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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX 26

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2023-2025

Action Document for the Data and Research on Migration and Forced Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Data and Research on Migration and Forced Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa OPSYS number: ACT-62040 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative (TEI)	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional TEI for a Comprehensive Migration Approach in the Maghreb, Sahel and West African Countries in the Atlantic / Western Mediterranean Route Regional TEI for a Comprehensive Migration Approach in the Central Mediterranean Route
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa
4. Programming document	Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Plan (MIP) for Sub-Saharan Africa
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	<p>The action contributes to the Priority Area 6: Migration, mobility, and forced displacement of the Regional MIP, and in particular:</p> <p><u>Specific Objective 1:</u> Contribute to strengthening migration management, migration policy, and migration governance in Sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Result 1.2: Improved evidence-based programming and policy-making on migration based on regional research, data gathering and management. <p><u>Specific Objective 2:</u> Address protection and long-term needs and support durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations (refugees and internally displaced people IDPs) and host communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Result 2.3: Strengthened regional research, evidence and analysis and the improvement of data gathering, collection and analysis on forced displacement disaggregated to reflect the broader sociodemographic profile of displaced populations.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority area 6 - Migration, mobility, and forced displacement DAC Code 151 - Government & Civil Society-general

7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 10 to reduce inequality within and among countries, and its Specific target (10.7) Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG 17 to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, and its specific targets (17.18 and 17.19) on data, monitoring and accountability SDG 5 to achieve gender quality and empower all women and girls SDG 16 to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels 			
8. a) DAC code(s)	15190 - Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility 15196 - Government and civil society statistics and data			
8. b) Main Delivery Channel	UN entities - 41100 University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think tank - 51000			
9. Targets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%; position: relative;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 0; right: 0; width: 100%; height: 100%; background: linear-gradient(to top right, transparent 49%, #000 49% 51%, #000 51% 53%, transparent 53%);"></div> </div>

	Connectivity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES	NO	
	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

BUDGET INFORMATION

12. Amounts concerned

Budget line(s) (article, item):

- 14.020120: EUR 5 250 000
- 14.020121: EUR 5 250 000
- 14.020122: EUR 4 500 000

Total estimated cost: EUR 15 000 000

Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 15 000 000

For the TEIs, the key Member States (MS) and the indicative amount of their support is as follows:

Regional TEI for a Comprehensive Migration Approach in the Maghreb, Sahel and West African Countries in the Atlantic / Western Mediterranean Route:

EU MS	Amount (in EUR)
Belgium	7 875 000
Switzerland	3 151 000
Germany	52 550 000
Denmark	24 053 000
Spain	61 909 000
France	89 993 000
Netherlands	47 730 000
Italy	170947 000

Regional TEI for a Comprehensive Migration Approach in the Central Mediterranean Route:

EU MS	Amount (in EUR)
Austria	4 594 000
Belgium	3 250 000
Switzerland	3 773 000
Czech Rep	1 000 000
Germany	94 760 000
Denmark	36 620 000
Spain	4 100 000
France	56 849 000
Netherlands	65 475 000
Italy	157 363 000
Malta	600 000

MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	
13. Type of financing ¹	Direct management through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grants Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.2

1.2 Summary of the Action

The proposed action intends to support data collection, research and analysis on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa. The detailed list of countries and Regional Economics Communities (RECs) to be involved in the action will be decided at inception stage.

The information collected and related knowledge management products developed would help address gaps in knowledge and inform the elaboration of evidence-based migration and forced displacement policies and programming. The action thus corresponds to the expected result 1.2 of the specific objective 1 and the expected result 2.3 of the specific objective 2 of Priority Area ‘Migration, Mobility and Forced Displacement’ of the Regional MIP for Sub-Saharan Africa.

The action contributes also to the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 10 to reduce inequality within and among countries and target 10.7 (Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people).

The action will capitalise on existing data and research dedicated facilities such as the Research and Evidence Facility (REF) in the Horn of Africa, the Technical Research Facility for West Africa, and the Monitoring and Learning System (MLS) of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), including their networks and collaboration with researchers from across the Sub-Saharan region.

The action will be structured along two thematic components:

1. Data: statistics will be produced, analysed and used to support evidence-based knowledge on mixed migration in Sub-Saharan Africa with gender sensitive approach, while strengthening the institutional capacity of African partners
2. Research: cutting-edge research on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa will be produced and disseminated to fill critical knowledge gaps

The action will contribute to the carrying out of the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III)², in particular to its thematic area of engagement ‘Women, Peace and Security’ and ‘Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation, digitalisation, climate change and environment’.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

In Sub-Saharan Africa, various efforts exist in terms of strengthening national and regional capacity to promote data-driven migration policy development, while collecting, analysing and using of migration and forced displacement data and statistics.

