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ANNEX 31

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022-2027 Part 2

Action Document for “EU Regional project to provide durable solutions for the Burundian refugee crisis in the Great Lakes Region”

MULTIANNUAL PLAN

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	EU Regional action to provide durable solutions for the Burundian refugee crisis in the Great Lakes Region OPSYS number: ACT-61272 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda
4. Programming document	Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA-MIP) 2022
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Specific Objective 2: Address protection and long-term needs and support durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations (refugees, returnees and IDPs) and host communities. The action aims at providing regional comprehensive and multi-sectoral response for durable solutions to the Burundian refugee crisis following a nexus approach combining humanitarian, development and peace and security components in the Great Lakes Region
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority area 6 - Migration, mobility, and forced displacement DAC Code 151 – Government & Civil Society – general CRS Code 15190 - Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility CRS Code 72010 – Material relief assistance and services to displaced persons
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG (1 only): SDG 10: reduce inequality within and among countries

	Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people Other significant SDGs SDG 5: Gender Equality SDG 13: Climate action			
8 a) DAC code(s)	DAC code 151 – Government & civil society general – 40% CRS DAC 72 010 – Material relief assistance and services to displaced persons – 60%			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	21000 International NGO 41100 UN entities			
9. Targets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (From DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity energy transport health education and research	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @ (Methodology for tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @ (Methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2022-14.020121-C1-INTPA : EUR 40 000 000 Total estimated cost: EUR 40 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 40 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through Grants. Indirect management with the entities to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.2 and 4.4.3.			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The regional Action follows the global commitments that the EU abides by and supports, notably in terms of the roll-out of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)¹ and its support to various partners working on durable solutions through funding received from the EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) and national funding mechanisms. Migration and forced displacement are among the key priorities for the next EU programming period – as demonstrated by Priority 6 – Migration, mobility, and forced displacement – under the SSA regional MIP 2021-2027. This Action focuses on Objective 2 in particular under the SSA-MIP – “Address protection and long-term needs and support durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations and host communities.”

¹ <https://www.unhcr.org/comprehensive-refugee-response-framework-crrf.html>

The approach outlined in this Action Document aligns with the broader EU approach to forced displacement and development and will facilitate implementation of the Global Compact for Refugees², as well as support the EU strategic approach to the application of the CRRF in the Horn and East Africa region and supporting the principles of the Nairobi Declaration³. This regional Action is funded under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) and falls chiefly under SDG Target 10.7, which is the target most directly related to migration under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. SDG 10.7 calls on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. This action follows on to the regional action “Durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations in Sub-Saharan Africa”, which provided similar support for the South Sudan and Central African Republic situations. The action aligns with and contributes to the EU Gender Action Plan III 2021-2025⁴ especially the objectives under the thematic area of “women, peace and security” and the objective “Women, men, girls and boys, in all their diversity, are better protected from sexual and gender-based violence in fragile and humanitarian crisis situations”, under the thematic area of “Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence”.

The overall objective of the action is to bolster durable solutions for Burundian women and men returnees and refugees, in all their diversity and their host communities and reduce inequalities between these groups. The specific objectives of the action are to i) enhance the protection of Burundian women and men refugees human rights including victims of trafficking in the region and returnees in Burundi; ii) contribute to the resilience, empowerment and self-reliance of women and men refugees, communities hosting refugees and returnees as well as the reintegration (the economic empowerment and social reintegration) of returnees in Burundi; and iii) provide a basis for national and regional learning and exchanges on durable solutions and return.

Based on the principal objectives outlined above, the regional Action identifies approaches in three key areas: i) area-based approaches and multi-sectoral approaches to build the resilience, empowerment and self-reliance of the women and men displaced and their host communities; ii) specific protection response to address the needs of specific sub-groups or groups in vulnerable situations such as women, children and people with disabilities, with a focus on gender, climate change and the environment; and iii) national and regional exchange on forced displacement governance and policy. Through a regional component, the action will support exchange at regional level via the establishment of technical working groups, building on existing technical and learning groups, and strengthening the role of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) via capacity building. The activities highlighted under the principal objectives mainstream the following EU priority areas - environmental protection & climate change; gender equality and empowerment of women and girls; human rights; disability; democracy; conflict sensitivity, peace, and resilience; disaster risk reduction; and statelessness.

