

# Fostering Resilience in the Post COVID-19 Social Economy

Dr. Shane O'Sullivan

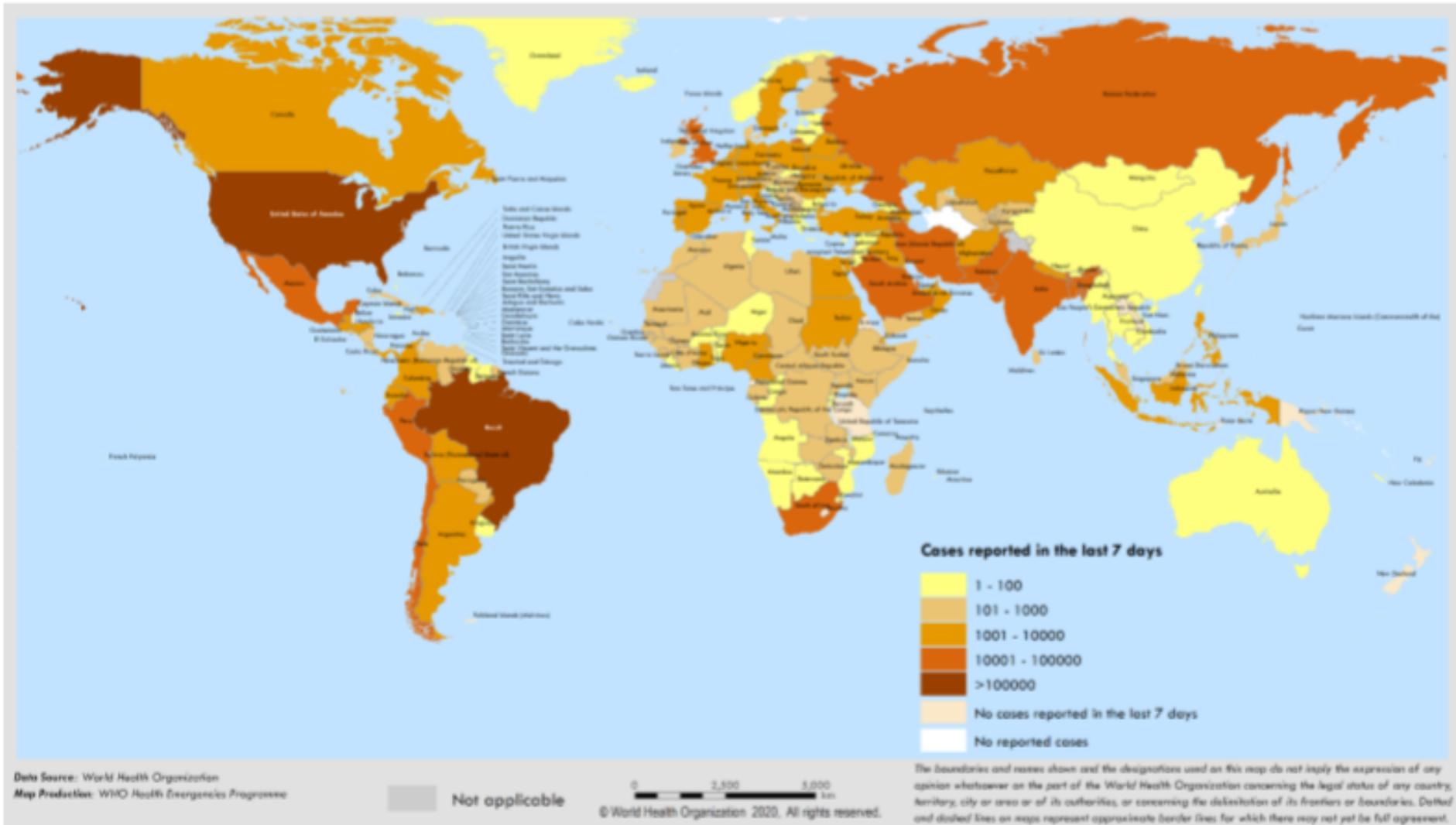
Department of Applied Social Sciences

Limerick Institute of Technology



# COVID-19: A Global Pandemic

Figure 1. Number of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported in the last seven days by country, territory or area, 28 May to 03 June\*\*



