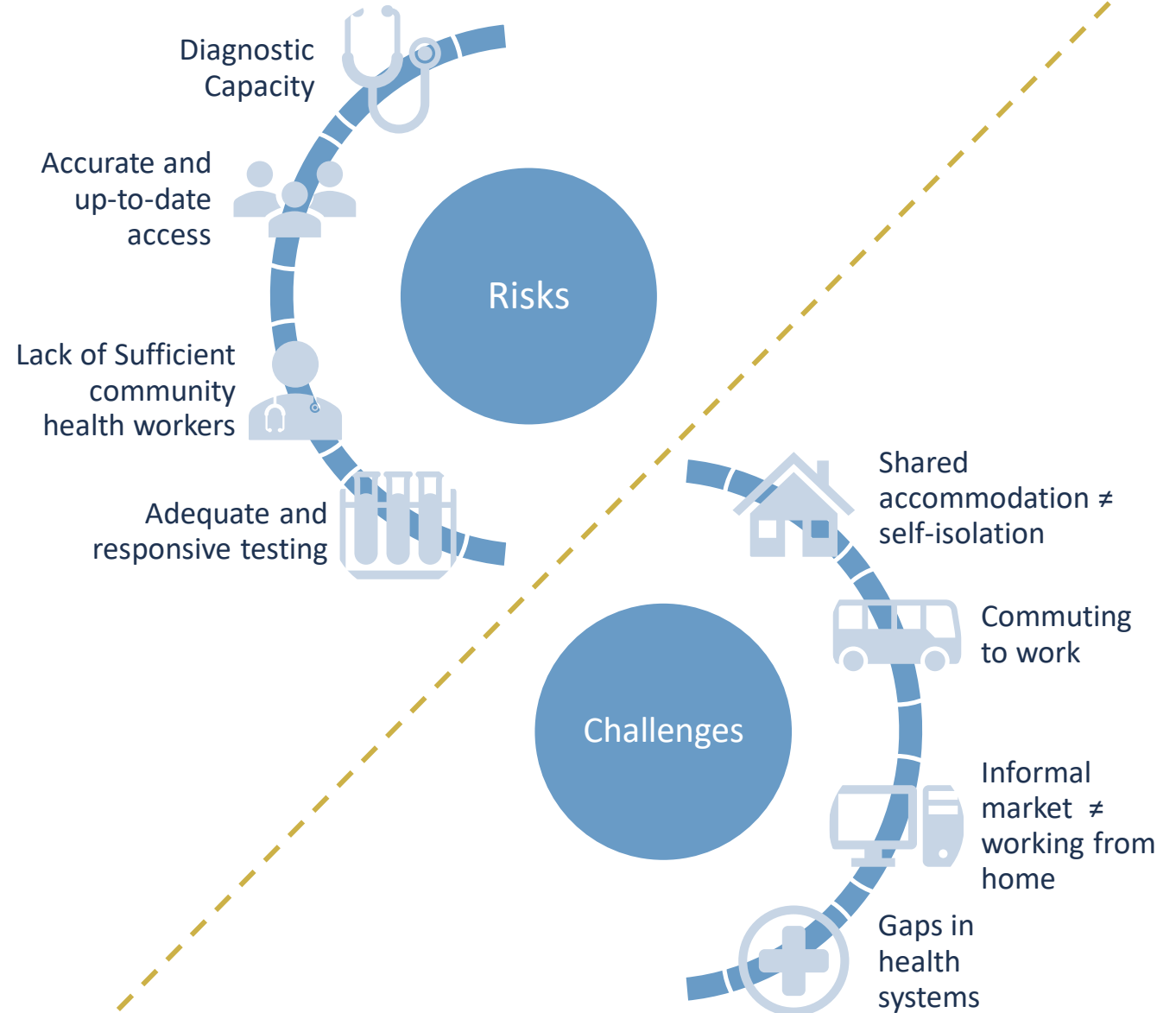
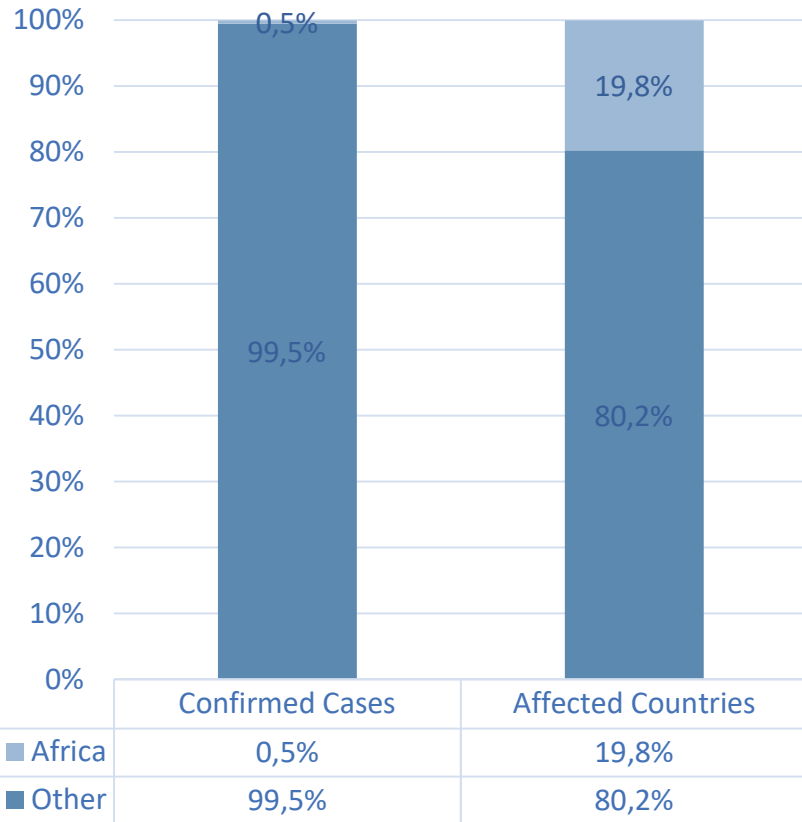
Alt+Y (PC) or Option+Y (Mac) on your keyboard



