



International  
Labour  
Organization



# ILO Decent Work Team South Asia and India's response to COVID-19

▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> update May-June, 2020



While the lockdown measures are easing, the health crisis seem to be far from over in the country. With most economic activities allowed, the world of work now slowly appears on the path of recovery. It will certainly give rise to new set of challenges and will demand more concerted and coordinated efforts among ILO constituents and other associated UN agencies.

The ILO DWT India office is promoting safe return of workers and employers to workplaces on priority. It aims to play an important role in shaping the evidence based policy discussions on economic recovery, rights of workers and 'human-centred' agenda, through promotion of decent work and social justice.

The message from UN Secretary General Mr António Guterres at the launch of Policy Brief on Covid-19 and the World of Work this month will guide us in our recovery efforts

▶▶ *The world of work cannot and should not look the same after this crisis. It is time for a coordinated global, regional and national effort to create decent work for all as the foundation of a green, inclusive and resilient recovery.*

## ▶ Highlights



### Virtual conference on COVID-19 Crisis for Labour and Employment in India

ILO, the Institute for Human Development and the Indian Society of Labour Economics (ISLE) organised a Virtual Conference on 'Implications of the Covid-19 Crisis for Labour and Employment in India: Impact, Strategies and Perspectives' during 8-9 June 2020.

Conference had a distinguished list of speakers appreciated by over 3000 participants. The event contributed towards promoting evidence based discussions on shaping economic policy reforms.

**Catch highlights here.**



### World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) 2020

A webinar on '**COVID-19 Protect Children from Child Labour- Now More than Ever**', was organized on 12 June to observe WDACL 2020. It was Jointly organized by ILO, Ministry of Labour and Employment and VV Giri National Labour Institute (VGNLI). Mr Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Hon'ble Minister of Labour and Employment. Senior officials from Ministry, ILO, VGNLI and Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi were among the noted speakers who virtually addressed to over 7000 audiences.

**Watch the broadcast here.**



### Rapid Assessment of the Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on Employment

ILO DWT South Asia and CO-India and ILO Employment, Labour Markets and Youth Branch (EMPLAB) published a rapid assessment on possible impact on enterprises and livelihoods and on incomes of workers due to COVID-19 crisis.

This timely research on policy responses to the economic crisis examines initiatives to protect both enterprises and workers, especially the most vulnerable.

## Global response highlights



### **Latest ILO Monitors**

Updated assessment of the global impact of COVID-19 on economies and labour markets, together with policy recommendations



### **Updated Labour Market Measures**

Compilation of key advisories, orders from Governments on COVID-19



**COVID-19 and the world of work**  
Country policy responses

**Compilation of COVID-19 global responses and dedicated Portal for updates**  
<https://ilo.org/covid19>

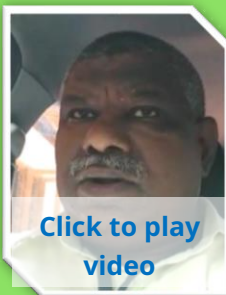
# Four pillars of ILO's response

## 1 Stimulating the economy and employment

- ▶ The [ILO-IHD-ISLE virtual conference on 'Implications of the Covid-19 Crisis for Labour and Employment in India: Impact, Strategies and Perspectives'](#) organized on June 8 and 9 was an effort to bring together evidences and research on impact of the pandemic and discuss possible policy guidelines.
- ▶ [Rapid Assessment of the Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on Employment](#) was published providing estimations of increase in vulnerability and suggests key steps.
- ▶ [Brief on policies related to migrants and unemployment in times of crisis](#) was published. This highlights facts and recommended laws, policies and practices, drawing on the experience of the ILO's Work in Freedom Programme.
- ▶ Technical Guidance provided to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on moving Labour Force Survey to telephone and web assisted research as a substitute in view of COVID -19 through experience sharing with Brazil, Ireland and South Africa.

## 2 Supporting enterprises, jobs and incomes

- ▶ In collaboration with United Nations Volunteers (UNV), Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training of 32 aspirants from Nahan, Himachal Pradesh and Nuapada, Odisha initiated.
- ▶ [Guidelines on Working from home](#) developed by Bureau for Employers' Activities shared with Employer's and Business member Organizations (EBMOs). Two Employer's organizations have adopted the ILO guidelines on establishing [COVID-19 enterprise level task forces](#).
- ▶ Select MSMEs are being coached on business continuity planning using ACTEMP – SCORE tools and guided on COVID preventive measures.
- ▶ A dialogue to assist with cost-effective flow of remittances and their development effect was organised on EU-India remittances corridor on 18 June 2020 under the EU-India CDMM Project, by the ICMPD (project implementing partner).



