



Consular Corps College Covid International Ingenuity Report

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From the Editor HCG Krista Butvydas Bard:

It was an honor to work on the CCC Covid International Ingenuity Report. Amidst the lockdowns and tragedies of the pandemic, it buoyed our spirits to focus on the extraordinary adaptability and amazing innovations all around the globe.

Our methodology involved polling all the consuls, honorary consuls and embassies in the United States. While over 100 countries are represented, CIIR is not exhaustive, and rather simply seeks to present a sampling of great ideas. If we haven't already included an example from a country you represent, please do send it to us with a link so we can continue to update and expand this compendium. We are more than happy to add to what we hope you will find to be an inspiring collection of wonderful ideas: office@honoraryconsul.global.

Note that the report is organized in alphabetical order, by name of country. Additional references are provided at the end of the report.

We applaud the frontline workers in every country, and all the volunteers who sewed masks, the businesses who pivoted production lines to make sanitizers, the robotics engineers who used drones to deliver medical supplies, and all the good neighbors who lent each other a helping hand. We cheer on the scientists who are making breakthrough discoveries at breakneck speed. Most importantly, we extend our deepest condolences for every life lost, and hope to honor their memory with the enormous good will and ingenious solutions that follow.

The Covid International Ingenuity Report

Afghanistan

A \$300 ventilator made with recycled car parts designed by young girls

Ms. Mahboob founded the Afghan Dreamers, a group of teenage girls who solve problems with robotics. Now, they can put a pandemic on the list of problems they've helped address. Using parts scavenged from Toyota Corollas and local shops, the Dreamers have built a \$300 ventilator that is awaiting World Health Organization approval. The girls based the design on a model from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and when they ran the plans by a professor there, "He was so surprised and wrote back to us saying that it was a clever design."

Source: <https://www.csmonitor.com/Daily/2020/20200422/A-300-ventilator-made-with-car-parts-These-Afghan-girls-just-did-that>

Angola

Angola Creates Application that allows self-diagnosis of Covid 19

Api, an application that gathers information about the symptoms of the Covid 19 disease but also allows you to test whether or not you are infected.

Source: <https://www.verangola.net/va/en/042020/Health/19408/Angolan-creates-application-that-allows-self-diagnosis-of-covid-19.htm>

Argentina

Implementing Virtual Arts

Arts festivals are going online and creating greater accessibility with free programming in Argentina. The City of Buenos Aires Government's Cultura en Casa Platform is sharing content (opera, theatre, music, dance) from the city's various cultural venues, including streaming Minefield, a British Council-supported play about the experience of veterans from the Falklands/Malvinas conflict. The play was watched by 170,000 people during the 48 hours it was available.

Source: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-and-policy-insight/insight-articles/covid-19-impact-innovation-americas-arts>

Armenia

3D printing company produces protective equipment in Armenia

3D printing is solving a pressing issue in Armenia: the lack of sufficient personal protective equipment and, in particular, of special protective glasses and face shields. Mr. Khojabaghyan wasted no time in searching through open source blueprints for coronavirus-related medical supplies. Meanwhile, the Faculty of Pharmacy at the Yerevan State Medical University reached out to AugmentAR for collaboration and sent over samples of shields and glasses. With careful and successful experimentation, AugmentAR produced supplies which were sent back and approved. "We could not be indifferent to what was happening and we began to study and experiment with different methods. This allowed us to quickly find and employ effective means. We also shared our experience so that others who have 3D printers can participate. Armath Labs joined the project with its full

capacity. We believe that, to some extent, we all play a modest role in alleviating the spread of the infection,” says Mr. Khojabaghyan.

Source: <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2020/3d-printing-company-produces-protective-equipment-in-armenia.html>

Australia

Virtual Storefront with Free Access to Retailers

If shoppers can't visit the high street, why not bring the high street to shoppers? That is the idea behind Streetify, an e-commerce platform that launched in late March, just in time to help businesses respond to the COVID-19 crisis. With shoppers forced to stay at home, Streetify is hoping its website and free app will help connect consumers with local stores, to help keep them afloat. It is also providing retailers free access to the platform for one year in the U.K., U.S., Canada, India and Australia. Users of the app and website can actually choose the street they wish to visit and can scroll left or right to “walk” up and down. They are shown virtual storefronts and can click on any store to enter its Streetify website. Once inside the “store”, consumers can see all of the special offers, deals and promotions that have been gathered from top deal sites such as Groupon and Rakuten. Business owners can also put messages in their virtual storefront windows, announcing deals, delivery options, in-stock goods and more.

Source: <https://www.springwise.com/innovation-snapshot/coronavirus-business-ideas>

ideas

IP Australia provide free global patent data visualizations on key COVID-19 technologies

IP Australia have released a free package of global interactive patent data visualizations on technologies important in the response to COVID-19. These six interactive visualizations on ventilators, masks, surgical gowns and goggles, vaccines, repurposed drugs and medical diagnostics allow users to ‘drill down’ into the data and quickly identify patent applicants in specific technologies and different countries across the world.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/ip-australia-provide-free-global-patent-data-visualisations-on-key-covid-19-technologies/>

Austria

Post Covid Art pairings

No Place Like the Future is a project, organized by the Austrian diplomatic and consulate representatives in the US (Washington, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco) to pair Austrian and American artists to collaborate on a common artistic project via Zoom to dream about a time after corona. The project draws on the belief that artists through the power of imagination are futurists and can show us a way out.

Source: www.noplacelikethefuture.org

Bangladesh

3D Printed Face Shields

In these unprecedented times, SM Anamul Arefin, a graduate in the Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University (SBAU), became an unlikely inventor, turning to his 3D printer to develop face shields that protect doctors and nurses as they work with patients infected with the coronavirus (COVID-19). With only a working

knowledge of how to operate the 3D device, Arefin first produced the shields for his friends and community. Then BRAC, one of the world's biggest non-governmental organizations, placed an order for 1,000 shields to protect their frontline health workers. Since then, BRAC has placed another order for 4,000 shields.

Source: <https://blogs.worldbank.org/endpovertyinsouthasia/bangladeshs-unlikely-inventor-creates-face-shields-tackle-coronavirus>

Belgium

Hands Free Door Handle Attachment to Lessen the Spread

Tired of pulling your sleeve over your hand to touch the door handle? Belgian 3D printing company Materialise has designed a hands-free door handle attachment. Under the slogan “Do less harm, use your arm!”, the design, which has been made available to download for free, consists of two simple parts that can be screwed either side of a handle, allowing you to use your arm or elbow to turn the handle. “Door handles are said to be among the most contagious places in a building,” says the company’s CEO, Fried Vancraen. “We call upon everyone who has access to a 3D printer to print the part and make it available to their local community.”

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/mar/25/10-coronavirus-covid-busting-designs>

Benin

Shortening Online Business Registration to survive during COVID-19

Faced with office closures in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Benin has made it possible for entrepreneurs to create their company online. The online single window, monentreprise.bj, can be accessed from the country or abroad and allows a company to be created within two hours. Prior to this, the process took one day and involved several physical visits to APIEx, Benin’s investment and export agency. This development means that despite the economic challenges faced by the economy of Benin from the pandemic, and the unprecedented closure of government offices, 138 new businesses were created in the first week of operations, from 16 to 22 March. The online system also ensures the new business is automatically compliant with trade, tax, social security and department of labor obligations, saving time and additional visits to government departments. Business owners receive all their certificates in digital format. “This is a big step forward, Benin is transforming,” said Laurent Gangbès, director-general of APIEx, which is behind the new initiative. “Whether you are in Benin or abroad, the constraint of travelling to create your business has been removed.” This ground-breaking innovation was born of a long-standing partnership between Benin and UNCTAD.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/in-benin-online-business-registration-to-face-covid-19-times/>

Bhutan

Government Retracts Cigarette Ban, to Cut Down on COVID Exposure

Demand for outlawed cigarettes created a thriving black market with illegal smuggling into the country from neighboring India. This smuggling put the Bhutanis at risk of Covid when a carrier tested positive and spread cases to the

town of Phuentsholing. This led the government to rethink the ban temporarily, in the best interest of their country's safety. Prime Minister Tsering said "This is the wrong time to rehabilitate a person or to change their habits."

Source: <https://money.yahoo.com/bhutan-lifts-tobacco-ban-due-051419855.html>

Botswana

Botswana E-learning Initiative wins Prestigious UN Public Service Award

Mr. Salani is the Coordinator of e-Thuto, a digital learning platform being implemented in the north-eastern region of Botswana as part of the national government's drive to digitalize learning across the country. It serves close to 35,000 students, from primary to high school level, in the region. e-Thuto, an interactive web-based platform, brings teachers, learners and parents together in an effort to improve education by making educational material and administrative information easily accessible. Started in 2017, the initiative is being recognized today by the United Nations Public Service Awards 2020 for its value to communities in North-East Botswana after being showcased a year ago at the Botswana Public Service Day

Source: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/june-2020/botswana-e-learning-initiative-wins-prestigious-un-public-service-award>

Brazil

Brazil's ENAP launches 'Challenges' Campaign

Brazil's National School of Public Administration (Enap) has launched a series of public challenges to combat a variety of issues regarding the epidemic: Efficiency of the health system to face the epidemic, Decreasing the economic impacts in the context of Covid-19, Mitigation of the socio-economic consequences of Covid-19, Monitoring and management of coping with the epidemic. Companies, impact businesses, private non-profit entities, public and private Scientific and Technological Research Institutions are allowed to participate. Each problem is described, and given a dedicated 'briefing' with supporting documents attached or linked. Applications are done through Google forms. Winners of the challenges will then be rewarded with finances to help develop their solutions. The challenges are hosted through Desafios, their open innovation platform that uses contests and awards to invite society to participate in building solutions to public problems.

Source: [https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/brazils-enap-launches-challenges-](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/brazils-enap-launches-challenges-for/)

[for/](#)

Brunei

Brunei food delivery app creates jobs for those unemployed by covid and keeps restaurants afloat

Hadi started an online food delivery service called GoMamam last February with only a few restaurants and dispatchers. After Brunei reported its first case of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in March, demand quickly picked up as more people stayed and worked at home. Customers found it convenient to use the GoMamam app, which allowed them to browse through the menus of restaurants, order and pay online (or in cash), and track their order in real time. More restaurants also signed up with GoMamam since it provided them a way to stay in business after the government restricted public gatherings. There were a lot of

orders, says Hadi, and not enough dispatchers. The COVID-19 crisis affected many businesses, particularly startups. Some people who lost their jobs joined GoMamam as dispatchers. They underwent training and were given personal protective equipment (PPE).

Source: <http://www.bimp-eaga.asia/article/tech-startups-show-way-out-crisis>

Bulgaria

Campaign to locate PPE across Bulgaria for Frontline Workers

The First Line campaign is raising funds in the fight against COVID-19, and believes that the protection of first-line medics is of key importance for controlling the epidemic in Bulgaria. An in-depth study of hospitals in Bulgaria found that protective supplies such as masks and overalls remain the most pressing need. The goal is to donate 15,000 filter protective masks for medical purposes of the FFP2 / 3 type to hospitals in the regional cities in Bulgaria that fight COVID-19.

Source: <https://www.platformata.bg/bg/kauzi/701:covid-195/details/campaign.html>

Burkina Faso

Lessening Gender Inequality because of Covid

COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting women and girls across the West Africa region. As Awute notes; "information sharing and dissemination of hygiene and prevention messaging is one good example of gender bias, as many of the traditional media outlets used to communicate on this pandemic are not sensitive to the specific needs of women." She adds; "Despite this, there are also some emerging rays of hope and opportunities for women. The majority of respondents in our survey said that there had been an increase in shared decision making on the management of household resources, and we have seen some ingenious innovation projects from amongst the communities we work with such as the construction of washing stands using only simple, local materials and the sewing of face masks by women's groups."

Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/benin/new-care-report-how-covid-19-changing-gender-norms-west-africa>

Cameroon

Oxygen for the Many, not the Few

At 32 years of age Arthur Zang, a Cameroonian bio-medical engineer has invented Oxynnet (Oxygen National Network) a medical oxygen-producing machine, which is vital for patient care, fighting against COVID-19.

