



THE EU AND YEMEN

EU RESPONSE TO THE CONFLICT IN YEMEN

As the war enters its fourth year, Yemen faces **enormous challenges**. The ongoing hostilities have exacerbated an already difficult and fragile humanitarian situation. Tens of thousands of Yemenis have died as a result of the war and hundreds of thousands more have been displaced. Besides, **more than 22 million Yemenis are now dependent on external assistance** and with almost 8 and a half million people on the verge of famine, the number could jump to 14 million – half the country's population - if the situation continues to deteriorate.

Throughout the conflict, the EU has remained active in three main areas:

- 1) Political support, security and human rights
- 2) Humanitarian assistance
- 3) Development assistance

The EU's overall contribution to Yemen in all three areas has gone over **more than €544 million since 2015**. Simultaneous action in all three key areas echo the [Council Conclusions](#) of the EU Foreign Ministers of June 2018, where the EU reiterated its **strong support to the United Nations-led process**, called on **all parties to the conflict to engage constructively with the UN Special Envoy in view of resuming peace negotiations**, and stressed its **commitment to supporting all Yemenis in a comprehensive way**. EU programmes address both **immediate and medium, long term needs** with a particular focus on resilience.

1) POLITICAL SUPPORT, SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The EU will **continue to support and complement the efforts of the United Nations and UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths in achieving a peace settlement in Yemen**, including by pursuing political consultations with all stakeholders, both in Yemen and in the region, pushing for the resumption of negotiations.

The EU has provided **over €50 million** to support activities that are set to prepare the ground for the resumption of a "track I" political process. In particular, the EU is, in coordination with the UN Special Envoy's office, promoting local dialogues, training mediators, facilitating the agreement of local ceasefires, and fomenting the **participation of local actors in peace negotiations**. It **supports and engages with civil society organisations** in the country to build their capacity and strengthen their network with **€6.4 million**. This is the case for instance of the Yemen Polling Centre, which has launched public campaigns on the conflict.

Moreover, the EU, in coordination with the UN and other donors, has convened several initiatives to **raise awareness on the conflict**, to **build trust among parties**, and **promote a reflection on the future of the country**, including on [economic aspects](#).

In a country that relies heavily on imports, the EU is backing UN-led efforts to **facilitate the flow of commercial items and humanitarian aid into Yemen**. In this regard, the EU is now the [largest donor to the United Nations Verification and Inspection Mechanism \(UNVIM\)](#) established in Djibouti.

Political fragmentation, weak governance and deficient criminal justice capabilities have prompted the EU to work along other donors on **stabilisation initiatives** with actions **worth €18 million**. These are meant to

enhance the capacities of local key security providers such as judiciary and law enforcement. The EU also trains selected community leaders on how to **improve security structures at the local level**.

Additionally, the EU pursues two security-related regional projects that include Yemen in their remit: the first one (**€11 million**) aims at **enhancing law enforcement capacity on counterterrorism in line with human rights and the rule of law**, and the second one (**€6 million**) contributes to national and regional efforts to **meet international standards on anti-money laundering (AML) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT)**.

2) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Yemen remains the **world's largest humanitarian crisis**. The country's humanitarian needs are enormous, with [22.2 million people](#) (**80% of the population**) in need of humanitarian assistance.

The EU has reacted to the crisis by stepping up its contribution to the humanitarian effort. The [EU's humanitarian commitment](#) has been further reinforced in 2018 with an **additional contribution of €90 million**, bringing this **year's total allocation to €118 million** and reaching a total of **€314.7 million** since the beginning of the conflict in 2015.

The EU's aid goes to projects implemented by EU partners (UN, ICRC and International NGOs) across the whole country. Focus includes on **nutrition**, especially to treat severely malnourished children, as well as **provide emergency healthcare and food security programmes**.

In response to the cholera epidemic, the EU also **funds treatment centres and prevention activities**, while **supporting emergency outbreak response in areas affected by measles and diphtheria**.

The EU has also **funded protection activities** with a particular focus on **gender-based violence, education in emergencies and actions that enhance rapid response capacity among partners, logistical support** (including [UNHAS](#) flights), and **coordination and advocacy actions**.

3) DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

The conflict has compounded pre-existing economic woes in the country, with lasting devastating effects on the livelihoods of large parts of the Yemeni population. **The EU has so far provided €214 million in long term development assistance**, making the EU **one of the leading development donors in Yemen**.

The allocation for Yemen in the period 2018-2020 under the [EU Development Cooperation Instrument](#) amounts to **€150 million**. The EU plans to focus this assistance on the **provision of basic services** to ensure **local communities are protected from famine and disease, strengthening their resilience in the face of crisis**. In 2018, the EU is also launching **a comprehensive support package to internally displaced populations (IDPs)** in Yemen.

One of the EU's flagship programmes **worth €70 million** and running from 2016 to 2021 has been dedicated to [Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen](#) (ERRY). In a country where millions are on the verge of famine, the EU has dedicated **special support to agri-businesses and livelihoods in rural communities to help families build up sustainable farming practices**.

Through this programme, the EU has also **supported social cohesion by recruiting and training local mediators**, including female [mediators](#), who have been trained in methods to **resolve local conflict through non-violent means**. Such activities are conducted by teachers and local women across the governorates of Abyan, Hajjah, Hudaydah, and Lahj.

The EU has also focused on maintaining the **social fabric** within communities in Yemen and on **nurturing trust between the citizens and their local institutions**. The EU has helped with the **re-establishment of hundreds of local community councils** and assisted communities in adopting **more than five hundred self-help and self-reliance initiatives**, including on [education](#), **benefiting more than 80.000 Yemenis** through a range of community infrastructure projects. **More than 22,000 individuals** benefited from **community asset rehabilitation through 'cash for work' schemes** and **870 micro-businesses were created**.

The EU is also **supporting Yemen's fragile health services and infrastructure** with projects **worth €26 million** that fight [malnutrition](#) and work to **create a network of community health workers** to [help prevent](#) the country's health system from collapsing.

More than three million Yemenis have had to flee their homes since the start of the conflict. One million have been able to return only to find their homes and communities destroyed. Almost two and a half million remain internally displaced. Most recently, the EU is **responding to the continuous displacements** caused by the conflict by **contributing to the resilience of IDPs and their host/return communities** through a new action **worth €30 million**.

Children cannot wait for conflicts to end. This is why the EU is also seeking to **ensure adequate access to education** to a generation of Yemeni children, some of whom have been out of school for more than two years.