



COVID-19 – Middle East & North Africa

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR 2022

March 31, 2022

KEY FIGURES*

23.9

MILLION

Total Number of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Region

313,000

Total Number of Deaths Related to COVID-19 in Region

33.7

MILLION

Total USG-donated vaccine doses to the region**

478

MILLION

Total Number of Vaccine Doses Administered in Region

*Sources:

Johns Hopkins University and Our World in Data, to date as of March 31, 2022

***US Department of State, as of March 31, 2022.*

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 through 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, provide continuity of basic services, provide social and economic support, and sustain education for millions of students. [USAID's response](#) is guided by the [United States 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 in every country by the end of 2022 and pledged that the U.S. will be the world's vaccine arsenal. USAID plays a pivotal role in U.S. contributions to this goal. Throughout 2022, 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 deliver and administer vaccines in more than 110 countries through the U.S. Government's Initiative for Global Vaccine Access (Global VAX). Global VAX is a whole-of-government effort, through which the United States has already committed more than \$1.7 billion to support vaccine readiness work. Global VAX includes a wide range of activities to help turn vaccines in vials into vaccinations in arms including investing in cold chain and supply logistics, building mobile vaccination sites, assisting with strategic planning to deploy more health care workers and resources, fighting misinformation and disinformation to increase vaccine confidence and demand, training clinical and non-clinical personnel, and developing health information systems to ensure that vaccines are distributed equitably and safely.
- USAID's pandemic response in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region¹ includes programming to stem the pandemic through vaccine delivery and support, including vaccine readiness, cold chain infrastructure support, and communication to expand demand for vaccines. USAID and its partners also continue to help countries strengthen their healthcare systems by providing essential medical supplies to health facilities, training health care workers, and enhancing laboratory capabilities. Finally, USAID is responding to acute needs and second order impacts of the pandemic, including delivering emergency food assistance, inclusive economic recovery, and community-based hygiene promotion.

TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE COVID-19 RESPONSE IN MENA	
USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)	\$705,148,376
USAID Bureau for Global Health (GH)	\$18,331,000
USAID Bureau for Middle East (ME)	\$53,500,000
	\$776,979,376

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 March 31, 2022. 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

- As of March 31, 2022, the MENA region has registered a total of 23.9 million COVID-19 cases and nearly 313,000 COVID-19 deaths since the beginning of the pandemic. The MENA region saw an Omicron-driven COVID-19 surge between December 2021 and March 2022, which peaked in early February with around 54,000 daily cases reported at the height of the wave. Although cases have been generally trending downwards since February, several MENA countries have seen slower rates of decline, including Jordan and Tunisia, as well as sporadic increases in cases, such as in Israel.
- Since January 2022, vaccination progress across the region has slowed compared to previous reporting periods, and low vaccine confidence remains a pervasive challenge. However, there are some notable achievements. In Egypt, the most populous MENA country, vaccination rates have steadily risen to over 30 percent of the total population. Morocco continues to boast one of the highest vaccination rates in Africa at 63 percent, Tunisia has crossed the 50 percent threshold, and Jordan has crossed the 40 percent threshold.
- As of March 31, 2022, many countries in the MENA region had begun to loosen travel restrictions and ease precautionary measures ahead of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

USAID RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

FACILITATE ACCESS TO SAFE AND EFFECTIVE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

- As of March 31, 2022, the USG has delivered more than 33.7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to nine countries and the Palestinian Territories (West Bank and Gaza Strip) in the MENA region.
- In Morocco, USAID partnered with UNICEF to provide the Ministry of Health (MOH) with seven ultra-cold chain freezers that increased national storage capacity for COVID-19 vaccines by over 2 million doses, accounting for 45 percent of in-country ultra cold chain storage capacity. USAID programming also reached more than 15,641,290 Moroccans with risk awareness communication focused on COVID-19 prevention in an environment of strong vaccine uptake. Communication methods included short vaccination promotional videos with powerful testimonials from credible voices across society and encouraged engagement among viewers, allowing USAID and UNICEF to gather data on reactions and concerns from the Moroccan public.
- In Algeria, USAID partnered with UNICEF to strengthen COVID-19 cold chain logistics and supply for vaccines to reach target populations. In response to urgent needs within the MOH, USAID procured and delivered a total of 4,013,900 syringes and needles and 369,000 safety boxes. USAID also assisted in strengthening health information systems by supporting the development of the MOH's COVID-19 Vaccination Management Platform, which was operational as of March 2022.
- Ahead of the planned return to school in February 2022, USAID/Jordan developed and tested a social behavior change communication campaign targeting parents and students 12-17 years old. The campaign featured Jordanian rapper "Teacher Sam," popular with youth, and the highly rated Fooq Al Saada comedy troupe, popular with adults, and focused on the importance of vaccinating students before returning to class. The campaign included both videos and radio spots, with memorable jingles to promote vaccination.

REDUCE MORBIDITY, MITIGATE TRANSMISSION, AND STRENGTHEN HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

- In Iraq, USAID assisted in developing a protocol for COVID-19 surveillance and supported the implementation of these guidelines by sponsoring a workshop for 25 health professionals.
- In Libya, USAID and its partners disseminated 10,000 flyers with messaging on COVID-19 preventative measures to travelers arriving in and departing from Libyan airports.
- In Morocco, USAID partnered with UNICEF to procure 35,700 COVID-19 PCR tests for the Government of Morocco to bolster testing capabilities.