¹ Art. 27 NDICI

² JOIN(2020) 17 final JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL EU GENDER ACTION PLAN (GAP) III – AN AMBITIOUS AGENDA FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT IN EU EXTERNAL ACTION {SWD(2020) 284 final} of 25/11/2020

The [Gender Action Plan III](#) is a Joint communication by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy which was welcomed through [EU Presidency Conclusions](#) of 16 December 2020. Drafting was led by European Commission in close consultation with EU Member States, EEAS, civil society organisations, partner governments, and international organisations (UN entities, International Finance Institutions among others). The different parties contributed to the drafting of the document through meetings and through responses to a survey conducted during the process.”

For instance, the EU-funded ‘Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa Phase II’ action aims, among others, at enhancing the capacities of ECOWAS, its Members States and Mauritania in the areas of migration data collection and management, and knowledge management production. At global level, the EU-funded project ‘Unlocking the power of data and evidence to deliver better outcomes for children on the move’ is contributing to improving the availability, analysis and distribution of migrant child-specific data, including in Sub-Saharan Africa. Similarly, the upcoming EU-funded project ‘Migration and Forced Displacement Knowledge and Technical Assistance Hub’ will contribute to reinforce the capacity in partner countries’ administrations (including in Sub-Saharan Africa) and strengthen global knowledge on specific aspects of migration management. With regards to refugees, the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Centre on Forced Displacement, with financial support from the EU, gives visibility to forcibly displaced people by improving the data and evidence available on them. The EU is also launching a new global EU action (EUR 8 million) with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre to deepen knowledge on the drivers, vulnerabilities and risks that lead to internal displacement and to improve capacities for affected partner countries to address these risks.

This proposed action will thus complement existing initiatives to provide even further robust data and research on Sub-Saharan migration and forced displacement for more targeted responses for migrants and forcibly displaced people in Sub-Saharan Africa. To a lesser extent, it will also support capacity building for national institutions, especially national statistical offices, on migration data.

Migration movements are a key feature in Sub-Saharan Africa due to many reasons including global population growth, increased connectivity, rising inequality, limited employment opportunities, climate change and environmental degradation. In 2020, the number of international migrants in Sub-Saharan Africa was over 22 million. Out of them, migrant women accounted for 47.6% and migrant men for 52.4%.³ Most migrants move between countries located within the same region.

The risks of trafficking along migration routes are high, notably the risk for women and girls of becoming victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation or other forms of gender-based violence. Trafficking networks abuse asylum procedures and use reception centres to identify potential victims. The early identification of potential non-EU victims will be a specific theme of the European Commission’s forthcoming approach towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings, as set out in the recent Security Union Strategy.⁴

Forced displacement is also rising, both within countries and across borders, as a result of violence, human rights violations with high percentage of women’s human rights violations or natural disasters. The total population of forcibly displaced people in Sub-Saharan Africa were at 34.2 million in 2021. Among them, there were nearly 7 million refugees, over half of whom were under the age of 18, and 27.2 million IDPs.⁵ People with disabilities are particularly vulnerable in situations of forced displacement, owing to due to lack of access to quality medical services and the creation of new barriers in the environment.⁶ An estimated 10.3 million persons with disabilities were forcibly displaced in 2017, based on the WHO global estimate of 15% of the population having a disability.⁷

The **West Africa** region is marked by growing challenges linked to demographic pressure, environmental stress, extreme poverty, political instability, intercommunal competition for limited resource and tensions due to the effects of climate change, internal tensions, the negative impact of terrorism and widespread corruption on the affected populations, institutional weaknesses, weak social and economic infrastructures, and insufficient resilience to food crises. These have in some cases led to human rights violations including women and children, open conflict, displacement, criminality, radicalisation and violent extremism, as well as trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. All of these factors can be considered as root causes of (irregular) migration and forced displacement and make people move in order to build a better life.

The **East and Central Africa** is a region faced with multiple and diverse challenges, including political instability,

³ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.

⁴ COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum

⁵ UNHCR (2022). *Global Trends Forced Displacement in 2021*; IDMC (2022). *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2022*.

⁶ Handicap International (2015). *Disability in Humanitarian Context. Views from affected people and field organisations*.

