

EuropeAid

European Commission provides Food Security support to Yemen

The Commission has approved today a support program to Yemen, in the amount of € 17 million, to help improve Food Security coordination between national institutions and strengthen the farming communities to act in the fields of water use, market access and income-generating opportunities.

The programme just approved constitutes the 2009 Annual Action Programme for Yemen under the Development Cooperation Instrument of the European Commission. It is the third decision of 2009 benefitting the Food Security sector in Yemen: in November, the Commission had already granted € 10 million to the country within the € 227 million worldwide programme for 2009 on Food Security; and in April, the Commission attributed to Yemen a grant of € 21.3 million as part of the Food Facility initiative, a one-off funding of € 1 billion directed at helping the least-developed countries in the world tackle the high food prices in international markets.

Helping the malnourished in Yemen

The programme just approved completes the exceptional support of € 48.3 million provided by the European Commission to the food security sector in Yemen in 2009, in view of the worrying situation of the Yemeni population in this regard. Yemen has 40% of its rural population living under the poverty line, and more than 50% of children under five suffer from malnutrition.

A € 17 million support programme

The programme will finance a large number of activities at the local level, aimed at helping the local farmer's communities and associations improve productivity, water sharing and water management skills, access to agricultural markets and organisational skills. It will also support the creation and operation of a National Food Security Body, which will coordinate and lead the Government's actions in the sector and try to inverse the worsening trend of latest years in terms of food availability, access to food and the nutritional status of the Yemeni people.



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