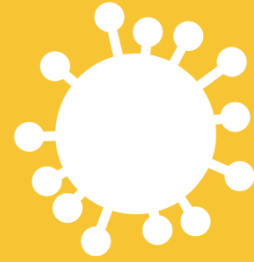


## GERMAN MULTILATERAL EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Confronting the **unprecedented worldwide challenge** posed by the COVID-19 pandemic requires a **joint effort by the multilateral system**. Without **collective action, solidarity, and empathy**, 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 **efficient crisis management, credibility, transparency and basic 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



The European Union can only master this crisis if it works together as **#EuropeUnited**. We want the EU to emerge strengthened from the crisis and help shape the global order to ensure greater sustainability, justice and solidarity.

Together, **#TeamEurope** should provide a strong European response to the current global challenges – through coordinated relief measures which are delivered quickly and where they are needed. We are glad to see the EFTA countries' comprehensive and reliable cooperation in every aspect of dealing with the COVID-19 crisis.

Additionally, Germany is **helping European partners** by delivering **medical supplies and treating patients** from particularly affected countries. Germany has **repatriated more than 6000 EU citizens** (and 3300 from third countries) during the Federal Foreign Office repatriation campaign. It supports building **RescEU capacity** for shared medical supplies to deal with **cross-border health risks**.

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

#### PRIORITIES:

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

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

It has provided more than **8500 food and hygiene packages** for the most vulnerable people in the Western Balkans and in Ukraine – in the latter in cooperation with the EU and other EU member states.

It **supports SMEs with know-how and equipment** in order to preserve jobs, to enable the local production of health goods and to ease the digitalisation of services.

It **strengthens civil society organizations**, e.g. NGOs fighting against domestic violence.

**Bilateral development and support programmes** have been adapted to suit immediate needs to **strengthen national capacities** to tackle the pandemic.



## 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 arising from the secondary effects of the pandemic, such as loss of jobs and livelihoods; maintaining food security
- Contributing to a globally coordinated and multilateral response to the humanitarian needs caused by the pandemic; strengthening operability and responsiveness of the global humanitarian system

In reaction to the **UN COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan**, Germany has announced **EUR 300 million** in additional funding. The funding is aimed at containing the pandemic, mitigating its impact on people in vulnerable situations by stabilising health systems and maintaining food security, strengthening operability and responsiveness of the global humanitarian system, i.a. by underpinning humanitarian logistics.

Approx. **EUR 1.4 billion** (85 % of the total humanitarian funds budgeted for 2020) will be disbursed earlier than originally scheduled. This will give humanitarian partners **greater flexibility** in order to adapt their operations to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The additional funds are disbursed as follows:

EUR 55 million for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	EUR 20 million for UNICEF
EUR 50 million for non-governmental humanitarian organizations	EUR 20 million for UNRWA
EUR 40 million for WFP	EUR 20 million for IOM
EUR 35 million for UNHCR	EUR 20 million for WHO
EUR 30 million for Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF)	EUR 5 million for UN-OCHA

While fighting COVID-19 within its own borders, 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.



## SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Germany has increased **WHO** funding by **EUR 200 million**

Germany has increased **Gavi** funding by **EUR 600 million**

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

Germany has provided the **OSCE Special Monitoring Mission Ukraine (SMM)** with protective equipment.

Germany announced a substantial pledge of **EUR 525 million** during the **virtual pledging conference** co-hosted by Chancellor Merkel, the European Commission and many 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.



## STRENGTHENING BIOSAFETY AND BIOSECURITY

Within the German 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 (Robert Koch Institute, Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine, Friedrich Loeffler Institute, Bundeswehr Institute of Microbiology and GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) were able to adapt some of their activities in the very short term at the request of their international partner institutions in order to cope with the current crisis. All three programmes have been or will be extended.



## INTERNATIONAL AID REQUESTS

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

**15 tons** of aid supplies delivered to **China**.

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 airlift capabilities** allies have transported **hundreds of tons of medical supplies**.

To the tune of about **EUR 500,000** German diplomatic missions abroad have financed **small grant projects** for COVID-19 related **poverty-reducing measures**.



## GERMAN FEDERAL ARMED FORCES (BUNDESWEHR) ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

More than 40 international requests for assistance submitted to the Bundeswehr by 26 states have been processed. The Bundeswehr provides **continuously support for its allies and partners**, e.g. through:

- **Strategic air medical evacuation** operations and out-of-theatre treatment: 5 air medical evacuation operations have been conducted in order to transfer 24 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,
- **sharing medical supplies and equipment** (e.g. ventilators) with various international partners (e.g. recently with 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). The Bundeswehr continues to be prepared to provide support if legal requirements are met and resources allow.



## 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**.



## RELIGIONS AND INTER-RELIGIOUS STRUCTURES

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



## CRISIS PREVENTION AND STABILISATION EFFORTS

### PRIORITIES

- Supporting official authorities' and civil society organisations' Covid-19 preparedness and response in contexts of fragility
- Building on existing stabilisation 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 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 stabilization efforts by integrating COVID-19 measures into existing projects.



## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

**EUR 1 billion** reallocated **within German development cooperation** (focus on operations to strengthen health systems in African countries).



## CULTURAL RELATIONS AND EDUCATION POLICY

*"International cultural relations are indispensable for a foreign policy, which, despite the corona crisis, should continue to meet and network"* (German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas)

### 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 for 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. The aid fund is intended to support the preservation of independent and sustainable local structures.

Supporting exchange students and scholars affected by the crisis by giving exchange organisations **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](https://kulturama.digital)