Click to play video

**Sri. Rajendran. D, GM/Jt Director, Directorate of Industry and Commerce, Govt of Kerala, on State's association with SIYB**

## 3 Protecting workers in the workplace

- ▶ [Tripartite webinar with State Government of Rajasthan](#) on COVID-19 preventive measures and control in natural stone industry held on 18 June 2020
- ▶ [Mass media campaign on WDACL implemented by Government of Telangana](#) and ILO's 'Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in Cotton Supply Chain Project' project to prevent risks of Child Labour during the times of COVID-19. The campaign created outreach of over a million through online and offline activities.
- ▶ Refresher-training programme on 'Promoting Health and Safety of Informal and Home Based Workers in Lower Tiers of Supply Chains including the Post COVID 19 Response' was organized in two sessions by ILO/Japan project 'Towards fair and sustainable global supply chains'. On May 27 for Trade Unions and Membership based Organizations and organisations of informal and home based workers and on May 28 for Members of Sectoral Employers' associations participated at the workshop

## 4 Relying on social dialogue for solutions

- ▶ [Virtual meeting of Central Trade Unions \(with sectoral representation\) towards "Impact of COVID-19 Crisis on Informal Workers in Lower Tiers of Supply Chains \(Garment and Metal\), Domestic Work and Agriculture](#) was organized on 11 June 2020. The meeting highlighted some of the critical issues and points for further interventions.
- ▶ First of the four part series on [Conversations on Working in Freedom-Linking evidence and gendering policies to prevent trafficking in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic](#) was organized on June 18, 2020. It was on the topic of 'Domestic Workers and the COVID-19 Pandemic, Understanding Challenges Ahead and Evolving Collective Strategies attended by over 1100 viewers and participants.



## ▶ ILO experts @ seminars

- ▶ **The Economic Times 3rd Annual Virtual Conference on “Workforce of the Future”, 19 June 2020**  
Dagmar Walter, Director
- ▶ **Rebuilding MSME Jobs in times of crisis** organized by UNIDO 16 June, 2020, Satoshi Sasaki, Dep. Director
- ▶ **No Child's Business**, organized by Save the Children in partnership with Campaign Against Child Labour And Work on 11 June, 2020, Nizam Insaf, FPRW Specialist
- ▶ **CIR South Asia Dialogue Series #2**, Caught in COVID-19, What's the way out for South Asia' migrant workers, 26 May 2020, Shabari Nair, Regional Migration Specialist
- ▶ **IGCC and amfori Webinar: Responsible Supply Chains**, 4 June, 2020, Kelvin Sergeant, Specialist, Enterprise development
- ▶ **CSR a Key Driver in Covid Times**, organized by Delhi Management Association, 26 June, 2020, Kelvin Sergeant.
- ▶ **The Artisan First**, organized by Aod and India By Hand on June 27, 2020, Kelvin Sergeant

## ▶ ILO in news

- ▶ Economic Times, **Children should not fall into the trap of child labour post covid-19 outbreak: ILO**  
The WDAFL event and press release covered by 20 media outlets.
- ▶ Economic Times, **Human-centred response should drive recovery from COVID-19 economic impacts: ILO-IHD-ISLE conference suggests**  
The ILO Conference press release covered by 7 media houses.
- ▶ Nikkie Asia: **India's migrant exodus foreshadows an economic crisis**
- ▶ Op-Ed, Bloomberg Quint, **A Policy Framework for India's Covid-19 Migration.**
- ▶ The Wire: **Ensure that Changes to Indian Labour Laws Adhere to Global Standards: ILO**

## ▶ Plans ahead

- ▶ Tripartite social dialogue mechanisms at Centre and State levels, and their roles in responding to the COVID-19 crisis getting documented (including good practices), as a basis for targeted support interventions.
- ▶ A proposal for conducting a survey on the impact of working from home on women Executives being developed.
- ▶ A webinar with Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) proposed on 6th July 2020 for sharing ILO's response to the pandemic - Learning and sharing of global practices.
- ▶ 2nd Bipartite dialogue on MSME revitalisation and recovery is being planned
- ▶ Survey of economic units and workers affected by COVID-19 in three states underway
- ▶ Livelihood recovery and promotion through STYB entrepreneurship trainings in collaboration with select State government in process
- ▶ Conversations on Freedom – next dialogues in the series to be held in July.

## ▶ Celebrities with ILO

Faridkot, Indie band and Actor Nagarjuna were among other key celebrities supporting ILO's WDAFL campaign, click to watch their messages



## ▶ Participate @ ILO Global Summit

The ILO Global Summit will unfold over five days and consist of five regional events and three global events.

**Mark your dates 1-2 July and 7-9 July**

Visit <https://global-summit.ilo.org/en/>