# Social and Economic Resilience

- According to Ashby, Cox, and McInroy (2009, p.10), resilience is ‘the extent to which local places and local government are capable of riding the global economic punches, working with environmental limits, dealing with external changes, bouncing back quickly, and having high levels of social inclusion’.
- Forbes (2009, p.22041) states: ‘resilience is the capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganise while undergoing change to still retain essentially the same function, structure, identity and feedbacks....resilience is measured by the size of the displacement the system can tolerate and yet return to a state where a given function can be maintained’.
- The vitality and viability of social enterprises / social entrepreneurs is premised on their capacity to respond and react accordingly to changing socio-economic and environmental circumstances.

# Company / Business Resilience

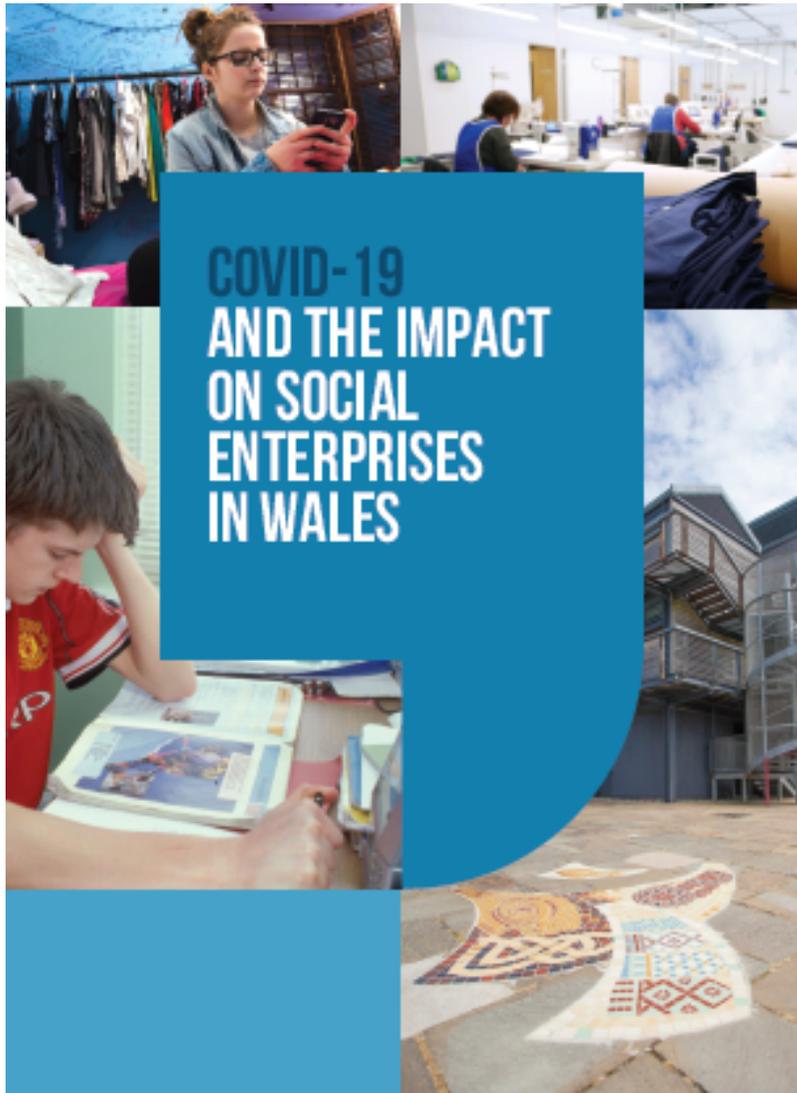
- ‘Strategic Need: Prevent Company Bankruptcies, Layoffs, and/or Shutdown While Complying With Pandemic Response Requirements.
- Policy Response: Identify critical companies whose disruptions and layoffs would reduce national capacities to deliver goods and services in a non-linear fashion (i.e., lost synergy, social capital, institutional memory, etc.)
- Economic Action: Targeted loans and investments into select companies and large corporations whose disruptions are not easily recoverable, and losses in institutional memory/social capital would have long-term ramifications’

