

GERMAN MULTILATERAL EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



#MultilateralismMatters



Confronting the **unprecedented worldwide challenge** posed by the COVID-19 pandemic requires a **joint effort by the multilateral system**. Without **collective action and solidarity**, it would be impossible to tackle this global challenge. Germany is therefore actively engaged in various multilateral responses, including the weekly transatlantic coordination calls on COVID-19, the Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 (MCGC) initiated by Canada and the G7/G20 efforts to forge a coordinated response.

Germany is committed to **effective crisis management, credibility, transparency and democratic values**. To this end, the German Government has initiated and implemented the following **measures to strengthen and support international cooperation in the global fight against COVID-19**:



EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT FOR THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF EU MEMBER STATES

Germany is a Member State of the **European Union**. Having focused initially on humanitarian support and stockpiling (including supply with medical devices and medicines) the Union and its Member States have since May 2020 coordinated closely on issues at the heart of fighting the pandemic such as **travel advice and border controls**. Moreover they have taken decisive action to tackle what can be seen as the **biggest challenge to the welfare of Europeans** since the foundation of the EU's internal market, adopting far ranging measures to help EU Member States, businesses and citizens in a moment of economic crisis:

In April 2020, the Eurogroup in inclusive format has adopted three safety nets for businesses, workers and Euro area member states with a total volume of about **EUR 540 billion**:

- **EUR 100 billion** are foreseen to **support national short-time work programmes** as part of the SURE programme based on guarantees by the EU Member States,
- Loans and equity products of **EUR 200 billion** shall be **granted to business by the European Investment Bank (EIB)**, based on guarantees by EU Member States
- The **European Stability Mechanism (ESM)** has implemented a **special Covid-19 Enhanced Conditions Credit Line (ECCL)** with the sole conditionality of committing to use the loans granted to support domestic financing of direct and indirect healthcare, cure and prevention related costs due to the COVID 19 crisis.

Moreover, on 21 July 2020 EU leaders agreed on a **comprehensive package of EUR 1 824 billion** combining the next long-term budget 2021 – 2027 and an extraordinary recovery effort under the Next Generation EU instrument.

- This comprehensive effort has a **historic dimension and will help rebuild EU economies and strengthen the resilience of all EU member states**. It is a powerful signal of solidarity and will among other things support investment in the green and digital transitions in line with the Union's political priorities and its longer-term agenda.

Safeguarding the long-term political and socio-economic stability in the immediate neighbourhood – Western Balkans and Neighbourhood countries

PRIORITIES:

- Emergency support for the health sector
- Support to overcome the economic, social and political impacts of the COVID-19 crisis
- Strengthening of regional cooperation

Germany supports the **EU response packages** for the **Western Balkans (EUR 3.3 billion)**, the **Eastern Partnership countries (EUR 2.4 billion)** and the **Southern Neighbourhood (EUR 2.1 billion)**.

It is **delivering supplies of medical and protective goods to countries in the European neighbourhood**, e.g. medical equipment for Western Balkan hospitals and care institutions, including more than 185,000 protective masks and personal protective equipment, test kits and disinfection devices to the Ukrainian State Emergency Service worth EUR 175,000 and medical equipment to treat infected persons in a hospital in Belarus worth EUR 30,000.



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

PRIORITIES:

- Addressing humanitarian health needs arising from the pandemic to save lives, alleviate human suffering and preserve the dignity of those affected.
- Mitigating the humanitarian consequences related to the secondary effects of the pandemic, such as loss of jobs and livelihoods.
- Contributing to a globally coordinated and multilateral response to the humanitarian needs caused by the pandemic.

In reaction to the **UN COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan**, Germany has mobilised additional **EUR 450 million**. The funding is aimed at containing the pandemic, mitigating its impact on people affected by humanitarian crises, maintaining food security, and strengthening the global humanitarian system.

Approx. **EUR 1.4 billion** (85 % of the total humanitarian funds budgeted for 2020) have been designated for earlier disbursement than originally scheduled. By this means, humanitarian partners have been given **greater flexibility** in order to adapt their operations to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Germany is committed to a globally coordinated and multilateral response to the pandemic. Providing substantial and needs-based humanitarian assistance is not only a **moral imperative**; it is also an **epidemiological necessity** – given that the pandemic can only be eradicated on a global level.



CRISIS PREVENTION AND STABILISATION EFFORTS



PRIORITIES

- Supporting official authorities' and civil society organizations' COVID-19 preparedness and response in contexts of fragility.
- Building on existing stabilization partner structures and support networks to strengthen the overall COVID-19 response in contexts of fragility.
- Preventing further destabilisation of conflict regions through the mitigation of socio-economic effects of the pandemic and basic services and livelihood support.

EUR 22,5 million to be disbursed **for countries in contexts of fragility**, such as the Sahel region, Lake Chad basin, Middle East, and Afghanistan in order to support stabilisation efforts by integrating COVID-19 measures into existing projects.



INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION AIMING AT VACCINE AND THERAPEUTICS DEVELOPMENT

Germany announced a substantial pledge of **EUR 525 million** during the **virtual pledging conference** co-hosted by Chancellor Merkel, the European Commission and others on 4 May 2020 to support additional COVID-19 related activities of WHO, Gavi, CEPI.

