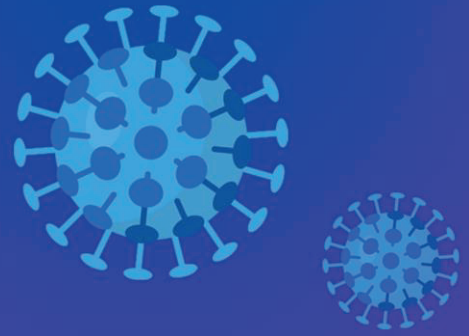


EU global response to coronavirus in Yemen



The coronavirus pandemic is a global crisis. It can only be solved at global level. A strong European response in support of our partners is the only way to put an end to the spread of the virus and to avoid spill-over effects on social stability and security in our partner countries. Yemen is particularly vulnerable to the spread of the pandemic – years of conflict have resulted in a weakened health system and the current territorial divide between the Internationally Recognized Government based in Aden and the de facto authorities in Sana’a does not provide optimal ground for a nation-wide response. In assisting Yemen to face this new crisis, we work in close cooperation with EU’s humanitarian branch to offer comprehensive immediate and longer term support.

The EU is mobilising more than €15.6 billion globally to:



Tackle immediate needs for prevention, protection, and crisis response

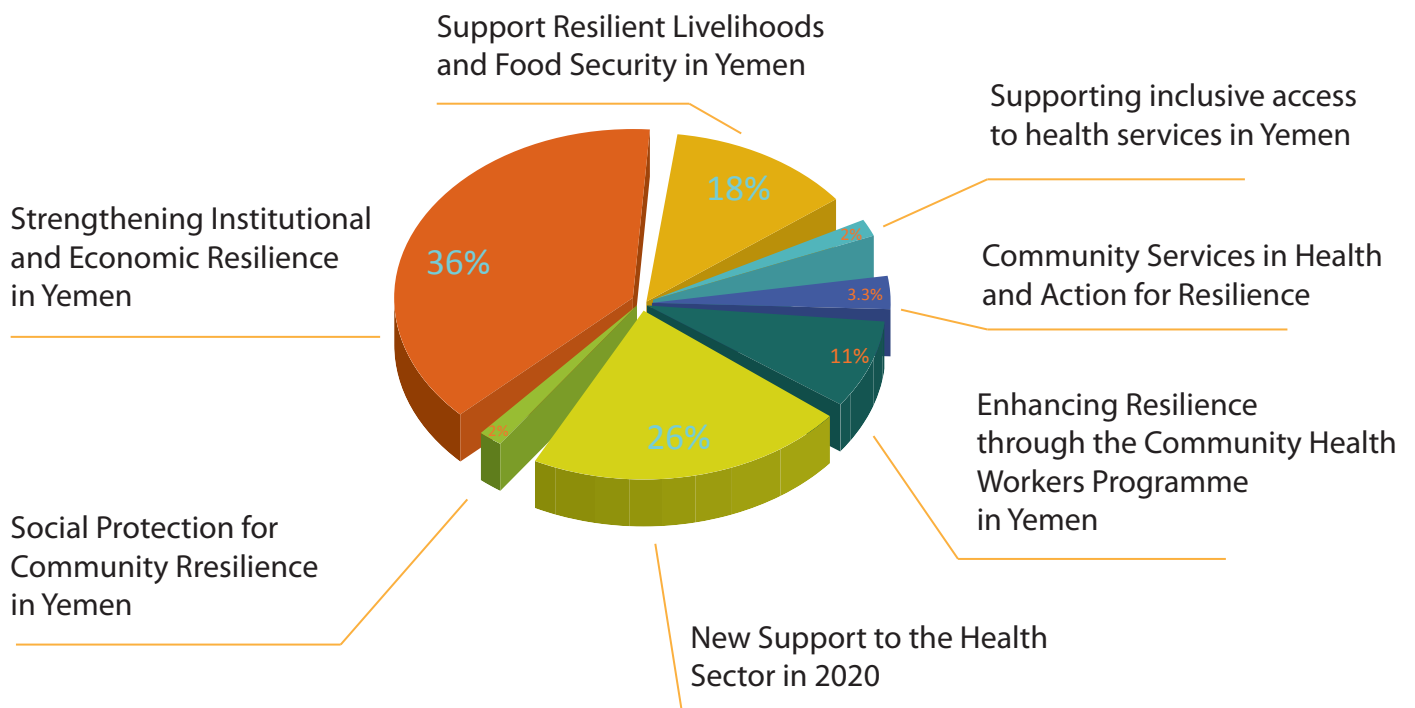


Strengthen the health, water and sanitation systems



Address the economic and social consequences

OUT OF THAT, EUR 55 MILLION WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BUILD A STRONG AND COORDINATED EUROPEAN RESPONSE IN YEMEN





How is the EU working with partners to provide immediate response to tackle the coronavirus pandemic in Yemen?



