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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX**

to the Commission Implementing Decision **amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 7113 of 30.09.2022** on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022-2024 Part 1

**Action Document for the Flexible Mechanism for Migration and Forced Displacement**

**MULTIANNUAL PLAN**

This document constitutes the multiannual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plan in the sense of Article 23(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

**1. SYNOPSIS**

**1.1. Action Summary Table**

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Flexible Mechanism for Migration and Forced Displacement CRIS: 2022/043-912 OPSYS: ACT-60666 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	Yes – Team Europe Initiatives on the Atlantic and Western Mediterranean Route and on the Central Mediterranean Route.
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Plan for Sub-Saharan Africa for 2021-2027
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results</b>	The Action contributes to Priority Area 6: Migration and Forced Displacement (Section 2.6 of the MIP)
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Migration and Forced Displacement
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG: SDG 10 (sub goal 10.7). <b>SDG 5</b>
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	15190 (Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility) – 100%
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel @</b>	Public sector institutions – 10000 Multilateral organisations – 40000 Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society - 20000

<b>9. Targets</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	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"/>
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship job creation digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input 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"/>

	(methodology for marker and tagging under development)			
	Covid-19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	<p>Budget line(s) (article, item) for year 2022:</p> <p>14.020120 : EUR 21 000 000 (West Africa)</p> <p>14.020121 : EUR 18 000 000 (East &amp; Central Africa)</p> <p>14.020122 : EUR 1 000 000 (Southern Africa)</p> <p>Budget line(s) (article, item) for year 2023:</p> <p>14.020120 : EUR 31 500 000 (West Africa)</p> <p>14.020121 : EUR 27 000 000 (East &amp; Central Africa)</p> <p>14.020122 : EUR 1 500 000 (Southern Africa)</p> <p>Budget line(s) (article, item) for year 2024:</p> <p>14.020120 : EUR <b>115 000 000</b> (West Africa)</p> <p>14.020121 : EUR <b>99 000 000</b> (East &amp; Central Africa)</p> <p>14.020122 : EUR <b>6 000 000</b> (Southern Africa)</p> <p>Total estimated cost: EUR <b>320 000 000</b></p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR <b>320 000 000</b></p> <p>The contribution is for an amount of EUR 40 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2022 and for an amount of EUR 60 000 000 from the general budget of the European Union for 2023 and for an amount of EUR <b>220 000 000</b> from the general budget of the European Union for 2024, subject to the availability of appropriations for the respective financial years following the adoption of the relevant annual budget, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.</p> <p>the Action is intended to contribute to two migration TEIs in Sub-Saharan Africa, when appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Atlantic and Western Mediterranean Route TEI: participation of Belgium, <b>Czech Republic</b>, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, Netherlands, Italy and Switzerland;</li> <li>- The Central Mediterranean Route TEI: participation of Belgium, <b>Czech Republic</b>, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, Netherlands, Italy, Malta and Switzerland.</li> </ul>			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing<sup>1</sup></b>	<p><b>Direct management</b> through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- grants</li> <li>- procurement</li> </ul> <p><b>Indirect management</b> with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.3 and 4.3.4</p>			

<sup>1</sup> Art. 27 NDICI

## 1.2. Summary of the Action

The NDICI-Global Europe Regulation establishes that “migration-related actions under the Instrument should contribute to the effective implementation of EU agreements and dialogues on migration with third countries by encouraging cooperation relying on a flexible incitative approach and supported by a coordination mechanism under the Instrument” and “The Instrument should enable the Union, in cooperation with Member States, to comprehensively respond to challenges, needs and opportunities related to migration and forced displacement in a way that is coherent with and complementary to Union migration policy<sup>2</sup>.”

In the Declaration by the European Commission on Recitals 50 and 51 and Article 8.10 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation<sup>3</sup>, following the political compromise reached with EU Member States and the European Parliament, a flexible incitative approach is emphasised as an important element shaping regional migration support programmes to support comprehensive, balanced and tailor-made partnerships with relevant countries of origin or transit and host countries.

The aim of the proposed intervention – the Flexible Mechanism, hereinafter “the Mechanism” – is to maximise EU leverage in migration discussions vis-à-vis Sub-Saharan African counterparts, based on a flexible and incentives-based approach while also respecting policy coherence for development, as well as foreign policy objectives of the Union. Through the financing of migration-related cooperation projects, the EU aims to expand its external engagement with African partners on migration and forced displacement. In line with the most recent developments in both internal and external EU migration policy, including the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Mechanism will support the development and reinforcement of strong, balanced, comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnerships and programs with relevant countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants and forcibly displaced people. The action is intended to contribute to the Team Europe Initiative for a Comprehensive migration approach in the Maghreb, Sahel and West African countries in the Atlantic / Western Mediterranean route and to the Team Europe Initiative on Central Mediterranean migration route.

Interventions will be weighed against the specific migration and/or forced displacement situation of each partner country or region, the nature of the overall dialogue with the EU, and the partner country’s level of engagement with the EU on migration. This assessment will be done in coordination with EU Member States. In this regard, several factors, inter alia, can be taken into consideration, notably whether : (i) the country is engaging or showing willingness to engage in fighting against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, as well as stemming irregular migration; (ii) the country is stepping up its efforts to host migrants and/or displaced people, and people in need of international protection, in a dignified way, in line with international and EU standards; (iii) the country/region is reinforcing capacities on migration management and governance, including on management of forced displacement flows, in the context of its partnership with the EU ; (iv) the country is showing a substantial and sustained cooperation with the EU and its MS on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration; (v) and/or the country/region is willing to cooperate with the EU and its MS to support well-managed legal migration or the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (or durable solutions for refugees).

The action implementation modalities will depend on the concrete intervention agreed for each country, and will be discussed with the country concerned. The action foresees that a mix of direct and indirect management will be used.

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<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe

<sup>3</sup> OJ (2021/C 226 I/05)

## 2. RATIONALE

### 2.1. Context

After enjoying a steady economic growth throughout the past decade, Africa is now recovering from the 2.1 percent contraction in 2020 - the worst on record. A number of challenges persist on the continent which are at the root of migration and forced displacement. These include political instability, conflicts and security issues, lack of economic opportunities and widespread poverty, recurrent and protracted food crises, the adverse effects of climate change, gender inequalities, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

Almost 400 million people live below the poverty line across the continent and lack access to basic services in the area of health, education and nutrition, while inequality and governance challenges have not allowed for an inclusive growth. Rapid and continuous population growth puts additional pressure on natural resources, the labour market and service delivery. The COVID-19 pandemic has further intensified the challenges for the young, women and the people living in vulnerable situations in Africa and in many countries, per capita incomes will not return to pre-crisis levels until 2025.<sup>4</sup>

Further than hampering the economic development of the continent, these are all adverse drivers which can result in rapidly changing migratory movements, and in particular irregular movements leading to considerable pressure on the EU's external borders.

Migration and Forced Displacement are among the world's most pressing issues. UNHCR estimates that global forced displacement has reached an all-time high, with more than **108.4** million people forcibly displaced (including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and asylum seekers). More than one in **six** people worldwide is affected **by displacement**, and 40% of all **displaced** are children under the age of 18. Almost 68.5 percent do not cross-national borders but are displaced within their own country. **85%** percent of those who do leave flee to neighbouring developing countries. **As a result, some 7 million refugees and 26.4 million IDPs live in Sub-Saharan Africa.** Reasons for both flight and displacement include conflict, insecurity, natural disasters and the effects of climate change, poverty, inequality, and discrimination.

IOM estimates that there were around 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6% of the global population. Women and girls make up close to 50% of migrants worldwide and their vulnerability to being victims of trafficking, for the purpose of sexual or labour exploitation and for forced marriages, is particularly high. In the decade to 2020, the number of sub-Saharan African extra-continental migrants jumped from about 20 million to 28 million, representing 2% of the total African population. According to the IOM, over 21 million African nationals were living in a neighbouring African country in 2019 and the number of African nationals living in different regions within the continent was nearly 19 million in the same year. Although migration patterns may lead to social and demographic changes, migration within Sub-Saharan Africa has characterised the continent for centuries and continues to be an important feature of daily lives.