⁷ UNHCR (2019). *Working with Persons with Disabilities in Forced Displacement*.

conflicts and violence, floods and droughts stoked by climate change, exacerbating difficulties in finding livelihood activities, feeding families and educating children, economic deprivation (with an increased absolute number of poor people), changing population dynamics (with a high population growth of 3% and youth representing over 60% of the estimated 242 million people in the region), and resource scarcity. This situation leads to an environment of flux, in which people are moving, often in the absence of any positive choice, in search of a better life, often at the mercy of traffickers of human beings and smugglers of migrants. Migration flows from the region typically follow three main migratory routes: the 'Northern Route' towards North Africa and Europe; the 'Southern Route' towards South Africa; and the 'Eastern Route' towards the Gulf countries. At the same time, more than two third of Sub-Saharan refugees were hosted in East and Central Africa. As a result of conflict, violence and disasters in 2021, IDPs mainly were located in Democratic Republic of Congo DRC, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.⁸ Of the 6.2 million migrants in the East and Horn of Africa region, the share of females (50.4%) was slightly higher in 2021 than the share of males (49.6%) which is different from the shares as of mid-2010 (49.7% females versus 50.3% males) and as of mid-2015 (49.8% females versus 50.2% males).⁹

In **Southern Africa**, migration for economic reason is a key feature. A significant number of migrant workers migrate within the region (especially to South Africa) thanks also to various COMESA programmes on regular labour migration among Member States. But irregular labour migration is present too, including outside the region.¹⁰ Most migration to South Africa is driven by the prospect of relatively high wages – up to five times higher than other SADC Member States – and demand in South Africa for labour in both high and lower skilled sectors. For example, demand in the skills-intensive finance, education and information technology sectors in South Africa has contributed to migration to South Africa, and demand for domestic workers in the country has generated economic opportunities for lower-skilled migrants, especially women, from neighbouring countries.¹¹

In principle, data should be available and accessible to all users (including governments, RECs, civil society, academia, but also donors, implementing partners, etc.). However, the overall availability of data on migration and forced displacement remains limited at the level of Sub-Saharan Africa or migration/forced displacement statistics are not yet utilised to their full potential, especially for programming purpose.

Against this background, the EU's cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa is guided by the Regional MIP, including its priority area 6 'migration, mobility and forced displacement'. In particular, this action intends to contribute to the result 1.2 of the specific objective 1 and result 2.3 of the specific objective 2 of priority area 6.¹²

Moreover, this action is aligned with the Communication on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum¹³ and the Communication 'Lives in Dignity'¹⁴. It will also contribute to the implementation of the EU GAP III,¹⁵ and its focus on 'improving data collection on the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change and environmental degradation to inform gender-responsive policies and action'. Gender shapes the decision to migrate and the migration experience, including during environmental-induced migration. Climate change disproportionately

⁸ UNHCR (2022). Op. cit.; IDMC (2022). Op. cit.

⁹ International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2022. *A Region on the Move 2021: East and Horn of Africa*. IOM, Nairobi.

¹⁰ McAuliffe, M. and A. Triandafyllidou (eds.) (2021). *World Migration Report 2022*. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva.

¹¹ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) (2018). *Economic Development in Africa Report 2018: Migration for Structural Transformation*.

¹² Specific objective 1: 'Contribute to strengthening migration management, migration policy, and migration governance in Sub-Saharan Africa', Result 1.2: 'Improved evidence-based programming and policy-making on migration based on regional research, data gathering and management'; Specific objective 2: 'Address protection and long-term needs and support durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations (refugees and IDPs) and host communities', Result 2.3: 'Strengthened regional research, evidence and analysis and the improvement of data gathering, collection and analysis on forced displacement disaggregated to reflect the broader sociodemographic profile of displaced populations'.

¹³ COM(2020) 609 final COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum of 23/09/2020

¹⁴ COM(2016) 234 final COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance Forced Displacement and Development {SWD(2016) 142 final} of 26.4.2016

¹⁵ JOIN(2020) 17 final JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL EU GENDER ACTION PLAN (GAP) III – AN AMBITIOUS AGENDA FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN EU EXTERNAL ACTION {SWD(2020) 284 final} of 25/11/2020

affects migrant women and girls. Both sudden events (such as floods) and slow events (such as desertification) threaten their livelihoods, health, safety and security. According to the IOM, 200 million people will migrate due to climate change and environmental degradation by 2050. Current data estimates that 80% of those currently displaced by climate-related events are women and girls.