	Agenda
	Introduction
	1. COVID-19 in Africa: Risks and Challenges
	2. COVID-19 and the UN Global Compact Ten Principles
	3. Lessons Learned from Business Response to Health Emergencies in Africa
	4. Open Floor for Sharing of Best Practices
	End

COVID-19 IN AFRICA: RISKS AND CHALLENGES

COVID-19
In Africa



COVID-19 AND THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT TEN PRINCIPLES



United Nations
Global Compact

20
years

Uniting business for a better world

We are calling on business leaders to support companies and workers affected by the **COVID-19** outbreak.

[#UnitingBusiness](#)

Support and Respect Human Rights



- Ensure that **any measure implemented to address COVID-19 is accessible to people without discrimination** of any kind such as race, colour, disability, age, gender, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity or other status.
- Ensure that **the needs of those most marginalised and/or vulnerable** are given the necessary and appropriate attention.



In Practice:

- Where possible, provide flexible work arrangements for those 65 or older, are working parents, or have pre-existing medical conditions
- Pay special attention to how remote working and telecommuting options (“work from home”) may affect female workers and working parents adversely
- Pay special attention to day laborers, contractual workers and workers without any social protection coverage

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Ensure Continuation of Fair Labour Conditions



- Respond with **flexibility, compassion and solidarity to the impact on your employees and your business partners**; especially SMEs.
- Ensure a **stable continuation of income and benefits** despite flexible working arrangements.
- **Honour current contracts** to the greatest extent possible
- Apply the principles of prevention and **ensure a safe working environment** by limiting employee exposure to coronavirus in the workplace through:



In Practice:

