



Team Europe Response to Covid-19 in ZAMBIA



The European Union in Zambia together with its Member States stand ready to support Zambia in its response to the Covid-19 outbreak. **Zambia** has been ranked by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** among the African countries **at highest risk**. The Government has developed a **National Multi-Sectoral Contingency and Response Plan** in order to address the **health emergency** as well as the **consequences of the disruption in economic and social activities**, trade and travel restrictions **caused by the outbreak**, including loss of jobs and income, increased food insecurity and inequality. To contain and manage effectively the spread of the virus, a **concerted effort among national and local authorities, civil society and international partners** is critical.

The EU and its Member States stand in solidarity with the **Zambian people** to respond to this unprecedented crisis through a **holistic, three-pillar approach**:




PILLAR 1
Urgent, short-term **emergency response** to the Covid-19 crisis



PILLAR 2
Systemic support to **strengthen health systems**



PILLAR 3
Assistance in mitigating the **economic and social consequences**



The European Union support builds on its **long-standing partnership** with Zambia in the health sector. Under the EU-funded Millennium Development Goal Initiative (MDGI), aimed to reduce maternal, neonatal and child mortality, chlorine production units for **infection control and prevention** were established in more than 50 health care facilities in 11 districts. The EU also contributed to **reinforcing the medicines supply chain management** under Health System Strengthening Programme, implemented in close cooperation with Ministry of Health and sector institutions. These programmes have built capacities which are now helping the Covid-19 response efforts and more generally the management of epidemics in Zambia.

As part of the **“Team Europe”** global initiative in support to partner countries, the European Union Institutions and the European Union Member States are coming together to assist in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences in Zambia. It is envisaged that an amount of between EUR 30-40 million in the form of grants will be made available collectively by the EU and its Member States to address immediate needs and short-term impacts. In order to facilitate early delivery the support will be channeled through the reinforcement, re-programming and reorientation of ongoing actions, as well as through new actions targeting most vulnerable groups. This will be complemented by efforts to fast track initiatives designed to increase access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises in key economic sectors such as energy and agriculture, in cooperation with European Financial Institutions.

Respect for citizens’ rights, human rights and democratic governance will continue to inform actions by the European Union and its Member States as they partner with the Government of Zambia and civil society in responding to the pandemic. In delivering its contribution **Team Europe** intends to cooperate closely with the UN Resident Coordinator and field offices of multilateral organisations.





The **EU** is making available approximately **EUR 2.5 million** to procure essential and life saving medicines, and commodities, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Zambia has been experiencing significant shortages and stock-outs of medical supplies that hinder effective implementation of the preparedness, surveillance and response measures and put at risk continuity of routine health service delivery.

Among EU Member States, **Sweden, Germany** and **France** have also committed to supporting the procurement of essential medicines and medical supplies.



Multi-sectoral support: The EU is mobilising funding of **up to EUR 10 million** through reprogramming of current allocations under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme for Zambia to strengthen health and social protection, and to help address economic impacts.

Among European Union Member States, **Sweden, Ireland and Germany** have also announced their intention to further contribute to social protection programmes, over and above the substantial support already provided, to address the consequences of Covid-19 on households and expected increase in vulnerable groups.

Building on its track record of engagement in the health sector, **Sweden** will step up its contribution to strengthen health systems in Zambia.

In turn, **Germany** plans to invest additional resources to ensure communities have continued access to essential water and sanitation services critical for good hygiene and pandemic control.

A number of ongoing programmes supported by the EU and by EU Member States are being adapted to mainstream Covid-19 prevention measures, risk communication and behaviour change, and mitigate socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Examples of such programmes funded by the EU are presented on the next two pages.



The EU and its Member States significantly contribute to the Covid-19 response also through **global initiatives** including: The Global Alliance for Vaccination and Immunisation (GAVI); the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund), the WHO's Universal Health Coverage Programme (UHC), the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). Under these initiatives **Zambia could benefit** in the short term approx. **USD 8.2 million in health sector and USD 10 million in education** for Covid-19 related support.