The action will contribute to SDG 10 to reduce inequality within and among countries, and its specific target (10.7) to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. The Action will also contribute to SDG 5 to achieve gender equality and women empowerment since this is a fundamental human right and a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world and to SDG 16 to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

It will also contribute to the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and its objective 1 to collect and utilise accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies, and the Global Compact on Refugees which considers ‘data and evidence’ as a critical tool for evidence-based measures to identify and plan appropriate solutions.

The proposed action will also ensure a close cooperation with the implementing partners of the REFs for the Horn of Africa and the Sahel and Lake Chad, as well as the MLS of the EUTF. Following the end of these mechanisms, this action will build on the knowledge and networks developed through the previous programs by expanding its geographical coverage to the whole Sub-Saharan Africa.

This proposed action will also contribute to the Migration TEIs in Africa (Atlantic/Western Mediterranean Route and Central Mediterranean Route), in particular the data management component. It will capitalise on the good practices and lessons learnt from the TEIs, while ensuring synergies and complementarities.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis:

The proposed action will help to inform policy-making and programming on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa by helping addressing knowledge gaps through available and accessible data and research.

In general, one of the biggest challenges for African countries and RECs in assessing migration and forced displacement patterns in Sub-Saharan Africa is the lack of accurate, timely and reliable data and research on them. Yet, countries and RECs are often hindered by weak policy space and limited political will to engage in exchange of migration/forced displacement-related information as well as legal and financial environment to produce migration/forced displacement statistics at the national and regional level; technical challenges within national statistical systems that limit the production of migration/forced displacement statistics; and lack of access and limited capacity on the part of users to analyse migration/forced displacement statistics to inform programmes and services.

This situation is exacerbated by the non-availability of data disaggregated by sex, age and other characteristics (migration status, etc.), the non-conformity of data with international norms, which makes comparing data among countries difficult, and the unseasonable frequency of data collection, analysis and dissemination, making data quickly outdated.

With migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa expected to continue to increase in the future, it is essential that more accurate migration and forced displacement statistics are collected systematically at regional level and made available to users in order to develop and implement evidence- and fact-based policies and programmes.

The action will also support the AU, AU Member States, RECs in their efforts to improve quality and efficiency of migration data and research as envisioned by AU-led flagship initiatives, such as the 2018 Migration Policy Framework for Africa, and Plan of Action (2018-2030), the setting up of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration in Mali and the African Observatory on Migration in Morocco and sub-regional RECs’

initiatives, such as the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA), the 2018 ECOWAS Regional Guidelines on Migration Data Collection and Data Management and the 2022 IGAD Migration Statistics/Programme Report. The action will assess the capacity and data needs of various RECs and it will tailor its intervention accordingly.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

As Duty-Bearers:

EU services and institutions both in headquarter and in the partner countries: The EU services and institutions in HQ will use the data and research provided by this action to take strategic decisions with regards to their programmes. The EUDs will ensure complementarity between the data and research provided by this action and other programmes being implemented in country.

The implementing partners of the Monitoring and Evaluation and REF components of the EUTF: The compilation of EUTF monitoring data and analysis was carried by Altai Consulting, a research consultancy firm that provides strategy consulting and research services to private companies, governments and public institutions in developing countries on a wide range of issues, including migration, and monitoring, evaluation and learning.

The REF for the Horn of Africa was managed by a consortium led by SOAS University of London, involving researchers from across the region, including African universities, research centres and freelance researchers, and produced research studies, analyses and working papers to directly inform EUTF policy and operational approach in the region.

IOM: Its work on data aims to improve the evidence base for good migration governance in support of sustainable development, effective humanitarian action and peaceful societies and to support implementation, monitoring and reporting by relevant stakeholders on their actions as part of relevant international frameworks. To do so, IOM established the Global Data Institute at the global level as well as Regional Data Hubs and Flow Monitoring Points in Sub-Saharan Africa. IOM collects and analyses data for humanitarian action through its Displacement Tracking Matrix – in some countries under DG ECHO funding.¹⁶

African governments, RECs and AU: To ensure mixed migration data and research on migration and forced displacement is used to inform policy-making, the action will engage with relevant government organisations and regional bodies by building their capacity and strengthening sub-regional coordination.

Other stakeholders, such as international and national CSOs, women' associations, migrants' organisations, refugees' organisations, international organisations and the private sector: They will benefit from this action by receiving information on migration and forced displacement facts, figures and trends in a comprehensive way, while being asked for contributions as required.