- Allow for flexibility from suppliers and employees in meeting deliveries and quotas
- When possible, try to ensure a win-win situation with payments to balance financial impacts – provide, if possible, payment extensions for contracts
- Provide employees, customers and communities with guidance to encourage hygiene practices and post visible messages on COVID-19 to prevent future infections
- Regularly clean workplace facilities and ensure consistent access to clean water, soap and alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Assure Environmental Protections



- **Encourage telecommuting and virtual meetings** which can reduce negative impacts on the environment caused by travel



In Practice:

- Use this as an opportunity to assess which virtual practices can be continued in the long-term to reduce emissions
- Encourage the use of free and affordable technologies to make telecommuting and virtual meetings more convenient and interactive

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.



Uphold Ethics and Maintain Transparency

- **Build trust through communications** and policies that are consistent, inclusive and transparent
- Ensure that **products and services are distributed and sold in an ethical manner.**



In Practice:

- Develop a company-wide safety protocol that clearly outlines remote working policies, identifies hygiene and cleaning practices and procedures to take when employees and/or their families are ill
- Take an active role in combatting misinformation by disseminating accurate information through official channels from trusted sources
- Encourage flexible forms of communication in the workplace (e.g. WhatsApp, texting, emails)
- Avoid price gouging on critical and high demand products and services (e.g. hand sanitizers, face masks, data)

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR



Private sector's best contribution is preventative action.



Business in Africa is not new to managing health emergencies – rely on lessons from previous experiences.



Interventions should be simple and practical.










The business of business should still be business.

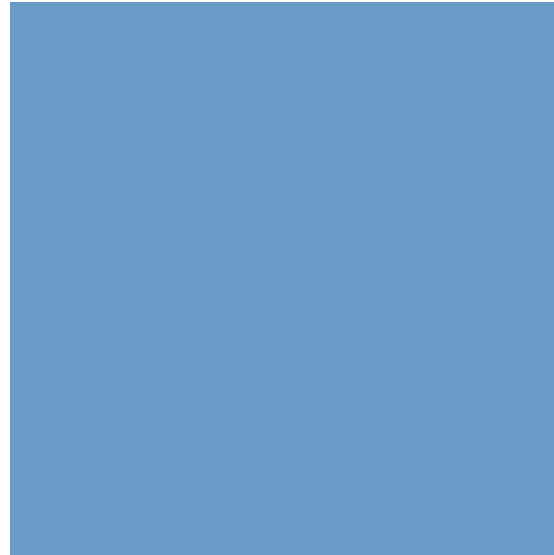


It is important for business to take action but not act alone.

Examples of Corporate Efforts During Covid-19

1.  Paying hourly workers out because of illness
2.  Closing but still paying workers
3.  Extending or offering free services
4.  Fee suspension
5.  Free information
6.  Community/health philanthropy
7.  Repurposing company operations to service health needs

LESSONS LEARNED FROM HEALTH EMERGENCIES





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Connecting Business initiative (CBI) response to COVID-19

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What is the Connecting Business initiative?



Connecting Business initiative (CBI)