The main rights-holders of this action are Burundian women and men returnees and refugees in all their diversity, as well as their respective host communities, as well as relevant duty-bearer institutions and members of local organisations (e.g., women's organisations, NGOs, community groups) engaged in issues related to durable solutions for returnees, refugees, and host communities. The specific geographical focus of this Action is Burundi in the context of return, and the DRC, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania in the context of asylum.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The Great Lakes region includes Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, and is home to 170 million inhabitants. The region has been facing large-scale forced displacement for decades due to factors such as political

² <https://www.unhcr.org/the-global-compact-on-refugees.html>

³ <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/media/igad-nairobi-declaration-2017>

⁴ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-01/join-2020-17-final_en.pdf

instability, armed conflict, ethnic tensions and fights over land and natural resources. According to the UNHCR, the region hosted 60 percent of refugees on the African continent by the end of 2021⁵ and as of February 2022, the number of refugees and asylum seekers was estimated to be 4.9 million.⁶ The vast majority of these refugees and asylum seekers come from South Sudan (2.29 million) and the second-largest number from the DRC (755,000).⁷ As of 2022, Uganda hosted 1.6 million refugees and asylum seekers.⁸ Tanzania hosted 247,831 refugees and asylum seekers from the region and Rwanda 122,386 while Burundi hosted 86,278.⁹ Despite the security and political crisis in the DRC, it hosted a population of 522,121 refugees and asylum seekers as of March 2021.¹⁰

Whether they reside in camps and settlement sites or urban areas, refugees and asylum seekers rights in the region remain highly precarious. In 2021, 200,000 households (1 million people) benefited from UNHCR's humanitarian cash assistance, totalling €33 million.¹¹ However, insufficient funding has reduced food assistance for 3.3 million refugees in Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania.¹² Given that most refugees remain dependent on food assistance to meet their basic needs, this remains a critical issue across the region. On top of funding shortfalls, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a critical socio-economic impact on already populations in vulnerable situations, as countless livelihoods have been disrupted over the last two years, this situation affects especially women and girls, who are exposed to gender-based discriminations and violence.¹³ In Burundi, Rwanda and DRC, the majority of the population depends on agriculture as their primary source of income which was directly affected by the containment measures of COVID-19, as the borders were closed, preventing most people from working in neighbouring countries for two years. In addition to the lack of funding for refugee families, the COVID-19 containment measures put in place to prevent the spread of the pandemic have had a significant impact on populations in vulnerable situations by reducing the availability of food in camp markets and preventing many refugees, especially women head of households from supporting their families through casual labour and small businesses.¹⁴

Throughout countries in the Great Lakes region, women and girls face challenges with early marriage and pregnancy, limited access to livelihoods, education and documentation, and sexual and gender-based violence including trafficking in human beings (SGBV) as a result of overcrowded shelters, traditional gender attitudes, and family separation. Furthermore, it is often difficult for refugee women to have access to land when they return to Burundi and/or want to settle more permanently in neighbouring countries. The gender variable is clearly an aggravating factor here, and identifying ways to sustainably improve women's rights in HLP (houses, land and property) is therefore particularly important. In addition, birth rates in the region's refugee camps remain very high, due to disrupted access to reproductive health care services and sexual health information. Women have been particularly vulnerable to SGBV in precarious situations, related to forced displacement, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. SGBV in DRC has been of particular concern in 2021, with 2,661 cases reported through UNHCR's protection monitoring in North and South Kivu, 1,115 in Ituri and 831 in Tanganyika.¹⁵

As of 30th April 2022, approximately 257 732 Burundian refugees¹⁶ were hosted in the four main countries of asylum, with 40 522 in DRC in South Kivu province; 48 070 in Rwanda residing primarily in Mahama camp, and

⁵ UNHCR Update on UNHCR's operations in the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes region, February 2022: <https://www.unhcr.org/afr/6228a64e4.pdf>

⁶ *ibid.*

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ UNHCR East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Operational Update, February 2022

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ UNHCR Democratic Republic of the Congo, Monthly Statistic of Refugees and Asylum Seekers March 2022

¹¹ UNHCR Update on UNHCR's operations in the East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes region, February 2022: <https://www.unhcr.org/afr/6228a64e4.pdf>

¹² WFP, UNHCR appeal for funding for over 3 million refugees suffering from rations cuts in eastern Africa 2 March 2021: <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-unhcr-appeal-funding-over-3-million-refugees-suffering-rations-cuts-eastern-africa>

¹³ UN, office of the special envoy of the secretary general for the Great Lakes Region, The impact of COVID 19 on the Great Lakes Region, June 2020 https://ungreatlakes.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/20200611_covid-19_-_glr_overview_final.pdf

¹⁴ WFP, UNHCR appeal for funding for over 3 million refugees suffering from rations cuts in eastern Africa 2 March 2021, <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-unhcr-appeal-funding-over-3-million-refugees-suffering-rations-cuts-eastern-africa>