The final right-holders of the action, namely migrants in all their diversity in regular and irregular situation and forcibly displaced persons of the region, including people with disabilities: They will benefit from more informed and targeted operational actions.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to support evidence-based policy-making and programming on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Specifics Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are to:

1. Improve the availability of mixed migration data in Sub-Saharan Africa
2. Improve research on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa

¹⁶ <https://dtm.iom.int/>

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

In relation to Specific Objective 1:

- Output 1.1: Improved availability of standardised, comparable and regular statistics on mixed migration, including climate-related migration, in the Sub-Saharan Africa region based on gender-responsive and human-rights based approach
- Output 1.2: Enhanced capacity of African States, RECs and the AU in production and analysis of mixed migration data, including climate-related migration

In relation to Specific Objective 2:

- Output 2.1: Improved awareness on migration and forced displacement dynamics, including climate-related migration and displacement, in the Sub-Saharan Africa region

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1:

- Development of data collection, management and analytical tools for analysis across key migration data sources with gender-responsive and human-rights based approach
- Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on mixed migration (disaggregated by sex, age, migration status, income, place of residence and other characteristics), including climate-related migration, along selected migratory routes including unresearched migratory routes, including via the Displacement Tracking Matrix flow monitoring
- Production of infographics and other knowledge products on selected mixed migration situations, including linked to disaster and climate change, in Sub-Saharan Africa

Activities relating to Output 1.2:

- Mapping of EU support for data collection on migration and forced displacement and (capacity building) needs from countries/RECs in Sub-Saharan Africa, to inform the subsequent activities
- Strengthening the capacity of African States (including national statistics offices), RECs and the AU to collect, analyse and disseminate mixed migration data, including climate-related migration, through: mapping mixed migration data capacities; technical support to establish effective migration data governance systems; and facilitating migration data exchanges, and sharing best practices and lesson learnt between states and at RECs/AU level, including topics such as information sharing, mechanisms for data update, interoperability between regional and country data governance systems, the use of innovative data sources (big data) in migration statistics, forecasting and modeling of displacement risks, etc.
- Digitalisation of migration data management systems at RECs level by providing equipment to digitalise data, as needed

Activities relating to Output 2.1:

- Assessment of knowledge gaps in relation to migration and forced displacement situations, including linked to disaster and climate change, in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Development of standards to guide the production of knowledge within the action – for instance, deciding which knowledge products will be developed, identifying and assessing target audiences with particular attention to gender sensitive approach and information needs, defining formats, implementing quality assurance, etc.
- Carrying out studies and develop knowledge products (publications, policy briefs, etc) on selected migration and forced displacement situations, including linked to disaster and climate change, including tackling specific experiences of groups such as women, children, people with disabilities, LGBTI people, etc., in Sub-Saharan Africa, including by involving African research partners
- Documenting and dissemination of good practices and lessons learnt on managing migration and forced displacement, in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Strengthening knowledge partnerships with internal and external partners on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Organisation of meetings for internal and external partners in selected locations to share research's findings and ensure transparency

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the TEI to which this action refers, will be complemented by other contributions from Member States and/or European financing institutions following a Team Europe approach. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member's meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

In line with the EU sustainable energy and climate change mitigation objectives, all the activities implemented under this Action will be informed by rigorous environmental impact assessments, and implementation decisions will be taken in view of reducing their impact on natural ecosystems and long-term sustainability of resource exploitation and urbanisation.

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that a gender perspective is integrated throughout the Action with a focus on sex-disaggregated and gender data in migration, which are much more needed in order to develop evidence-based and gender-responsive programmes within Sub-Saharan Africa.

Human Rights

The action will engage as much as possible all relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels in order to achieve a broad and comprehensive understanding of effective protection management policies, backed by data and evidence-based research. A 'Do-No-Harm' approach will be applied that relies on the understanding/analysis of the impact of aid on existing conflicts and its interactions within a particular context, with the goal to limit or prevent unintended negative effects on the society, the economy and the environment. Good governance and human rights principles will be integrated in all areas and levels of intervention. Capacity building activities of key stakeholders will promote research and good governance principles with an emphasis on a rights-based approach.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that while working on disability-related issues is not a main objective in this action, data and research could tackle the specific needs, challenges and vulnerabilities of disabled right-holders.

Reduction of inequalities

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as I-1.

This action will contribute to SDG 10 to reduce inequality within and among countries, and its specific target (10.7) to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

The action will also contribute to the implementation of the GCM. In particular, under its objective 1, the GCM

recognises that migration policies need to be developed based on accurate, reliable, comparable data disaggregated by sex, age, migration status and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. To this end, this action could contribute to the collection, analysis and dissemination of gender statistics on migration that adequately reflect differences and inequalities in the situations of migrant women and men. It could also provide more knowledge on the drivers, determinants, and consequences/effects of inequalities in its multiple dimensions for migrants and forcibly displaced people, and provide recommendations on how to tackle migrants/forced displaced people inequalities.