# Factors Influencing Resilience

- Social Enterprise Manager's / Social Entrepreneurs Responsibilities
- Diversification Activities
- Risk Taking Approach
- Business Specialisation
- Growth Approach and Vision
- Development Barriers
- Infrastructure and Available Business Supports
- Collaboration and Networking



Adapted from: Steiner and Cleary, 2014 p. 14



**COVID-19  
AND THE IMPACT  
ON SOCIAL  
ENTERPRISES  
IN WALES**



**An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail**  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

**National COVID-19  
Impact Survey of  
Social Enterprises**

**COVID-19 Stability Scheme  
for Community Voluntary,  
Charity and Social Enterprise  
Organisations**



Connected  
**COVID-19**  
Public Health  
Advice



Cúla na  
nGairneoirí  
the government  
accounts fund



**pobal**  
government supporting communities



**Riadas na hÉireann**  
Government of Ireland

# COVID-19 and the impact on Social Enterprise in Scotland



Posted: 23 April 2020

 **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NI**  
Social Enterprise NI COVID 19 CALL TO ACTION

*#SaveOurSocEnts*

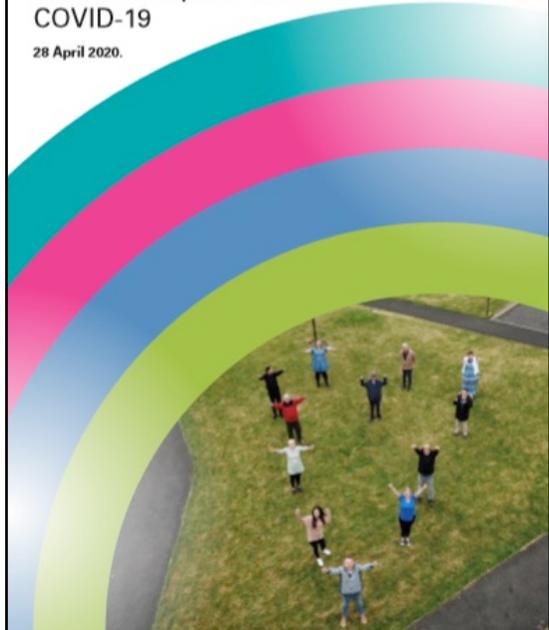
Help Our Sector Continue to Help The Most Vulnerable in Society TODAY!!

**Social Enterprise NI**

**#AllInThisTogether** **#SaveOurSocEnts**

 Social Enterprise UK

Social Enterprise and COVID-19  
28 April 2020.



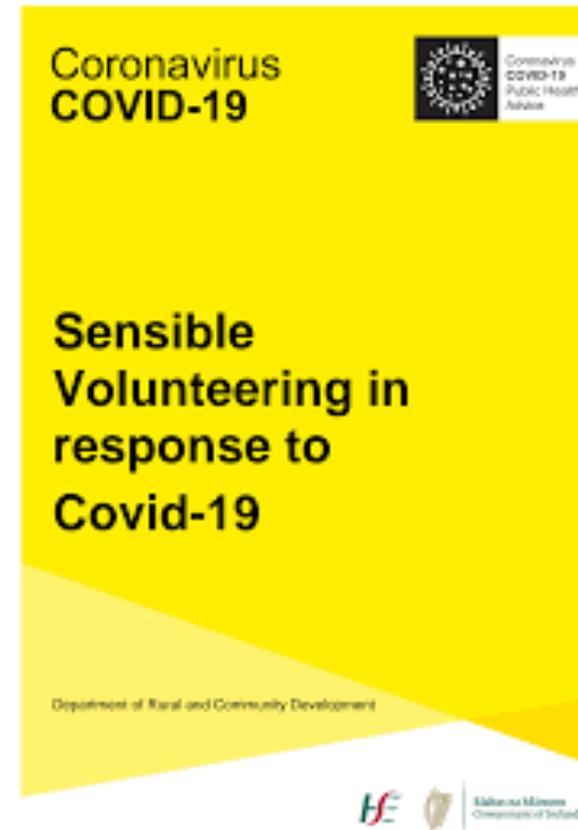
# Supports Available to Social Enterprises

