

# EU Adopts 'Protect, Perform, Partner' Plan

Global humanitarian needs reach record levels amid funding shortfalls

● Focus on safer aid delivery

● New funding models aim to improve efficiency

● Cooperation with private sector and financial institutions

The European Union has announced a new set of measures to strengthen its humanitarian response globally, aiming to ensure aid remains principled, efficient, and impactful at a time when global needs have reached unprecedented levels.

A Joint Communication on Humanitarian Aid, adopted by the European Commission and the High Representative, outlines how the EU intends to maintain its role as a reliable global donor despite mounting pressure on the international aid system.

According to the EU, around 239 million people worldwide currently require humanitarian assistance, while existing funding mechanisms are only able to reach less than half of those in need. At the same time, the number and duration of global crises continue to rise, compounded by insecurity and shrinking financial resources.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU remains committed to protecting human dignity and

improving the efficiency of life-saving assistance.

"As the leading humanitarian donor worldwide, the European Union continues to defend the dignity of those in need, as well as those who risk their lives to help them," she said. "With this package, we are ensuring life-saving aid is delivered more efficiently, even in the toughest environments. At the same time, we are building resilience to reduce dependency on aid."



## Global Humanitarian Pressure Points

- Humanitarian system under strain due to conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan, plus funding cuts.
- Forcibly displaced people has doubled in a decade, reaching 117.3 million (2025).
- Around 500 million children are living in or fleeing conflict zones.

The new strategy is built around three core pillars: protect, perform, and partner.

Under the protect pillar, the EU plans to enhance humanitarian diplomacy and coordination through a broader "Team Europe" approach. This includes greater use of political dialogue, human rights advocacy, peace mediation, and multilateral engagement. The EU will also strengthen security measures for humanitarian workers and expand the role of local organisations in delivering aid, ensuring more inclusive and community-driven responses.

The perform pillar focuses on improving the efficiency of aid delivery. The EU aims to reform humanitarian supply chains to maximise cost-effectiveness, from procurement to final distribution. It will also expand funding approaches such as cash assistance, anticipatory action, multi-year financing, pooled funds, and greater support for local actors. Improved data sharing on humanitarian needs is also part of the plan to enhance coordination and effectiveness.

Through the partner pillar, the EU seeks to reduce long-term dependence on humanitarian aid by strengthening resilience and promoting durable solutions. This includes deeper cooperation with international financial institutions, private sector partners, and philanthropic organisations to develop innovative financing models for fragile regions and crisis-affected communities.

Officials noted that the international humanitarian system is under severe strain due to



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Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

ongoing conflicts in regions such as Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan, alongside widespread funding cuts. The number of forcibly displaced people has doubled over the past decade, reaching 117.3 million in 2025, while around half a billion children are living in or fleeing conflict zones.

The EU and its member states currently provide around 35 percent of global humanitarian funding, with the European Commission allocating nearly 2 billion this year alone. The bloc reaffirmed its commitment to needs-based, inclusive, and non-discriminatory aid delivery aimed at saving lives and preserving dignity worldwide.

## Eid Al-Adha Marked in Oman with Royal Prayer



The Sultanate of Oman marked the first day of Eid Al-Adha for the year 1447 AH, with nationwide celebrations highlighted by the presence of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq.

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq performed the Eid prayer at the Sultan Qaboos Mosque in the Wilayat of Suhar, located in the North Al Batinah Governorate. He was accompanied by members of the Royal Family, senior officials, military leaders, as well as a gathering of sheikhs and cit-

izens who joined the spiritual occasion.

Following the prayer, His Majesty received well-wishers who came to extend greetings on the blessed occasion. The Sultan warmly exchanged Eid greetings, expressing his sincere wishes for happiness, prosperity, and blessings for all.

His Majesty also conveyed deep appreciation for the sentiments shared by citizens and officials, thanking them for their sincere prayers and goodwill on this auspicious Islamic festival.

## Honesty and integrity key to nation-building, UAE leadership affirms



Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President performed Eid Al-Adha prayers at Shaikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi, joined by senior members of the UAE leadership and a large congregation of worshippers.

Among those who attended the prayers were Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, along with other sheikhs, senior officials, and dignitaries.

The Eid sermon, titled "Our Eid is sincerity and sacrifice," was delivered by Dr. Omar Habtoor Al Darei, Chairman of the General Authority of Islamic Affairs, Endowments and Zakat. He emphasized honesty as a core value in building trust within societies, describing it

as the foundation upon which stability and development are built.

He noted that sincerity and trust were central to the UAE's founding principles and continue to guide its progress and cohesion. The sermon further highlighted that honesty is reflected in national loyalty, responsible leadership, education, and professional integrity, all of which contribute to the nation's continued advancement.

Following the prayers, the UAE President exchanged Eid greetings with worshippers in attendance.

The gathering concluded with the recitation of Al-Fatiha in memory of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founder of the UAE.

## Kuwait Crown Prince Visits Military Personnel



His Royal Highness the Crown Prince visited members of Kuwait's military and security apparatus, meeting officers and personnel as part of Eid Al-Adha celebrations.

During the visit, the Crown Prince conveyed the greetings and congratulations of the country's leadership on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, extending best wishes to the "brothers and sons" serving in the armed and security forces.

He praised the vital national role military personnel play in safeguarding the country, main-

taining security and stability, and protecting Kuwait's territorial integrity. He also expressed appreciation for their continued dedication and sacrifices in service of the nation.

The Crown Prince further commended the high level of readiness, discipline, and sense of responsibility demonstrated by security and military personnel in carrying out their duties. He emphasized the importance of their ongoing commitment to ensuring national safety and preparedness across all circumstances.

# Calls to End Global Violations

Qatar Reaffirms Commitment to UN Charter

The State of Qatar has reaffirmed its full commitment to the United Nations Charter, calling for an immediate end to ongoing violations of its principles and stressing the need to strengthen a rules-based international order with the United Nations at its center.

The statement was delivered at UN Headquarters in New York by Sheikha Alia Ahmed bin Saif Al Thani during a high-level open debate of the UN Security Council focused on upholding the purposes and principles of the UN Charter.

Sheikha Alia said the Charter, established after the Second World War, is not only a legal framework but also a moral commitment designed to prevent the recurrence of global conflict. She warned that the current international order faces unprecedented strain, citing violations of state sovereignty and territorial integrity that, she said, are eroding confidence in multilateral institutions.

She emphasized that global



Qatar expressed support for ongoing Pakistani mediation efforts between the United States and Iran aimed at de-escalation and regional stability

challenges require a unified response consistent with the Charter's founding principles, warning against selective interpretation of international law. She also underscored the importance of sovereign equality among states and the prohibition on the use or threat of force, particularly amid rising breaches of international humanitarian law.

Qatar reiterated that the United Nations must remain the central pillar of the global system and called for accelerating reforms to make the

organization more inclusive, effective, and responsive to 21st-century challenges. She also highlighted the need to strengthen the UN financially, institutionally, and operationally to ensure it can fulfill its mandate.

The Qatari envoy further stressed the importance of conflict prevention, urging greater investment in mediation, dialogue, and preventive diplomacy as key tools to address the root causes of instability.

She noted Qatar's active role in mediation and peacebuilding, describing it as a core element of its foreign policy and its partnership with the United Nations. She pointed to Qatar's involvement in facilitating ceasefire arrangements, prisoner exchanges, and peace efforts in different regions.

In this context, Qatar also expressed support for ongoing mediation efforts led by Pakistan between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran, reaffirming its backing for diplomatic initiatives aimed at de-escalation and regional stability.