The programme will take a people-centred and participative approach, with a specific focus on describing and analysing the experiences of migrants and forcibly displaced people and their organisations. CSOs (migrants' organisations and refugees' organisations) will be both the recipient of the data and research produced, but also source of information as required.

Democracy

The proposed intervention recognises the importance to intensify efforts to mainstream democracy. Grassroots engagement will be ensured during all phases of the implementation cycle through direct involvement of beneficiary groups, such as Refugee-Led Organisations and Migrant-Led Organisations.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Especially in fragile contexts, characterised by movements of people, improved migration management is of high priority. To support this goal, rigorous data collection systems and evidence-based research are paramount. This is key to protect the people affected. The intervention will be designed and implemented with a conflict sensitivity lens. It will contribute to strengthening the resilience of migrants, displaced persons and host communities.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Sendai Framework) recognises disaster displacement – the forced or involuntary movement of people associated with natural disasters. Disaster Risk Reduction will be mainstreamed into all the programmes stemming from this action.

Other considerations if relevant

N/A

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
External environment	Limitations of access in countries or to project areas due to instability or conflict that limits optimal activities' implementation	Medium	High	Alternative methods and means will be put in place such as desk studies, etc.
Planning, processes and systems	Difficulties in aggregating and comparing data if it is not collected using the same methodologies or is not categorised in the same way	Low	Low	This risk will be minimised by the establishment of clear and common parameters for data collection to be used from the outset of the action implementation
	Reputational and operational risks	Low	Medium	This risk will be mitigated by the quality assurance to which each piece of research

	related to the quality of new evidence produced can arise			will be subject
People and the organisation	Insufficient commitment and efficiency of relevant academic partners in developing countries	Low	Low	Joint work and established relationships with EU research/academic institutions will result in peer-to-peer capacity building for African academic partners
Communication and information	Limited relevance of the research at country level and insufficient commitment shown by governments in selected partner countries and lack of policy dialogue with them	Low	Medium	The relevant authorities of target countries will be actively involved throughout the action via dialogue to ensure ownership and commitment and information sharing

Lessons Learnt:

The proposed action will draw from a pool of lessons learned, knowledge and tools generated from the LMS and REF of the EUTF, as well as other EU research projects. Consultations with relevant stakeholders will be conducted during the inception phase.

The EU has long since funded research through its various instruments, but both thematic and country level evaluations have concluded that there is further need for operationally focused research to be collated and, where gaps exist, commissioned to inform targeted and effective programming and coordination. EU research projects have highlighted the importance i) to partner up with local research institutions to ensure relevance, appropriateness, and sustainability, and ii) to disseminate research results so that evidence is reaching relevant stakeholders and is being used to improve the effectiveness and coordination of interventions.

Outreach and consultation with external stakeholders on the ground at action's implementation would be equally sought for achieving buy-in and commitment to use it. In fact, key lessons both from the EU and work done by its Member States highlight the importance of a strong communication component of any research and programme to ensure that evidence is reaching relevant stakeholders and is being used to improve the effectiveness of interventions. The experience of the EUD to Somalia that has found a way to use the REF and MLS of the EUTF to its full extent could be used in the proposed action as an inspiring practice to be replicated.

However, accessing information and analysis can be difficult in certain Sub-Saharan African areas. Local contexts can change swiftly in a constantly evolving environment. Therefore, there is a need for accurate and regularly updated information to strengthen policy-making and programming process on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa and refine operational approach if needed, as well as for new research, analysis and evaluation in its priority areas of intervention.

The regular production of data and research will help internal and external users to make well-informed strategic and effective choices about issues to work on (challenges that have local salience and where traction is likely to be made) and with whom to work (actors whose credibility, knowledge and networks can effect progressive change).

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that

IF activities related to data gathering, collection and analysis on mixed migration, capacity building for national and regional stakeholders, to research on forced displacement are undertaken, *THEN* the availability of standardised, comparable and regular statistics on mixed migration in the Sub-Saharan Africa region based on gender-responsive and human-rights based approach is improved (Output 1.1), the capacity of African States, RECs and the AU in production and analysis of mixed migration data is enhanced (Output 1.2), and awareness on migration and forced displacement dynamics in the Sub-Saharan Africa region is improved (Output 2.1).