The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum<sup>5</sup> sets a common EU response to migration challenges. The Pact considers that “This common response needs to include the EU's relationships with third countries, as the internal and external dimensions of migration are inextricably linked: working closely with partners has a direct impact on the effectiveness of policies inside the EU. Addressing the root causes of irregular migration, combatting migrant smuggling, helping refugees residing in third countries and supporting well-managed legal migration are valuable objectives for both the EU and our partners to pursue through comprehensive, balanced and tailor-made partnerships.”

The external dimension of the Pact establishes that “supporting the EU's partners in developing effective migration governance and management capacity will be a key element in the mutually beneficial partnerships the EU seeks to develop. The EU can support capacity building in line with partners' needs. This will help partner countries manage irregular migration, forced displacement and combat migrant smuggling networks. EU cooperation with partner countries in the area of migration governance will continue to ensure the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees, combat discrimination, sexual and labour exploitation, and ensure that their basic needs are met through the provision of key services. Support may also be targeted at maximising the positive impact of migration and reducing

<sup>4</sup> Source: [Sub-Saharan Africa: Navigating a Long Pandemic, imf.org](https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/afp/Issues/2020/09/23/afp202009)

<sup>5</sup> COM/2020/609 of 23.09.2020

the negative consequences for partner countries, for example by reducing the transfer costs of remittances, reducing “brain drain”, or facilitating various types of mobility schemes, including circular migration and temporary mobility, in cooperation with EU Member States. It indicates that combatting migrant smuggling and saving lives is a common challenge requiring international cooperation and coordination as well as effective border management.

Addressing migration challenges is thus a key priority of the EU’s external action. As part of its support to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the EU is committed to contributing to achieve SDG target 10.7 (Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people). The EU comprehensive strategy with Africa includes migration as one of the six EU-Africa partnerships<sup>6</sup>. Migration is also included in the revised EU strategies for the Sahel and the Horn of Africa regions<sup>7</sup> which aim to contribute to the stability, security, prosperity, and sustainable development of these regions.

The EU has, in the past years, enhanced migration partnerships with countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, given the many challenges to be tackled in the areas of migration and forced displacement and the acknowledgement that managing mixed migration flows is a joint responsibility. Nevertheless, the levels of engagement with the EU from these partner countries have proved varied and changing, notably due to lack of financial and human resources, to lack of capacity to address aspects related to migration governance, to lack of political will, and/or to changing political, economic and security conditions on the ground.

**Women and girls make up around half of all refugees, internally displaced or stateless population<sup>8</sup>. The issue of migrant women is emphasized in the EU Gender Action Plan III, where it is stated that the EU should ensure that the human rights of migrant women and girls are fully realised through gender-responsive migration policies, programmes and laws, and gender-responsive migration governance at global, regional and national levels reinforced<sup>9</sup>. Furthermore, to leave no one behind, the EU GAP III seeks to tackle all intersecting dimensions of discrimination, paying specific attention for example to women with disabilities, migrant women, and discrimination based on age or sexual orientation.**

**Under the principles of the EU GAP III, the EU seeks to ensure that migration-management programmes are gender-responsive (for instance, in Central Asia<sup>10</sup>, Africa<sup>11</sup> and Latin America<sup>12</sup>) through protection and prevention measures to address the risks for women and girls of gender-based violence, human-trafficking and sexual exploitation<sup>13</sup>.**

Following the political agreement reached between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on NDICI-Global Europe in December 2020, the Commission declared it would propose comprehensive regional migration support programmes to complement actions taken at national and local level. The “SSA Regional Migration Support Programme (RMSP)” has been designed to be financed by the regional MIP. The programme would include country specific actions funded by the RMSP to complement actions under the country MIPs. It would also offer to selected partner countries an incentive to go beyond what their country MIP offers, in line with a flexible incitative approach, thereby triggering new policy approaches and/or more positive or further engagement. The Flexible Mechanism aims at responding to this commitment.

<sup>6</sup> Joint Communication to the European Parliament and to the Council, “Towards a comprehensive Strategy with Africa”, JOIN(2020) 4 final, Brussels, 9 March 2020.

<sup>7</sup> EU Council conclusions on the EU’s Integrated Strategy in the Sahel (7723/21 of 16.4.2021) and the Horn of Africa (8135/21 of 10.5.2021).

<sup>8</sup><https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/how-we-work/safeguarding-individuals/women#:~:text=Women%20and%20girls%20make%20up%20around%2050%20per,of%20households%2C%20disabled%20or%20elderly%20are%20especially%20vulnerable.>

<sup>9</sup> EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III – An ambitious agenda for gender equality and women’s empowerment in EU external action, Brussels, 25.11.2020 JOIN(2020) 17 final

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.icmpd.org/our-work/projects/improving-migration-management-and-migrant-protection-in-selected-silk-routes-and-central-asian-countries-protect#:~:text=The%20PROTECT%20project%20aims%20to%3A%20Improve%20migration%20management,irregular%20migration%2C%20and%20facilitate%20the%20protection%20of%20migrants%3B>

<sup>11</sup> Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa; Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa funded jointly by the EU and ECOWAS.

<sup>12</sup> The European Support Programme for Refugees, Migrants and Host Communities in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru has provided gender-responsive services to over 20 000 migrants, working with public, CSO and other partners.

<sup>13</sup> European Commission, Joint mid-term report on the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan (GAP III), Brussels, 20.11.2023 JOIN(2023) 36 final

This Priority Area number 6 of the regional MIP, namely *Migration, Mobility and Forced Displacement* implements this agreement by including a Specific Objective 3: *Strengthen EU migration partnerships and dialogue with relevant origin, transit, destination and/or host countries of the region through the implementation of a flexible funding mechanism.*

The mechanism will strengthen the EU's capabilities to support relevant migrant and refugee-hosting countries, or countries faced with significant forced displacement, which are positively engaging with the EU on the management of these movements, or willing and ready to do more through the provision of quick and adaptive funding, in particular amidst unforeseen circumstances and/or crises, and / or as a positive incentive. In this regard, the Mechanism shall be used in its limited capacity to further provide relevant partner countries with all the necessary tools to manage both regular and irregular migration, as well as forced displacement challenges. It will provide incentives for constructive cooperation between partner countries and the EU, including on sensitive issues such as return, readmission and reintegration, and can be used as a tool to implement the migration country Action Plans.

This action is intended to contribute over the years to relevant Team Europe Initiatives, notably:

- A Team Europe Initiative for a Comprehensive migration approach in the Maghreb, Sahel and West African countries in the Atlantic / Western Mediterranean route.
- A Team Europe Initiative on Central Mediterranean migration route.

Regarding the geographical targeting, this action will cover Sub-Saharan Africa with a focus on key countries of origin, transit and destination and relevant host countries, as identified in the multiannual indicative programmes. The action will be consistent with the EU Action Plans on specific countries as well as with the strategic orientations provided by the Council's External Migration Working Party (EMWP).

