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Mr. Stefan Schmitz
GAFSP Steering Committee
GAFSP Coordination Unit

**Subject: Request for additional funding under Yemen's GAFSP\SAPREP project
to mitigate the impact of COVID-19**

Dear Mr. Schmitz,

On behalf of the Government of Yemen, we would like to express our thanks to the GAFSP Steering Committee for the support received under the Smallholder Agriculture Production Restoration and Enhancement Project (SAPREP), which has had a real impact on the livelihoods of Yemeni people. Referring to the \$55 million GAFSP made as additional funding available for both the Public Sector Window and the pilot Missing Middle Initiative (MMI) to top up or re-purpose any current projects, in line with adjusted national agriculture plan priorities, and with the context of the disruptions and negative impact of COVID-19, the government is pleased to submit a request for the allocation of additional funding under the ongoing SAPREP project, to respond to COVID-19 related needs and be used in timeframe of 18 months.

Despite of the achievements of SAPREP, the COVID-19 pandemic has had and will continue to have considerable impacts in the food security and livelihoods of the people of Yemen. This adds to the already heavy toll of the severe conflict and uncertainties, which have led the Country into a profoundly serious humanitarian crisis and have added additional pressures to an already weak productive system and national economy.

The SAPREP target areas and beneficiaries are particularly heavily impacted by the spread of COVID-19 and the containment measures implemented by the government. Recent FAO reports, indicates that, across the country, availability of locally produced crops (fruits, vegetables, and grains) remains challenged. Post-harvest losses continue to be reported along the supply chain, especially for fresh vegetables. The fisheries industry in particular is greatly affected because of the contraction in



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the demand fish products. Similarly, in livestock producing governorates, breeders are taking more precautionary measures to cushion against the impact of COVID-19, such as selling their flocks, which in turn caused a drop in livestock prices.

In line with needs the proposed activities include:

- 1- Provision of cash for work assistance (CFW) for the rehabilitation of community infrastructure.
- 2- Distribution of livestock inputs, combined with basic training on animal husbandry practices, animal feeding and health.
- 3- Distribution of agricultural tools and higher quality vegetable and legume seeds combined with basic training on good agriculture and post-harvest practices.

The funding requested is USD 7,000,000, which will help the project to continue its support for the recovery of affected livelihoods and to alleviate the continuous effects of the economic hardships embossed by COVID-19 in the months to come. The implementation of these activities is of ultimate importance for Yemen and are in line with the Government of Yemen COVID-19 response priorities.

Thanks in advance for the kind consideration to our request and look forward to an early approval.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Nageeb Manssor Al-Aoj

Minister of Planning and International Cooperation



Cc: Prime Minister Office
Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Merza Hasan, Executive Director, World Bank