Source: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_\(Compressed\).pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_(Compressed).pdf)

Canada

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street they wish to visit and can scroll left or right to “walk” up and down. They are shown virtual storefronts and can click on any store to enter its Streetify website. Once inside the “store”, consumers can see all of the special offers, deals and promotions that have been gathered from top deal sites such as Groupon and Rakuten. Business owners can also put messages in their virtual storefront windows, announcing deals, delivery options, in-stock goods and more.

Source: <https://www.springwise.com/innovation-snapshot/coronavirus-business-ideas>

Implementing Virtual Arts

In Canada, festivals have moved online, and some new online initiatives have arisen, including the Festival of Social Distancing, an online artist community made to celebrate and showcase the work of the many artists around the world who have been affected by social distancing.

Source: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-and-policy-insight/insight-articles/covid-19-impact-innovation-americas-arts>

Central African Republic (CAR)

2 Million Masks Distributed to Citizens for Free, Creating Jobs

More than 2 million masks were produced in just two months and are being distributed for free to citizens in the Central African Republic through the LONDO project. This generated over 400,000 individual workdays so far. The mission is to produce 10 million masks and provide two free masks to every citizen. A recent impact evaluation of LONDO has shown that families see a 10% increase in household revenues and assets even up to 20 months after benefiting from the cash for work project.

Source: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/08/03/a-lifesaver-in-times-of-covid-19-face-masks-made-in-post-conflict-central-african-republic>

Chad

Chad’s Storytellers take COVID prevention Messages off Grid



Photo Credit: WFP/Tabam Mbatelham, UN News

In a vast, yet scarcely populated country, where close to three-quarters of the population live in rural areas, with limited or non-existent access to radio, mobile or internet technologies, the role of troubadours is crucial according to Violet Kakyomya, the UN Resident Coordinator in Chad, the UN’s most senior representative in the country. “They are the most reliable people to deliver

information by word-of-mouth. It is essential to work with them in order to avoid miscomprehension that can quickly translate into rumors, misinformation and suspicion of health interventions.” Radio is often used in Chad to provide health information and promote behavior change, however, it doesn’t reach across the whole territory and many families are not wealthy enough to own a radio-set or buy batteries to power them. In this sense the communities the troubadours are reaching are truly off the grid.

Source: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/05/1063752>

Chile

Low cost, Unpatented Covid Test

Chile has created a low-cost, unpatented coronavirus test, allowing other low-resource countries to benefit from the technology.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Implementing Virtual Arts

In Chile, the government’s platform Elige Cultura hosts online content across the artforms, from over 300 Chilean films to books, museum tours and music.

Source: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-and-policy-insight/insight-articles/covid-19-impact-innovation-americas-arts>

China

72 hour Live Streamed Product Launch

Chinese mobile phone maker Xiaomi collaborated with the video platform Bilibili for a 72-hour, live-streamed launch event for its Mi 10 5G phone during the height of China’s coronavirus lockdown. The event, which began on the 13th of February, featured a two-hour press conference with an emotional Lei Jun, Xiaomi’s founder, who unveiled the new phone, videos, product giveaways and a virtual art exhibit. There was also COVID-19-related content like vlogs from Wuhan residents and some educational programming. The streaming event, dubbed “Life is Not Made for Defeat,” pulled in around 12 million viewers and 2.6 million comments on Bilibili’s trademark “bullet chat” format, which streams user comments across the screen in real-time.

Source: <https://www.springwise.com/innovation-snapshot/coronavirus-business-ideas>

ideas

Wuhan uses unmanned delivery drones to deliver medical and biological supplies.

China is using unmanned delivery drones to deliver medical and biological materials to hospitals around Wuhan. The vehicles, created by JD Logistics, are unmanned, thus reducing the person-to-person contact times and freeing up other logistical resources.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/wuhan-uses-unmanned-delivery-drones-to-deliver-medical-and-biological-supplies/>

China uses heat sensing technology and AI to identify feverish people in a crowd

China have used AI in combination with heat sensing technology to identify in real-time people in crowds with elevated body temperatures, thus allowing them to isolate people in crowds with a fever, and reducing the exposure of medical professionals to the public by using machines.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/china-uses-heat-sensing-technology-and-ai-to-identify-feverish-people-within-a-crowd/>

Hubei creates unmanned 'epidemic supermarket' in 5 hours

A special 'epidemic supermarket' has been created by the teams Hubei Zhongbai Storage and Taoxianda (Ali) in less than 5 hours, which is completely unmanned - no shop assistants, cashiers, or even people re-shelving. This allows far reduced human contact in day to day life, reducing the transmission of the virus.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/hubei-creates-unmanned-epidemic-supermarket-in-5-hours/>

Colombia

Free Up-to-date Covid Information App

Colombia has developed the Coron App which allows citizens to receive daily government messages and see how the virus is spreading in the country without using up data.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Implementing Virtual Arts

In Colombia, Retina Latina offers Latin American films for free; Teatro Colon in Bogotá streams past performances, and the Gaboteca has opened up a digital archive for everything (film, books, articles) Gabriel García Márquez-related.

Source: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-and-policy-insight/insight-articles/covid-19-impact-innovation-americas-arts>

Congo, Democratic Republic of the

Rallying the Community with In-Person Contact Tracing

Community-level approaches have been successfully deployed in the DRC by engaging communities through information campaigns and sanitation measures. During the previous Ebola outbreaks, rather than relying on tech and apps, authorities trained local people to do in-person contact tracing instead.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Congo, Republic of the

Disinfectant Chamber

27-year-old David Nzassi Mbompela believes in the adage "if you can dream it, you can do it." David got concerned when he saw the laissez-faire attitude demonstrated by his country-folk in spite of the threats posed by COVID-19 so he created his disinfectant chamber to help fight the disease.

Source: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_\(Compressed\).pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_(Compressed).pdf)

Costa Rica

Lowering Government Officials Salaries to Fight Covid

One of the first things the government did was to lower officials' salaries to allot more money to fighting the virus, pay for the treatment of Covid 19 patients and medical supplies. This involved a 20% cut of wages to the president, ministers, legislators and directors.

Source: <https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/Uruguay-lacalle-implements-economic-measures-facing-covid-19-20200327-0003.html>

Cuba

Implementing Virtual Arts

In Cuba, the national literary, musical and filmic canon is being made available online through various platforms.

Source: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-and-policy-insight/insight-articles/covid-19-impact-innovation-americas-arts>

Czech Republic

Implementing Strict Protocols to limit Spread of Disease

The Czech Republic instituted strict precautions starting in March, which limited the number of those who became infected and those who died of Covid-19. C.R. received high praise. However there has been a second wave, which started in early fall. Another state of emergency with strong regulations is in effect again.

Virtual Covid and Pandemic Lecture in Conjunction with Wilson Center

On 18 November, 12:30 EST from the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., the annual Czech and Slovak Freedom Lecture: *The Role of Czech and International Scientists in the Fight Against the Pandemic* by Dr. Tomáš Cihlár, an internationally-recognized Czech Ph.D biochemist and a senior scientist with the American company Gilead Sciences, Inc., in Foster City, California.

Source: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/czech-and-slovak-freedom-lecture-role-czech-and-international-scientists-fight-against>

Postal Stamp Commemorating Essential Workers



Photo Credit: HC Marit Lee Kucera

In July, a postal stamp for domestic use was issued to commemorate essential workers in The Czech Republic. A red cross: healthcare professionals; a bugle; postal workers; camouflage: military; blue and yellow stripes; police: fire outline: the fire brigade; and polka dots: volunteers, delivery people, and everyone else who helped others. The stamps also state *děkujeme* (we thank you).

Free Facemasks

Starting at the end of March, Czech Post offered an additional service; it delivered facemasks free of charge. People could make fabric masks and send them without having to go to the post office, wait in a line, and risk contact with infected people. Over 160,000 packages of masks were sent without postage in early April alone.

Denmark

Danish COVID-19 infection tracing app (Smitte|stop)

The Danish government launched the COVID-19 infection tracing app

Smitte|stop the 18th of June 2020, which has been downloaded more than 660.000 times by the 3rd of July. This corresponds to approximately 12 percent of the Danish population – 14 percent of the population aged 15 years or more. It received the most downloads ever in Denmark by a new app on the first day and first week after publication. The key function of the app is to notify citizens who have been in close proximity to a person infected with COVID 19. It is now documented, that the app works and makes a difference – many have reported themselves infected though the app and other users have received notifications as a consequence.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/danish-covid-19-infection-tracing-app-smittestop/>

Denmark's 'Hack the Crisis' Hackathon

Denmark is one of the world's most digitized countries, acknowledged for its cooperation between academia, NGOs and the public and private sectors. We are inviting tech entrepreneurs, social workers, teachers, NGOs, public sector employees, companies, students, retirees – basically everyone in Denmark and abroad who want to help us identify and solve challenges that are appearing during the COVID-19 crisis. The idea was to search for ideas with a special focus on containment of coronavirus and on developing non-medical solutions to deal with its aftermath. The hack was divided into 3 tracks: Saving Lives, Helping Communities and Helping businesses. COVID-19 has developed into a global crisis in recent weeks. We are inviting you to join us in this online hackathon to help Denmark and the world emerge stronger than ever. Now is the time to design, test, and launch moonshot ideas to help tackle the crisis. Experts in all fields from Denmark and around the world are invited to join in solving challenges regarding COVID-19.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/denmarks-hack-the-crisis-hackathon/>

Ecuador

Creating a Network around Governance amid Covid 19

The project is to make a gigantic network with an easy to use platform for exchanging ideas, strategies, and solutions, disseminating information to the greater public, and making decisions by consensus for mass strategies. It could be the first step to unifying humanity, to create solidarity. We are also wishing to foment the municipalism movement world-wide by reimagining Johannesburg as a model of its feasibility and majesty. We could use help with this, to execute it quicker, though we have the know-how.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/horizontal-governing-reinventing-cities-unifying-humanity-digitally-with-a-gigantic-network/>

Egypt

African countries create online marketplace for medical supplies

African countries have created the Africa Medical Supplies Platform, to offer medical supplies like test kits, protective equipment and potential vaccines through a single online marketplace platform. South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa said that it “will address shortages and security of supply, ensure price competitiveness and transparency in procurement, reduce logistical delays, simplify payment processes and provide a common platform where governments

can access services from quality and certified suppliers”. The platform is set to be run as a non-profit by the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Ethiopia and Afreximbank in Egypt, which is already managing a \$3.8bn Covid-19 fund for the continent. This fund would be used to cover freight costs so that small and remote countries such as the Seychelles would pay the same prices as Senegal.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/african-countries-create-online-marketplace-for-medical-supplies/>

Eritrea

Covid App for Disabled People

TES-IT: a COVID-19 AWARENESS APP with modest resources, computer engineer and tech enthusiast Ebtsam Hussien Saleh, 26, and her colleague 38-year-old Tesfalem Belay Yohannes, are using their skills to respond to COVID-19 in a very unique way.

Source: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates - 50 homegrown African innovations tackling COVID-19 \(Compressed\).pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_-_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_(Compressed).pdf)

Estonia

Hack The Crisis Hackathon

Estonia, recognized as a world leader in the digital economy launched Hack the Crisis hackathon in March to generate ideas to tackle the pandemic. It was organized in a matter of hours and went global, attracting participants from 20 nations. Winning entries included a simple ventilator and an interactive volunteer database.

Source: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/estonia-hackathon-pandemic-covid19-technology/>

Source: <https://garage48.org/hackthecrisis>

Crowd Funding to Fill in the Gaps

On March 17, Wisefund, a P2P loans platform headquartered in the Baltic state Estonia, announced it will provide an option to get financial support via crowdfunding loans, especially for small businesses across Europe that have seen a reduction in revenue and are experiencing related restrictions due to the pandemic. At the same time, some other P2P lenders across Europe such as Monethera in Estonia have been allowed to pull down their shutters. Both have blamed the state of emergency among European Union member states and how difficult it is to recover debts.