**The action will contribute to further strengthen EU GAP III, particularly the following three key thematic areas of *Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women, Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence and Integrating the women, peace and security agenda.***

## 2.2. Problem Analysis

### Short Problem Analysis:

Migration in Sub-Saharan Africa specifically features a variety of movements, mostly intraregional: migrant workers, undocumented migrants, nomads, cross-border workers, refugees, and highly skilled professionals. In fact, roughly 80% of African migrants and forcibly displaced people stay in Africa. In some of the affected border areas in Sub-Saharan Africa, the flow of migrants and refugees has triggered tensions and conflicts inside the host countries. Moreover, managing the growing numbers of migrants and forcibly displaced people has become a serious challenge for hosting governments, at both local and national levels. When a host community receives migrants and forcibly displaced people, they are often insufficiently prepared to accommodate new entrants, due to the protection of limited shared resources within their territory, such as land, water, housing facilities, natural and mineral resources. Migrants are also often faced with challenges of being accepted by host communities, hence the difficulties in communal integration, harmonious living, commerce, cultural practices, religious beliefs, language barriers, agricultural practices, economic activities, social integration, pastoralism and others. Conflict between host communities and migrants distorts social cohesion. All of this often makes it difficult for the authorities to prioritise the management of migration and of forced displacement, with limited resources allocated to this policy area specifically.

Sub-Saharan Africa will also be hit the hardest by climate change, with up to 86 million Africans migrating within their own countries by 2050<sup>14</sup>. The data on countries in West Africa and the Lake Victoria Basin show that climate migration hot spots could emerge as early as 2030, and highlight that without concrete climate and development action, West Africa **and the Lake Victoria Basin countries could see respectively as many as 32 and 38.5 million people forced to move by 2050.**

<sup>14</sup> World Bank new Groundswell Africa report, released ahead of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26).

Moreover, the protection challenges that migrants and forcibly displaced people may face themselves en-route and when they settle in a host community are enormous, with significant risks along migration routes, including violence, exploitation, and abuse at the hands of smugglers, traffickers, and others. **Along the Eastern Route only-leading from the Horn of Africa to Yemen, IOM tracked 441.000 migrant movements in 2022 (+ 64% than 2021), with most of migrants traversing long distances by foot and under heat and extreme conditions leading to dehydration and exhaustion.** Challenges when settling down include discrimination, poverty, lack of access to services, unemployment. Although they do not qualify for refugee status or other forms of international protection, migrants may still find themselves in vulnerable situations. Voluntary return is one of the options for stranded migrants facing dire conditions along the routes, including in transit, and who wish to return to their countries of origin, but do not have the necessary means to do so.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and its rapid surge worldwide throughout 2020 and 2021, has directly affected global mobility, with over eight million displaced people in Sub-Saharan Africa experiencing worsening living conditions, principally in terms of livelihoods, access to healthcare, water and sanitation facilities, as well as overcrowding and poor shelter. Border closures in 43 of Africa's 54 countries in 2020 have created more challenges for migrants traveling regionally for work, trapping many migrants in unsafe situations and forcing others to take migration routes that are more dangerous, such as the Atlantic route. Moreover, detentions and forced deportations from East Africa, and the Middle East have left many migrants stranded in foreign countries.

Mixed migration flows<sup>15</sup> to Europe have also changed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, Mediterranean Sea crossings dropped 19%, to a total of 86 265 arrivals (considering also Western African Route, with 23 029 arrivals), with Africans comprising more than half of those numbers. However, arrivals to Europe started picking up in 2021, with the number of illegal border crossings from the eastern, central and western **Mediterranean routes reaching around 194 269 in 2022 , and 182 500 in 2021 compared to nearly 114 424 in 2020 and 126 968 in the same period of 2019.** The Central Mediterranean experienced the highest increase (+85%, considering first eleven months) of all routes in the course of 2021.

**In 2022, there was a general increase in crossings on the Central Mediterranean (+56%, 105,600), the Eastern Mediterranean (+113%, 43,900) and the Western Balkan routes (+134%, 144,100) compared to 2021 and a decrease in crossings on the Western Mediterranean (including the Atlantic route from Western Africa to the Canary islands) (-25%, 30,600) and the Eastern borders routes (-22%, 6,300) compared to 2021<sup>16</sup>. The increasing trend has continued in 2023, with 147,059 (+65%), Western Mediterranean and Atlantic routes with 41,246 (+57%) and at the Eastern Mediterranean routes, with 47,113 (+23%) between January and mid-November 2023.**

Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine has **heavily** contributed to soaring prices of wheat, sunflower, fertilizer and oil, with African countries particularly affected as the continent is heavily reliant on imports from both Ukraine and Russia. The conflict thus may lead to **residual inflation and high prices in the continent, fueling political instability across the continent. In addition, the effects of climate change (e.g. droughts, floods, soil salinization) have been impacting food security and triggering displacement. All of this impacted, and** will impact, the situation of migrants within Africa, but also create more incentives for migration including through irregular means.

As noted above, cooperation with African countries on migration and forced displacement issues has proven uneven, depending on political willingness, availability of resources, and changing political and security circumstances. On the one hand, this can be related to the lack of sufficient capacity. At the same time, national authorities are often reluctant to allocate funding from the EU development cooperation to support migrants, returnees or forcibly displaced people, in particular refugees and asylum seekers, as this can be perceived as

<sup>15</sup> A movement in which a number of people are travelling together, generally in an irregular manner, using the same routes and means of transport, but for different reasons. People travelling as part of mixed movements have varying needs and profiles and may include asylum seekers, refugees, trafficked persons, unaccompanied/separated children, and migrants in an irregular situation. IOM Glossary on Migration, 2019.

<sup>16</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/statistics-migration-europe\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/statistics-migration-europe_en)

detrimental to the support to their nationals or to other policy areas. The Mechanism will therefore be used to mobilise funds and encourage partner countries to address, jointly with the EU, the migration and displacement related challenges identified during the bilateral dialogues/discussions on migration. This will help countries that are engaging with the EU to address the challenges that they are facing, by reinforcing their capacity to manage mixed migration flows and to respond to forced displacement crisis, and by supporting host communities while addressing the needs of displaced people and vulnerable migrants, in line with EU values and a flexible incitative approach.

The Mechanism is the only tool that can provide such an assistance in a flexible manner and with swift implementation, as the adoption of the Action Document will allow for a rapid contractualisation. This will allow to respond to developments on the ground and to address the needs in a timely manner. It can also complement ongoing programmes funded at national level by addressing migration-related specific areas not covered by the country MIP.

The main stakeholders are the EU, the Sub-Saharan African countries with which the EU is establishing or further developing migration partnerships or are improving their migration management and/or that are hosting substantial amounts of refugees, as well as the Member States in the context of a Team Europe approach. Governmental or non-governmental organisations of international, continental, or national level such as UN agencies, the AU, and RECs, may be involved as well depending on the nature of the projects promoted by the Flexible mechanism. Other stakeholders are local authorities including immigration and border authorities, national and regional CSO/NGO networks, human rights organisations and coalitions, **(including women, youth and people with disabilities' organisations)**, as well as the migrants, victims of trafficking and displaced people themselves.

### 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

#### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** of this action is to contribute to better migration management, policies and governance; and to address long term protection and assistance needs of forcibly displaced people by supporting migration partnerships between the EU and relevant origin, transit, destination and/or host countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The **Specific Objectives** of the action are:

1. Strengthen partner countries' cooperation with the EU on migration and forced displacement
2. Support partner countries' national and sub-national capacities to tackle migration and/or forced displacement challenges identified in migration dialogues with the EU

To achieve this, the action will set up a Flexible Mechanism to finance country-specific actions. The financing will be managed in a flexible way aiming at (1) helping and encouraging relevant origin, transit, destination and/or host countries (both national and subnational governments) to manage their migration and/or forced displacement and address related challenges and opportunities in a gender and human rights responsive manner; (2) adopting or implementing in these areas innovative policies that would merit further support; and (3) improving or expanding their cooperation with the EU on migration, mobility, and forced displacement.

