

UN EGYPT COVID-19 INSIGHTS SERIES

GUIDELINES ON COVID-19 FOR MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN EGYPT

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1. Overview

UNIDO, in partnership with the Industrial Modernization Center of the Ministry of trade and Industry, has launched safety guidelines for the industrial sector. This intervention aims at supporting the Ministry efforts to develop and disseminate specific procedures to help the industrial firms coping with COVID-19 and preventing the spread of the pandemic.

2. Key vulnerable groups or sectors in focus

- Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) account for 97.5% of total number of enterprises, represent 33% of value added and share 31% of total wages¹.
- Women-led enterprises represent 9% of total business owners².

- **Impact of Covid-19 on this group:**

Most of micro, small, and women- led enterprises are facing the lack of resilience and flexibility to cope with the crisis. Due to their small size, the increasing cost of prevention and necessary workflow changes (such as moving to telecommuting) is relatively high and, in many cases, the level of digitization is low, making technology difficult to acquire and adopt. In addition, they absorb high percentage of informal employees with no job security, and remote working is not a suitable solution for the production activities.

3. Key insights from the knowledge product

- The guidelines document contains fourteen measures with respect to production processes. They include daily entry screening protocol for staff and visitors, physical distancing in workplaces, hand hygiene protocol, using PPE, air ventilation, cleaning and sanitation of surfaces, reporting of COVID-19 illness, receiving and delivery of products, instructions of non-productions areas (e.g. rest room, staff canteens and break areas), laundry cleaning and waste disposal, and regular communication with the staff.
- UNIDO is also supporting the formulation of a help desk at the IMC. A training programme, took place on the 28th of July 2020; this training aims at enriching the skills of IMC experts on communicating and promoting the preventive measures of COVID-19. IMC, through the planned help desk, will disseminate

¹ Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (2018). Egypt Economic Census

² ILO (2016). Women's entrepreneurship development assessment: Egypt

information among factories and respond to inquiries about the guidelines' practices and operations during COVID-19.

4. Policy Implications

Actions taken already by Government:

- Raising awareness campaign is being organized of COVID-19 guidelines and preventive measures.

The way forward:

- Organizing awareness sessions in the industrial zones as a precautionary measure in anticipation of a second wave of the COVID-19.

5. Programmatic relevance

- Embed the guidelines of COVID-19 into the technical assistance services provided to manufacturing sector.

6. Partners and Donors

The guidelines are developed within the scope of UNIDO technical assistance to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on manufacturing sector, under the Programme for Country Partnership (PCP) in Egypt which funded by China. This work would not have been realized without the valuable support of the Industrial Modernization Center (IMC) of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI).

7. Link to the full knowledge product:

https://www.unido.org/sites/default/files/files/2020-08/COVID19_Guidelines_Egypt.pdf

8. Name and email address of a focal point for the knowledge product

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