In total, **EUR 9.8 billion** were pledged in support of the **ACT initiative** (Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator) to jointly develop vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and a global and fair distribution mechanism, as well as to strengthen health systems in developing countries. This outcome is a strong signal of solidarity and paves the way towards a global response to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

Germany increased **WHO** funding by **EUR 200 million** and **Gavi** funding by **EUR 600 million**.

EUR 500,000 for the highly precise **IAEA nuclear lab methods** to test for COVID-19.

The German Federal Government continuously supports **bilateral and multilateral international collaboration of researchers and scientists** through open calls for research projects, hosting (virtual or hybrid) scientific workshops, connecting interested researchers from around the world with German research institutions, thereby joint initiating research projects etc. Thereby, the German scientific community as well as the German Federal Government actively contribute to understanding the virus and finding vaccines and cures together with their international partners.



STRENGTHENING BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY

Within the German Federal Government's preventive security policy, the Federal Foreign Office has since many years assisted selected partner countries and the UNSGM with the aim of **minimising risks associated with biological substances and highly dangerous pathogens: German Biosecurity Programme** (2013 – 2022: EUR 63 million); **Enable and Enhance Initiative** (2016 – 2020: EUR 12 million); **UNSGM-assistance**: (2018 – 2021: EUR 3.3 million).

Structures, partnerships and networks established in this framework have proven **robust in the current COVID-19 pandemic** situation, in which German partner institutions were able to adapt some of their activities very short term at the demand of their international partner institutions to cope with the current crisis. All three programmes have been or will be extended.



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

EUR 1 billion reallocated within German development cooperation (focus strengthening health systems in African countries and Asia, e.g. EUR 11 million grant to Nepal and EUR 2.05 million to Sri Lanka for COVID-19 measures regarding vocational training and SME).



GERMAN FEDERAL ARMED FORCES (BUNDESWEHR) ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

More than 50 international requests for assistance submitted to the Bundeswehr by 26 states have been processed. The Bundeswehr provides **continuous, subsidiarily and within the framework of free resources, support for its allies and partners**, e.g. through:

- **Strategic air medical evacuation** operations and Out-of-Theatre treatment: 6 air medical evacuation operations have been conducted in order to transfer 25 heavily affected COVID-19 patients from European partner states for further medical intensive care treatment in German hospitals.
- providing **medical intensive care treatments** in German Federal Armed Forces hospitals,
- provision of three **respiratory specialists on standby**
- **sharing medical supplies and equipment** (e.g. ventilators) with various international partners (e.g. recently with Afghanistan, Mongolia, Jordan, Iraq).

In early 2020, the Bundeswehr also **conducted air transport operations** at short notice in order to fly out German citizens from Wuhan (China).



INTERNATIONAL AID REQUESTS

Germany has executed the **NATO Crisis Response Measure "Rapid Air Mobility"** allowing for prioritized distribution of disaster relief material by allies throughout German air space. By using **NATO's strategic air lift capabilities** allies have transported **hundreds of tons of medical supplies**. Germany has also **redirected EUR 390,000 to build capacities and resilience** against the Pandemic in NATO's partner countries.

EUR 5 million activated to fulfill more than **100 international aid requests** received.

- **India: EUR 5 million** for medical equipment; **EUR 15 million** for health component of the Indian crisis reaction programme (KfW/UNICEF); In addition to lines offered by World Bank, the KfW Development Bank has offered **soft loans of about EUR 460 million** for the "social protection response" programme of the Indian government.



ECONOMIC STABILISATION EFFORTS

USD 87 million in bilateral contribution to the **IMF's Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust**.

Up to **EUR 233 million** deferred in 2020 as part of the **G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative**. **EUR 70 million** to help mitigate the social and economic consequences of COVID-19 in Afghanistan.



CULTURAL RELATIONS AND EDUCATION POLICY

PRIORITIES:

- Supporting cultural infrastructure worldwide, especially through our network of cultural intermediary organizations such as the Goethe-Institut and the DAAD.
- Creating flexibility for our project partners by extending funding periods and allowing budgetary shifts and adjustments.
- Shifting a large portion of our programmes and projects into the digital realm and supporting our partners with the funding and means to do the same.

Assistance of up to **EUR 70 million** each for the **Goethe Institut network (145 locations in 97 countries)** as well as the **140 German schools abroad**.

EUR 3 million international aid fund for cultural and educational organisations contributing to the safeguarding of cultural freedom and pluralistic societies through independent and sustainable local structures.

Supporting exchange students and scholars affected by the crisis by giving exchange organizations **flexibility to extend or postpone grants and travel**.

Reallocation of **cultural preservation measures** and especially capacity building measures into the **virtual space**.

Making **digital cultural services** internationally visible and tangible through the Goethe-Institut online platform kulturama.digital.



RELIGIONS AND INTER-RELIGIOUS STRUCTURES

With a **EUR 200,000 "Aid Against Isolation"** fund, German diplomatic missions support **German communities of different faiths**. Efforts focus on maintaining community support during the crisis through **digital methods** and **emergency social aid**.