Country interventions will be weighed against the specific migration and/or forced displacement situation of each partner country or region, the nature of the dialogue with the EU, and the partner country's level of engagement with the EU on migration. This assessment will be done in coordination with EU Member States. In this regard, several factors, inter alia, can be taken into consideration: (i) the country is engaging or showing willingness to engage in fighting against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, as well as stemming irregular migration with a gender and human right based approach; (ii) the country is making efforts to host migrants and/or displaced people, and people in need of international protection, in a dignified way in line with international and EU standards; (iii) the country is reinforcing capacities on migration management and governance, including on management of forced displacement, in the context of its partnership with the EU; (iv) the country is showing a substantial and sustained cooperation with the EU and its MS on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration; (v) and/or the country/region is willing to cooperate with the EU and its MS to support well-managed legal

migration or the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees (or durable solutions for refugees).

Subject to the focus of the migration partnerships with partner countries and the decisions taken on the use of the flexible mechanism, the action aims at achieving several of the following outputs:

### **Specific Objective 1: Strengthening partner countries' cooperation with the EU on migration and forced displacement**

#### **Outputs:**

**1.1:** Migrants, refugees and forcibly displaced persons and host communities have better access to climate resilient employment, opportunities to develop their skills and social cohesion services.

**1.2:** Better identification, assistance to and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings and vulnerable and/or stranded migrants, including through assisted voluntary return and sustainable reintegration, and improved capacity to implement readmission procedures

**1.3:** Irregular migration is discouraged and prevented, including by fighting migrant smuggling and informing migrants and host communities about the dangers of irregular migration, as well as about potential alternatives.

**1.4:** Legal and labour migration pathways, **in full respect of national competence**, including the EU Talent Partnerships **and intra-African migration, are facilitated;**

**1.5:** Policies and processes for migrant remittances' transfers, notably from the EU, are improved and their potential in terms of economic development is enhanced, as well as diaspora involvement (skills development and/or investments opportunities)

**1.6:** Refugees', forcibly displaced people's and host communities' protection, resilience and autonomy are enhanced in a sustainable manner, and refugees are provided with durable solutions

### **Specific Objective 2: Support partner countries' capacities to tackle migration and/or forced displacement challenges identified in migration dialogues with the EU**

#### **Outputs:**

**2.1:** Platforms at country level for coordination and migration dialogues, information exchange and cooperation between the EU and its Member States and partner countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (including on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration) are created or strengthened

**2.2:** Enhanced partner countries' policy, legal and institutional framework and capacities for migration management, including the organisation of return, readmission and reintegration, labour migration, the respect of migrants' rights, for border management and the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings, and the development of searchable biometrics databases for civil registration of nationals and foreigners, aligning with existing EU rules, standards and other requirements in the field of border management (e.g. European Commission's Communication on European Integrated Border Management of 14 March 2023<sup>17</sup>) and document security.

**2.3:** Enhanced capacities of Support Platforms at country level for refugees under the GCR and other dialogues to support comprehensive responses to forced displacement situations.

**2.4:** Partner countries' policy, legal and institutional framework and capacities for persons in need of international protection as well as for internally displaced persons, including for dealing with disaster and climate-induced displacement, is enhanced, and the capacity of the authorities in charge are strengthened.

**2.5:** Strengthened capacity of police and judicial authorities to investigate, fight and prosecute migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings

## 3.2 Indicative Activities

### **Outcome 1: Strengthening partner countries' cooperation on migration and forced displacement**

<sup>17</sup> [IP 23 1629 EN.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

#### Activities related to Output 1.1

- Supporting service delivery in areas hosting refugees, internally displaced and/or migrant communities, complementary to humanitarian assistance, along the humanitarian-development-peace nexus principles. This can include safety nets, cash for work, temporary labour mechanisms to mitigate the negative impact of forced migration and displacement (for both migrants and destination localities), integrating climate-smart land and water conservation activities.
- Developing inclusive community-based programmes in communities hosting large numbers of migrants (including returnees), refugees and forcibly displaced people, including support to the conservation, sustainable use and enhancement of local environmental services leading to improved and resilient livelihoods (e.g., provision of sufficient space for economic and social activities, land suitable for agriculture, quality freshwater) to reduce drivers for forced migration and/or to support a sustainable return.
- Supporting the creation of vocational education training opportunities, enhancing skills for women and men, notably in view of potential emigration or return.
- Facilitating the matching of job offer and demand, as well as the documentation and recognition of skills, training and experience gained in the country of origin or abroad. This can include developing and providing information on jobs available abroad and the skills available in the origin countries and comparisons of qualification frameworks.
- Creating education and job opportunities accessible to migrants, refugees and forcibly displaced people and adapted to the local needs.

#### Activities related to Output 1.2

- Provision of immediate assistance, medical and social support, and other protection services to victims of trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, and vulnerable and/or stranded migrants. This assistance will be complementary to existing humanitarian assistance, as relevant.
- Assistance and protection to vulnerable and/or stranded migrants and displaced communities, including by providing them with safe, humane, dignified voluntary return assistance and by facilitating their integration in host communities.
- Provision of improved economic, social and psycho-social reintegration support to returnees and their families that also benefit communities.
- Support monitoring, reporting and addressing violations of the rights of migrants.

#### Activities related to Output 1.3

- Strengthening cooperation in preventing and fighting migrant smuggling, in line with the renewed EU action plan against migrant smuggling (2021-2025), including support for developing legal frameworks, policies, strategies and action plans, building operational capacity of law enforcement and the judiciary as well as border management, in complementarity with dedicated funding from DG HOME.
- Conducting information and awareness raising campaigns that counter migrant smugglers' narratives and provide trusted information on the risks of irregular migration en route and after arrival, as well as on potential alternatives, in order to enable informed decisions on regular migration and prevent irregular departures.

#### Activities related to Output 1.4:

- Ensuring the protection of labour and legal migrants' rights.
- Facilitating legal mobility (including circular and temporary mobility) **in full respect of national competences**, notably for students and workers, **to Europe and within Africa**, including through EU Talent Partnerships and along their concept.

#### Activities related to Output 1.5:

- Countries' legislation and practices on the transfer and use of migrant remittances and diaspora skills are improved.
- The capacity of local actors to benefit from remittances and diaspora engagement for development (including climate adaptation) is enhanced.

#### Activities related to Output 1.6:

- Partner country pledges under the Global Compact for Refugees that are in alignment with EU priorities are identified and supported.
- Initiatives enhancing the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach to forced displacement,

including internal displacement are supported.

- **Forcibly displaced people (refugees and IDPs) and their** host communities participate in peace building and community strengthening activities.
- Durable solutions for refugees are identified and supported, including activities facilitating resettlement, local integration in their host communities and voluntary return in safety and dignity in their countries of origin when conditions are suitable.

## **Outcome 2: Support partner countries' capacities to tackle migration and/or forced displacement challenges identified in migration dialogues with the EU**

### Activities related to Output 2.1:

- Supporting migration coordination mechanisms at country level responsible for dialogue with the EU and EU Member States on migration, notably by setting up the mechanisms where they do not yet exist, facilitating the organisation of meetings and events, exchange of competences etc.

### Activities related to Output 2.2:

- Technical assistance and other support to national authorities to develop, enact and implement policies, laws, institutional frameworks, and procedures for better migration governance and management, including on the fight against trafficking in human beings, migrant smuggling, the readmission process, and labour migration; organisation of seminars, trainings and other events and promoting harmonisation and exchange of best practices in these areas.
- Provision of trainings and technical assistance for institutions and agencies responsible for migration and border management; capacity building in data gathering, collection, analysis and information sharing; provision of relevant tools, equipment and / or infrastructure to government offices and border management posts; creation of / support to coordination mechanisms on migration.
- Support for creation of searchable biometric databases; support for issuing trustworthy travel and identity documents.
- Technical assistance, trainings and other capacity building support of national authorities to implement the procedures (in particular identification, verification of nationality, issuance of travel documents, assisting returnees) ensuring the readmission of irregular migrants.
- National capacities, including structures and referral mechanisms, also by the development of digital tools, supporting the sustainable reintegration of returnees and reinsertion of victims of trafficking are established or supported.