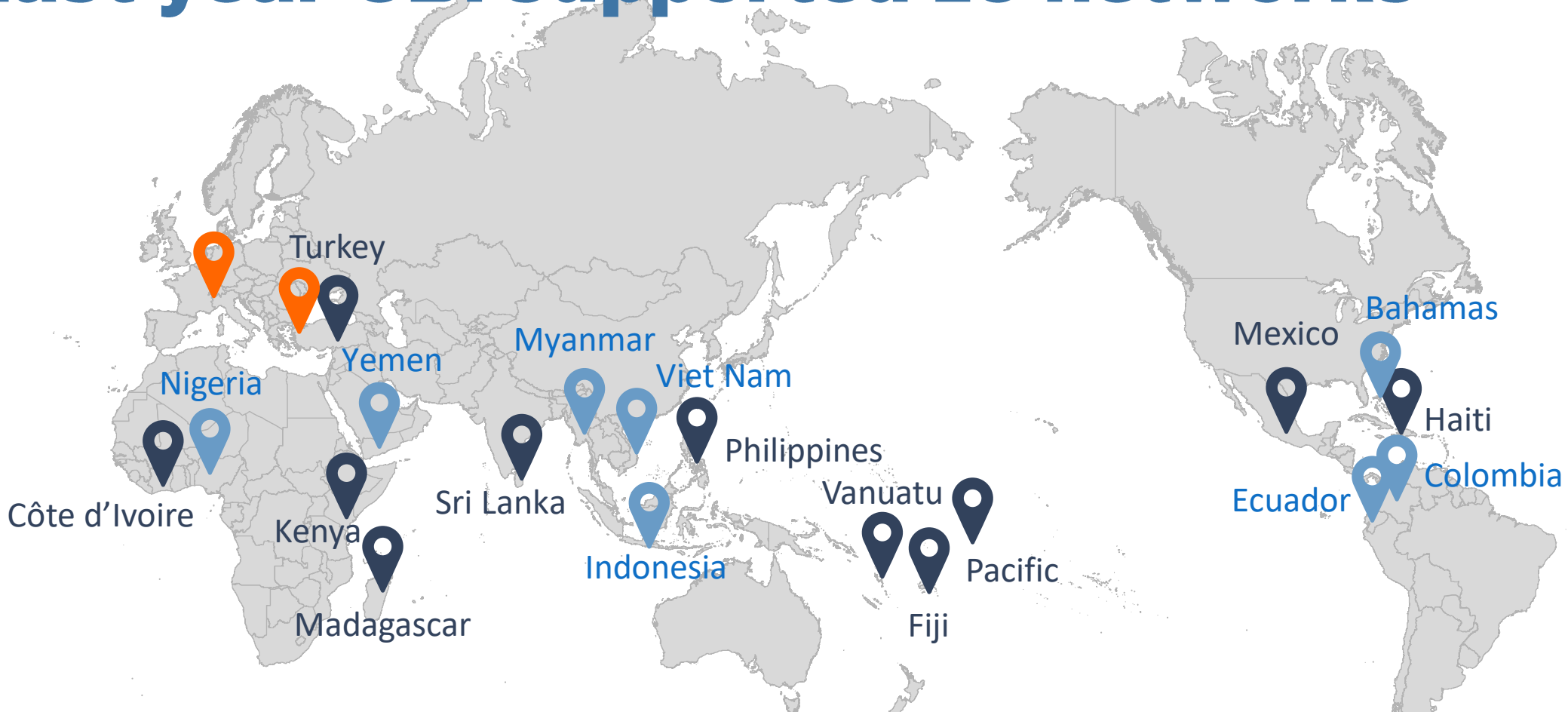
launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 by OCHA, UNDP and other partners to transform the way the private sector engages before, during and after crises




improves disaster preparedness, response and recovery by integrating the private sector into national and international disaster management mechanisms

reduces risks and duplication while increasing the resilience of companies and societies



Last year CBI supported 19 networks



-  CBI Secretariat (OCHA Geneva and UNDP Istanbul)
-  CBI Member Networks
-  Other private sector networks supported in 2019

Disaster Response and Recovery

9 CBI Member Networks and their members responded to a total of 31 disasters in 2019

CBI Secretariat created emergency pages for 3 disasters, co-created a Business Guide for the Hurricane Dorian Response and deployed to the Bahamas to engage with private sector actors in the response



Droughts: Madagascar



Earthquakes: (Mexico) Pacific, Philippines, Vanuatu



Fires: Madagascar, Mexico, Pacific



Floods: Fiji, Kenya, Mexico, Sri Lanka



Freeze: Mexico



Health epidemics (measles): Fiji, Pacific, Madagascar



Heavy rainfall and landslides: Mexico



Protracted displacement: Kenya



Political instability: Haiti, Pacific



Terrorist attack: Sri Lanka



Tropical storms (cyclones, typhoons): Fiji, Mexico, Madagascar, Philippines



Collective private sector response through CBI



CBI Secretariat

Examples of CBI Member Networks

- Co-developed a **Business Guide** in collaboration with other UN organizations
- Created an **emergency page** to share information and updates with the private sector
- Facilitates exchange of best practices (webinars etc.) among networks and companies based on needs
- Provides technical support to private sector networks to help them guide companies