Source: <https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/global-crowdfunding-projects-tackle-coronavirus/>

Ethiopia

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Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/african-countries-create-online-marketplace-for-medical-supplies/>

Finland

Avoiding Lockdowns but Keeping Virus at Bay

Using tight controls on travel and borders, and political consensus, the Nordic nations keep the pandemic under control. Some of the lowest rates of mortality linked to Covid 19 and a low incident rate of covid infections even though the economies have remained open.

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/finland-and-norway-avoid-covid-19-lockdowns-but-keep-the-virus-at-bay-11605704407?mod=e2tw>

Annual Helsinki Day celebrated virtually

Helsinki day has been celebrated every year on June 12th. This year the celebration took place virtually and through social media with the same level of spirit as every other year before. The day included 72 free events, from concerts to circus performances. Finland has done a great job in keeping the traditions alive in the midst of the virus.

Source: <https://helsinkipaiva.fi/en/2020/06/18/first-ever-virtual-helsinki-day-is-celebrated-with-over-70-events/>

Contact Tracing App

Koronavilkku is a contact-tracing app produced by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) to help find out whether a person may have been exposed to coronavirus. If a person has taken a coronavirus test and tests positive, they can use the app to share the information anonymously with those whom they have been in close contact with. This is a great and efficient way of being transparent and sharing information in order to protect each other. The app has been downloaded app. 2.5 million times (1 million within the first day of release) which makes it one of the most downloaded COVID apps in the world.

Source: <https://koronavilkku.fi/en/>

Source: <https://www.solita.fi/en/blogs/koronavilkku-is-here-10-questions-and-answers-about-the-finnish-coronavirus-app/>

Covid Detecting Dogs



Photo Credit: Finavia

Covid-19 dogs arrive at the airport – able to identify the virus earlier than laboratory tests. The Helsinki Airport initiated the “dog testing” at airports in September 2020. The innovative idea to use dogs and their incredible senses to smell the virus has been the first of its kind, and the results have been encouraging in the fight against the virus. Precautions are taken in order to protect the dogs - there is no direct contact between the dog and those taking the test, since the actual testing is performed at a separate space.

Source: <https://www.finavia.fi/en/newsroom/2020/covid-19-dogs-arrive-airport-able-identify-virus-earlier-laboratory-tests>

Government provided Covid lessons for children

Corona info session for children provided by the Finnish Government. The Finnish Government held an info session for kids in the spring, where kids could ask questions related to Corona via videoconference from the Prime Minister Sanna Marin, Minister of Education Li Andersson and Minister of Science and Culture Hanna Kosonen of Finland.

Source: <https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/10616/valtioneuvoston-koronainfo-lapsille-perjantaina-24-4->

France

Paris Uses Coronavirus lockdown to improve public spaces for pedestrians and cyclists

Some of the busiest traffic arteries in Paris will be reserved for cyclists in a bid to limit crowds on public transport when France begins lifting its coronavirus lockdown next week, the city's mayor Anne Hidalgo has said. In total, 50 kilometres (30 miles) of lanes normally used by cars will be reserved for bicycles.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/paris-uses-coronavirus-lockdown-to-improve-public-spaces-for-pedestrians-and-cyclists/>

Innovating Virtual Education System

Goals for Innovating French Education system: Democratize access to knowledge, avoid dropping out of school, promote differentiated pedagogy, train teaching teams in new practices and the use of new technologies, respond to the problems of breaking educational continuity in the event of a serious crisis or natural disaster, offer a complete school and educational structure (virtual) in places lacking an educational structure

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/teleportation-des-acteurs-dune-relation-pedagogique-dans-un-environnement-virtuel-educatif/>

Paris Cafe Uses Giant Teddy Bears to Ensure Social Distancing



Photo Credit: My Modern Met

A shop in Paris is using giant teddy bears on chairs to show the social-distancing space needed between customers

Source: <https://mymodernmet.com/paris-cafe-giant-teddy-bears-social-distancing/>

Germany

Germany Café Uses Pool Noodle Hats to ensure Social Distancing



Photo Credit: Café & Konditorei Rothe

Cafe owner, Jacqueline Rothe, came up with the idea to use pool noodles to keep patrons apart. Each customer is asked to wear a straw hat with the colorful, cylindrical polyethylene foam objects attached at the top. The unusual idea not only keeps people apart, but it's hard not to laugh at how ridiculous it looks. Rothe says, "In these difficult times, it's a pleasure to make others smile."

Source: <https://mymodernmet.com/german-cafe-pool-noodles/>

Crowd Funding to Fill in the Gaps

In Germany a national crowdfunding platform is hosting free projects for local businesses which also receive support through links from the website home page of each business's local authority. There are already a few initial successes: Innenstadt Jena has collected almost \$21,600 (€20,000) to sew protective masks for health and nursing staff or volunteers, and then make them available free of charge.

Source: <https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/global-crowdfunding-projects-tackle-coronavirus/>

The German Research Foundation's call for Interdisciplinary Research into epidemics

The German Research Foundation have launched a call for interdisciplinary research into epidemics and pandemics on the occasion of the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2. Funding is given to projects that deal with prevention, early detection, containment and research into the causes and effects of and dealing with epidemics and pandemics using the example of SARS-CoV-2 and other human-pathogenic microorganisms and viruses.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/the-german-research-foundations-call-for-interdisciplinary-research-into-epidemics/>

Ghana

Pool Covid Testing

Ghana has the second-highest rate of testing for COVID-19 in Africa (after South Africa). The key was a technique used by researchers at the Noguchi Memorial Institute of Medical Research known as "pool testing." Pool testing entails testing multiple blood samples together, and only conducting individual tests if the pool test reveals a positive result. This allows health officials to test more people at a faster pace and lower cost. Researchers from Saarland University in Germany recently published an article in The Lancet showing the effectiveness of this technique in ramping up testing with "sufficient diagnostic accuracy." The World Health Organization is now studying this technique.

Source: <https://attentionfwd.com/insights/african-innovation-during-covid-19/>

Source: <https://attentionfwd.com/insights/african-innovation-during-covid-19/>

Repurposed Drone sanitizers

In Ghana, a former pilot whose company specializes in spraying crops repurposed his drones and had them disinfect open-air markets and other public spaces. This quickly and cheaply got a job done that would normally have taken several hours and half a dozen people to do.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

First Country to Sequence Covid RNA

Ghanaian scientist was among the first in Africa to successfully sequence the genome of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). The country's laboratory leading the fight has also introduced some innovative testing methods allowing the country to test a far greater scale per million than the rest of Africa.

Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S235255252030075X>

Samples Delivered by Drone

Drones are also being used to deliver samples to the laboratory centers for testing.

Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S235255252030075X>

Solar Powered Hand Washing Machines

Local scientists and developers have also developed solar-powered handwashing machines.

Source: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S235255252030075X>

Greece

#GreeceVsVirus – Digital Innovation Against COVID-19

The Greek Ministry of Digital Governance launched, on April 14, two initiatives facilitating Digital Innovation Against COVID-19, using the hashtag #GreeceVsVirus, and is also participating in the #EUvsVirus challenge.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/greecevsvirus-digital-innovation-against-covid-19-2/>

Impact Multiplier: Multiply the impact of recovery funds for SMEs

The Impact Multiplier system is based on a tried and tested platform (Cyclos fintech software) that will boost recovery by increasing the velocity, the circulation and use of recovery funds, private investments and local consuming power. By making money circulate faster and more often among local SMEs, the impact of recovery and investment funds will be multiplied. This initiative is a B2B approach that connects with the European Solidarity Voucher Scheme which stimulates B2C consumption. The revenue from this system can bring about a return on investment, as well as be re-granted towards civil society activity for a truly healthy and sustainable recovery. Especially for Greece that has suffered during the previous decade an economic and financial severe downturn and given the fact that local production has to strengthen, agriculture and tourism sectors have to be sustainable as well as other important sectors of the national economy, the Impact Multiplier appears to offer a viable tool.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/impact-multiplier-multiply-the-impact-of-recovery-funds-for-smes-in-regions-of-greece/>

Guatemala

Teacher in rural Guatemala creates unique solution for classes during coronavirus confinement



Photo Credit: journey.coca-cola.com

In indigenous territory of Guatemala, where students have no access to mobile apps or computers and most don't even have electricity, Gerardo Ixcoy came up

with an ingenious solution to continue teaching his students: A mobile classroom, made from an adult tricycle: three wheels, a white board, a solar panel. Made with ingenuity and creativity, but above all, love for the underprivileged. In mid-March, when the pandemic was picking up speed and Guatemalan authorities began closing schools to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Gerardo raided his savings and bought himself a secondhand tricycle cart. Once he had the tricycle, the next step was to adapt it into a classroom on wheels. He put a roof with a solar panel on it, along with a plexiglass screen to avoid contagion, and he mounted a whiteboard on it so he could explain to the students the basics of primary education: math with fractions, the indigenous language of their ancestors, and the more universal national language of Spanish. The purpose of the solar panel is to provide constant power to a small loudspeaker so he can teach from a distance. It's a matter of respecting the healthy distance required to be safe from the virus. He, the teacher, stays outside, and the student participates from his or her house. Gerardo carries a broomstick to measure a safe distance between himself and his students, even though he's outdoors.

Source: <https://aleteia.org/2020/08/27/teacher-in-rural-guatemala-creates-unique-solution-for-classes-during-coronavirus-confinement/>

Guinea

Health Scan Tablet

Health Scan is a tablet that can detect body temperature, heart rate, and oxygen levels using a thermal camera and sensors. This allows medical professionals to determine if someone has COVID-19 in a matter of minutes. "We can target the hottest part of the body and get a much more reliable temperature than from a Thermoflash forehead reading, as we saw in China during the first days of the epidemic [when those readings were shown to be unreliable]," said Mountaga Keita, CEO of Tulip Industries, in an interview on Radio Television Guineenne. Tulip was able to put Health Scan on the market on March 17 by adapting a tablet it had originally designed for the armed forces to allow military doctors to do medical exams in remote locations.

Source: <https://attentionfwd.com/insights/african-innovation-during-covid-19/>

Guinea-Bissau

Combating Covid 19 Fake news with Nobas Checker (online news platform)

Nobas Checker is a fact-checking website aimed at combating disinformation and debunking fake news around the pandemic. The site was developed and is managed by Innovalab, with the support of UNDP and UNIOGBIS. The platform brings together a fact-checking community of doctors, journalists, and economists. Nobas means "News" in the native Crioulo language.

Source: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_-_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_\(Compressed\).pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_-_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_(Compressed).pdf)

Haiti

Haiti Teen Invents Hands-free Bucket Faucet



Photo Credit: Matiado Vilme / VOA

The 18-year old, who received acclaim in Haiti in 2019 for his ingenious remote-control loaders and trucks made of scrap metal, saw a need to help his neighbors wash their hands without contaminating the faucet with the coronavirus. “I made this electric bucket because I feared that if a person has the virus on their hands and they touch the faucet to turn it on, they could contaminate not only the faucet but also their neighbors. So, I wanted to find a way to solve that problem.” The teenager, who has no formal training in electronics, took a white plastic bucket, filled it with water, attached a mechanical faucet to dispense the water, and linked it to a blue plastic pedal, which powers it on and off. When people need to wash their hands, they simply step on the pedal to release water.

Source: [https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/finding-hope/haiti-teen-](https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/finding-hope/haiti-teen-invents-hands-free-bucket-faucet)

[invents-hands-free-bucket-faucet](https://www.voanews.com/covid-19-pandemic/finding-hope/haiti-teen-invents-hands-free-bucket-faucet)

Hong Kong

Disinfecting Face Masks

Hong Kong Tech entrepreneur Stark Chan Yik-hei’s mask was inspired by initial shortages of protective gear when the coronavirus first appeared in Hong Kong in January. His invention consists of three layers, the outer one with a coating that he claims allows for disinfecting when it is put in a battery-powered storage bag. He says the mask can be reused up to 60 times if properly cleaned. The first batch of 50,000 should be available next month.

