



EU response to the coronavirus pandemic in the Southern Neighbourhood



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#Wecare #Coronavirus

Overview of EU support

The EU mobilised

over
€2.3 billion

to support Southern neighbourhood partners in



tackling the coronavirus health crisis



and socio-economic recovery.



Coronavirus health crisis

Regional level

As a first emergency response, the EU signed a contract with the European Centre for Disease Control to provide tailor-made support to enhance the preparedness and response capacities of neighbourhood and enlargement countries in the current crisis. The 'EU Initiative for Health Security', focuses on capacity building for epidemiologists and frontline health staff.

Country level

At country level, the EU response has been adapted to a variety of situations. For example, in Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt ongoing EU projects have been reallocated to **support national health systems**, ensure continuity of critical health care and provide most-needed protective equipment, specific training and technical assistance in hospitals.

Refugees and migrants

EU funding to improve access to healthcare and alleviate the effects of close proximity living conditions is channeled by the **EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis**, the **EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa**, and PEGASE instrument (in Palestine*) to respectively Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Palestine, all greatly affected by the significant presence of refugees, migrants or internally displaced people.

Limiting the socio-economic impact

To address the economic impact of the coronavirus crisis and working closely with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and International Organisations to provide a coordinated response:

Strengthened regional financing facilities to support SMEs, provide immediate liquidity and more local currency funding and trade finance to the private sector.

Reoriented EU cooperation programmes to provide direct support to the budgets of partner countries to help them face the social and fiscal costs of the crisis

Regional economic programmes to help governments and the private sector in addressing the impact of the pandemic on investment and decent jobs, as well as in promoting innovation.

* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

EU support to individual partners

Algeria

€78 million to support health related needs and socio-economic recovery.

Example of support: The EU reoriented €78 million of existing programmes towards a COVID-19 response package on the basis of clear needs and priorities expressed by the Algerian authorities. As part of this package, the EU made available medical equipment for the sanitary response through a support of €43 million.



Egypt

€260 million to support health related needs and socio-economic recovery.

Example of support: The EU is supporting the continuity of family planning services through the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment and hygiene items for frontline workers in family planning clinics across the country, and awareness raising of young people on COVID-19 preventive measures. EU-funded local civil society organisations are adapting their projects to ensure adequate access to health services for the most vulnerable.

Israel

Example of support: The EU supported the engagement of Israel in Horizon 2020 dedicated calls for coronavirus treatments, testing and vaccines.

Jordan

€416 million to support health related needs and socio-economic recovery.

Examples of support:

- The EU funded the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment and diagnostic kits for the Ministry of Health as well as prison and police departments. Emergency departments in three public hospitals were equipped to deliver emergency healthcare, and community based health education and first aid awareness activities were undertaken. Through EU support, hygiene and safety measures were significantly strengthened in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps, and children from vulnerable families continue to get an education remotely through the UNICEF Makani centres facilitators.
- Engineers from the EU-funded ShamalStart business incubator joined forces with Crown Prince Foundation's TechWorks to prototype open-source face shields and create a cutting edge emergency respirator equipped with a built-in monitoring system transmitting the number of breaths to an online application, for local hospitals. Through the EU co-funded project JADE (Jordanian Action for Development of Enterprises), the EU joined forces with the Start-up Weekend Jordan, calling all developers, designers, marketers, nurses, doctors, students, scientists, teachers and anyone with innovative solutions to tackle COVID-19.



Lebanon

€371 million to support health related needs and socio-economic recovery.