¹⁵ The Democratic Republic of Congo Regional Refugee Response Plan (January - December 2022): <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/democratic-republic-congo-regional-refugee-response-plan-january-3>

¹⁶ UNHCR Burundi Regional RRP February 2022: <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/dataviz/57>

in the urban areas of Kigali and Huye; 127 104 in Tanzania in the two camps of Nduta, and Nyarugusu; and 42 036 in Uganda in the Isingiro and Kampala districts of the South-West region.¹⁷

Following the change of government in June 2020, **Burundi's political and security situation has improved**. This has contributed to the voluntary return of refugees living in neighbouring countries. Burundi has entered into some tripartite agreements (with UNHCR and host countries) to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees, allowing for a sound legal framework for voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity. In 2021, 65,279 Burundian refugees returned to their country of origin, according to UNHCR.¹⁸ These returns are a positive sign of an improved situation. Still, the structural problems the country has been facing over the past years remain present, among those are scarce resources, lack of access to basic services, a high poverty rate and a very dense population whose livelihood depends mainly on agriculture. These challenges are compounded by the country's vulnerability to disasters and the adverse effect of climate change, which in turn lead to internal displacement. The return and reintegration of thousands of people represent a critical challenge for the country's stability. In this context of vulnerability and scarcity of resources, especially land, the risk of conflict and tension between host and returnee communities remains high. Furthermore, the Burundi Regional Return and Reintegration Response Plan (JRRRP) remains underfunded, with only 21 percent of the resources required by the end of 2021,¹⁹ which has led to acute gaps, including food ration cuts, inadequate shelters, lack of medicines, deficient WASH infrastructure and insufficient livelihoods activities. Generally speaking, there is a lack of social protection services in Burundi, which makes the implementation of a continuum of care and protection case support challenging. Protection monitoring activities in areas of returns are critical to ensure follow up is done.

Differing policy environments in **countries hosting Burundian refugees** contribute significantly to decisions around returns for Burundian refugees. Countries with greater opportunities for integration, such as Rwanda and Uganda, have greater numbers of refugees who prefer to integrate rather than return. In Uganda, the 2006 Refugee Act and the 2010 Refugee Regulation set out Uganda's national refugee policy which is characterised by "the acceptance of all asylum seekers regardless of their nationality or ethnicity, the granting refugee's relative freedom of movement; the granting prima facie asylum to refugees of certain nationalities and the granting each refugee family a piece of land for their exclusive (agricultural) use".²⁰

However, **Tanzania's** more rigid policy environment and lack of durable solutions, as well as the promotion of repatriation for Burundian returnees, has influenced decisions to returns – with Burundians from Tanzania making up the largest portion of returnees.

Rwanda has been hosting Burundian refugees who mainly reside in the Mahama camp and the urban areas of Kigali and Huye. Despite a relatively stable political situation and substantial international development aid, Rwanda faces similar challenges to Burundi, including high population density, high dependence on agriculture and increasing climate disasters leading to exacerbated vulnerabilities, food insecurity and destroyed infrastructure. In addition, the displacement of populations internally and the destruction of land crops have put increasing pressure on scarce arable land resources, thus exacerbating tensions between communities.

The **DRC** is experiencing one of the most complex and prolonged humanitarian and security crises on the continent. Since 2019, increased violence has resulted in the continued internal forced displacement of more than 5.5 million people.²¹ The presence of armed groups, particularly in South Kivu, has substantially impacted humanitarian access to refugee camps, delayed access to funds, and restricted population movements. The refugee situation, particularly in the Lusenda camp, is very precarious, and many actors are encouraging Burundian

¹⁷ UNHCR Burundi Regional Refugee Response Plan, 2021 Mid-Year Report, October 2021: <https://reliefweb.int/report/burundi/burundi-regional-refugee-response-plan-2021-mid-year-report>

¹⁸ UNHCR Burundi Regional RRP February 2022: <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/dataviz/57>

¹⁹ *ibid.*

²⁰ World Bank Group August 31, 2016 BRIEF, Uganda's Progressive Approach to Refugee Management: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/ugandas-progressive-approach-refugee-management>

²¹ UNHCR, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Regional Refugee Response Plan, January-December 2022: <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/democratic-republic-congo-regional-refugee-response-plan-january-3>

refugees to be repatriated. Thus, it is estimated that 27 million people will be in acute need of humanitarian assistance in 2022.²²