Source: [https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3082657/opportunity-](https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3082657/opportunity-human-ingenuity)

[human-ingenuity](https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3082657/opportunity-human-ingenuity)

Iceland

Rakning C-19 Iceland Contact Tracer

Rakning C-19 is an official app from the Icelandic Government to help mitigate the Covid-19 pandemic in Iceland. The app collects the GNSS (GPS) location of the phone and stores locally on the device. If the phone owner is diagnosed with the Covid-19 disease he is asked by the Directorate of Health to share the location data for contact tracing in order to identify individuals that might need to go into quarantine.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/%e2%80%8brakning-c-19-iceland-contact-tracer/>
India

From discarded PPE to bricks:

That's what an Indian entrepreneur is doing with the rising stocks of disposable face masks from the pandemic. "I have eco-anxiety," says Binish Desai, who already has molded 40,000 bricks for construction from the used (and well sanitized) personal protective equipment and is gearing up to produce 15,000 such bricks a day. The masks are often made of polypropylene plastic, which can take hundreds of years to degrade, the Washington Post reports.

Source: https://www.washingtonpost.com/road-to-recovery/covid-ppe-waste-recycling-india/2020/11/24/298a5c12-285f-11eb-9c21-3cc501d0981f_story.html

Virtual Storefront with Free Access to Retailers

If shoppers can't visit the high street, why not bring the high street to shoppers? That is the idea behind Streetify, an e-commerce platform that launched in late March, just in time to help businesses respond to the COVID-19 crisis. With shoppers forced to stay at home, Streetify is hoping its website and free app will help connect consumers with local stores, to help keep them afloat. It is also providing retailers free access to the platform for one year in the U.K., U.S., Canada, India and Australia. Users of the app and website can actually choose the street they wish to visit and can scroll left or right to "walk" up and down. They are shown virtual storefronts and can click on any store to enter its Streetify website. Once inside the "store", consumers can see all of the special offers, deals and promotions that have been gathered from top deal sites such as Groupon and Rakuten. Business owners can also put messages in their virtual storefront windows, announcing deals, delivery options, in-stock goods and more.

Source: <https://www.springwise.com/innovation-snapshot/coronavirus-business-ideas>

ideas

Crowd Funding to Fill in the Gaps

In India the women's hockey team players, currently in lockdown at Sports Authority of India (SAI) Bengaluru, have started an online fitness challenge which will double up to help people stay in shape and generate funds for Covid-19 relief work.

Source: <https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/global-crowdfunding-projects-tackle-coronavirus/>

Covid Hackathon

A group of Indian organizations led by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organized a hackathon, in line with the Hackathons being organized by Accelerate Estonia and Garage48. Hackathons allow agile teams of people with different skill-sets to create solutions for India that would otherwise not have happened. The solutions include: A mechanical ventilator; an Autonomous UV disinfectant robot; 'Falcon', a virus tracking and surveillance system; an AI powered digital hospital and laboratory; and, a breathing shortness analyzer.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/hack-a-cause-indias-online-hackathon-to-find-solutions-to-covid-19/>

Indonesia

Online Consulting in West Java

Many businesses have been heavily hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia, especially micro, small and medium enterprises. To support these businesses during the pandemic, the Cianjur District Office for Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises launched an online consultation program called OK UMKM where businesses can ask for advice as well as manage requests for licenses, permits, and other certification such as halal certification. Instead of developing a new smartphone app, OK UMKM uses existing services where micro, small and medium enterprises are active, such as Linktree, WhatsApp, and various social media platforms. Businesses are then connected with support officers from the District Office for Co-operatives and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through sending messages on WhatsApp, sending DMs on social media, or making a telephone call.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/ok-umkm-online-consultation-for-micro-small-and-medium-enterprises-in-west-java/>

Cheap and Effective Air Filtration in Indonesian Hospital

In order to ensure the safety of personnel, COVID-19 hospitals must have standardized airborne infection handling systems. Rumah Sakit Paru Jember (Jember Lung Hospital) in East Java has developed a technology called ‘Burning System COVID-19’ (‘BUSY COVID-19’). The system includes negative pressure isolation rooms, an air ‘burning’ mechanism, and air filtration and temperature control. The BUSY COVID-19 system is easy to use and cheaper than other comparable technologies, yet is still effective in preventing the spread of the virus by filtering and sterilizing the air. In addition to the use of personal protection equipment and the establishment of health protocols, the BUSY COVID-19 system has proven to be an important step in preventing the transmission of the virus at RS Paru Jember.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/busy-covid-19-cheap-and-effective-air-filtration-at-an-indonesian-hospital/>

Ireland

Outside of the Box Ventilators

Irish engineering firm Combilift is a world leader in forklift trucks and a specialist in solutions for challenging situations such as long loads or in limited space. Its team applied the same kind of ‘outside the box’ thinking to develop the Combi-Ventilate, a splitter device that turns one ventilator into multiple ventilator stations.

Source: <https://irishadvantage.us/combilift-saving-lives-us/>

Seamless Airplane Travel

Irish identity technology firm Daon have worked with Denver International Airport to pilot a multi-faceted ‘seamless travel’ program, designed to solve the challenges of bringing passengers and employees back to airports.

Source: <https://irishadvantage.com/success-stories/the-future-of-cybersecurity-biometrics-transforming-travel-and-more/>

Covid Tracker App

Software development company NearForm worked with the Health Service in Ireland to develop a national Covid Tracker app. The app rapidly notifies those who have been in contact with someone who subsequently tested positive for Covid 19. The company has developed contact tracer apps that are now in use in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Gibraltar, Jersey, the largest of the channel islands, as well as New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, with more currently in development.

Gathering of Pandemic Experts

At the outset of the pandemic, Ireland moved quickly and brought research partners together to coordinate state and research community's efforts to mitigate and manage the pandemic. Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) have overseen a Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation program, which has provided funding to numerous projects aimed at tackling the virus.

Source: <https://www.sfi.ie/covid-19/>

Development of a New Covid Protein

Irish biotech company Aalto Bio has announced availability of a new protein, SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid protein (code CK 6404), earlier this year, for diagnostic test manufacturers, vaccine developers, and researchers globally, for use in the fight against Covid 19.

Source: <https://irishadvantage.com/success-stories/the-race-is-on-at-aalto-bio/>

Israel

COVID-19 national database and research infrastructure in Israel

The Ministry of Health established a national database on COVID-19, including a central reporting mechanism for health organizations and full medical data on confirmed cases and test results. Aggregated data is used to inform decision makers on the spread of the virus and the appropriate response. Additionally, the ministry of health is promoting a secure platform for researchers and developers to access anonymized data, in accordance with the privacy protection law.

Source: [https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/covid-19-national-database-and-](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/covid-19-national-database-and-research-infrastructure-in-israel/)

[research-infrastructure-in-israel/](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/covid-19-national-database-and-research-infrastructure-in-israel/)

Italy

Snorkel valve mask



Photo Credit: 3D Natives

In Italy, an engineering and creative firm has developed a valve that converts a snorkeling mask into a full-face mask ventilator.

Source: <https://www.post-gazette.com/news/science/2020/04/03/COVID-19-creative-ingenuity-invent-volunteer-medical-equipment-valve-Pittsburgh/stories/202003270120>

Source: <https://www.3dnatives.com/en/3d-printed-respirator-250320205/>

Designer Clothing becomes Philanthropic for Covid Relief

Italian fashion designer Brunello Cucinelli has announced an ambitious new philanthropic initiative, "Project in Support of Mankind." Instead of marking down the surplus of unsold, out-of-season clothing that is still in stores due to the temporary closures because of the Covid-19 pandemic, Cucinelli will simply give it all away, over \$30 million.

Source: <https://www.departures.com/lifestyle/fashion/brunello-cucinelli-donating-clothing-those-in-need>

Jamaica

Students in Jamaica write song to teach other kids how to prevent Covid

The onset of the dreaded coronavirus in Jamaica has failed to stifle the ingenuity and sharing spirit of citizens. Yanique Dobson, along with students at Brown's Town High in St Ann rallied to the call of informing their fellow Jamaicans on how best to deal with COVID-19, in song. The lyrics of the song was written by Dobson.

Source: http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/latestnews/Heart-warming_song_about_COVID-19_by_Jamaican_students?profile=1228

Japan

Antivirus coating protects frontline healthcare workers in fight against pandemic



Photo Credit: Handout, South China Morning Post

The paint could eventually be used on surfaces in cruise ships, passenger ferries and other commercial vessels as well. Japan's Nippon Paint and Corning of the US have developed a coating designed for use in hospitals that it said can repel microbes and help frontline health care and medical services workers in the fight against public health crises. Nippon Paint's Antivirus Kids Paint aims to protect frontline workers and has been developed with Corning, a US-based and New York-listed technology company. It has been tested by Texas-based Microchem

Laboratory and can render inactive almost 100 per cent of Feline Calicivirus, an upper respiratory infection in cats. The US Environmental Protection Agency has approved Feline Calicivirus as a suitable replacement for detecting human norovirus. “We believe the paint created can offer an additional layer of protection by reducing the risk of infection from viruses on the painted surfaces of hospitals and medical centers.”

Source: <https://www.scmp.com/business/companies/article/3080294/japan-nippon-paint-and-corning-develop-antivirus-coating>

Crowd Funding to Fill in the Gaps

Fans banded together in Japan to help save Mikado, one of the purest shrines to old-school video gaming left in the country. Rewards at the lower end include messages of thanks, in both written and personalized video form, and at the 5,000-yen mark (about US\$46) Mikado starts offering free plays of specific games at the arcade, and discounts.

Source: <https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/global-crowdfunding-projects-tackle-coronavirus/>

Open data on COVID-19 health situation and public services in local governments

The Tokyo metropolitan government provides information useful for civilians such as status of occurrence of COVID-19, and contact point for civilians who are concerned about their health such as “assistance provided to civilians by private organizations”. The Excel file shows information regarding services provided by private organizations including: type of the service provided by public organizations (e.g, education, medical services, communications, etc.); to whom the service is provided (e.g, individual, school, local government, etc.); time period when the service is provided; fee (fee or paid); name of the private organization; detail of provided service; URL; the condition, etc. Following Tokyo’s activity, other local governments have started similar information provisions.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/open-data-on-covid-19-health-situation-and-public-services-in-local-governments-in-japan/>

Portable Handwashing Machine

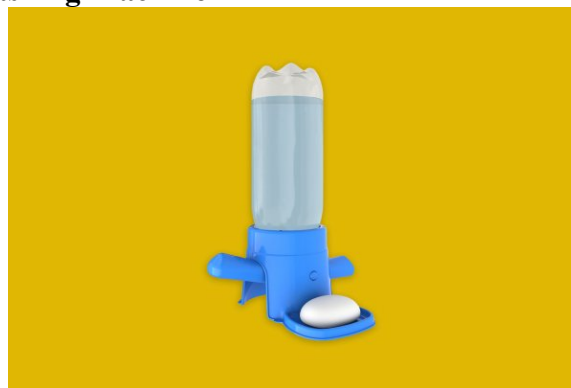


Photo Credit: Courtesy, TIME

Handwashing is one of the most effective, and cheapest, ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. But some 40% of the world’s population lack running water and soap at home. The U.N. says it will take years of investment in water infrastructure to solve that problem. In the short term, Japan’s

LIXIL has created the SATO Tap, a portable, refillable handwashing station with a holder for soap. The gadget is expected to hit retail markets in early 2021 for between \$3 and \$6. LIXIL is already working with public and private partnerships to roll out 500,000 units to households in need around the world in the next year. Source: <https://time.com/collection/best-inventions-2020/5911414/lixil-sato-tap/>

Jordan

Repurposing TV Channels to provide Educational Content for Children

TV channels have been repurposed to provide learning content (e.g. AlRiyadiya Channel is broadcasting Tawjihi lessons), existing online educational platforms to allow teachers to remotely deliver lessons have been promoted (e.g. Microsoft Teams and Edraak), as have other platforms for sharing learning material or tasks such as Google Classroom. Social media platforms such as Whatsapp are also being used by teachers to share learning content with both students and parents.