- Government funding – payment of salaries (furloughing scheme); business rates reliefs and moratoriums; delay to payment of sales taxes (VAT); Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan (UK); Sustaining Enterprise Funds (Ireland); COVID-19 Business Financial Planning Grant (Ireland).
- Wales – Economic Resilience Fund - a micro scheme with a £10,000 grant for businesses with 1-9 employees and an SME fund of up to £100,000 for Welsh businesses with 10-249 employees.
- Wales – Third Sector Resilience Fund – this is a funder of last resort for social businesses in Wales and offers funding up to £75,000 (grant 75% and loan 25%).

- Scotland – Third Sector Resilience Fund supports third sector organisations in Scotland to stabilise and manage cash flows (grants up to £75,000 and loans starting at £50,000).
- UK - Resilience & Recovery Loan Fund provides funding for social enterprises and charities who are experiencing disruption to their normal business model as a result of COVID-19. Loans being administered by Social Investment Business (Loan size - £100,000 to £1.5 million).
- Ireland - COVID-19 Stability Fund for Community and Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprises - €35 million fund for organisations experiencing financial difficulties due to a reduction in their fundraising income and / or traded income as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic (grant size €2,000 to €100,000 to cover operational and overhead costs).
- Ireland – Innovate Together Fund administered by Social Innovation Ireland focuses on supporting ‘innovative responses to the Covid-19 crisis that will also be part of the new normal’ (Cash grants starting at €20,000).

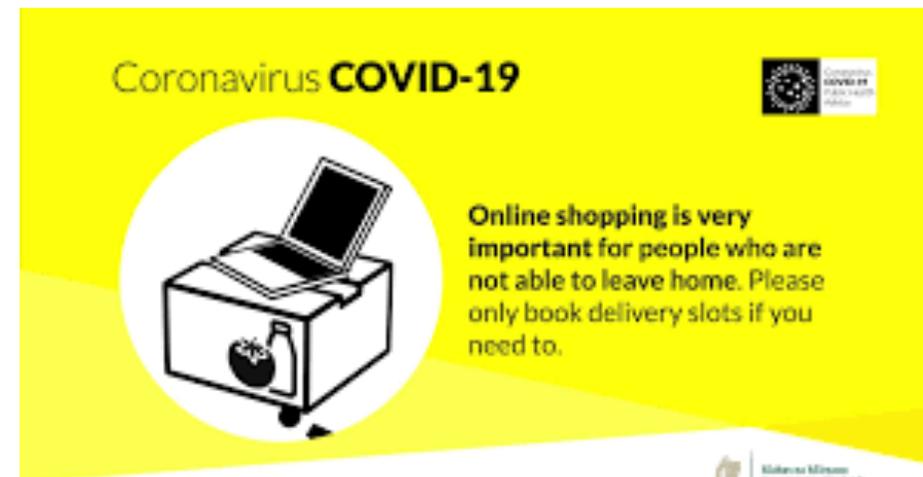
# COVID-19: A Time For Reflection

- New opportunities to engage in volunteering activities



- Enhanced community engagement
- Growth in digital economy
- Success of home – working arrangements with enhanced ICT capabilities
- Changing consumer patterns and behaviours (due to travel restrictions).
- Enhanced environmental and societal consciousness

The pursuit of a more sustainable society and economy are key caveats of contemporary global policy reforms.



# Thank You

Dr. Shane O'Sullivan

Limerick Institute of Technology

E-Mail: [shane.osullivan@lit.ie](mailto:shane.osullivan@lit.ie)

Twitter: @RDI\_at\_LIT  
@AppSosScs\_LIT  
@osullivanstake

