



COVID-19 – Middle East & North Africa

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR 2022

November 30, 2021

KEY FIGURES*

16.8

MILLION

Total Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Region

283,129

Total Number of Deaths Related to COVID-19 in Region

13.9

MILLION

Total USG-donated vaccine doses to the region**

344.8

MILLION

Total Number of Vaccine Doses Administered in Region

**Sources:*

** Johns Hopkins University and Our World in Data, to date as of November 30, 2021*

***Kaiser Family Foundation, as of November 30, 2021. Figures are subject to change due to periodic adjustment and updating.*

KEY MESSAGES

- USAID works in more than 120 countries to fight against COVID-19, including efforts to address the social and economic effects of the pandemic, mitigate its wide-ranging impacts, and support recovery from COVID-19. USAID works with partner governments, multilateral institutions, non-governmental organizations and civil society to deliver and distribute vaccines, protect and train health workers, disseminate key public health information, provide emergency food and critical humanitarian services and supplies, support continuity of basic services and social and economic support, and sustain education for millions of students. [USAID's response](#) is guided by the [U.S. COVID-19 Global Response and Recovery Framework](#). USAID's work is helping to meet the targets introduced by the September 2021 Global COVID-19 Summit convened by President Biden.
- The White House supports the World Health Organization's goal of vaccinating 70 percent of the global population by September, 2022 and pledged that the United States will be the world's vaccine arsenal. USAID plays a pivotal role in U.S. contributions to this goal. Over the next year, USAID will continue to support the donation of more than 1.2 billion U.S.-made doses to low- and lower-middle-income countries. USAID will also continue to provide financial and technical assistance to vaccine delivery and administration in more than 100 countries worldwide, helping to prepare and strengthen vaccination programs to ensure COVID-19 vaccines get into the arms of those who need them.
- October and November saw a decrease in cases and deaths in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region¹ compared to prior months. However, countries like Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan began to see an upward trend in cases during late October and November, indicating new waves. Across the region, USAID continued to support national governments in the implementation of COVID-19 response plans, including support to vaccination plans.

TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN MENA	
USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)	\$552,155,074
USAID Bureau for Global Health (GH)	\$18,115,000
USAID Bureau for Middle East (ME)	\$45,150,000
	\$615,420,074

¹The MENA region includes Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank/Gaza, and Yemen.

²The figures represent obligations of the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act, 2020 Coronavirus Preparedness Act, the 2020 CARES Act Supplemental Funding, and Prior Year funding completed by November 30, 2021. They do not include redirections, nor do they include base funds that were used to respond to COVID-19. Amounts may include funds appropriated by Congress to the Department of State for HIV/AIDS allowed to USAID.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Overall, the MENA region experienced a decline in the number of cases and deaths in October and November. This downward trend eased pressure on health systems in the region, particularly in the West Bank and Gaza, which experienced an 18 percent decrease in bed occupancy in intensive care units. Morocco showed signs of improvement as cases continued to decrease, averaging a daily case rate of just one percent of the peak reported in August. However, a handful of countries, such as Jordan and Iraq, recorded their highest number of new cases during this period, while Egypt and Iraq recorded the highest numbers of new deaths compared to last quarter. In late November, Jordan reported a 34 percent increase in new infections, leading the government to declare it was in its third COVID-19 wave.
- As cases ebbed across MENA, many countries eased travel and movement restrictions, which has resulted in some level of economic recovery, particularly in the tourism industry. For example, in Egypt, hotels may now operate at full capacity while observing strict COVID-19 precautionary measures. Schools have reopened in 18 countries in MENA; most are applying a blended approach that combines in-person and remote teaching and learning for children and teachers. With news of the Omicron variant in late November, countries in North Africa announced new travel restrictions.
- While over half of the countries in the region accelerated vaccine campaigns in October and November, low vaccine confidence remains a problem in the region. Many governments in the region have started to institute vaccination or negative testing requirements to enter workplaces, restaurants and other public spaces.