Source: [https://www.qrf.org/en/latest/blog/educational-response-covid-19-jordan-](https://www.qrf.org/en/latest/blog/educational-response-covid-19-jordan-and-other-arab-countries)

[and-other-arab-countries](https://www.qrf.org/en/latest/blog/educational-response-covid-19-jordan-and-other-arab-countries)

Kazakhstan

Astana Civil Service Hub, COVID-19 Platform

The Astana Civil Service Hub, on the basis of its mission, aiming to support the governments of the participating countries, has created this platform where they can exchange of knowledge and best practices in applying innovations to respond to COVID-19. The platform includes countries' reports with statistical indicators, recommendations and other facts that might be useful in the fight against the pandemic. The main objectives of the platform are: accumulation of analytical data and measures taken by the governments of a number of countries during the pandemic COVID-19; identification of innovative solutions & technologies in the fight against pandemic (during and post COVID-19); creation of an open platform for best practices exchange and dissemination among the Hub's participating countries and partners; providing support to the governments, partners and stakeholders in their initiatives aimed at preventing and eliminating the consequences of the spread of the coronavirus; enhancing the capacity of civil servants through conducting online activities during the telecommuting as a result of the emergency.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/astana-civil-service-hub-covid-19->

[platform/](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/astana-civil-service-hub-covid-19-)

Kenya

Nine-Year-Old Kenyan Boy Builds Hand Sanitizing Station to Fight COVID



Photo Credit: YouTube screen capture, DOGOnews

Stephen Wamukota, a nine-year-old from Mukwa village in Western Kenya, is making headlines worldwide for his ingenious hand washing machine. The young boy came up with the idea after watching village residents, who do not have easy access to running water, struggle to find an effective way to wash their hands to avoid spreading and contracting COVID-19. Using the few resources at his disposal — wood scraps, nails, and a bucket — Stephen designed and built a simple, but functional, cleansing station. The clever creation, which comprises two pedals — one to release soap and the other to release water — enables villagers to wash their hands contact-free, thereby reducing the likelihood of catching the dreaded infectious disease. "I had bought some pieces of wood to make a window frame, but when I came back home after work one day, I found that Stephen had made the machine," his father, James, told the BBC.

"The concept was his, and I helped tighten the machine. I'm very proud."

James credits Stephen's building prowess to the village school's curriculum, which teaches children to assemble and construct items from a very young age.

Source: [https://www.dogonews.com/2020/8/10/nine-year-old-kenyan-boy-builds-](https://www.dogonews.com/2020/8/10/nine-year-old-kenyan-boy-builds-hand-sanitizing-station-to-help-fight-covid-19)

[hand-sanitizing-station-to-help-fight-covid-19](https://www.dogonews.com/2020/8/10/nine-year-old-kenyan-boy-builds-hand-sanitizing-station-to-help-fight-covid-19)

Kosovo

Crowd Funding to Fill in the Gaps

BONEVET is asking for help to increase its 3D printing capacities for the production of face shield masks to protect medical workers in Kosovo.

Source: [https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/global-crowdfunding-projects-](https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/global-crowdfunding-projects-tackle-coronavirus/)

[tackle-coronavirus/](https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/global-crowdfunding-projects-tackle-coronavirus/)

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyz small business produces coronavirus-proof antiseptic dispenser

Ubai sprang into action, and in early March, his company was already making and selling a hands-free elbow-operated antiseptic dispenser for use in medical facilities. Ubai approved the design, calculated production costs and launched production. The first large orders came from medical equipment vendors, who liked the quality, simple design and affordable price, at 3-5 times less than imported equivalents. Ubai then made the product available more widely: leading

local companies purchased and started using it as part of their workplace sanitation arrangements. So far, he has sold over 10,000 antiseptic dispensers.

Source: ebrd.com/news/2020/small-business-in-the-kyrgyz-republic-produces-coronavirusproof-antiseptic-dispenser-.html

Laos

Brave effigies employed in Laos in the fight against Covid-19



Photo Credit: Garland Magazine

Effigies called ting mong have sprung up in Laos to help people fight the terrible side effect of lockdown, being alone. Life is very communal in rural Laos villages but when the pandemic hit, citizens were encouraged to be distant from one another. In northern Laos, *taleo*, protective talismans made from bamboo, quickly began to appear outside homes. The *taleo*, which is used by many ethnic groups, traditionally marks a demarcated space or event, and guards the peripheries of such units from unwanted human or spiritual visitors. It can now, too, double as a sign that the household it guards is isolating itself, per government regulations, and that any visitor should seek express permission before entering the property. More eye-catching has been the emergence of mannequin-like effigies outside villages in the Lao countryside. Pictures shared by the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Center in Laos depict diminutive figures armed with helmets, wooden spears and even scientifically approved face masks. The effigies have appeared both along the roads that lead to villages and even directly outside the villages themselves, serving as particularly tangible, and intimidating, markers of community boundaries.

Source: <https://garlandmag.com/loop/effigies-in-laos/>

Latvia

Crowd Funding to Fill in the Gaps

Some P2P lenders across Europe such as Grupeer in Latvia have been allowed to pull down their shutters. Both have blamed the state of emergency among European Union member states and how difficult it is to recover debts.

Source: <https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/global-crowdfunding-projects-tackle-coronavirus/>

Lithuania

Mask Fashion Week

Lithuania's capital held a "Mask Fashion Week" to encourage people to wear masks, and included 21 billboards featuring men, women and children wearing creative masks. The designs were selected by a local Facebook group "Mask Your Fashion" launched by designer Julija Janus to share novel designs for masks and tips on how to make them at home.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-lithuania-mask-fashion/lithuanian-capital-holds-mask-fashion-week-amid-coronavirus-pandemic-idINKBN22H260>

Intercontinental PPE Sharing

Lithuania sent \$100k in personal protective equipment to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to help fight Covid. The Baltic nation had relatively few cases of Covid, and they wanted to do recognize U.S. friendship over the years, especially the support of the Pennsylvania National Guard training Lithuanian troops since the country's independence from the Soviet Union.

Source: <https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english/19/1197262/lithuania-sends-humanitarian-aid-to-us-to-help-fight-coronavirus>

Socially Distant Movie Theater Experience

Vilnius International Airport in Lithuania turned into a giant drive-in movie theater during the pandemic. Over 200 cars fit onto the tarmac which is where planes would usually be boarded, parked and fueled. The movie screen was over five stories high, and local radio frequencies transmit the sound.

Source: <https://www.travelandleisure.com/attractions/festivals/lithuania-airport-drive-in-film-festival>

Mannequins for Socially Distant Dining



Photo Credit: Go Vilnius

When Vilnius eased restrictions on indoor dining, restaurateurs and fashion designers came up with a creative solution to fill the empty tables required for social distancing. Mannequins were dressed in clothing made by local brands and designers, and were seated throughout several dozen participating restaurants. At each display, diners found information about the products and boutiques where they could be purchased.

Source: <https://www.foodandwine.com/news/lithuania-capital-vilnius-restaurant-table-fashion-displays>

Madagascar

Recycling oil to make No Rinse Soaps

In Madagascar, 3 people out of 4 have no access to either water or soap (UNICEF) and many lost their jobs in Antananarivo due to lockdown. In a win-win solution, Green N Kook, an association of young environmental activists, is collecting and recycling waste oil to make no-rinse soap. They are involving vulnerable households in the project. An app is being produced to facilitate waste oil collections. This project won 5th prize at the Global Hack last April.

Source: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa innovates - 50 homegrown African innovations tackling COVID-19 \(Compressed\).pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_-_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_(Compressed).pdf)

Malaysia

Social Welfare distribution integration into Smart e-governance system

Like many other districts throughout Indonesia, Banyuwangi District in East Java has been hit hard by COVID-19 on both the health and economic fronts. The district has been a burgeoning tourism location in recent years; with the pandemic, tourists have all but disappeared from Banyuwangi.

Banyuwangi has been implementing the Smart Kampung (Smart Village) program for a number of years now, increasingly integrating technology and the internet into public services.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/social-welfare-distribution-integration-into-smart-kampung-e-governance-system/>

Malta

Double Decker Bus Concerts

Double decker bus concerts in various localities. Some of the most well known artist, musicians, singers and performers provided entertainment from the top of an open roof double decker bus to bring the joy of live music. It was a case of live entertainment without the fear of having to attend in crowded venues or enclosed theatres.

Source: www.tvm.com.mt/en/news/watch-double-decker-bus-concerts-in-various-localities-in-malta-and-gozo/amp/

Covid Frontline Worker Memorial Dress



Photo Credit: Malta Fashion Week & Fashion Awards

Dress by Maltese Designer with 2,000 names of Covid-19 frontline people during Malta Fashion Week and Malta Fashion Awards.

Source: <https://lovinmalta.com/lifestyle/art/stunning-yellow-dress-tribute-bearing-names-of-maltas-healthcare-workers-unveiled-in-mater-dei/>

Toll-Free Covid Hotline

Introduction of a toll free dedicated 24/7 Helpline for all questions related to Covid-19.

Virtual Arts Festival

A virtual festival of gratitude and inspiration by Maltese Artists to thank those working to control the spread of coronavirus in Malta and to those who are offering essential services.

Mauritania

Extremely Early Screening and Quarantine

Mauritania started screening visitors and quarantined the whole country two months before they even had a confirmed Covid case.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Mexico

Proposed Global Access for Vaccines in UN

Mexico proposed an initiative to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19 at United Nations, and it was adopted by consensus as General Assembly resolution 74/274, endorsed by 179 countries as co-sponsors.

Source: <https://www.justsecurity.org/69916/mexicos-initiative-to-ensure-global-access-to-medicines-vaccines-and-medical-equipment-to-face-covid19/>

Source: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/274>

Creation of Binational Health Week

The government of Mexico has a project called “Binational Health Week”, which is organized through the Mexican Consulates, including the participation of many organizations and partners around United States, Canada and some countries of Central America. In Oregon, they organized different activities all along the month of October, with the main goal to bring information and resources to our community to prevent the spread of COVID.19. Those activities included flu shots, delivering of resources by drive-through and webinars relating different health topics, such as mental health, COVID measures, sanitization and available funds for those in need.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=986861111822132>

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/SBSOregon>

Implementing Virtual Arts

In Mexico, Contigo en la Distancia is a government initiative to give access to most Mexican cultural archives and resources – including the national recipe archive. Xacara in Mexico has created a digital campaign and community to showcase globally emerging artists from Latin America, together with short support video clips signposting emerging artists to various support.

Source: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-and-policy-insight/insight-articles/covid-19-impact-innovation-americas-arts>

Morocco

Capital Injections to Businesses and Households

Public sector loans or capital injections to businesses: The launch of the product DAMANE OXYGENE, a guarantee product put in place by MEFRA with the Caisse Centrale de Garantie (CCG), aims to provide coverage for an exceptional overdraft up to 95% for SMEs and mid-sized companies with a turnover of between 200 million and 500 million DH, and whose activities have been impacted by the crisis. This new line of credit is intended to finance current expenses which cannot be carried over or suspended by the companies. It has also been extended to the real estate sector. Workers in the informal sector, starting with households benefiting from the medical assistance plan RAMED and which no longer have an income due to compulsory confinement, will receive 800 DH per month for households of two people or less; 1,000 DH per month for households of three to four people; 1,200 DH per month for households of more than four people. Households without RAMED operating in the informal sector and who have lost their income following compulsory confinement will also benefit from this provision by filling out their request

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/capital-injections-to-businesses/>

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/support-to-individuals-and->

[households-and-firms/](#)

Namibia

App Aiding Homeless People during Covid

Daniel Mgawi, a Namibian multidisciplinary Software Developer, has developed a “Homeless People’s Mobile Application” that is connecting homeless people to social services such as healthcare, shelter, social grants and food, during the COVID-19 enforced constraints

Source: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates -](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_-_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_(Compressed).pdf)

[50 homegrown African innovations tackling COVID-19 \(Compressed\).pdf](#)

Netherlands

Socially Distant Greenhouse Dining

The Amsterdam restaurant “ETEN” set up individual greenhouses where diners could be socially distanced from each other.

Source: [https://www.travelandleisure.com/food-drink/restaurants/amsterdam-](https://www.travelandleisure.com/food-drink/restaurants/amsterdam-restaurant-mediatic-eten-individual-greenhouses-for-dining)

[restaurant-mediatic-eten-individual-greenhouses-for-dining](#)

Netherlands offers dedicated financial support to agricultural and horticultural SMEs

In the Netherlands, Agricultural and horticultural SMEs will be supported by temporarily relaxing the guarantee for working capital, which is part of the existing decree Borgstelling MKB-Landbouwkredieten (BL). The decree will ease acute liquidity problems for agricultural and horticultural business who experience those problems due to the COVID-situation. The credit is for a maximum of 2 years.

