

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

This is a fictitious document produced solely for the purpose of this exercise. All references to existing States, international organisations, private companies, departments, their representatives, etc. should be considered as mere examples. The views expressed do not represent the position of these bodies or persons.

Participants are therefore advised to rely solely on the information provided and not on any prior knowledge in the field when answering the questions. It is important that you accept the scenario as it is presented. However, you are authorised to make logical assumptions where information is missing or incomplete.

© European Union, 2021

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without the prior permission of EPSO.

This exercise may only be administered and interpreted by persons trained and authorised by EPSO and only under the conditions stipulated by EPSO.

ANNEX 1 – COUNTRY PROFILE

Due to two consecutive deficient rainy seasons, consequence of the climate change exacerbated by unsustainable land use, East Barjam is facing a major drought with all consequences in terms of food security, health conditions and risks of population displacements. This situation leaves the country insecure and may have an impact on the general elections (November 2021) that should take place next year. In addition the country may suffer deep economic recession and political instability with possible regional implications.

Prior the current crisis, the country benefited from stable Institutions, political plurality and freedom of expression. Economic reforms had been initiated and plan made for the development of the social and economic infrastructure. Nevertheless, the agriculture sector still represents a major share of the country revenues. Recent international studies show that at least one third of the population lives below the national poverty line. Health services are insufficient and only 35% of the population has access to education beyond the primary level.

Due to the current situation, substantial displacement of population may occur in the most affected regions posing additional challenges in terms of security, housing, employment, and provision of basic social services.

Considering this situation and in the spirit of partnership, the European Union (EU) decided to further support East Barjam's at the request of the Government. In line with this, the EU reinforced the Local Office in East Barjam. EU support is strongly linked to this new context and will require coordination with other international partners and the deployment of relevant EU instruments and tools in a comprehensive, consistent and synergetic manner.

Before the crisis, the Government of East Barjam, in accordance with its National Development plan, aimed to:

- lead its population out of poverty, in particular in rural areas, while ensuring sustainable use of natural resources,
- reinforce social and economic infrastructure,
- strengthen public administration,
- ensure access to adequate education and health care, and
- maintain respect for human rights, including core labour rights, and the rule of law, notably with regard to minority groups.

Now with the current crisis, the Government is facing new challenges and drafting an action plan for short term measures with the support of the EU, the UN and other relevant International actors.

ANNEX 2 – EU ACTIONS

The Agency for International Affairs (AIA) establishes cooperation priorities and funding allocations. Programming for East Barjam needs to be in line with global EU policy. It is also important to ensure coherence and complementarity between donors and alignment with government priorities (see Annex 1).

For implementation, three aspects are therefore to be considered:

- risk assessment and management regarding, e.g., natural disasters, the potential impact on political situation and intercommunity tensions
- coordination among donors/stakeholders,
- EU funding and implementation methods of international cooperation and humanitarian aid.

An EU-East Barjam Task Force presented to the government the tools and instruments the EU (including the Member States) has at its disposal to respond to the current crisis while pursuing the long term priorities. In the recent years, a series of conferences were held to deepen the bilateral relationship in a number of areas, including development assistance, trade and investment, as well as civil society strengthening.

The EU is also prepared to deploy an Election Observation Mission during the general election in November 2021.

The EU has allocated EUR 835 million for the 2007-2019 period (see Table), mainly under bilateral, regional and thematic instruments¹, and is considering an indicative allocation of EUR 1 billion for the 2020-2025 period.

In order to face the current crisis, the EU has decided to provide immediate additional support to the country under a "Special Drought Package" amounting to EUR 170 million.

During 2007-2019, the EU channelled 63% of its funding to the country mostly through UN and EU Member States' agencies. The remaining part was implemented through direct funding mechanisms, such as grants, budget support, services and works contracts.

The EU and a few Member States (Germany and Italy having the most important role) are committed to coordinating their actions through joint programming. This process should bring more effectiveness, better transparency, predictability and visibility.

During the same period, in addition to the aid from the EU, the country has received support from other donors, totalling over USD 5 billion. The country received contributions, among others, from Japan (USD 2.7 billion), the World Bank (USD 1 billion), the UK (USD 453 million) and the US (USD 500 million).

¹ Funding instruments can be country-based (bilateral), regional or have a specific thematic focus.

Table - EU Assistance to East Barjam for the years 2007-2025

(million EURO)						
Funding source	2007-2013	2014-2019	Total disbursed	Forecast* 2020	Forecast 2020-2025	Total Forecast
Humanitarian Aid	30	70	100	65	tbc	
Development Cooperation						
Bilateral envelope	300	315	615	100	tbc	
Thematic programmes	15	20	35	0	tbc	
Regional programmes	20	40	60	0	tbc	
Other Instruments	25		25	5	tbc	
Total	390	445	835	170	1,000	1,170

* Special Drought Package