### Activities related to Output 2.3:

- Organising dialogues with national authorities to deliver policy initiatives supporting comprehensive solutions to forced displacement (organisation / facilitation of meetings and events).

### Activities related to Output 2.4:

- Supporting partner countries to align policy, governance and management frameworks with the 1951 Refugee Convention and the AU's Kampala Convention.
- CRRF processes are created or improved.
- National authorities are supported to develop and implement action plans to address international and/or internal forced displacement situations in a comprehensive manner.

### Activities related to Output 2.5:

- Support the development / improvement of procedures for investigating and prosecuting cases of trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, as well as cooperation among relevant national authorities/bodies.
- Technical assistance and provision of trainings to law enforcement and judicial authorities on combatting trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members, 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 of a TEI framework.

### 3.3 Mainstreaming

#### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

The Action will continue to integrate to the extent possible environmental and climate change considerations in the planning of the activities. Actions on job creation, support to host communities and reintegration will notably consider ongoing environmental changes and promote community projects that support reforestation and waste management, as well as promote “green jobs.”

#### **Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening**

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)

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#### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

This action is labelled as G1.

Women and girls make up close to 50% of migrants worldwide and their vulnerability to being victims of trafficking, for the purpose of sexual and labour exploitation or for forced marriages, is a serious concern. Hence the Action will ensure that assistance provided is specifically tailored to the needs of women and girls. The distinct roles of women and men in community-based interventions, reintegration processes and livelihoods and development programmes are important to recognise and thus ensuring their inclusive and equitable participation in decision making processes and project implementation and monitoring will be key. Given the nature of the action, the protection of human rights and due process will be an integral part of the activities carried out. Protection of human rights of particularly vulnerable categories of migrants, such as children, unaccompanied minors, elderly and disabled persons, victims of trafficking or smuggling and rejected asylum seekers will also need to be particularly considered, along with the required procedural safeguards including the need to undertake best interest determination.

Over 50% of refugees and other forcibly displaced people in Africa are women. A gender perspective will thus be integrated throughout the Action with a focus on increased participation of women and girls in decision making, a systematic assessment of the particular needs and strengths of women and girls and gender disaggregated data at all levels. Discussions with implementing partners will take place to ensure that particular attention is given to the needs of vulnerable migrants, including women and girls, and that specific activities are foreseen to address their needs. Indicators will also include sex and age disaggregated data.

The action will contribute to the EU Gender Action Plan III (2021-2025).

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#### **Human Rights**

The Action will ensure full respect of the human rights of migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, displaced people and their host communities and communities of origin. The programmes will streamline the use of non-discrimination, participation, transparency, and accountability principles throughout the whole duration of the Action. Examples will include attention to the self-determination and participation of the migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people, as well as confidentiality and right to privacy. Across all the proposed six outcomes, protection of the rights of people on the move will be treated as a pivotal element during the programming and implementation phases. A leave-no-one behind approach will be applied to ensure that everyone can benefit from the actions.

The Action will engage as much as possible all relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional, and international levels to achieve a broad and comprehensive understanding of effective, transparent, and accountable protection management policies. Good governance and human rights will be integrated in all areas of intervention. Capacity building activities of key stakeholders will promote good governance principles with an emphasis on a rights-based approach to assistance to migrants and the forcibly displaced.

Protection and assistance mechanisms considering the specific situation and vulnerability of the refugees and migrants such as ensuring the best interest of the child will always be ensured and be at the forefront of all considerations. While fighting against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings (sexual exploitation, force labour, slavery, remove of vital organs and forced criminality) and helping hosting countries to improve their border management, assistance and protection for victims of trafficking in human beings will consider the sex and age of the victims and the consequences of the specific type of exploitation suffered. Both age and gender considerations will be mainstreamed in all activities of the project, with gender and age sensitive information campaigns, implementation and running of centres, equal participation in trainings and sex disaggregated data. Unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking will be provided with specialised, gender specific and child sensitive assistance and protection.

#### **Disability**

The action will not have a direct impact on Disability issues, but it will take into account the needs of disabled migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. Whenever possible, accessibility for people with disabilities will be included in organised events. Therefore, the action can be considered as a D1.

#### **Democracy**

This action is not expected to have a direct impact on Democracy issues. However, the action will communicate about how it proposes to program and implement program activities which follow EU's strategies for the strengthening of public and democratic institutions in partner countries and regions. The Action should be considered as a complementary instrument to reinforce the EU partnership with the AU and with African Regional Organizations to foster and advance democratic values worldwide.

Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa can be linked to failings in democratic processes and the state of democratic space in a given country. This action will support the restoration of protection of all democratic rights of the forcibly displaced.

#### **Conflict sensitivity, peace, and resilience**

Peaceful coexistence between communities on the move and local populations is also a cross cutting issue which will be considered across all elements of the implementation of this Action. For the success of the Action, it is essential that efforts are made to maintain dialogue among and across communities and groups, including representatives such as local governments, and non-state organizations, like CSOs and NGOs.

Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa is related to the peace and security situation in the region. Programs will be designed and implemented with a conflict sensitivity lens. A "Do-No-Harm" approach will be applied that relies on the understanding/analysis of the impact of aid on existing conflicts & its interactions within a particular context, with the goal to limit or prevent unintended negative effects on the social fabric, the economy, and the environment. It will strive to increase peace amongst displaced communities and between displaced and host communities. It will also contribute to strengthening the resilience of displaced and host communities. In areas of return, care will be paid to a balanced assistance between returning refugees and returning IDPs and to the situation of existing populations not to create tension and disparity.

#### **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 disasters. Disaster Risk Reduction will be mainstreamed into all the programs stemming from this action both in terms of disaster risk reduction measures and in support of the Platform on Disaster Displacement's agenda, a state-led, bottom-up consultative process working towards better protection for people displaced across international borders in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change, which is supported by the EU as donor and will be under EU Chairmanship as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 for a period of 18 months.

### 3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/	Impact (High/ Medium	Mitigating measures

		<b>Low)</b>	<b>/ Low)</b>	
People and the organisation	Risk 1 Low capacity of national and local authorities to engage in the proposed activities	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	Support to the governments at national and local level with capacity building and technical assistance is integrated into the action.
Legality and regularity aspects	Risk 2 Formal and informal barriers for migrants and displaced people impede implementation	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	The AD is anchored on an active national and regional migration policy dialogues to improve the legal and regulatory framework for migrants and displaced people. On the ground, the implementing partners will engage the relevant government agencies to explore incremental changes in the enabling environment.
People and the organisation	Risk 3 Fraud and corruption	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	Monitoring mechanisms are put in place to avoid the risk of corruption and fraud.
External Environment	Risk 4 Access issues related to security and infrastructure, including deteriorating security situation leading to some populations being cut-off and suspensions in implementing activities in the event that access is not possible.	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	Activities may be delayed until the security situation in the target area is sound and there is no potential for harm to beneficiaries or project staff; training sites may be moved pending security assessments.
People and the organisation	Risk 5 Human rights abuses	<b>M</b>	<b>H</b>	To avoid that EU funding indirectly contributes to human rights abuses – such as activities involving the security sector and/or border management – adequate mitigating measures will be put in place. These could include, depending on the projects: independent monitoring on human rights; prevention of refoulement, exclusion of human rights abusers in the activities funded under the mechanism; standard operating procedures that ensure the respect for human rights; clear conditions on the delivering of equipment; adequate human rights training for the border personnel, including potentially that only fully trained and examined security personnel can participate in EU-financed activities; etc.
People and the organisation	Risk 6 Lack of political will and commitment from the beneficiary countries to cooperate on return and readmission, engage in migration management and forced displacement	<b>H</b>	<b>H</b>	The Actions are developed in alignment with the national partner's relevant authorities to ensure ownership. The EU HQ will coordinate with partners through the leadership of EU delegations to ensure that proper communication pathways are put in place, that the delivery of projects under the Mechanism is well coordinated