Source: [https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/netherlands-offers-dedicated-](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/netherlands-offers-dedicated-financial-support-to-agricultural-and-horticultural-smes/)

[financial-support-to-agricultural-and-horticultural-smes/](#)

New Zealand

NZ Police use humorous, citizen-submitted videos for their crisis-comms

New Zealand Police undertook a series of efforts to communicate instructions, advice and information with citizens in new, creative, and sometimes humorous ways.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/new-zealand-police-use-humorous-and-citizen-submitted-videos-for-their-crisis-comms/>

Niger

Platform against the Spread

Muryar Matassa - which means “Voice of Youth” in Hausa, is a web and app platform, created by a group of young Nigeriens aged between 22-25, passionate about ICTs and how they can use their skills to mitigate the ravages of COVID-19 in their communities. They use the digital platform as civic, health and education tool for information and idea sharing about COVID-19.

Source: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_-_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_\(Compressed\).pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_-_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_(Compressed).pdf)

Nigeria

Prompt Taskforce Assembly

Nigeria set up a Covid taskforce within ten days of their first case being announced.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Triage Tool

The Covid-19 Triage Tool, developed by Wellvis Health a Nigerian health tech startup, helps users self-assess their COVID risk category. By answering epidemiologically relevant questions about their symptoms and exposure history, users are placed into low, medium, and high-risk categories. Then based on their category, users will be directed to remote medical advice or a nearby healthcare facility. The interface is being used by the Nigeria Center for Disease Control. In its first two weeks up, the Triage Tool was used by more than 380,000 people.

Source: <https://attentionfwd.com/insights/african-innovation-during-covid-19/>

Norway

Avoiding Lockdowns but Keeping Virus at Bay

Using tight controls on travel and borders, and political consensus, the Nordic nations keep the pandemic under control. Some of the lowest rates of mortality linked to Covid 19 and a low incident rate of Covid infections even though the economies have remained open.

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/finland-and-norway-avoid-covid-19-lockdowns-but-keep-the-virus-at-bay-11605704407?mod=e2tw>

Smittestopp, Norway’s Contact Tracing App

Smittestopp is an app that will help Norwegian health authorities to limit the transmission of coronavirus. Anonymized data about movement patterns in society from the app are used to develop effective infection control measures. Once a user has downloaded and started to use the Smittestopp app, he or she will be sent a text message if has been in close contact with another Smittestop user who is subsequently diagnosed with COVID-19. The message will advise about how to limit further transmission. Anonymized data will give insight to the

Norwegian Institute of Public Health into the effect of any changes in the measures against coronavirus.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/smittestopp-norways-contact-tracing-app/>

Norway's 'Hack the Crisis' Hackathon

Hack the Crisis Norway is an online hackathon set up to meet the challenges our society is facing as a result of the coronavirus. The event is organized by volunteers from the tech and startup community in Norway. In a hackathon, people come together to create solutions and concepts from scratch in a short amount of time. Over the course of a weekend, people all over Norway joined forces to create innovative solutions to the corona crisis. Anyone could participate in Hack the Crisis Norway, and no previous experience was required. The winners for each category receive NOK 100 000, and the runners-up will each get NOK 50 000. After the hackathon, there will be new initiatives to follow up on good ideas and solutions that did not win.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/norways-hack-the-crisis-hackathon/>

Pakistan

Engaging Community to Reduce Spread by 80%

Between the start of April and the end of June, the Rural Development Foundation based in Sindh province in Pakistan on its own decreased the spread of infection in the region by more than 80%. It did this by engaging communities through information campaigns and sanitation measures.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Palestine

Gaza makes own Tools to Fight Covid despite Israeli Blockade

Gaza's engineers have been forced to confront the COVID-19 pandemic with ingenuity: building ventilators from scratch

Source: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/north-africa-west-asia/coerced-innovation-gaza-makes-its-own-tools-fight-against-covid-19/>

Al-Quds University Produces Innovative Prototype for Inexpensive Ventilators

On April 1, Al Quds University President, Professor Imad Abu Kishek announced that his university has "succeeded in producing a fully computerized ventilator capable of saving lives and providing a viable alternative to the shortage in Palestine and beyond in the standard commercial ventilators and other respiratory support machines", the Palestinian official news agency Wafa reported.

According to Abu Kishek, the prototype was designed by university professors from Medicine and Engineering departments. The Palestinian Ministry of Health had reported that only 250 medical ventilators are available throughout all Palestinian hospitals and that two-thirds of these machines are already in use. Due to the Israeli siege on Gaza, which is also hit by the Coronavirus, only a few operable machines are available to cover the need of two million people.

Source: <https://www.palestinechronicle.com/palestinian-ingenuity-al-quds-university-produces-innovative-prototype-for-inexpensive-ventilators/>

How a Palestinian shoemaker started the West Bank's only mask factory overnight

Two days after the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in Bethlehem, Amjad Zaghir, a shoe factory owner from the Palestinian city of Hebron, realized the West Bank would soon run out of face masks. Less than three weeks later, he is now the only mask manufacturer there. Zaghir's factory, which he started overnight, now produces thousands of masks a day, and has made him a national hero for helping Palestinians protect themselves from the virus. Zaghir got to work as soon as news broke of the first diagnosed cases of COVID-19 in Bethlehem.

Source: https://www.972mag.com/coronavirus-mask-factory-hebron/?fbclid=IwAR1S0rySaFMovr2_ujuyvzN31Z2mnJCY3pdTjXhkW18AqWE_UveHVG75_w

Panama

Dr Rosa Chatbot

Dr Rosa is a virtual assistant/chatbot in WhatsApp. Dr Rosa asks users a series of questions and, through artificial intelligence algorithms, determines the symptoms of the patient. Based on these, the user is passed to a virtual office, where they are evaluated by professional doctors, who can send an ambulance with specialized personnel for physical observation and home care, or even refer them to a hospital center as appropriate.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/dr-rosa-chatbot/>

Papua New Guinea

Hands Free hand washing Machine in Rural Papua New Guinea



Photo Credit: MAF PNG, Papua New Guinea Buzz

To increase hand washing to combat Covid 19, residents of Kapal have created this little station near the parking bay at the airstrip with a ribbon on it and decorated it nicely. It was pilot's honor to cut the ribbon with everyone watching and clapping hands. This is the start of a new era for Kapal, where everyone is now encouraged to wash their hands.

Source: <https://pngbuzz.com/ngo-news/6135>

Paraguay

“Wendá”: A platform to connect, strengthen and scale, COVID-19 solutions

"Wendá" (Web + Rendá, the guaraní word for “place”) is the place where we network and connect. It's a social and digital platform that articulates, promotes, and strengthens government and citizen initiatives during the COVID-19 and beyond. The platform enables a participatory mapping of people and organizations' programs, projects, and needs, related to the COVID19 crisis. In

just the first two weeks, over 120 initiatives signed up, with many of the groups behind them already starting to work together thanks to this platform. "Wendá" brings together volunteers to help governments and civil society organizations that are joining the platform, in their efforts to continue delivering critical services such as food for vulnerable populations (e.g., communal soup kitchens), emergency loans for small business and job opportunities for the unemployed.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/wenda-a-paraguayan-platform-to-connect-strengthen-and-scale-covid-19-solutions-and-needs/>

Resources for Paraguayan Entrepreneurs

Initiative launched on April 24 in the framework of the quarantine due to COVID-19 imposed by the Paraguayan government to provide information in a single space, technological solutions, financial solutions, tax measures and labor measures to be taken into account in the context of the pandemic. It began with more than thirty solutions for entrepreneurs and MSMEs promoted from the public and private sectors, in addition to another twenty tax and labor measures determined from the public sector. The platform seeks to be a portal for updated information on the measures expressly developed in the fight against COVID-19 and a compiler of services and tools that can be especially useful for entrepreneurs and MSMEs, at this time, offered both from the public sector, as well as from the private sector, civil organizations, universities or other cooperation organizations that voluntarily adhere to communicate their measures.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/recursos-para-emprendedores-y-mipymes-paraguayas-frente-al-covid-19/>

Peru

Implementing Virtual Arts

In Peru, Cultura24 hosts concerts, plays, courses and everything cultural – including a couple of British Council-supported plays from Shakespeare Lives.

Source: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-and-policy-insight/insight-articles/covid-19-impact-innovation-america-arts>

Philippines

Development of three different tracing apps

Philippines department of Science and Technology develops apps to fight covid including contact tracing apps, personal health assessment apps, and community monitoring apps.

Source: <https://www.geospatialworld.net/blogs/innovative-apps-support-philippines-fight-against-covid-19/>

Development of Personal Health App

Philippines Develops personal health apps, suggesting what to do when given a number of symptoms and proper action to be taken.

Source: <https://www.geospatialworld.net/blogs/innovative-apps-support-philippines-fight-against-covid-19/>

Repurposed Drones to be Mobile AI thermal scanners

In partnership with Orbital Exploration (OrbitX) Technologies, six artificial-intelligence-powered thermal scanners mounted on drones are being produced initially to easily scan and pinpoint people with high body temperature. These drones provide real-time data transmission, are equipped with GPS, and has a 2-

km range for communication. This technology aims to shorten the queuing of people and minimize contact between individuals at checkpoints.

Source: <https://www.geospatialworld.net/blogs/innovative-apps-support-philippines-fight-against-covid-19/>

Improvised PPE from Recycled Materials

Improvised PPE: Moises used some of the hospital's spoiled X-ray film with the emulsion stripped off, foam packing material, elastic and a glue gun to make his own face masks. Some staff also are using rain coats they can sanitize and reuse as a substitute hazmat suit.

Source: <https://www.itnonline.com/article/shortage-ppe-due-covid-19-driving-innovation-rt-philippines>

Social Entrepreneurship response to the pandemic: Enterprise grants

Now more than ever, social enterprises play a key role in responding to the crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing quarantine measures. Social enterprises are innovating to develop new products and services, provide alternative means of delivery of goods, and hack current systems in place to address the crisis and sustain impact on communities. Through social entrepreneurship, we can #riSEup from the crisis.

Source: <https://www.isip-ph.com>

Poland

Dashboard of COVID-19 health situation and pandemic-specific information for public

The Government of Poland provides information useful for citizens such as infection rate, list of specialized hospitals, info on pandemic-specific restrictions, special sections with info for entrepreneurs, students, people traveling or needing social aid.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/dashboard-of-covid-19-health-situation-and-pandemic-specific-information-for-public-in-poland/>

Portugal

Increased Screening in Nursing Homes

In order to promote a rapid response to COVID-19, since the beginning of March, the ABC-Algarve Biomedical Center starts to provide clarification sessions about COVID-19 to community. Right after, implement several other initiatives, including the establishment of a partnership with the Ministry of Health to strengthen the response capacity of the SNS24 Line; a free support line for the population of Algarve, the INFO COVID-19 Algarve; a COVID-19 test center in the Algarve, namely since April 1, all users and employees of the elderly homes in the Algarve have been screening for COVID-19, COVID-19 serological screening in the Algarve population and also started to produce swabs for biological samples collection, a partnership between the Algarve Biomedical Center (ABC) and the start-up MARK6 - PROTOTYPING. It is an all-volunteer effort, and we are working to increase the National health System response and, therefore, help in COVID-19 pandemic control.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/sars-cov-2-detection-in-algarve-population-to-increase-the-country-response-to-covid-19/>

Puerto Rico

Head of Pfizer Vaccine Research based in Puerto Rico

Nannette Cocero, a Puerto Rican Doctor in Pharmacy and Master's in Business Administration, spearheads the development of a COVID-19 vaccine as the worldwide president of Pfizer's multinational vaccine program. Dr. Cocero leads this effort from Puerto Rico to the world. This novel mRNA-based vaccine from Pfizer and BioNTech rendered promising results with 90% efficacy and no safety issues in their phase 3 clinical trials.