Access to Justice: People in detention in Zambia are very vulnerable to the risk of infection. To mitigate this risk, the Programme for Legal Empowerment and Enhanced Justice Delivery (PLEED), jointly financed by the EU and the German Cooperation, is working with key partners, including the Zambia Correctional Service, to implement prevention strategies and response activities. These include strengthening **hygiene practices and awareness raising on Covid-19 in correctional facilities** as well as the **setting up of Covid-19 task forces and isolation centres**. They are also supporting advocacy to government on ways to decongest correctional facilities

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV): Restrictions to social and economic activities and worsening living conditions during the pandemic may lead to an increase in gender-based violence. The EU SGBV programme (NATWAMPANE) implemented in the Northern and Luapula Provinces is working to enhance **awareness through community radio stations and other channels about availability of SGBV response services and referral pathways as well as to encourage reporting of SGBV through toll free phones lines** (116 for children and 933 for adults). The programme is also introducing infection prevention measures for SGBV response providers such as the **donation of face masks and gloves for One-Stop-Centres staff and other health workers**.



Economic Recovery and Investment: The EUR 26 million ENTERPRISE programme entails a grant facility for Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), operating in agriculture, agroforestry and aquaculture. SMEs will be invited to submit business plans for sustainable value chain development in these sectors, triggering new **job opportunities** for smallholder farmers, focusing particularly on women and youth. The ENTERPRISE programme will be complemented by a loan facility, jointly designed by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the EU. Both initiatives will not only contribute to the economic recovery of SMEs, but also towards more inclusive, equitable, green and sustainable growth in the country, in the spirit of partnerships under “The European Green Deal”.

Nutrition: With the planned EU and its Member States contribution of EUR 29 million, out of which EUR 10 million by the EU, EUR 10 million by Germany and EUR 9 million by Sweden, the multi-donor Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Phase II project will have an increased focus on nutrition-specific interventions linked to the health sector. Emphasis will be put on provision of adequate water, sanitation and hygiene services, management of acute and moderate undernutrition as well as nutrition- sensitive agriculture.

Civil Society and Human Rights: Within its direct support to civil society worth nearly EUR 13 million in different thematic areas, the European Union is reorienting actions to respond to the challenges emerging from the Covid-19 crisis. These include raising awareness of and sensitising communities about the pandemic (infection prevention, hygiene promotion), upholding vulnerable people’s rights, addressing socio-economic impacts and ensuring accountability. In addition to the re-directing of current support, the European Union has launched a call for proposals worth EUR 6.3 million focusing on access to inclusive education and protection of child and youth rights and invited applicants to fully mainstream Covid-19 prevention and early recovery measures.

EU Member States Support to Tackle Covid-19 Crisis in Zambia



The Czech Republic is granting approx. EUR 8 million to partner countries in response to Covid-19 pandemic, with particular focus on its six priority development cooperation partners, including Zambia.



Finland is adjusting its ongoing civil society and private sector assistance to mitigate and cushion the effects of Covid-19. Globally Finland has increased its un-earmarked core funding to multilateral humanitarian response, and to the WHO as well as funding to impact investments in developing countries.



France is granting the Government of Zambia approx. EUR 150,000 to help in the provision of essential medicines, medical supplies and consumables, and small hospital equipment.



Germany is finalising a response package of up to EUR 7.5 million and planning further support for 1) procurement of medical supplies and reinforcement of testing and laboratory capacities, 2) continued access to reliable basic water, sanitation and hygiene services (WASH), 3) Social protection programmes together with other European partners, 4) enhanced prevention measures, crisis management and behaviour change campaigns with a focus on local governments, 5) Promotion of human rights including strengthening campaigns against “fake news”.



Ireland intends to contribute EUR 1 million to Covid-19 response, of which EUR 0.5 million will be mobilised for an emergency cash transfer programme implemented by UNICEF, whilst another EUR 500,000 will be committed at a later stage to addressing priorities under the national contingency and response plan.



Italy is contributing through the European Union Institutions, the UN system and multilateral organisations involved in the fight against the pandemic and its consequences. It is also integrating COVID-19 prevention and response in its cooperation with civil society and private sector.



Sweden is re-programming country programme allocations to step-up Covid-19 related assistance (an increase of approx. EUR 11 million) under two main focus areas: Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAHN) and Social Protection. This will support the Covid-19 multi-sectoral contingency plan including emergency commodities such as PPEs, essential medicines and vaccines.



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