IF standardised, comparable and regular statistics on mixed migration in the Sub-Saharan Africa region based on gender-responsive and human-rights based approach are available (Output 1.1) and the capacity of African States, RECs and the AU in production and analysis of mixed migration data is enhanced (Output 1.2) *AND* there is a common guidance on tools, methodologies, terminology for data collection, management, storage and use, and relevant agencies of the countries and RECs operationalise international normative frameworks on migration data (assumptions), *THEN* the availability of mixed migration data in Sub-Saharan Africa will be improved (Outcome 1), *BECAUSE* the relevant actors will have the required statistical tools, resources and capabilities.

AND

IF the awareness on migration and forced displacement dynamics in the Sub-Saharan Africa region is improved (Output 2.1) *AND* research papers and reports are efficiently used (assumptions), *THEN* the research on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa will be improved (Outcome 2), *BECAUSE* conditions will be met for evidence-based programming.

IF the availability of mixed migration data and research on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa are improved (Outcomes 1 and 2) *AND* EU services and institutions and other stakeholders use data on mixed migration and the research findings on migration and forced displacement for programming and policy-making purpose,

THEN the action will contribute to the desired Impact of supporting evidence-based policy-making and programming on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa. This is *BECAUSE* they are grounded in reliable and timely data and research.

The proposed action and its related data and research activities will be implemented based on a sound and ethical approach. Given the fact most of the information to be collected are from fragile contexts, the intervention will be implemented with a conflict sensitivity lens, contributing to strengthening the resilience of migrants, displaced persons and host communities. Moreover, the specific needs, challenges, and situations of vulnerability of vulnerable group (such as migrant women) will be taken into account via a human-rights and gender-based approach.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (Values and years)	Targets (Values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To support evidence-based policy-making and programming on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa	1 Status of EU's multiannual programming in migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa, disaggregated into country, sub-regional and regional levels	1 Current Regional MIP (2024)	1 To be determined during inception (2026)	1 Published multiannual programming documents	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	To improve the availability of mixed migration data in Sub-Saharan Africa	1.1 Number of countries with available mixed migration data	1.1 0 (2024)	1.1 To be determined during inception (2026)	1.1 Implementing partner' assessments	EU services and institutions and other stakeholders use data on mixed migration for programming and policy-making purpose

Outcome 2	To improve research on migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa	2.1 Number of EU services and institutions reporting to use the evidence-base produced by the action, including gender and human-rights perspective	2.1 0 (2024)	2.1 To be determined during inception (2026)	2.1 EU internal reporting	EU services and institutions use research findings on migration and forced displacement for programming and policy-making purpose
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Improved availability of standardised, comparable and regular statistics on mixed migration in the Sub-Saharan Africa region based on gender-responsive and human-rights based approach	1.1.1 Number of statistics on mixed migration, including climate-related migration, in Sub-Saharan Africa published and disseminated with the support of the Action (disaggregated by sex, age, migration status, income, place of residence) 1.1.2 Number of publications featuring the collected statistics on mixed migration, including climate-related migration, in Sub-Saharan Africa published and disseminated with the support of the Action	1.1.1 0 (2024) 1.1.2 0 (2024)	1.1.1 To be determined during inception (2026) 1.1.2 To be determined during inception (2026)	1.1 Publications and dissemination lists 1.1.2 Publications and dissemination lists	Common guidance on tools, methodologies, terminology for data collection, management, storage and use is in place and used in a systemic way
Output 2 relating to Outcome 1	1.2 Enhanced capacity of African States, RECs and the AU in production and analysis of mixed migration data	1.2.1 Number of stakeholders who report increased capacities to produce and analyse migration data with gender sensitive and human rights-based approach, disaggregated by sex, country, institution	1.2.1 0 (2024)	1.2.1 To be determined during inception (2026)	1.2.1 Pre- and post-training survey and assessments (to be administered by the implementing partners)	Relevant agencies of the countries and RECs operationalise international normative frameworks on migration data The trained personnel continue in their jobs