Plateforme humanitaire du secteur privé de Côte d'Ivoire

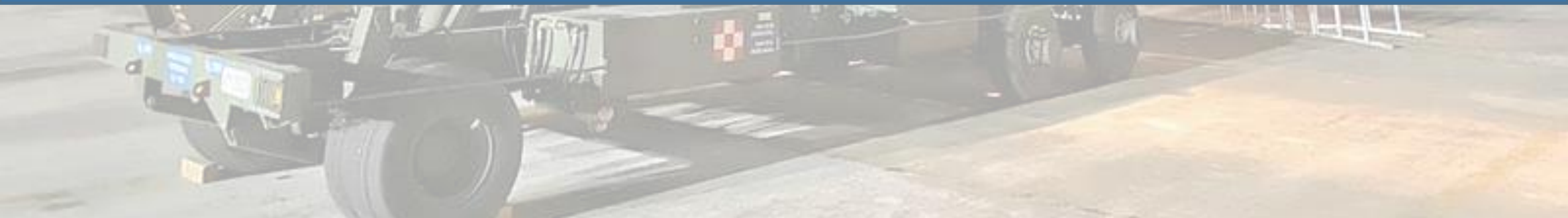
- Raising awareness among its members of the risks and hygiene practices to ensure people understand the importance of curbing the spread of the virus
- Working with critical partners such as UNDP, the Red Cross and Institut Pasteur en Côte
- Has collected and discussed the needs and challenges of the private sector, including business continuity

Private Sector Humanitarian Platform Madagascar

- Initiated a meeting with WHO before any cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed in the country
- Working with the Ministry of Health and other partners to share information and raise awareness among critical companies > an emergency conference call with BNGRC, WFP and major telecommunications operators
- Currently in discussions with UN agencies / World Bank on potential cash transfer activities



What are companies doing?



Examples of private sector action

Safaricom implemented a fee-waiver on M-Pesa to reduce the physical exchange of currency

Standard Bank provides 90-day Coronavirus Business Interruption Payment Scheme (“payment holiday”) to small business owners

Foxconn Technology Group (supplier of iPhone components to Apple) has refitted production lines to manufacture surgical masks

General Motors and medical equipment maker Ventec have partnered to build ventilators at a GM plant

LVMH makes hand sanitizer in its perfume factories

Inditex is converting factories to make hospital gowns

Reminders to companies

1. Prioritize containment
2. Keep operating – as long as it is safe and possible
3. Innovate and find solutions to new needs
4. Look beyond response and start planning recovery efforts
5. Make financial and in-kind contributions
6. Join advocacy efforts





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Thank you!

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OPEN FLOOR FOR SHARING BEST PRACTICES



HELPFUL RESOURCES ON COVID-19

[World Health Organization \(WHO\) Coronavirus Emergency Site](#)

[Situation Dashboard](#)

[Situation Reports](#)

[COVID-19 Mythbusters](#)

[Getting Your Workplace Ready for COVID-19](#)

[COVID-19 in Africa](#)

[Chat with WHO via WhatsApp](#)

[Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) COVID-19 Factsheet](#)

[UNICEF COVID-19 Guidance for Parents](#)

[How to Talk to Your Child About Coronavirus](#)

Check with your national government's Ministry of Health to receive updates on your country's COVID-19 emergency measures

Avoid the spread of misinformation! Share these resources with employees, workers, family and friends

HELPFUL RESOURCES ON COVID-19 (cont'd)

Connecting Business Initiative

[Business Guide for Covid-19](#)

[Example from Philippines on Private Sector Supporting the Poor during Covid-19](#)

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THANK YOU!