- In Tunisia, USAID, its partners, and the MOH, organized five training sessions on cleaning and disinfecting mobile oxygen concentrators in public health institutions. Approximately 150 health care technicians from 24 governorates participated in the training sessions, which were held in Tunis, Sousse, and Sfax. The training aimed to increase the number of health care technicians competent in the use of oxygen concentrators—including cleaning, disinfecting, packaging and storing—as well as the management of infectious waste.
- In Egypt, USAID worked with a partner in Cairo to institute the internationally recognized course “Fundamental Critical Care Support.” This course enables Egyptian physicians to be certified in managing critically ill patients, covering COVID-19 as well as other life-threatening illnesses. The course builds capacity within the Ministry of Health and Population and the Supreme Council of University Hospitals.
- In Jordan, USAID supported the MOH to launch a training on genomic sequencing, which has enabled the detection of COVID-19 mutations linked to virus severity and transmissibility. The training further builds MOH capacity in viral genome sequencing not only for future infectious diseases, but also for reproductive health and childhood diseases. USAID/Jordan also supported the launch of a series of training-of-trainer workshops on conducting PCR and rapid antigen testing for COVID-19. The session hosted five senior Royal Medical Service lab technicians for five days to teach the skills needed to equip staff with key COVID-19 testing skills.

ADDRESS ACUTE NEEDS DRIVEN BY COVID-19

- In Yemen, USAID and its partners continue to respond to the grave food security and economic situation, which has been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. USAID supports WFP and other partners to provide in-kind food assistance, vouchers for food assistance, and nutrition activities to combat rising levels of acute food insecurity and wasting. USAID is also supporting partners to conduct multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), health, protection, and shelter activities. These activities include improving health and nutrition services by supporting health facilities; providing hygiene materials to the health facilities; providing COVID-19 prevention information to communities; training community health volunteers on basic hygiene practices; and rehabilitating and restoring basic water supply, sanitation, environmental facilities, and services.
- 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 and isolation centers across northern Syria, and supporting COVID-19 education and awareness activities. USAID and its partners are also supporting efforts to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation services through emergency water trucking, water quality testing, and upgrading WASH networks, as well as providing food, protection, and MPCA to vulnerable populations in Syria coping with the second-order effects of the pandemic.
- In northeast Syria, USAID and a local partner conducted tent-to-tent hygiene sessions in February 2022 to promote COVID-19 preventative practices. The program reached all 30,000 residents of Al Hasakah Governorate’s Areesh and Washokani internally displaced person (IDP) camps with messaging on hand washing best practices, water consumption management, and other COVID-19 preventative measures. The program also conducted similar sessions at several IDP camps located in northwest Syria’s Aleppo and Idlib governorates, reaching nearly 6,000 people.

BOLSTER ECONOMIES AND OTHER CRITICAL SYSTEMS

- In Morocco, USAID is providing capital funding to 445 vulnerable cooperatives to fund their growth needs and to address the economic hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of February 2022, \$3.37 million has been disbursed to targeted cooperatives, and 3,921 cooperative members have benefited from this program—59 percent of these beneficiaries are women, 32 percent are youth, and 2 percent are persons with disabilities. Cooperatives are using the capital infusion of \$10,000 per cooperative for equipment, raw materials, other essential materials, production tools, communication and marketing, and training, among other areas. This program will help alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis while boosting the local economy.

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's 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 360 (FHI 360)	\$4,375,000
USAID/ME	WHO	\$5,050,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN EGYPT		\$14,705,000
Iraq		
USAID/BHA	Implementing Partners, International Organization for Migration (IOM), WFP, WHO	\$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)	\$2,650,000
USAID/ME	FHI 360, Health Care Accreditation Council (HCAC), University Research Co. (URC)	\$4,700,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN JORDAN		\$42,250,000
Lebanon		
USAID/BHA	American University of Beirut, Relief International, WFP, World Vision	\$48,283,187
USAID/ME	American University of Beirut	\$3,900,000
USAID/GH	UNICEF	\$216,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN LEBANON		\$52,399,187
Libya		
USAID/BHA	Implementing Partners, IOM, UNICEF, WHO, WFP	\$8,950,000
USAID/GH	UNICEF	\$500,000
USAID/ME	Implementing Partners, UNICEF, WHO	\$7,500,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN LIBYA		\$16,950,000
Morocco		
USAID/GH	IFRC, UNICEF, WHO	\$7,370,000
USAID/ME	GiveDirectly, 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, WFP, WHO	\$225,151,985
USAID/ME	Implementing Partners	\$7,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN SYRIA		\$232,151,985
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)	\$5,000,000
USAID/ME	IMC	\$5,000,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN WEST BANK AND GAZA		\$10,000,000
Yemen		
USAID/BHA	Implementing Partners, IOM, WFP	\$335,083,204
USAID/ME	Implementing Partners, UNICEF, WHO	\$6,550,000
USAID FUNDING FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN YEMEN		\$341,633,204
TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE MENA COVID-19 RESPONSE		\$776,979,376

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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 \$66 million had been obligated as of March 31, 2022. In addition, USAID transferred \$7 million in ESF-COVID funding (Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act) to the USAID OE Account, of which \$6.9 million is obligated to date. Of the \$41 million appropriated in ARPA OE, USAID has obligated \$19.8 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.cidr.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-proposal>