Examples of support:

- The EU is ensuring the continuity of critical healthcare at primary health care level by financing Personal Protective Equipment and hygiene items for primary healthcare centres, social development centres and vulnerable communities. The EU provided equipped ambulances to the emergency dispatch centre of the Lebanese Red Cross, which has enabled the transport of COVID patients to hospitals throughout the pandemic. The EU also continues to support municipalities and NGOs on awareness measures in communities, including infection prevention and control. The EU is a major supporter of Lebanon's National Deployment and Vaccination Plan, and ensures risk communication and community engagement as well as encouraging registration for the COVID-19 vaccine of vulnerable and hard to reach communities.
- In support for preparedness, mitigation and response the EU is supporting the Epidemiological Surveillance Unit of the Ministry of Public Health in an effort to strengthen capacity in the context of COVID-19 as well as pandemics. The EU is also providing support to Lebanon's Disaster Risk Management Unit and the COVID-19 Task Force and equipment for security and health actors.



Libya

€65 million to support health related needs and socio-economic recovery.

Example of support: The EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa has reoriented ongoing actions to conduct raising-awareness campaigns, distribute essential Personal Protective Equipment and specifically train medical staff. In addition, three new programmes have been adopted to improve the resilience of Libyans and migrants to the health challenges coming up, with activities related to protection, community stabilisation, and COVID-19 specific actions. EU bilateral programmes contribute to reinforce the public health system, fight COVID-19 related disinformation and support the post-crisis economic recovery.

Morocco

€456 million to support health related needs and socio-economic recovery.

Examples of support:

- The EU is enhancing its technical and financial support to the Moroccan Health Ministry for the reform of the health sector and extended the coverage of health services for the population. Projects were adapted to provide urgent direct assistance (food, sanitary and hygiene products) for migrants' children and non-accompanied minors, and support for children enrolled remotely in school.
- The EU also supported the Euromed University in Fez to ensure the remote pedagogical continuity and equip it with 3D printers to produce medical protection equipment for local hospitals.
- In addition, European Financial Institutions with support from the EU are mobilising funds to help mitigate the socio-economic effects of the crisis. The European Investment Bank, for instance, allocated additional €200 million to meet urgent needs in terms of medical equipment and materials, and strengthen health and hospital capacities.



Palestine and Palestine refugees

€153 million to support health related needs and socio-economic recovery.

Examples of support:

- The EU supported hospitals in East Jerusalem and distributed 1000 hygiene and food packages in villages in East Jerusalem as well as 550 food packages for families in Dheisheh, Azzeh, Aida, Al Aroub and Al Fawwar refugee camps.
- Financial support to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) continues to provide access to primary healthcare and aid for 5.6 million refugees in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.
- An access to finance initiative and an incentive programme for the industrial sector support socio-economic recovery. Through technical assistance, the EU and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development are supporting companies who have creatively reoriented their production to locally provide Personal Protective Equipment.

Syria

€77 million to support health related needs and socio-economic recovery.

Example of support: Inside Syria, the EU is supporting non-state actors to deliver health services to the population through the reorientation of ongoing and planned programmes. Targeted support is ensured to reinforce the resilience vis-à-vis economic and social challenges. In North-West Syria, the EU has so far contributed to deliver 17,000 consultations and essential referral services in 10 primary health care clinics, one maternity centre and two protection centres. Several hundred water tanks and around 50,000 jerry cans have been procured to facilitate access to safe water, and several thousand hygiene kits were distributed. New oxygen/electric generators were procured together with the fuel and maintenance for a dozen of existing generators. In North East Syria the EU also supported awareness raising activities on prevention and the setting up of facility- and community-based isolation measures.

Tunisia

€329 million to support health related needs and socio-economic recovery.

Examples of support:

- The EU is extending its support to the health sector, beefing up its 'Essaha Aziza' programme to cover all primary health care facilities, and some regional public hospitals. More vulnerable and deprived populations will also benefit from greater access to health services, through EU support to the AMEN social programme. Together with the Ministry for Families, Women, Children and Elderly, an emergency number for women victims of domestic violence and new asylum centres are being supported, as a continuation of the 'Moussawat' programme that fostered gender equality and awareness campaigns.
- The EU is also supporting female entrepreneurs to adapt their business plan in response to the pandemic, or to diversify their activities in the textile industry, to produce and deliver protective masks to public health facilities notably in Gafsa and Kairouan.

