

EU global response to coronavirus: supporting our partner countries

April 2020 #Coronavirus #EUfightsCorona #TeamEurope

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 spillover effects on social stability and security in our partner countries.

Helping the most vulnerable and affected partner countries

The EU is mobilising more than €15.6 billion to:



tackle immediate needs, both humanitarian and in the health care sector



strengthen the health, water and sanitation systems of partner countries, and support research



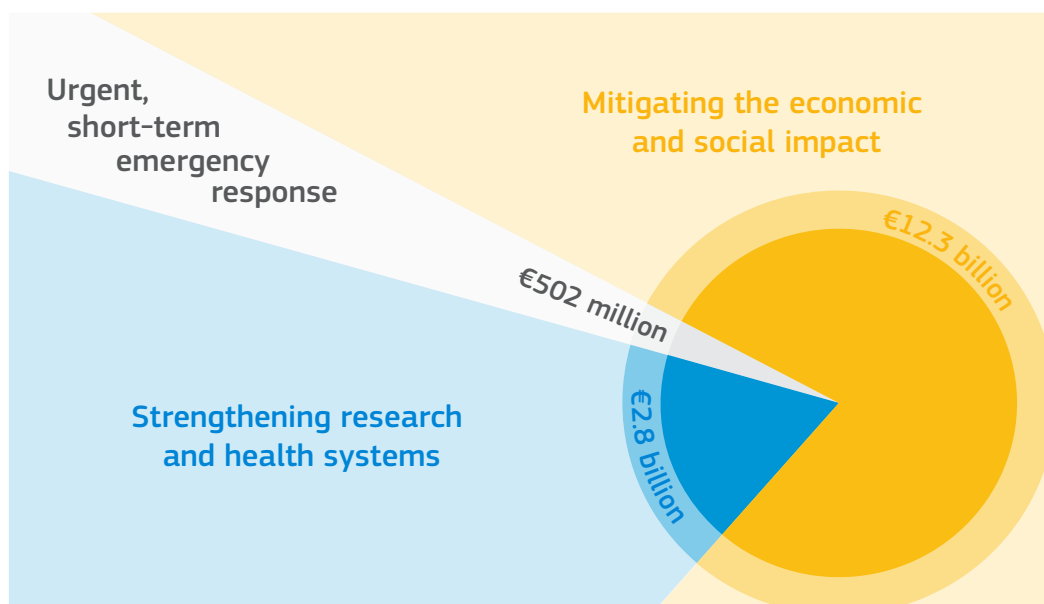
address the economic and social consequences



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, including the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to support each partner country.



How is the EU working with partners to tackle the coronavirus pandemic around the world?

Urgent, short-term emergency response



Emergency health care needs and protective equipment

- **More than €100 million** are being provided for **immediate health needs**, mostly through the WHO and UN agencies. This includes the countries most in need around the world, in Africa, Latin America and Asia. This also includes **€38 million** for the Western Balkans and **€30 million** for the Eastern Partnership:

- *Albania: 5 fully equipped ambulances, respirators, digital mobile x-rays and intensive care equipment;*
- *Bosnia and Herzegovina: 7,500 test kits and personal protective equipment;*
- *Kosovo*: 30 respirators, 5 fully equipped ambulances and 400 hospital beds;*
- *Montenegro: 100 respirators, 10 mobile X-ray devices and personal protective equipment;*
- *North Macedonia: 20 respirators, 5,000 testing sets and personal protective equipment;*
- *Serbia: the EU funded 5 cargo planes that transported 280 tonnes of emergency medical supplies procured by Serbia;*
- *Ukraine: 100 sets of personal protective equipment and more than 70 tonnes of antiseptic liquid delivered to the Emergency Medical Care Centre of Donetsk Oblast*

- The EU supports Ethiopia to **increase coronavirus testing** and **prepare treatment centres** with **€10 million** in **budget support**.
- The EU will support Nigeria with **€50 million** through the UN Coronavirus Response Plan to contain the spread of the virus.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



- **€20 million** in life-saving emergency support to Iran for protective equipment for health workers, critical medicines, testing kits, laboratory and medical equipment.

- In the Southern Neighbourhood, communities are being trained on **infection prevention and control** in Lebanon, and **2,500 surgical masks**, as well as **1,000 respiratory masks** have been procured.
- In Jamaica, the EU-funded PROMAC programme has financed **29 intensive care unit ventilators**.
- **€5 million** in budget support for Bolivia to deal with emergencies caused by the pandemic.

Supporting water, sanitation and hygiene

- In Sudan, the EU is helping vulnerable people to **access clean water and hygiene** and **raise awareness about the virus** through a humanitarian project worth **€10 million**.

- **€216.2 million** will help tackle the coronavirus crisis in Afghanistan. The funds will support the **immediate crisis response**, **coronavirus outpatients** as well as **budget support** to the government to secure core government services and support to the agribusiness sector.

- In Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, **hygiene promotion activities** are being scaled up to reduce the risk of infection. EU funds help provide **safe water and soap** for around 240,000 Rohingya refugees, over half of whom are children.

- In Thailand, EU projects are **raising awareness of coronavirus risk** among the vulnerable communities they support. They will also help **distribute sanitation toolkits and protective materials**.