Output 1 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 Improved awareness on migration and forced displacement dynamics in the Sub-Saharan Africa region	2.1.1 Number of research papers on migration and forced displacement, including linked to disaster and climate change, in Sub-Saharan Africa published and disseminated with the support of the action 2.1.2 Number of reports on good practices and lessons learnt on migration and forced displacement management and governance, including linked to disaster and climate change, in Sub-Saharan Africa published and disseminated with the support of the action 2.1.3. Number of officials and specialists of AU, RECs and countries, EU services and institutions attending dissemination meetings on research findings on migration and forced displacement with gender-sensitive and rights-based approach, disaggregated by sex, country, institution	2.1.1 0 (2024) 2.1.2 0 (2024) 2.1.3 0 (2024)	2.1.1 To be determined during inception (2026) 2.1.2 To be determined during inception (2026) 2.1.3 To be determined during inception (2026)	2.1.1 Dissemination lists and feedback reports 2.1.2 Dissemination lists and feedback reports 2.1.3 Dissemination meeting reports, sign-in lists	Research papers and reports are efficiently used by the stakeholders for programming and policy-making purpose Trained and informed personnel stay at their job
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4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

Not applicable

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹⁷.

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grants will contribute to achieve specific objective 2 of this action: 'To enhance knowledge and understanding of migration and forced displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa based on research'.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Consortium of universities from both EU MS and non-EU MS, including from Sub-Saharan Africa countries.

The part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the criteria defined in section 4.4.2.

4.4.2 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the European Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Expertise in the area of migration
- Presence in Sub-Saharan countries
- Experience in managing EU-funded initiatives
- Experience on migration data

The implementation by this entity entails carrying out the indicative activities under specific objective

¹⁷ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

1 of this action: ‘To contribute to strengthen policy-making and programming in Sub-Saharan Africa based on data gathering, collection and analysis on mixed migration’.

4.4.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

If negotiations in indirect management with an entrusted entity fail, that part of the action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.4.1.

If direct management cannot be identified (for instance if calls for proposal fail or negotiations for a direct award of grant fail), that part of the action may be implemented in indirect management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.4.2.

4.5. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the carrying out of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.6. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4	
Specific objective 1	
Indirect management with an entrusted entity – cf. section 4.4.2	7 000 000
Specific objective 2	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.41	8 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2	may be covered by another Decision
Audit – cf. section 5.3	
Totals	15 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Given its geographical scope (the whole Sub-Saharan Africa region), this action involves a large number of actors in various locations. For this reason, a Steering Committee will be established composed of the European Commission and the implementing partners. This Steering Committee will be formed during the inception phase and will convene a meeting once a year. Meeting can be virtual.

The Steering Committee will have the following responsibilities:

- Review and approval of the implementing partners’ annual work plans and budget proposals
- Review of the reporting of project results
- Decision on the identification of the data to be collected and formulation of the different research (choice of the exact topics, countries, methodologies, etc)
- Decision and approval of key matters, including ensuring synergies among the implementing partners’
- Monitoring of and advice on project progress

The European Commission will be responsible for the overall monitoring of the action implementation.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

Moreover, at inception phase, the baselines and targets of the indicators of the action's logframe will be proposed by the implementing partner in collaboration with the European Commission and agreed upon during the first Steering Committee.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Each implementing partner will have specific responsibilities for monitoring and reporting under this action. Common indicators will as much as possible be used in order to allow the action wide reporting. Indicator values will be measured at regional or a country-by-country basis depending on the nature of the activities.

All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach and rights of persons with disabilities including inclusion and diversity. Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex and age, and disability if possible.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out for this action or its components via an implementing partner.

A mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to ensuring the relevance of the activities and improving action performance towards achieving the stated objectives.

A final evaluation will be carried out for accountability for development effectiveness, strategic learning and planning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), focusing on the assessment of output-level results and capturing the key lessons learned from action implementation.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least one month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and

documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

In addition, all evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Given the nature of the action, provision for Audit and Verifications for this action or its components is not necessary.

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 '[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)', it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multi-annual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary Intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

Articulating Actions or Contracts according to an expected chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure efficient monitoring and reporting of performance;
 Differentiating these Actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);
 Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing Actions and Contracts.

Primary Interventions are identified during the design of each action by the responsible service (Delegation or Headquarters operational Unit).

The level of the Primary Intervention chosen can be modified (directly in OPSYS) and the modification does not constitute an amendment of the action document.

The intervention level for the present Action identifies as (tick one of the 4 following options):

Action level (i.e. Budget Support, blending)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Group of actions level (i.e. top-up cases, different phases of a single programme)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Indirect management with an entrusted entity (EUR 7 000 000) to implement Specific Objective 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	Grants (direct management) (EUR 8 000 000) to implement Specific Objective 2
	(...)	
Group of contracts level (i.e. series of programme estimates, cases in which an Action includes for example four contracts and two of them, a technical assistance contract and a contribution agreement, aim at the same objectives and complement each other)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	