Qatar

Better Connections Virtual Consultation

The Pilot Phase provided the launched virtual consultations in 5 labor compounds, The Better Connections virtual consultation is a build on the Better Connections infrastructure (Computers installed and connected to the internet in labor camps), to allow the migrant workers to have a successful virtual consultation with physician and doctors in the health centers through online video session instead of physically visit the health center or the hospital. Nurses had been trained on PPE and disinfection procedures, as well as the virtual consultation tool and flow.

- o The migrant workers visit the compound clinic when needed.
- o The clinic nurse provide triage if possible.
- o The clinic nurse (to assure the disinfection procedures) to initiate a virtual consultation video call with one of the scheduled doctors.
- o Company driver to collect the medicine (if needed) in the next day following the medical transportation procedures and recommendations.

Source: [https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/better-connections-virtual-](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/better-connections-virtual-consultation/)

[consultation/](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/better-connections-virtual-consultation/)

Romania

At Home Covid Treatment Training

Treatment delivered at home and training about assisting a Covid 19 patient at home from the Romanian Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Interior

Source: https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/?_paged=3

Russia

A situation Centre for universities in the Russian Ministry of Education and Science

Since March 16, all Russian universities were recommended to introduce mixed and distance learning formats. To support universities during the transition period in connection with the unfavorable situation caused by the new coronavirus infection (COVID-2019), a Situation Center of the Russian Ministry of Education and Science and a hotline have been created. The recommendations for the universities on the transfer of educational courses to the online format were developed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

Source: [https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/a-situation-centre-for-universities-](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/a-situation-centre-for-universities-in-the-russian-ministry-of-education-and-science/)

[in-the-russian-ministry-of-education-and-science/](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/a-situation-centre-for-universities-in-the-russian-ministry-of-education-and-science/)

Rwanda

Fast Covid Testing Algorithm

Rwanda developed an algorithm for testing lots of samples simultaneously by pooling them together. This reduced costs and turnaround times, ultimately leading to more people being tested and building a better picture of the disease in the country.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia to offer Covid-19 vaccine for free to citizens and residents

Saudi Arabia plans to offer Covid-19 vaccines for free to all the citizens and residents living in the country, the kingdom's Ministry of Health said on Monday. The ministry aims to cover 70 per cent of the country's population – that has not yet contracted Covid-19 – by the end of 2021

Source: <https://gulfbusiness.com/saudi-to-offer-covid-19-vaccine-for-free-to-citizens-and-residents/>

Saudi Arabia Extends Covid Salary Aid Program into January of 2021

The program originally covered 70 per cent of Saudi employees in firms with over five workers. Saudi Arabia extended by three months a stimulus program to help businesses still struggling to recover from the effects of Covid-19 but rolled back its scope, in a first test of how the economy will respond as support measures introduced at the height of the pandemic wind down. The initiative, which was due to expire in October, will now continue until January and will support half of all Saudis working in an organization still affected by coronavirus, sectors including travel, sports and entertainment.

Source: <https://gulfbusiness.com/saudi-arabia-extends-covid-salary-aid-programme-in-reduced-form/>

Senegal

Cheap Fast Covid Test

Early on in the pandemic, Senegal developed a 10-minute Covid-19 test that cost less than \$1 and doesn't need sophisticated laboratory equipment.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Serbia

Rallying of Citizens and Public Sector Departments

Including: "Donate Plasma", "Be a Volunteer", "Digital Solidarity", COVID-19 information chatbot, "My Classroom", "My School", "eKindergarten", "eEnrolment", the initiative to donate computers to children from underprivileged families and other solutions within the integrated response of the education system.

Source: <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/en/156741/serbia-among-top-five-countries-of-oecd-initiative-for-reporting-innovative-responses-during-coronavirus-pandemic.php>

A Focused Coordination of Essential Systems

The establishment of innovative technological solutions and electronic services is aimed at achieving an optimal coordination of the systems of health care, education, security and other crucial systems in the times of crisis, a timely and punctual information of citizens, as well as continued provision of services to citizens and the economy.

Source: <https://www.srbija.gov.rs/vest/en/156741/serbia-among-top-five-countries-of-oecd-initiative-for-reporting-innovative-responses-during-coronavirus-pandemic.php>

Sierra Leone

Rallying the Community with In-Person Contact Tracing

Community-level approaches have also been successfully deployed in Sierra Leone by engaging communities through information campaigns and sanitation measures. During the previous Ebola outbreaks, rather than relying on tech and apps, authorities trained local people to do in-person contact tracing instead.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Singapore

SmartNationTogether

#SmartNationTogether is a joint effort between the Singapore Government and Smart Nation Ambassadors, consisting of community and corporate volunteers. Since #SmartNationTogether was launched in June 2020, more than 70 unique programs have been presented by 40 partners with more than 6,000 participants engaged. It has also built a following of more than 12,000. Facebook engagement on #SmartNationTogether has also achieved more than 600 “likes” since June 2020.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/smartnationtogether/>

Slovakia

Slovakians can buy and sell future services through Smesvami.sk

Smesvami.sk is a digital platform that will enable Slovakian small business owners and entrepreneurs to offer their future services through a simple online form, which generates their own webpage that they can share with customers. As well as generating a unique page and URL that they can share with potential customers, it also allows people to search the database of potential offers for people based on their different professions.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/slovakians-can-buy-and-sell-future-services-through-smesvami-sk/>

Slovenia

Collaboration for gathering and visualizing COVID-19 open data in Slovenia

This crowdsourcing project collects, analyses and publishes data on COVID-19 in Slovenia. The initiative has been collecting data from various publicly available sources and have a direct connection with health institutions and the NIJZ. The institutions send structured data, which are then validated and made available in formats suitable for visualization and presentation to the public, as well as for further work on model development and forecasting.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/collaboration-for-gathering-and-visualising-covid-19-open-data-in-slovenia/>

Slovenians can buy vouchers for future services

Slovenians can now pay for future services through a dedicated website, enabling them to support local businesses and entrepreneurs who can no longer operate. The offer is divided into several categories, customers can choose from products and services food and drink, tourism, beauty and health, retail stores and other craftsmen. For now, more than 270 bidders can buy securities. Providers introduced themselves briefly on the website, their entire offer and references, and a voucher can be purchased by writing to them by email or calling them. The

value of the vouchers is very different, for example, for \$ 100, \$ 200, or \$ 500, or negotiating a different amount with the provider. Some people value a voucher based on an hourly rate, for example, where you can buy three hours of their services. You receive the voucher by e-mail.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/slovenians-can-buy-vouchers-for-future-services/>

future-services/

Somalia

Homemade ventilator made from scrap wood and household materials by a 21-year-old inventor

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmMVipKLZZQ>

South Africa

WhatsApp Interactive Covid Chatbot

In an effort to educate people quickly about COVID-19, the South African government created an interactive WhatsApp chatbot, HealthAlert. Praekelt.org, a Johannesburg-based non-profit focused on mobile technology solutions to social problems, partnered with the South African National Department of Health to launch COVID-19 HealthConnect, a set of interconnected services, including HealthAlert. Launched in March, the chatbot can answer common questions about the coronavirus, including symptoms and treatment. It has reached over 6.2 million users in five languages. HealthConnect also includes COVID-19 HealthCheck, software that assesses a user's risk to help early detection, mapping, and management of cases, and HealthWorkerAlert, which provides information and psychosocial support for frontline healthcare workers. Other countries and organizations now using HealthConnect services include the World Health Organization, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda, Australia, and New Zealand. Praekelt.org estimates that HealthConnect has the potential to reach two billion people globally

Source: <https://attentionfwd.com/insights/african-innovation-during-covid-19/>

Crowd Funding to Fill in the Gaps

A 28-year-old family-run food business in South Africa is looking to crowdfunding to keep its retail chain afloat and maintain about 600 jobs.

Source: <https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/global-crowdfunding-projects-tackle-coronavirus/>

tackle-coronavirus/

South Korea

Current COVID-19 situation dashboard in Korea

The official dashboard that presents the current status of the COVID-19 epidemic in Korea at the national, provincial and municipal level from official reports by the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) including a daily monitoring situation update (number of confirmed cases, released from quarantine/discharged healed, isolated in treatment centers/hospitalized and deceased).

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/current-covid-19-situation-dashboard-in-korea/>

dashboard-in-korea/

Release of Open API dataset for the availability of public masks at designated stores

The official daily public mask stock information of each vendor (pharmacy, post office and designated mart) is provided including mask stock, address of vendor, warehousing of mask stocks and etc. Datasets are available based on address and

coordinates (latitude / longitude) by vendor and region. Datasets are collected by HIRA and then are processed (e.g. combine GPS Coordinates for the address of each vendor) by NIA and also released with an Open API format on the central open data portal(data.go.kr). Especially, the Naver Cloud Platform was used and also freely provided as an API server to quickly provide the dataset for independent developers, internet portals (such as Naver and Kakao Corporation), and startups."

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/release-of-open-api-dataset-for-the-availability-of-public-masks-at-designated-stores/>

Spain

3D Printed Respirator

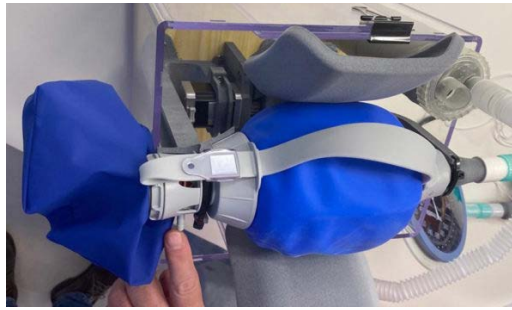


Photo Credit: 3D Natives

In Spain, medical professionals have approved an emergency 3D-printed respirator that helps patients breathe for a short time.

Source: <https://www.post-gazette.com/news/science/2020/04/03/COVID-19-creative-ingenuity-invent-volunteer-medical-equipment-valve-Pittsburgh/stories/202003270120>

Source: <https://www.3dnatives.com/en/3d-printed-respirator-230320205/>

Sudan

Repurposing a Prosthetics rehabilitation center to make PPE

In normal times, the National Authority for Prosthetics and Orthotics (NAPO)'s Rehabilitation Centre in Khartoum is a bustling place, crowded with people of all ages and different physical disabilities. At present, however, with a COVID-related lockdown in place across Khartoum state, beneficiaries are no longer able to come to the Centre for treatment, and the production of prosthesis and other appliances is at a standstill. For the staff, however, this pause has been an opportunity to contribute to people's wellbeing in another way. Under the supervision of their technical director Yousif Musa and with the support of the ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation (PRP) team, NAPO staff are using ingenuity and innovation to produce lightweight but durable protective face shields as part of much needed personal protective equipment (PPE) for front line health workers and other medical staff caring for COVID-19 patients, and people in quarantine.

Source: <https://reliefweb.int/report/sudan/sudan-making-face-shields-health-care-heroes>

heroes

Sweden

Out of work Swedish airline workers are offered medical training by university

Sophiahemmet University College in Sweden is offering basic medical training to workers of the SAS airline who are currently out of work. Airline workers are often used to working in high-pressure situations with difficult-to-manage

customers, and so theoretically have a calm nature and people-skills that might make them suitable workers for a crisis like coronavirus.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/out-of-work-swedish-airline-workers-are-offered-medical-training-by-university/>

Switzerland

Switzerland provides bailout to Lufthansa in exchange for environmental changes

The Swiss parliament has backed the government's request for nearly 1.9 billion Swiss francs (\$1.97 billion) in aid for the struggling aviation sector crippled by the coronavirus pandemic, but said carriers must meet environmental targets. The lower house of the parliament linked approval of the package to assurances that the carriers would adhere to future government climate targets. Aviation bailout funds are to be used only for Swiss infrastructure. The government forbade dividends or other payments by carriers until the assistance has been repaid. Switzerland is not seeking ownership stakes in the airlines helped by the aid package, although state-backed loans from banks would be secured by shares in Swiss and Edelweiss.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/switzerland-provides-conditional-bailout-to-lufthansa/>

Taiwan

Growth of Economy despite Covid Lockdowns

Serious lockdowns, strict border control and compliance after a 2003 SARS scare have resulted in some of the lowest rates of Covid despite a sizeable population (the same as Australia) packed closely together and one of the few countries to report an increased economic GDP, despite covid.