How is the EU working with partners to tackle the coronavirus pandemic around the world?

Strengthening research and health systems



Investing in research

- The EU will **strengthen coronavirus research and surveillance capacities** in Sub-Saharan Africa with **€25 million** through the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP).
- Other **collaborative research projects** focusing on coronavirus response include the recently launched project CORESMA with Côte d'Ivoire.

Labs and testing

- The EU will **accelerate investment in coronavirus testing labs** in Africa through the European Health Guarantee Platform for Africa with **€80 million**, working with the European Investment Bank, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- The EU contributed **€5 million** to the Pasteur Institute in Senegal to help **train experts** and **increase testing and epidemiological surveillance**. This includes the use of the EU-funded mobile lab that was deployed during the Ebola crisis.
- The EU is also leading efforts by **mobilising scientific excellence worldwide** through multilateral platforms such as the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R), of which, among others, Egypt, Kenya and South Africa are members.
- The EU mobilised **€8 million** for **protective equipment, testing and lab material, staff, treatment and vaccines** for the Caribbean Public Health Agency.



Healthcare systems

- Promoting **access to healthcare** has been a vital component of the EU's work for many years. The EU has contributed **€102 million** to the WHO-led Universal Health Coverage Partnership that covers 115 countries around the globe.
- The EU will mobilise another **€41.5 million** to **scale up global health emergency preparedness and country capacities** to prevent, detect and respond to health risks and threats.
- In Venezuela and neighbouring countries, the EU is supporting the Pan-American Health Organization and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to **contain the spread of the virus and response preparedness** with **€9 million**.
- In St Lucia, the EU supported with **€47 million** the construction of the Owen King European Union Hospital, which is now in the lead fighting the pandemic in the Eastern Caribbean.
- In the Central African Republic, the EU is using its **ongoing €57 million health programme** with the Bêkou Trust Fund. A total of **€2 million** have been reallocated for measures to tackle the coronavirus crisis.
- In Zambia, the EU has helped **expand a medical storage facility and increase access to medicines**. Actions against the pandemic will include raising awareness in correctional facilities, measures to prevent sexual and gender based violence, and boosting health and sanitation activities.
- The New Health Security Initiative of **€9 million**, implemented in cooperation with the European Centre for Disease Control, focuses on **preparedness and medical capacity** to address the outbreak of the virus in all 23 Neighbourhood and Enlargement countries.
- Under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, **small-scale health infrastructure and equipment** is being procured, worth **€90 million**.

How is the EU working with partners to tackle the coronavirus pandemic around the world?

Mitigating the economic and social impact



- The EU will redirect **more than €374 million** of bilateral funding to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic in the Western Balkans, and up to **€883 million** in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.
- The EU is reorienting and increasing its budget support to national governments around the world to help fund, for example, the salaries of doctors and nurses, or social protection schemes for the most vulnerable.
- In Tunisia, the EU will accelerate **€247 million in existing funding** to respond to the pandemic and to meet the most **immediate needs and measures** to address the socio-economic impact.
- The EU will support Morocco with **€352 million to respond to the pandemic**, including **immediate needs**.
- In the EU's Southern Neighbourhood, grant financing of **€1.5 billion** is being accelerated and reoriented to **create fiscal space** for our partners to respond to the pandemic in Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt.
- **€34.7 million** to help Sierra Leone address the **economic impact** of the coronavirus outbreak.



Support to vulnerable communities

- In Armenia, the EU will support **over 3,000 vulnerable households**, with elderly people, people with disabilities and large families, to receive humanitarian aid packages.
- In Lebanon, the EU is providing **cash support to incomes of refugees and the poorest Lebanese** so they can buy essential items, including healthcare, during the lockdown which is exacerbating the country's deep economic crisis.
- In Jordan and Lebanon, a package of **€240 million** adopted will **support vulnerable local households and Syrian refugees**.
- In Myanmar, the EU will support female garment workers who have been laid off work with **€10 million to ensure livelihoods and prepare for recovery**.
- The pandemic heightens the risk of violence against women and girls. The EU and the UN are prioritising activities of the Spotlight Initiative in 24 countries worldwide. **More than €14 million** will be targeted to **counter increased domestic violence, boost prevention and support survivors and organisations**.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa, the EU will provide **€10 million** for **child protection** and to address violence against children in the context of the pandemic.
- In Malaysia, the EU will support the **delivery of food, water or basic health care** to vulnerable and marginalised communities, including the urban poor, migrant workers, indigenous communities, refugees, stateless people, people in detention, and women, children and people with a disability.

Support to small businesses

- The European Fund for Sustainable Development guarantee will be used to **support small businesses** with working capital and liquidity support, technical assistance, trade finance and local currency financing, to enable them to pay their staff, suppliers, and other day-to-day expenses, or adjust their business plans to withstand the pandemic's impact.
- In Ukraine, small and medium enterprises working in the production of food, clothing or household goods can access grants of **up to €6,500** through EU support.
- A Georgian medical textile company produced **over 40,000 medical gowns** after one week thanks to **12 additional sewing machines** purchased by the EU.

