Survey on Impact of COVID-19 on enterprises and needs

Business Call to Action in collaboration with SDG Accelerator, ImpactAim and CBI organized an online survey for enterprises in April 2020. A total of 90 companies participated in the survey about the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

### Respondent Companies

- Large: 28.9%
- Medium: 23.3%
- Small: 35.6%
- Micro: 12.2%

### Impact on Companies

- 58% Negative Impact
- 2% No Impact

### Main Hurdles Faced

- Supply chain disruptions: 20.4%
- Other: 31.5%
- Temporary shutdown of business: 17.7%
- Reduced demand due to curbs on public gatherings: 17.7%

### Impact on Inclusive Businesses

- Highly negative: 31.8%
- Negative: 12.9%
- Positive & Neutral: 5.9%
- Highly Positive: 4.5%
- Not an inclusive business: 15.3%

### Actions Taken as a Response to COVID-19

- Asked staff to telecommute: 17.2%
- Postponed investments in business: 9.6%
- Made financial/mixed donations: 6.4%
- Borrowed/reached into savings: 6%
- Reduced number of staff/hours: 6.1%
- Converted to digital solutions: 5.6%
- Scaled back product/service offer: 4.8%
- Added/enhanced distribution channels: 4.3%
- Reduced/cut distribution channels: 5.1%
- Cancelled orders from suppliers: 3.5%
- Postponed investments in business: 24.7%
- Other: 4.0%

(E.g.: Reduced wages, closed business, offered delivery services, expanded access to medical assistance, scaled-up product/service)
41% of the companies adapted operations to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak. Solutions included: Production and distribution of personal protective equipment; Training and awareness of health and hygiene practices; Access to economic packages; Lending social media channels to external organizations to spread important information related to COVID-19.

69% of the companies were not aware of any government subsidies or tax benefits. Companies aware of existing benefits searched for: Tax reduction or exemption; Possibility of borrowing money from banks at lower interest rates; Free utilities and government assistance for businesses.

54% of the companies connected with other companies or professional networks to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak. Solutions included: Regular online meetings with women in business; Connecting with competitors to support health staff; Working with other players to understand various methods to handle the disruptions; Coordinating with other organizations and the government in providing telemedicine and tech-enabled health services.
WHAT COMPANIES HAD TO SAY

"We are supporting our clients through deferred payments of their financial obligations."

"We are currently still on response mode but we will need inputs on recovery strategies and funding."

"We are working hard to continue production and running the supply chain; motivating employees and workers by giving preventive measures and remuneration."

"We have been deeply affected in our business. Despite this, we have to continue supporting our social programs."

"In our sector there has been a huge negative impact, to cope with the current situation a lot has to be discussed and done with the help of big players in terms of relief funds, subsidies and opening up to normalcy."

"We are bombarded by the inability of a small economy like ours to face a challenge like COVID-19."

"One of our inclusive business initiatives provides subsidized goods for the BOP on credit, the sales have reduced as operations needed to be temporarily shut down. BOP now have to pay more in cash for everyday goods as they are buying from local shops."

"We can be spokespeople for businesses with inclusive business models, to spread important messages, increase awareness and influence decision makers."

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