



The Exhibition Industry & COVID-19 in the MEA Region

Government support for businesses in general Actions taken by the exhibition industry to support the COVID-19 crisis

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This document lists support from the MEA region.

Exhibitions and trade shows are the fastest of fast-tracks to economic recovery once the coronavirus crisis has passed, and they will deliver the best return on investment now. We have also listed examples from around the world of how the exhibition industry can support this crisis, converting exhibition halls to temporary hospital wards, and other initiatives.

More info at: www.ufi.org/coronavirus // <http://blog.ufi.org>

For additional details about response plans from the below or other countries in the Middle East & Africa region, please contact Naji EL Haddad, UFI Regional Manager, on mea@ufi.org

MEA Response to Corona Virus outbreak

Country	Govt Programme / activity	Primary Source	More info / external URLs	Support from exhibition industry
UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USD 34.2bn stimulus package • Licensed businesses can apply to a 20% refund on rent of commercial properties. • Dubai's government announced the deployment of USD 405M as part of its economic stimulus measures. • Abu Dhabi refunded USD 1.2M to 220 businesses. • Dubai and Sharjah announced resumption of events 	UAE Government Arabia Monitor*	The National Arabia Monitor	
Saudi Arabia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USD 32bn stimulus package • The Ministry of Tourism unveiled a USD 4B tourism development fund • 142 initiatives aimed at supporting the private sector have been extended. So far, USD 57B has been spent on these measures • The Ministry of Finance launched a USD 178M initiative to ease loan instalments, which aims to support 192 companies 	KSA Government Arabia Monitor	CNBC.com	
Oman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USD 20bn stimulus package • Oman secured a USD 2B bridge loan from international and regional banks. 	Oman Central Bank Arabia Monitor	Arabian Business	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Public Authority for Water approved a three-month package to provide financial relief for privately held SMEs in the healthcare, education, tourism, banking and journalism sectors 			
Bahrain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USD 11.3bn stimulus package USD 46.1M package aimed at supporting business owners who are not covered by insurance Adding up to USD 470M to the budget to tackle emergency COVID-19 expenses Stimulus measures will be extended – the government will pay 50% of salaries for private sectors in addition to bearing their domestic electricity costs. These measures will cost USD 186M and USD 39M respectively 	Bahrain Government Arabia Monitor	Arabian Business	
Qatar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USD 23bn stimulus package Utilities bill exemption for SMEs, rent exemption for 6 months. New Public-Private Partnership to support investment in the non-oil sector 	Qatar Government Arabia Monitor	AL Arabiya	
Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government has announced a USD 6.2B financing initiative to support SMEs President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi approved a 14% rise in pensions starting from 1 July Egypt's USD 50M emergency response funding agreement with the World Bank was approved. The Labour Emergency Fund disbursed USD 2.7M to workers hit by the pandemic. Government allowed resumption of events 	Egypt Government Arabia Monitor	MEED	
Morocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sovereign guarantee of 95% for SMEs, for up to 10% of annual turnover The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and 	Morocco Government IMF Arabia Monitor		

	Development (EBRD) will offer a tourism recovery technical assistance package to help the sector recover from the impact of COVID-19			

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