

## Private Sector Engagement as a response to COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic is the biggest global health crisis in decades with direct impact on the global economy. First, we need to slow down and ultimately stop the spread of the coronavirus worldwide. And second, we must mitigate the economic impact of the crisis in our partner countries facing even greater challenges than we do. Many developing countries are ill-equipped to cope with the pandemic because of their weak health care systems. In the short-term, development cooperation must respond quickly to these health-related challenges. But in the mid to long-term the social and economic implications of the corona crisis can be even more devastating. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) will, both, respond to the immediate emergency and contribute to the economic recovery. Private Sector Engagement (PSE) programs can play a crucial role in mitigating negative economic impacts by ensuring the continued support of existing projects and/or implementing special measures to facilitate business continuity. Close cooperation with companies is essential to solve the challenges in developing and emerging countries. That is why we are adjusting our existing PSE-programs to the current needs of the private sector.

### **develoPPP.de / COVID-19 Response**

In addition to projects from the ongoing quarterly develoPPP.de [ideas competitions](#), BMZ currently supports measures by privately owned companies that directly and significantly mitigate the negative impact of the corona pandemic in developing and emerging countries. Suitable projects can be funded with up to 200.000 EUR, in exceptional cases and in compliance with EU law higher funding may be possible. The public contribution can reach up to 100% of the project costs. The program is open for European companies as well as for companies from developing or emerging countries that meet certain requirements. For more information please visit: <https://www.developpp.de/en/covid19/>

### **Strategic Partnership Technology in Africa – SPTA**

The Strategic Partnership Technology in Africa (formerly known as Strategic Partnership Digital Africa) builds partnerships with European companies and development cooperation to mitigate the effects of the coronavirus pandemic in African countries. The network invites companies to submit project proposals in the field of innovation and technology. It offers support in developing project ideas e.g. by activating relevant partners or advising on funding options. For more information on the network, please visit [www.bmz.de/technologie-afrika](http://www.bmz.de/technologie-afrika).

### **leverist.de**

Seek and find solutions to challenges arising through Covid19: The current health crisis creates new needs every day in Europe and in developing and emerging countries. Companies worldwide are looking for new reliable partners or suppliers in times of crisis. leverist.de is an online platform that combines demands and solutions to directly support developing and emerging countries in overcoming the crisis. For more information please visit: <https://www.leverist.de/covid19>

### **lab of tomorrow**

In response to the Corona crisis, BMZ's *lab of tomorrow* project offers a quick and digital format of its innovation process for co-creating and scaling sustainable business-driven solutions for developing countries. Currently, it is searching for challenges that are related to the Corona pandemic as well as dedicated entrepreneurial actors that are ready and eager to develop fitting solutions in interdisciplinary teams and bring them to market with the help of such a shortened and remote *lot* process. Further information on [www.lab-of-tomorrow.com](http://www.lab-of-tomorrow.com).