	issues, and/or limited interest from partners, low matching of partners' projects implementation			and apt for the context where they will be implemented. In close cooperation with EU Delegations, the Action will include capacity building, stakeholder dialogue, and continued information exchange.
External environment	Risk 7 Reputational risk due to the risk of politicisation of migration and forced displacement	<b>M</b>	<b>H</b>	The EU will engage with civil society actors to explain the purpose of the flexible mechanism and the actions supported; specific lines to take for the press will also be developed. The EU HQ will work closely with the EU Delegations in the affected countries and engage relevant authorities at the highest level possible to jointly stress the importance of implementing programs which follow the rights-based approach and other principles.
Communication and information	Risk 8 Tensions (including conflicts and competition over limited resources) between migrants, forcibly displaced and host communities prevent progress towards an integrated approach	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	The action adopts an inclusive and integrated approach targeting migrant/ forcibly displaced and host communities, applying conflict sensitivity principles and implementing economic and social development initiatives to the benefit of both populations to foster social cohesion. In addition, specific sensitisation activities will be integrated, and efforts will be made to ensure planning is a participatory process where the voices of the migrants/ forcibly displaced and host communities can be heard.
External environment	Risk 9 Change of migratory flows or displacement patterns during the implementation of the project can significantly affect project activities	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	The Action will include constant monitoring of migratory flows and displacement patterns to allow for early detection of changes in the migration patterns.
External environment	Risk 10 Spread of COVID-19 or other significant health risks in targeted areas affecting the implementation of key activities for the Action.	<b>L</b>	<b>L</b>	Implementation of safety measures will be in place to ensure that risk to staff and beneficiaries of contracting COVID-19 is minimised. Activities requiring the movement of people are likely to be the most affected, with delays in movement being most likely. The EU and partners will closely monitor the sanitary context related to the COVID-19 pandemic and provide programme adaptations
People and the organisation	Risk 11 Structural changes at national and local government level, including regular turnover of staff	<b>M</b>	<b>M</b>	From the outset, the EU and partners will ensure close cooperation with stakeholders highlighting the importance of dedicated resources (financial and personal), and if necessary, convene meetings at high level to address the issue – in close coordination with EU stakeholders.
	Risk 12 Funding support falls			The aim will be to mobilise funds in the event of funding shortages. To ensure that

External environment	short of needs and requires a change in approach	<b>M</b>	<b>H</b>	all migrants, displaced people and host communities can benefit from adequate and appropriate support, the EU HQ and EU Delegations will coordinate discussions with Member States and partners to mobilise extra funding for specific countries.
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**Assumptions:**

- Authorities provide continuous support to programs under the Mechanism, ensure ownership and leadership.
- Migration and forced displacement flows are steady and migrants and forcibly displaced people in transit countries need protection and assistance.
- The socio-economic and security situation in the migrants' and displaced people's countries of origin does not deteriorate.
- National dialogues on migration and forced displacement data are encouraged and lead to improved procedures and policies.
- Targeted actors are willing to build capacity and contribute to the areas related to migration and forced displacement.

**Lessons learned:**

- Relevant EUDs and ECHO will be strongly associated with/or lead on the implementation of this AD to ensure lessons learned for each specific country context are duly considered. EUDs will play a key role in ensuring consistency and synergies with actions funded under the national MIP, in close consultation with delegations of Member States.
- Authorities need to support dissemination of awareness raising campaigns in key areas of origin / transit/return.
- The necessity for mitigating measures and independent monitoring and evaluation of activities involving security personnel of third countries, to prevent corruption and potential human rights abuses.
- Need for participation of relevant stakeholders in the design of the activities and their implementation to ensure ownership and effectiveness of assistance.
- Importance of engaging with local and host communities to ensure ownership of migration and forced displacement-related actions.
- Action should place more emphasis on **an inclusive and gender-responsive** labour migration (taking in due account MSs' competences) as compared to other areas since it received less attention under the EUTF and previous MFF, even though it provides a clear alternative to irregular migration. Emphasis should be on promoting diaspora investments, to mobility schemes for students and workers alike.
- Making free movement protocols a reality and preparing infrastructures to support mobility in Africa should be a priority in order to provide alternatives to smuggling networks. Concrete gaps and complementarities should notably be identified between labour markets in Africa.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

IF EU and partner countries agree on initiatives – different from country to country - that can expand and facilitate their joint work in the area of migration and forced displacement, and produce a concrete positive impact on the management of their mixed migration flows, for instance by reducing the cost of the transfer and increasing the development impact of the remittances, by providing durable solutions to refugees, by reducing the number of migrants that are smuggled or trafficked , by increasing the number of returnees, by sustaining their reintegration, by facilitating the access to legal channels of migration and mobility, notably to the EU in full respect of national competences, for migrants from that country, by reducing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, and/ or by sharing information or sharing the burden in addressing common forced displacement challenges, etc., AND IF the EU contributes to financing such actions THEN partner countries' cooperation with the EU on migration and forced displacement will be strengthened

AND

IF the EU, in the context of its migration dialogues and partnerships with partner countries, identifies initiatives, which these partner countries are considering or trying to launch and/or implement, and could contribute to improve their policy, legal and institutional frameworks on migration and forced displacement in line with the EU values and with the EU and international standards, for instance by establishing frameworks more effectively and efficiently contributing to addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, to the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking, the investigation and prosecution of smugglers and traffickers, to the readmission of its own nationals and their sustainable reintegration, the protection of victims of trafficking and asylum seekers, organisation of legal migration, the respect of migrants and refugees' rights, the assistance to and protection of all forced displaced people, the organisation of incoming and outgoing migration, the overall reduction of transfer costs of remittances, their use for development purposes, gender sensitive/responsive strategies, etc., and the EU finances these initiatives, thus making possible for them to be effectively launched and/or implemented THEN partner countries' national and sub-national migration management and forced displacement capacities will be strengthened

IF EU partner countries' cooperation with the EU on migration and forced displacement is strengthened and IF partner countries' national and sub-national migration management and forced displacement capacities are also strengthened THEN the action will contribute to better migration management, policies, and governance; and to address long term protection and assistance needs of forcibly displaced people.

3.5.1 Logical Framework Matrix (to be adjusted accordingly, as per comments above)

Results	Results chain (e): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (e): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
<b>Impact</b>	Overall Objective: To contribute to better migration management, policies, and governance; and to address long term protection and assistance needs of forcibly displaced people by supporting migration partnerships between the EU and relevant origin, transit, destination and/or host countries of Sub-Saharan Africa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of authorities benefitting from support on migration and forced displacement management</li> <li>2. GCR indicator 3.1.1. Number of refugees who departed on resettlement from the host country, disaggregated by resettlement state, country of origin and country of asylum</li> <li>3. Unemployment rate of migrants displaced persons compared to the resident/host communities, disaggregated by sex, age group, disability status</li> <li>4. Percentage of migrants and displaced persons using safely managed drinking water services, compared to the national average, disaggregated by sex, age group</li> </ol>			<p>UNHCR's Resettlement Data Portal</p> <p>National statistics and baseline and endline surveys conducted and budgeted by the EU-funded intervention</p>	<i>Not applicable</i>

<p><b>Outcome 1</b></p>	<p>Strengthened partner countries' cooperation with the EU on migration and forced displacement through continental, sub-regional, national, and multi-country levels actions</p>	<p>1.1 Number of actions supported as a result of an inclusive dialogue</p> <p>1.2 GERF 2.20 Number of migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people or individuals from host communities protected or assisted with EU support</p> <p>1.3 Percentage of beneficiaries having a job six months after the training (disaggregated by host country/inward destination, status, sex, and age)</p> <p>1.4 Number of jobs created by the programmes (disaggregated by status)</p>				
<p><b>Output 1 Related to outcome 1</b></p>	<p>1.1 Migrants, refugees and forcibly displaced persons and host communities have better access to climate resilient employment and social cohesion services</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of beneficiaries of services delivered with the support of the EU-funded intervention in refugee hosting communities (disaggregated by status, sex, and age)</p> <p>1.1.2 Number of beneficiaries trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills that will allow them to get a job (disaggregated by host country/inward destination, -status, sex, and age)</p>				