Source: <https://fortune.com/2020/10/31/taiwan-best-covid-response/>

Thailand

Antivirus hospital and Covid-Free Cupcakes



Photo Credit: AP, Myanmar Times

Thailand's University Hospital will open the kingdom's first field hospital for coronavirus patients on Wednesday. Timed to coincide with the release of Covid-free cupcakes with icing masks, displayed at the cheesecake house in Bangkok.

Source: <https://www.mmmtimes.com/news/thailand-open-first-anti-virus-field-hospital.html>

Togo

Go Agric E-Commerce

Edeh Dona Etchri is the founder of CLIN-SARLU, Togo's local digital incubation center, and a hub for start-ups working in the agriculture and sustainable development sectors. He originally created his e-agribusiness as a platform for farmers to sell their products on the local, regional and international market. "But the COVID-19 pandemic has seen producers lose their income due to the lack of customers," he says. Rising to the COVID-19 enforced challenge, he adapted his platform - to not only reflect the new reality - but to also continue providing his much-needed services to his community. He created GoAgriCOVID-19 – an online based, home delivery agri-business platform, which has become Togo's go for buying and selling essential agricultural produce during the pandemic. Transactions are done via a WhatsApp chatbot.

Source: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_\(Compressed\).pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_(Compressed).pdf)

Tunisia

Web-Based Lung X-ray Scans

Engineers at Tunisia's National Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (INSAT) have developed a web-based platform that scans lung X-rays and evaluates whether someone is likely to have COVID-19. The Covid 19 Exam Ct-XR images by AI can recognize the signs of the virus on lungs. In interviews with Agence France Presse, the developers say it provides a 90 percent reliable indication of the probability of infection and is the first openly available initiative of its kind. As only an X-ray and an internet connection are needed, the platform is particularly helpful in regions without major hospitals or specialists. INSAT developed the platform with support from German development agency GIZ, the Italian Society of Medical Radiology, and IBM. It is still being tested and is pending approval from Tunisia's Ministry of Public Health. "We do not have any legacy systems, and we have been dealing with malaria, flu, and HIV," says Eric Osiakwan, Managing Partner at Chanzo Capital, which seeds and invests in early stage tech ventures across the continent. "These adverse disease conditions have not only made us tough, also but resilient, so we can be nimble."

Source: <https://attentionfwd.com/insights/african-innovation-during-covid-19/>

Turkey

Turkey supports their own 'Coronathon' hackathon

The Ministry of Industry and Technology together with the private sector organized a Coronathon event for entrepreneurs who have potential to provide technology-based solutions for COVID-19 pandemic. This event was held on 21-22 March 2020. More than 150 projects competed and more than 150 mentors took roles to help entrepreneurs. TÜBİTAK is providing complementary support to the awardees of this Coronathon competition in collaboration with some of the selected Technology Transfer Offices. Technology transfer offices (Boğaziçi University TTO, İTÜ Çekirdek and METU TTO) will use a top-up fund provided by TÜBİTAK in order to support entrepreneurs through their accelerator programs. These technology transfer offices also act as implementing bodies

evaluating the business plans of young and innovative candidate entrepreneurs in the Techno-Entrepreneurship Support Program of TÜBİTAK.

Source: [https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/turkey-supports-their-own-](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/turkey-supports-their-own-coronathon-hackathon/)

[coronathon-hackathon/](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/turkey-supports-their-own-coronathon-hackathon/)

Uganda

Eco Masking (reusable, biodegradable face masks)

Franc Kamugyisha 27, describes himself as a serial social entrepreneur. Despite the ravages of COVID-19, this year he has already won two awards for his work: The Earth Tech Challenge Award 2020, and the Young Sustainable Impact (YSI) Solutions for COVID-19 award – through Africa vs Virus Challenge 2020, a jobs for youth in Africa initiative by the African Development Bank (AfDB). He says Ecoplastile is already exporting the Eco masks to other African countries including, DR Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Burundi, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso. Two companies in Switzerland and Australia, have also placed orders.

Source: [https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_\(Compressed\).pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_(Compressed).pdf)

[50 homegrown African innovations tackling COVID-19 \(Compressed\).pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_50_homegrown_African_innovations_tackling_COVID-19_(Compressed).pdf)

Ukraine

Open contracting approaches to emergency procurement: open data, business intelligence & community engagement

Open data and open government procurement to regulate and monitor emergency COVID-19 response using the Ukrainian government's Prozorro open contracting platform. Emergency procurements is excluded from the general procurement law; however a list of goods/works/services which could be procured is adopted (the list is structured, covers INNs for medicines, GMDN classifiers for medical devices) and structured open data for reporting for all signed and concluded contracts is mandatory. This enables both speed and transparency and public accountability of the supplies procured. Because the reporting is structured according to the Open Contracting Data Standard and generates real-time, reliable, machine-readable, openly accessible open data, a separate reporting dashboard in a business intelligence tool has been developed to display all contracts concluded to tackle COVID-19 pandemic. The government is actively collaborating with business and civil society to establish real-time monitoring of all emergency contracts.

Source: [https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/open-contracting-approaches-to-](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/open-contracting-approaches-to-emergency-procurement-open-data-business-intelligence-community-engagement/)

[emergency-procurement-open-data-business-intelligence-community-engagement/](https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/open-contracting-approaches-to-emergency-procurement-open-data-business-intelligence-community-engagement/)

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Ensuring continuity of vital government services around the clock by the government

The UAE government has showed its readiness to identify and provide vital services for all citizens and residents so that they can obtain their government services around the clock through using smart channels without the need of any physical visit to its centers. This is to enable customers to complete their transactions remotely, in a way that ensures their safety and supports the UAE's efforts towards facing the challenges of COVID-19, and reduce its impact on all sectors. All these vital services have been shown on a single page and also disseminated through a digital booklet. The UAE government has been working

on adopting and developing innovative tools and smart services system capable of corresponding to all potential challenges, achieving the highest levels of readiness and continuity in providing government services, and reaching customers at all times and under all circumstances.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/u-ae-ensuring-continuity-of-vital-government-services-around-the-clock-by-the-uae-government/>

United Kingdom (UK)

Virtual Storefront with Free Access to Retailers

If shoppers can't visit the high street, why not bring the high street to shoppers? That is the idea behind Streetify, an e-commerce platform that launched in late March, just in time to help businesses respond to the COVID-19 crisis. With shoppers forced to stay at home, Streetify is hoping its website and free app will help connect consumers with local stores, to help keep them afloat. It is also providing retailers free access to the platform for one year in the U.K., U.S., Canada, India and Australia. Users of the app and website can actually choose the street they wish to visit and can scroll left or right to "walk" up and down. They are shown virtual storefronts and can click on any store to enter its Streetify website. Once inside the "store", consumers can see all of the special offers, deals and promotions that have been gathered from top deal sites such as Groupon and Rakuten. Business owners can also put messages in their virtual storefront windows, announcing deals, delivery options, in-stock goods and more.

Source: [https://www.springwise.com/innovation-snapshot/coronavirus-business-](https://www.springwise.com/innovation-snapshot/coronavirus-business-ideas)

ideas

Scotland Crowd Funding to Fill in the Gaps

A craft beer brewery called Fierce Beer in Aberdeen, Scotland smashed its £75,000 minimum funding target within five hours, and called a halt when they reached £155,280 on its first and only day of crowdfunding.

Source: <https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/global-crowdfunding-projects-tackle-coronavirus/>

British Crowd Funding to Fill in the Gaps

Hospital doctors in London and south east England received celebrity support after starting a project to raise money to buy hospital workers PPE to supplement the insufficient amounts being provided by the UK government. It hit the news after two donations totaling £275,000 by the X-Men actor James McAvoy. A recognized lead backer is always very valuable to give crowdfunding projects initial momentum to help them go viral. On a full city-wide basis, the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has launched the "Pay It Forward London" crowdfunding initiative aimed at supporting small and medium-sized businesses across a variety of sectors, including the particularly hard-hit hospitality market. It provides a structure within which Londoners can help their favorite local businesses survive by paying in advance for products or services which will be delivered once businesses return to at least near-normal operation. 32,000 Londoners have so far given their support to 81 businesses. The Government has also set up access to loans with preferential interest rates to help businesses remain solvent, and they are underwriting the loans to 80% of the amounts borrowed. Traditional lenders had trouble processing the high volume of applications fast enough to meet

demand, and Funding Circle is the first P2P lender to receive accreditation as part of widening the scheme.

Source: <https://crowdsourcingweek.com/blog/global-crowdfunding-projects-tackle-coronavirus/>

Uruguay

Lowering Government Officials Salaries to Fight Covid

One of the first things the government did was to lower officials' salaries to allot more money to fighting the virus, pay for the treatment of Covid 19 patients and medical supplies. This involved a 20% cut of wages to the president, ministers, legislators and directors.

Source: <https://www.telesureenglish.net/news/Uruguay-lacalle-implements-economic-measures-facing-covid-19-20200327-0003.html>

Low Covid Transmission without Lockdown

The country has the highest percentage of over 65s in South America, a largely urban population (only 5% of Uruguayans do not live in cities) and a hard-to-police land border with Brazil, so it should be a likely infection hotspot. Yet it has managed to curb the outbreak without enforcing lockdown. Instead, early aggressive testing and following WHO best practices have significantly curbed the rate of infection.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan's Covid-19 Challenge 2020 online competition

Uzbekistan's 'COVID-19 Challenge 2020' is an online competition for innovative tools and solutions to mitigate the consequences of coronavirus pandemic in Uzbekistan. The organizers received 600 applications in just two weeks.

Most applications are aimed at implementing educational projects in eight areas.

Source: <https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/uzbekistans-covid-19-challenge-2020-online-competition/>

Venezuela

Implementing Virtual Arts

In Venezuela, El Sistema has launched a Virtual Hall to stream concerts from the various orchestras managed by the program.

Source: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/research-and-policy-insight/insight-articles/covid-19-impact-innovation-americas-arts>

Vietnam

Superior Public Health Campaign

The Vietnamese government has been widely praised for its clear and engaging public health campaign. This has been credited with bringing the country together and getting a wide amount of buy-in on efforts to control the virus. It also resulted in some of the lowest rate of Covid cases in the world. Also due to strong investment in public health care system in the last twenty years due to the 2003 SARS epidemic.

Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-exemplar-vietnam>

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Corona Burger



Photo Credit: AP Photo/Hau Dinh, The Mercury News

Restaurant owner Hoang Tung created a "Corona burger" in Hanoi, Vietnam on Wednesday, March 25, 2020. As the world is fighting against the Covid-19 pandemic, the Vietnamese restaurant hopes to cheer people up with their new creation, in which the burger buns shape like a coronavirus.

Source: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2020/03/25/photos-using-humor-and-ingenuity-to-deal-with-coronavirus/>
Zimbabwe

Lead Taskforce on Trans African cooperation

The African Union handed over its development to the private sector under the leadership of the Zimbabwean billionaire Strive Masiyiwa. He pulled together the expertise needed to quickly develop a well-functioning platform, drawing on his contacts and businesses across the digital and telecoms sectors. The Africa Union has also established a continent-wide platform for procuring laboratory and medical supplies: the Africa Medical Supplies Platform (AMSP). It lets member states buy certified medical equipment—such as diagnostic kits and personal protective equipment – with increased cost effectiveness, through bulk purchasing and improved logistics. This also increases transparency and equity between members, lowering competition for crucial supplies. Compare this with the underhand tactics used by some developed nations when competing for shipments of medical equipment.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

Revolutionizing Online Grocery Start-ups

In Zimbabwe, online grocery start-ups are offering new opportunities for food sellers to retain customers wary of shopping in person.

Source: <https://qz.com/africa/1919785/what-africa-and-asia-teach-rich-countries-on-handling-a-pandemic/>

For more information, please see these resources:

Organization for the Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) report:

<https://oecd-opsi.org/covid-response/>

Africa Innovates Report:

[https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa innovates - 50 homegrown](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Africa_innovates_-_50_homegrown)

[African innovations tackling COVID-19 \(Compressed\).pdf](#)

Bloomberg News Covid Resilience Ranking

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/covid-resilience-ranking/>

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