

# Addressing the challenges of COVID-19

The ILO Skills Branch is supporting countries, workers, enterprises, and education and training institutions in their efforts to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on skills development. Through facilitating innovative solutions and leveraging new technologies, the branch is supporting constituents worldwide to ensure the continuation of skills development amid the current crisis.



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## ▶ ILO Skills and Employability Branch

Capability Statement

## What is the challenge?

Governments, employers' associations, and trade unions around the world want to **improve the employability of workers, move young people into productive and decent work, and increase productivity through better, more relevant training.**

Yet, **poor quality training and a chronic under-investment in skills** prevent workers from getting the skills they need. To address these challenges, we need **dynamic, integrated skills and lifelong learning ecosystems.**



## What is the goal?

The ILO Skills and Employability Branch works to make education and training systems **more flexible, diversified relevant and inclusive to labour market needs**, and to improve skills development overall.

- ▶ **Make lifelong learning a reality** through effective policies and institutions
- ▶ **Support forward-looking skills development** through industry-driven skills anticipation and matching
- ▶ **Scale up innovative and flexible learning programmes** and pathways in the digital era
- ▶ **Develop skills for inclusive and diverse labour markets** by expanding access to learning and career transition support
- ▶ **Promote work-based learning**, quality apprenticeships and skills utilization

## Why is it important?

The Branch supports Member States, as well as employers' and workers' organizations, as they **develop and implement national and sectoral skills policies, strategies and programmes to promote employment, economic growth, and inclusive societies.**

- **Core work skills and technical skills help people** enter the formal economy, gain economic empowerment, and develop careers and transition between jobs.
- **Skills increase productivity and improve innovation capacity**, especially as the pace of change accelerates.
- **A well-skilled workforce is the basis for economic growth** and social cohesion.



## What does the branch do?

### Research and knowledge management:

- **Develops forward looking approaches** for anticipating and matching skills needs
- **Promotes social inclusion** through education and training
- **Establishes quality apprenticeships and recognition** of prior learning systems
- **Strengthens skills development systems**

### Development cooperation:

- **Supports national, regional, and sectoral skills reform initiatives**
- **Supports ILO constituents in skill needs anticipation and planning** at national and sectoral levels
- **Develops the capacity of national constituents and public and private training providers**
- **Pilots innovative approaches** to improve quality, market relevance, inclusiveness and employment outcomes of skills development programmes