USAID RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

FACILITATE ACCESS TO SAFE AND EFFECTIVE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

- USAID is working with multilateral organizations, international partners, and local partners to support governments in implementing national vaccination strategies; establishing supply chain needs, including supporting procurement of cold chain equipment and ancillary items; and training health professionals to administer COVID-19 vaccines. USAID is working to carry out these efforts in coordination with each Government's vaccination deployment strategy.
- USAID supports Jordan's Ministry of Health to monitor for rare side effects following COVID-19 vaccination. Building on earlier work that provided guidance to patients recovering at home from COVID-19, the partnership supports a call center staffed by nurses who follow up with people who received vaccines to monitor for adverse reactions.
- USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives in Iraq delivered three refrigerated trucks to help securely transport COVID-19 vaccines across Sulaymaniyah, Iraq's third most populous governorate.

REDUCE MORBIDITY, MITIGATE TRANSMISSION, AND STRENGTHEN HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

- USAID partners in Iraq continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by training medical professionals on screening, identification, triage, and treatment of suspected cases; strengthening disease surveillance systems; implementing risk communication and community engagement activities; and providing critical medicines, medical equipment, and other supplies.
- In Syria, USAID continues to respond to the acute needs of populations affected by COVID-19 by enhancing infection prevention and control measures, strengthening COVID-19 case management and surveillance, bolstering the capacity of intensive care units in northwest Syria, and supporting COVID-19 education and awareness activities. USAID partners are also supporting efforts to improve the population's access to safe drinking water and sanitation services through emergency water trucking, water quality testing, and upgrading water and sanitation networks.

ADDRESS ACUTE NEEDS DRIVEN BY COVID-19

- In Iraq, USAID-funded programs continue to respond to acute needs resulting from the pandemic's economic effects with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help vulnerable households meet their basic needs. Since July 2021, a USAID partner has conducted assessments to target households in need of cash assistance, distributed MPCA, and

provided financial management training for beneficiaries. In October, the partner reached more than 1,815 individuals with MPCA and post-distribution financial management training.

- USAID partners in Yemen continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing emergency food aid to address an increase in food insecurity; providing hygiene kits and handwashing facilities to prevent the spread of COVID; supporting health facilities and treatment centers with personal protective equipment for workers; rehabilitating COVID treatment centers; improving sanitation facilities to reduce disease transmission; organizing COVID awareness trainings and informational campaigns; and providing support to small business to help them produce masks, protective medical equipment, and sanitizer. USAID has provided \$189 million in COVID-19 assistance in Yemen.
- In October, a USAID partner provided hygiene promotion sessions focused on COVID-19 awareness and prevention to approximately 10,300 individuals across nearly 30 displacement sites in northwest Syria’s Idlib Governorate. Meanwhile, in northeast Aleppo Governorate, more than 100 internally displaced persons participated in USAID cash-for-work activities, such as WASH facility cleaning and waste collection; with USAID support, a partner also donated face masks produced through its cash-for-work programming to schools across the northeast. Moreover, to combat COVID-19 misinformation, USAID partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) continues to provide community engagement activities and educational messaging—including mass media and social media campaigns—on COVID-19 awareness, prevention, and safe practices.

BOLSTER ECONOMIES AND OTHER CRITICAL SYSTEMS

- To mitigate economic impact of the pandemic in Morocco, USAID is providing financial support to 500 small and medium cooperatives in the regions of Beni Mellal-Khenifra and Marrakech-Safi, which suffered the most from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and are active in the hard-hit sectors of handicraft, agriculture, tourism, trade and services. The financial support is in the form of grants to be used by the cooperatives as a working capital to develop or sustain their ongoing activities. USAID's partner disbursed grants to 150 cooperatives in the provinces of Essaouira, Youssoufia, and Chichaoua in the region of Marrakech-Safi, and in Azilal in the region of Ben Mellal-Khenifra. Each of these cooperatives received the first \$3,300 payment out of the total grant of about \$10,000 per cooperative. This is the first example, globally, of this USAID partner adapting its model to reach cooperatives with such grants, rather than households or individuals.

