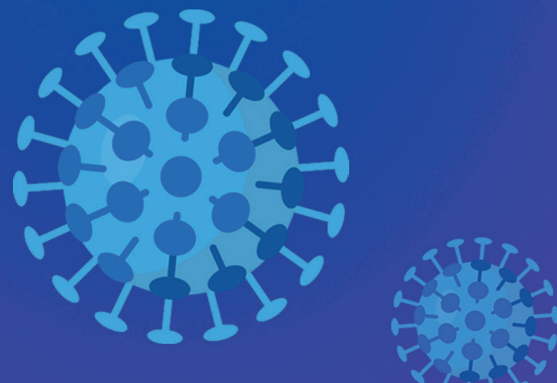




EU response to the coronavirus pandemic in the Southern Neighbourhood



July 2020
#Coronavirus

Overview of the EU support

As part of its global response to the coronavirus outbreak, the European Commission stands by its partners in the Southern Neighbourhood and is adjusting its on-going assistance programmes and re-orienting its programming for 2020 to mobilise emergency support of **over €2.2 billion**. Based on **needs expressed by partner countries**, this re-orientated EU support is focusing specifically on **health, economic and social sectors**.



€18 million
for immediate needs



€888 million
to strengthen the health sector



€1.3 billion
for the short and medium term to support the social and economic recovery of the region

Responding to health-related needs

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', worth **€9 million**, focuses on capacity building for epidemiologists and frontline health staff.

Country level

At country level, the EU response is being adapted to a variety of situations. For example, in Lebanon, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt ongoing EU projects are being 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 Libya, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon 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 to provide a coordinated European response, the EU with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) is strengthening a number of regional facilities to support SMEs in the current context, deliver trade facilitation and provide more financing in local currency. Meanwhile, the EU is reorienting its cooperation programmes to provide direct support to the budgets of partner countries to help them face the social and fiscal costs of the crisis.

* 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.

What support is the EU providing to individual partner countries and how will this be reinforced?

Algeria

Up to **€75 million** ready to be reoriented to support health-related and socio-economic needs.

Example of support: The EU has been working closely with the Algerian authorities since the beginning of the crisis to identify their needs and explore possibilities for help, especially in capacity-building for hospitals. The EU is ready to reorient up to €75 million of existing programmes on the basis of clear needs and priorities expressed by the Algerian authorities.

Egypt

Up to **€289 million** to support health-related and socio-economic needs.

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 the youth 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 is supporting the engagement of Israel in Horizon 2020 dedicated calls for coronavirus treatments, testing and vaccines.

Jordan

Over **€375 million** to support health-related and socio-economic needs.

Examples of support:

- The EU is funding 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 have been equipped to deliver emergency healthcare, and community based health education and first aid awareness activities have been carried out. Through EU support, hygiene and safety measures have been significantly strengthened in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps, and children from vulnerable families continue getting an education remotely through the UNICEF Makani centres facilitators.
- Engineers from the EU-funded Shamal Start project joined forces with the Crown Prince Foundation's TechWorks Initiative to 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.



Lebanon

Over **€375 million** to support health-related and socio-economic needs.

Examples of support:

- The EU is ensuring the continuity of critical healthcare and financing Personal Protective Equipment and hygiene items for primary healthcare centres, social development centres and vulnerable groups. The EU supports the ambulance emergency dispatch centre of the Lebanese Red Cross as well as municipalities and NGOs for awareness measures on prevention in communities. Specific efforts are put on education, child protection and social assistance for Lebanese citizens as well as Syrian and Palestine refugees. Strategic support to Lebanon's Disaster Risk Management Unit and the COVID-19 Task Force and key equipment for security and health actors are being provided.

- In the framework of support for preparedness, mitigation and response to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear threats, the EU provided Advanced Biological Training for the Lebanese Armed Forces on how to respond to biological threats and their spread, including COVID-19.



Libya

Over **€61 million** to support health-related and socio-economic needs.

Example of support: The EU provided already important support to stabilise the fragile public health system. Re-allocation of EU Emergency Trust Fund Africa actions include raising-awareness campaigns on good hygiene practices, the distribution of essential Personal Protective Equipment to the most vulnerable groups and COVID-19 specific trainings to medical staff. EU bilateral programmes contribute to reinforce the public health system, fight COVID-19 related disinformation and support the post-crisis economic recovery.

Morocco

Over **€450 million** to support immediate, health-related and socio-economic needs.

Example of support: The EU and the EBRD are adapting their technical assistance to SMEs managed and owned by women through online trainings on innovative marketing and crisis management to help them prepare for the aftermath. The EU is adapting projects to provide urgent direct assistance (food, sanitary and hygiene products) for migrants' children and non-accompanied minors and support for children enrolled in school by phone or online. Single mothers impacted by the crisis are also receiving social and material support. The EU reinforces its long-term engagement in combating violence against women along Moroccan authorities in the context of the lockdown.



Palestine and Palestine refugees

Up to **€115 million** to support health-related and socio-economic needs.

Examples of support:

- The EU has distributed 1000 hygiene and food packages in villages in East Jerusalem and 550 food packages for families in Dheisheh, Azzeh, Aida, Al Aroub and Al Fawwar refugee camps. During Ramadan, 800 food packages are delivered to vulnerable families who benefit from the Palestinian Authority monthly social allowances. Through technical assistance provided to SMEs, the EU and the EBRD are supporting companies who are creatively reorienting their production to locally provide Personal Protective Equipment.
- The EU mobilised €67 million in assistance to Palestinians in response to the pandemic, while the payment of €82 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was accelerated to continue providing access to primary healthcare and aid for 5.5 million refugees in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.



Syria

Over **€33 million** to support non-state health actors and socio-economic needs.

Example of support: Inside Syria, the EU is supporting non-state actors to deliver health services to a population that has suffered nine years of conflict through the reorientation of ongoing and planned programmes. Targeted support is also 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 in three primary health care clinics and six mobile clinics, as well as over 11,060 community health services, contributing to the diagnosis of respiratory infections and diverse pathologies associated with increased risk of COVID-19. The EU also supports awareness raising activities on prevention and the setting up of facility- and community-based isolation measures.

Tunisia

Up to **€325 million** to support immediate, health-related and socio-economic needs.

Example of support: The EU is extending its support to the health sector, beefing up its 'Essaha Aziza' programme to cover all public health hospitals and 5 COVID-19 interventions have been launched to accompany local civil society organisations' efforts in 13 governorates. The EU is supporting manufacturing and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment to various professionals exposed to the virus notably in prison departments, disinfection of public spaces with municipalities, awareness-raising campaigns on best hygiene practices. The EU will also redirect up to €250 million to mitigate socio-economic impact.



Regional

Up to **€150 million** to support immediate, health-related and socio-economic needs.

Example of support: €115 million will be used with International Financial Institutions to strengthen regional finance facilities to support SMEs, and to provide immediate liquidity, more local currency funding and trade finance to the private sector. As trade and investment flows are expected to be disrupted, the EU is adapting regional economic programmes on investment and innovation worth €26 million, working with organisations, including the International Labour Organisation and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, which will help governments and the private sector to address the impact on employment.