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Output 2</b> <b>Related to outcome 1</b></p>	<p>1.2 Better assistance to and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings and vulnerable and/or stranded migrants , including through assisted voluntary return and sustainable reintegration,</p>	<p>1.2.1 Number of beneficiaries of protection and assistance services provided by the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>1.2.2 Number of authorities and other stakeholders supported in delivery of assistance</p> <p>1.2.3 Number of migrants benefitting from assisted voluntary return and sustainable reintegration services, disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>1.2.4 Number of victims of trafficking in human beings benefitting from protection and assistance services provided by the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and age</p>				
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<p><b>Output 3 Related to outcome 1</b></p>	<p>1.3 Migrants and host communities are better informed about the dangers and the reality of irregular migration, as well as about potential alternatives;</p>	<p>1.3.1 Number of information campaigns organised / supported</p> <p>1.3.2 Number of awareness raising activities organised</p> <p>1.3.3 Number of people reached through information and awareness raising campaigns , disaggregated by demographic profiles such as age, sex, marital status etc</p> <p>1.3.4 Percentage of people in target audiences who demonstrate an increased awareness of the risks of irregular migration and life realities in destination countries, disaggregated by demographic profiles such as age, sex, marital status etc</p> <p>1.3.5. Percentage of people in target audiences who demonstrate an increased awareness of alternatives to irregular migration</p>				
<p><b>Output 4 Related to outcome 1</b></p>	<p>1.4 Legal and labour migration pathways, in full respect of national competences; including the EU Talent Partnerships and intra-African migration are facilitated.</p>	<p>1.4.1 Number of migrants benefitting from legal and legal migration pathways, disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>1.4.2 Number of new legal migration pathways created</p> <p>1.4.2 Number of migrants supported in their mobility to the EU with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and age</p>				

<p><b>Output 5</b> <b>Related to outcome 1</b></p>	<p>1.5 Policies and processes for migrant remittances transfers, notably from the EU, are improved</p>	<p>1.5.1 Number of actions supported on remittances</p> <p>1.5.2 Number of programmes supported to promote the use of remittances for development purposes</p> <p>1.5.2 Number of diaspora engagements in local communities</p>				
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Output 6</b> <b>Related to outcome 1</b></p>	<p>1.6 Refugees', forcibly displaced people's and host communities' protection, resilience and autonomy are enhanced in a sustainable manner and refugees are provided with durable solutions</p>	<p>1.6.1 No of refugees provided with a solution with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated, disaggregated by sex and age</p>				
		<p>1.6.2 No of refugees resettled with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and age</p>		1.6.1 500 000	<p>1.6.1 UNHCR, Government and program reporting 1.6.2 UNHCR reporting 1.6.3 Program reports 1.6.4 Program reports 1.6.5 Program reports 1.6.6 UNHCR monitoring State reporting under GCR reporting</p>	
		<p>1.6.3 No of refugees voluntarily and safely returned and reintegrated with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and age</p>	1.6.1 0	1.6.2 50 000		
			1.6.2 0	1.6.3 300 000		
			1.6.3 0	1.6.4 200 000		
		<p>1.6.4 No of refugees and internally displaced people given access to healthcare with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and age</p>	1.6.4 0	1.6.5 100 000		
	1.6.5 0	1.6.6 15				
	<p>1.6.5 No of refugees and internally displaced people provided with livelihood opportunity with support of the EU-funded intervention, disaggregated by sex and age</p>					
	<p>1.6.6 No of GRF policy pledges supported by the EU-funded intervention</p>					

<p><b>Outcome 2</b></p>	<p>Support partner countries' national and sub-national capacities to tackle migration and/or forced displacement challenges identified in migration dialogues with the EU</p>	<p>2.1 GERF 2.21 Number of migration management or forced displacement strategies or policies developed/ revised with EU support</p> <p>2.2 GERF 2.21 Number of migration management or forced displacement strategies or policies (b) under implementation with EU support</p> <p>2.3 GERF 2.22 Number of EU funded assistance interventions reporting improvement of compliance of Border and Security Systems with EU /Schengen Acquis</p> <p>2.4 Number of cases of migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings prosecuted disaggregated by type of case (examples: sex trade, forced labour, domestic servitude, forced criminality and removal of vital organs)</p>				
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<p><b>Output 1 Related to outcome 2</b></p>	<p>2.1 Platforms at country level for coordination and migration policy dialogues between the EU and its Member States and partner countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (including on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration) are created or strengthened</p>	<p>2.1.1 Number of functioning / effective migration coordination mechanisms responsible for dialogue with the EU and EU Member States on migration created and strengthened with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of inclusive dialogue meetings organized with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.1.3 Number of developed mechanisms supporting the national system and capacities, including by digital means, in the field of return and reintegration</p>				
<p><b>Output 2 Related to outcome 2</b></p>	<p>2.2 Enhanced partner countries' policy, legal and institutional framework and capacities for migration management, including the organisation of return, readmission and reintegration, labour migration, the respect of migrants' rights, border management and the fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings and the development of searchable biometrics databases for civil registration of nationals and foreigners</p>	<p>2.2.1 Number of authorities supported who have an increased capacity after the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.2.2 Number of policies, legal and institutional frameworks developed with support of the EU-funded intervention (% gender sensitive)</p> <p>2.2.3 Number of agencies supported who have an increased capacity after the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.2.4 Number of officials trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills in migration management, disaggregated by sex</p>			<p>Pre- and post-training test reports</p>	

<p><b>Output 3</b> Related to outcome 2</p>	<p>2.3 Enhanced capacities of support Platforms for refugees under the GCR and other dialogues to support comprehensive responses to forced displacement situations</p>	<p>2.3.1 No of support platforms created or strengthened with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.3.2 No of inclusive dialogues on forced displacement supported by the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>2.3.1 0</p> <p>2.3.2 0</p>	<p>2.3.1 2</p> <p>2.3.2 3</p>	<p>2.3.1 UNHCR reporting</p> <p>2.3.2 Program reporting</p>	
<p><b>Output 4</b> Related to outcome 2</p>	<p>2.4 Partner countries' policy, legal and institutional framework and capacities for persons in need of international protection as well as for internally displaced people , including for dealing with disaster and climate <b>induced</b> displacement, is enhanced, and the <b>capacity</b> of the authorities in charge are strengthened.</p>	<p>2.4.1 No of policy documents or legislation revised with support of the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.4.2 No of CRRF processes supported by the EU-funded intervention</p> <p>2.4.3 No of processes and systems put in place to collect, analyse, and manage internal displacement sex and age disaggregated data with support of the EU-funded intervention</p>	<p>2.4.1 0</p> <p>2.4.2 0</p> <p>2.4.3 0</p>	<p>2.44.1 20</p> <p>2.4.2 5</p> <p>2.4.3 6</p>	<p>2.4.1 UNHCR monitoring National legal framework</p> <p>2.4.2 UNHCR monitoring Reporting by CRRF co-chairs</p> <p>2.4.3 Reporting from the process/ system put in place</p>	
<p><b>Output 5</b> Related to outcome 2</p>	<p>2.5 Strengthened capacity of police and judicial authorities to investigate, fight and prosecute migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings</p>	<p>2.5.1 Number of cases investigated and prosecuted</p> <p>2.5.2 Number of police and judicial authorities trained by the EU-funded intervention with increased knowledge and/or skills in migration and trafficking, disaggregated by type of training (smuggling in migrants and trafficking in human beings) and by sex</p>			<p>Pre- and post-training test reports</p>	

## 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 country/countries.

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **84** 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 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 measures<sup>18</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

##### **Grants: (direct management)**

##### **(a) Purpose of the grant(s)**

The purpose of the intended grants is to contribute to the expected outputs under the following specific objectives: Specific Objective 1: Support partner countries' national and sub-national capacities to tackle migration and/or forced displacement challenges identified in migration dialogues with the EU.