The EU will lead efforts in the G7 and G20, in coordination with the United Nations, the World Bank, the IMF and other multilateral institutions, to promote a strong and coordinated multilateral response to this global pandemic.



The EU's response follows a Team Europe approach, combining resources from the EU, its Member States and financial institutions. In Yemen, the EU has already announced a package of financial aid to the WHO to support fragile countries experiencing prolonged crisis such as Yemen.



The EU will reorient ongoing support to help Yemen respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the immediate and short-term:

Ongoing projects in the health sector will be recalibrated focusing on training of medical staff, strengthening the network of community health care workers, strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities, improving health services and empowering local development. In addition, other ongoing projects will include new strands of work in the fight against coronavirus – these include projects working with Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), EU projects targeting local authorities and strengthening the resilience of economic actors, as well as assistance on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and the civil society



Reorientation of new available resources:

A new action is being designed by the EU to provide timely support to the ailing health sector in Yemen. This new support will come in addition to the above indicated reorientation of programming, and amounts to EUR 14.3 million. Yemen is one of the countries in the Middle East and North Africa region with the highest maternal, new-born and child deaths. In this context, the new action will aim to ensure mothers and new-born receive quality services and are protected from COVID-19.

The EU has been a partner to Yemen in the health sector since the outbreak of the political and security crisis in 2015, helping to build up the resilience of the health system. It will also provide immediate and long-term support in the current challenging times.



The EU-funded package being prepared by WHO has already recognized Yemen as one of the beneficiary countries and this is positively acknowledged by the Delegation. WHO proposed support includes supply of protective equipment, diagnostic tools, therapeutics and vaccines. From EU side, ECHO can provide short-term, emergency support whereas DEVCO can re-allocate some funds of existing projects and include some mitigation measures.

Some of EU health projects have been providing support to the government mainly in the areas of infection prevention. WHO proposed support will address the weaknesses in the surveillance system. EU support is already focusing in the resilience of Yemeni citizens but all our implementing partners will adapt current projects where necessary to adapt to COVID-19 current outbreak in Yemen.

EU SUPPORT TO THE ECONOMIC PILLAR:

Yemen's economy is heavily affected by the current conflict and widespread insecurity. The spread of the pandemic could place further strain on the shrinking economy. A key step to prevent the economy from collapsing is to support the private sector.

The EU has been supporting projects aiming at developing a competitive, diversified and sustainable economic environment that favours an inclusive private sector based on small and medium-sized enterprises. The programme "Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen" (ERRY), considered one of the EU's flagship programmes and worth €70 million (from 2016 to 2021) provides support to agri-businesses and create sustainable livelihoods in rural communities. This complements the assistance the EU provides, in cooperation with Silatech (Qatari NGO) to young and women entrepreneurs.



An additional support to SMEs and microfinance institutions working in selected value chains will be soon provided by the EU, in partnership with UNDP. This support will empower the private sector for skill development, capital support and job creation. It will also engage microfinance service providers and business associations to increase access to de-risked financial services and stabilise the market.

A positive impact it is expected on job creation, productivity, income generation and economic reactivation, which could also help the recovery from the shock of a possible COVID-19 outbreak.

The EU engagement in the economic sector includes also the restoration of confidence-building measures, including through assistance to the Central Bank, the Ministry of Finance and other key economic institutions. Large-scale and coordinated policy efforts should be taken to provide employment and income support and to stimulate the economy. These measures should prevent employment and income losses, but also provide a cushion against supply shocks (e.g. losses in workers' productivity capacities) and demand shocks (e.g. suppressing consumption among workers and their families) that could lead to a prolonged economic recession.



The long-awaited economic reconstruction of Yemen once peace will be established will serve to address the economic impact of COVID 19 as well.