USAID FUNDING FOR THE MENA COVID-19 RESPONSE³

AGENCY	PARTNERS	AMOUNT
Algeria		
USAID/GH	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)	\$2,000,000
USAID/ME	UNICEF, World Health Organization (WHO)	\$2,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN ALGERIA		\$4,000,000
Egypt		
USAID/BHA	World Food Program (WFP)	\$5,280,000
USAID/GH	Chemonics, Family Health International (FHI)	\$4,375,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN EGYPT		\$9,655,000
Iraq		
USAID/BHA	Implementing Partners, WHO, WFP	\$42,500,000
USAID/GH	WHO	\$670,000
USAID/ME	UNICEF, WHO	\$3,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN IRAQ		\$46,170,000
Jordan		
USAID/BHA	WFP	\$34,900,000
USAID/GH	Abt Associates (Abt), Ministry of Health Trust	\$2,650,000

USAID/ME	FHI, Health Care Accreditation Council (HCAC)	\$1,900,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN JORDAN		\$39,450,000
Lebanon		
USAID/BHA	American University of Beirut, Relief International, WFP, World Vision	\$48,283,187
USAID/ME	American University of Beirut, Relief International, WFP, World Vision	\$3,900,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN LEBANON		\$52,183,187
Libya		
USAID/BHA	Implementing Partners, UNICEF, WFP	\$8,050,000
USAID/GH	UNICEF	\$500,000
USAID/ME	Development Alternatives Inc (DAI), UNICEF, WHO	\$7,500,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN LIBYA		\$16,050,000
Morocco		
USAID/GH	IFRC, UNICEF, WHO	\$7,370,000
USAID/ME	GiveDirectly, International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNICEF	\$6,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN MOROCCO		\$13,370,000
Syria		
USAID/BHA	Implementing Partners, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, WHO, WFP	\$225,151,985
USAID/ME	Implementing Partners	\$6,500,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN SYRIA		\$231,651,985
Tunisia		
USAID/GH	WHO	\$550,000
USAID/ME	International Business and Technical Consultants Inc. (IBTCI), UNICEF	\$2,800,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN TUNISIA		\$3,350,000
West Bank and Gaza		
USAID/BHA	Catholic Relief Services (CRS - USCCB)	\$5,000,000
USAID/ME	International Medical Corps	\$5,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN WEST BANK AND GAZA		\$10,000,000
Yemen		
USAID/BHA	Implementing Partners, IOM, WFP	\$182,989,902
USAID/ME	Implementing Partners, UNICEF, WHO	\$6,550,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN YEMEN		\$189,539,902
Grand Total		
TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE MENA COVID-19 RESPONSE⁴		\$615,420,074

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⁴ This total does not include funding for USAID operating expenses (OE). Of the \$95 million in CARES Act appropriated for COVID-19-related OE, approximately \$73 million had been obligated as of November 30, 2021. In addition, USAID transferred \$7 million in ESF-COVID funding (Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act) to the USAID OE Account. Of the \$41 million appropriated in ARPA OE, USAID has obligated \$13 million.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to organizations that are conducting relief operations. USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed; can be transferred quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org.
- USAID has established an inbox (covid-pse@usaid.gov) to coordinate private sector engagement around the COVID-19 response. In addition, the UN supports an initiative for businesses seeking to donate money, goods or services. Please visit connectingbusiness.org for more information.
- Finally, USAID reminds the public that it may accept unsolicited applications and proposals. The Agency has set up a COVID-19 Concepts portal at: <https://www.usaid.gov/coronavirus/funding-requests-unsolicited-proposals>.