Specific Objective 2: Strengthen EU cooperation with partner countries on migration and forced displacement through continental, sub-regional, national, and multi-country levels actions.

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

The applicants will be international and local NGOs, local authorities and international organisations.

##### **(c) Justification of a direct grant**

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to an international organisation, a civil society organisation or other non-government actor, or to a government entity selected using the following criteria: level of expertise and experience in the field, geographic presence and level of trust with relevant stakeholders, mandate of the organisation / entity.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because the action has specific characteristics requiring a specific type of

<sup>18</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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.

beneficiary for its administrative power with regard to Article 27(3) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation and Article 195 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the Union. More specifically:

- Para (c) of Art.195 specifically mentions “bodies with a de jure or de facto monopoly or to bodies designated by Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are in a de jure or de facto monopoly situation”;
- Para (f) of Art.195 specifically mentions “for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative powers, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals”.

#### 4.3.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

The procurement of services will support the implementation of outcomes 1 and 2.

#### 4.3.3 Indirect Management with an international organisation

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission’s services using the following criteria: having a unique/specific mandate and /or role with regards to migration or the forcibly displaced such as IOM or UNHCR or other specialised UN agencies; and /or physical presence and current and previous successful programmatic; and/or policy engagement on migration and /or forced displacement in the countries targeted under this action. These entities must be pillar assessed.

The implementation by these entities entails: promoting regional policy dialogue and commitments in favour of migration, refugees and other displaced population (corresponding to strategic objective 2: “Support partner countries’ national and sub-national capacities to tackle migration and/or forced displacement challenges identified in migration dialogues with the EU”) ; contributing to the protection, resilience and self-reliance of people on the move (including vulnerable migrants and the forcibly displaced and host communities); providing durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations, migrants and returnees (corresponding to strategic objective 1: “Strengthen partner countries’ cooperation with the EU on migration and forced displacement”, and to strategic objective 2 when it pertains to capacity building on those issues).

#### 4.3.4. Indirect Management with a Member State Organisation

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission’s services using the following criteria: having physical presence and current and previous successful programmatic and/or policy engagement on migration and/or on forced displacement in the countries targeted under this action.

The implementation by this entity entails promoting regional policy dialogue and commitments in favour of migration, refugees and other displaced population (corresponding to strategic objective 2: “Support partner countries’ national and sub-national capacities to tackle migration and/or forced displacement challenges identified in migration dialogues with the EU”); contributing to the protection, resilience and self-reliance of people on the move (including vulnerable migrants and the forcibly displaced and host communities); providing durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations, migrants and returnees; contributing to the protection, resilience and self-reliance of the forcibly displaced and host communities; providing durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations (corresponding to strategic objective 1: “Strengthen partner countries’ cooperation with the EU on migration and forced displacement”, and to strategic objective 2 when it pertains to capacity building on those issues). These entities must be pillar assessed.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entities fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.5.

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

- a) If negotiations in indirect management with an international organisation (4.3.3) or a Member State organisation (4.3.4) fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.1. and 4.3.2.
- b) If direct management (4.3.1 and 4.3.2) cannot be identified (for instance if calls for proposals fail or negotiations for a direct award fail), that part of this action may be implemented in indirect management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.3 and 4.3.4
- c) The Commission may select direct management (grants and/or procurement) as implementation modality if the assessment indicates that this would be more relevant, cost-effective and efficient than indirect management through a pillar assessed entity, or in the event of crisis procedures.

#### 4.4 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 realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

For this multi-country action, natural persons who are nationals of, and legal persons who are effectively established in the following countries and territories covered by this action, are also eligible: OACP states.

#### 4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified
<b>Implementation modalities</b> cf. section 4.3		
<b>Outcome 1: Strengthening partner countries' cooperation with the EU on migration and forced displacement</b>	<b>190 000 000</b>	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	<b>36 000 000</b>	
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2	<b>2 000 000</b>	
Indirect management with an international organisation – cf. section 4.3.3	<b>72 000 000</b>	
Indirect management with a Member State Organisation – cf. section 4.3.4	<b>80 000 000</b>	
<b>Outcome 2: Support partner countries' national and sub-national capacities to tackle migration and/or forced displacement challenges identified in migration dialogues with the EU</b>	<b>127 000 000</b>	
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	<b>25 000 000</b>	
Procurement (direct management) – 4.3.2		

	<b>2 000 000</b>	
Indirect management with an international organisation organisation – cf. section 4.3.3	<b>40 000 000</b>	
Indirect management with a Member State Organisation – cf. section 4.3.4	<b>60 000 000</b>	
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	<b>will be covered by another Decision</b>	N.A.
<b>Contingencies</b>	<b>3 000 000</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>320 000 000</b>	

## 4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Further to the political agreement between the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council concerning the Pact on Migration and Asylum (hereinafter the “Pact”), the concept of “flexibility” has become one of the most important pillars of current EU internal and external migration policy frameworks. Therefore, as one of the main instruments upholding the Pact, actions under the Mechanism will be prepared in consultation with Member State **embassies** on the ground and presented and discussed at an early stage with the NDICI migration coordination group. The documents will include a reflection on the added value of the measure within the political dialogue with the country concerned (based on the five criteria) and information on potential risks, mitigating measures and the expected sustainability of the proposed actions. The Commission will inform Member States how comments and concerns have been taken into account in the final project fiches for the individual actions. If serious concerns remain, there is a possibility for further discussion in the Coordination Group and further adjustments to the final project fiches.

This action will result in several contracts for each of which a steering committee, meeting every six months, may be established composed of the implementing partner, the EU, including relevant Commission services, representatives of regional or Governmental entities as appropriate, beneficiaries and other relevant actors as necessary. Furthermore, at the national level, implementing partners will be required to liaise with national/local government authorities and report to the EUD to ensure it is fully kept abreast of progress and developments and can duly participate in visibility activities.

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.

## 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).

Indicators shall be disaggregated at least by sex. All monitoring and reporting shall assess how the action is taking into account the human rights-based approach and gender equality.

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 AD wide reporting. Indicator values will be measured on a country-by-country basis.

Regular reports will be presented by the European Commission to the NDICI migration coordination group on the use of the Flexible Mechanism to collectively assess the effectiveness of individual actions towards partner countries, discuss lessons-learned and to adjust our approaches towards individual partner countries, of course with due respect for the mandate of the CODEV PI NDICI subgroup and other relevant Council working parties.

## 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the **nature** of the action, a **final evaluation will be** carried out for this action or some of its components **via independent consultants contracted by the Commission**

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.

All evaluation 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. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination<sup>19</sup>. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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

## 5.3 Audit and Verifications

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.

<sup>19</sup> See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

## 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.

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 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 multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

## APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: ‘a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one’. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a ‘support entities’. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

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 is defined in the related Action Document and it is revisable; it can be a(n) (group of) action(s) or a (group of) contract(s).

Tick in the left side column one of the three possible options for the level of definition of the Primary Intervention(s) identified in this action.

In the case of ‘Group of actions’ level, add references to the present action and other action concerning the same Primary Intervention.

In the case of ‘Contract level’, add the reference to the corresponding budgetary items in point 0, Indicative Budget.

<b>Option 1: Action level</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
<b>Option 2: Group of actions level</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#): <Present action> <Other action>
<b>Option 3: Contract level</b>		
X	Single Contract 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
X	Single Contract 2	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
X	Single Contract 3	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
X	(...)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 1> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 2> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) #>