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the European Union

TEAM EUROPE SUPPORT TO COVID-19 RESPONSE in Libya

June 2021



Overview

Team Europe supports Libya in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic since early 2020. The European Union allocated **€22 million** under the **EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF)** for specific COVID-19 actions. These COVID-19 response actions come in addition to existing EU programmes supporting the Libyan public health sector that has been suffering severe damages and undersupplies as a consequence of years of conflict.

EU-funded COVID-19 response actions particularly focus on Libya's most vulnerable communities, including refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and their host communities. The EU collaborates with WHO, IOM, UNICEF and the IMC, and the programmes are expected to directly benefit more than 1 million people across the country.

BUDGET €22 million

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

World Health Organization (WHO)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
International Medical Corps (IMC)

DURATION from 2020 to 2022

KEY ACTIVITIES

PROTECTION & INFORMATION

- Public Service Campaigns to **inform** key at-risk groups about infection risks, preventive measures and COVID-19 immunization
- Training** on protective and preventive measures for teachers, health workers, public employees and staff in IDP collective centres
- Distribution of hygiene articles and **personal protective equipment** among vulnerable communities and healthcare providers
- Fumigation, **disinfection** and cleaning activities at key locations
- Child protection** and campaigns against **gender based violence** to counter rise of domestic violence during the pandemic

DETECTION

- Distribution of test kits and lab equipment to **laboratories** and training of laboratory staff on diagnostic testing
- Deployment of **medical personnel** to key border crossings for health screening of travellers



HEALTHCARE

- Training for health workers on **case management & treatment** of COVID-19 patients
- Supply of cold rooms and refrigerators for **safe storage of vaccines**
- Support to health centres and hospitals in continuing **essential health care services** despite the pressures of COVID-19 infections on the health care system
- Direct basic **health care and mental health** services for particularly vulnerable communities

NATIONAL RESPONSE

- Support to the development of the **National deployment and Vaccination Plan**
- Support to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) & municipalities in organizing and advertising the roll out of the **national vaccination plan**
- Training for health facilities on infection **data collection** & communication

STORIES FROM THE GROUND



Increasing testing capacities to slow down the spread of COVID-19

Fast and accurate testing is key for tackling the coronavirus pandemic as it provides a decisive tool to slow down the spread of COVID-19. The testing capacities in Libya remain comparatively low and concentrated around the large cities of Tripoli and Benghazi.

In April alone, the EU in partnership with WHO provided almost 80,000 test kits to laboratories across the country. The distribution of test kits goes hand in hand with training activities for lab staff on the use of the rapid diagnostic tests.

COVID-19 pandemic impacts livelihood and food security of the most vulnerable

The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that there are around 700,000 people in Libya who are currently in need of food and livelihood assistance, including migrants, displaced persons and their host communities. Many of them lost their livelihoods due to the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic.

“As soaring prices push a basic meal beyond the reach of many, a coordinated response is required now more than ever to prevent an alarming deterioration in food security and stop people sinking deeper into poverty and hunger,” said WFP Country Director in Libya Rawad Halabi.

The EU in partnership with IOM and the WFP are distributing food packages with ready-to-eat items to vulnerable communities who have been affected by the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