Uganda is the most progressive country in the region in terms of its reception policy, and despite COVID-19, it has allowed people in need to enter its borders. In 2021, 94 percent of the refugees in Uganda were living in camps in 13 districts, with the remaining refugee population residing in Kampala.²³ However, its capacity to accommodate refugees has been under stress over the past several years, as Uganda struggles to provide adequate services for its citizens and unemployment is high. There are increasing accounts of overburdened cities and communities due to strains on land and resources in refugee-hosting areas. Burundian refugees in Nakivale Settlement reported reduced quality of material safety, poor access to water within the settlement, healthcare, food insecurity and reduced quality in education services offered. Food allowances are limited for refugees in camp settings, which makes food security a key concern. Economic opportunities for refugees remain limited, with skilled Burundians citing difficulty finding jobs. Access to land and land disputes between refugees and hosts are often the largest threats to the physical safety of refugees in Nakivale Settlement.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Protection of returnees in Burundi and Burundian refugees in DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda

Burundian returnees face difficulties in material, physical and legal safety and accessing essential services, such as housing, land and property, healthcare, education, income generating activities, and social protection services. Although most returns have been so far assisted, they have been assisted for a period of only three months. Beyond the assisted returnees, spontaneous returnees are even in more vulnerable situations because of the lack of adequate support for reintegration. At the community level, access to land and housing is often a driver of conflict, notably for returnees whose properties have been occupied and for women as cultural customs do not recognise their property rights. Education provision is generally insufficient, and returnees face specific challenges due to the lack of recognition of education and language barriers, including difficulties for public servants to re-enter the educational system.

Returnees frequently reported feelings of stigmatisation upon return. Some Burundian returnees were treated with suspicion and hostility, due to perceived affiliations or collaborations with armed groups. Although this has decreased somewhat after instructions were given to local chiefs to ensure better reception, the issue remains of concern for many returnees and refugees.

There is a need to address the challenges of displacement in hosting and origin countries since refugees/returnees can further destabilise an already fragile political and social environment if their situation is poorly managed. Refugees in Uganda and Rwanda reported relatively higher access to services but limited education and livelihood opportunities and access to documentation. Access to services is better in camp settings in Uganda and Rwanda, but urban refugees are perceived as better off. Refugees in Tanzania have a higher dependency on assistance due to the legal situation and physical safety for Burundian refugees in Tanzania remains low – as refugees are perceived negatively by members of the police and the host community, who fear that refugees can bring conflict with them to Tanzania. In DRC, the conflict led to precarious assistance standards and increased tensions between refugees and hosts as well as the rise of human rights violations. Environmental concerns were reported by countries hosting refugees and within Burundi, climate disasters are the main drivers of conflict and displacement.

Refugees in the region and members of the host community often conflict over resources and land issues – women are at particular risk of eviction, which leaves them more exposed and vulnerable to physical violence and sexual assault. From a gender perspective, the lockdowns and measures imposed to curtail the spread of COVID-19 exposed refugee women and girls more broadly to higher risks of SGBV. Additionally, during displacement, women are often exposed to sexual abuse and exploitation linked to a lack of adequate housing. Mental health programmes specifically addressing SGBV related trauma for Burundian refugees in hosting countries and upon return are inadequate. There were instances of violence, early pregnancy, and SGBV among Burundian refugee women reported in DRC, Tanzania, and Rwanda. In Tanzania, cultural norms for women in Burundian refugee

²² *ibid.*

²³ UNHCR Uganda Country Refugee Response plan - January 2020-December 2021

camps impacted their poverty levels. Although men from the refugee camps go out to search for work, most women stay within camp settings to care for children and perform domestic duties.

Despite the interconnectedness of the Great Lakes countries, cross-border programmes, harmonisation and learning on documentation, education, and return remain limited. The approach of different governments in their implementation of regional and international commitments can be viewed as an indicator of the political temperature within countries in the Great Lakes region. Further emphasis is needed on cross-border interventions given that many returnees continue to cross the border for access to education, livelihoods, and family reunification.

Within the Great Lakes countries, the European Commission Directorate for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) supports a regional approach for access to basic humanitarian needs and durable solutions for refugees, returnees and populations in host and origin countries, namely via support to UNHCR's protection assistance to Burundian refugees. This includes facilitating coordination and cross-border information sharing of both refugee and returnee flows.

Resilience of returnees in Burundi and Burundian refugees in DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda

Long term (re)integration and durable solutions strategies for Burundian refugees and returnees are limited – this includes legal frameworks (including documents), sustainable housing, and economic support. The 3-month repatriation packages are currently the main support for Burundian returnees but do not address needs beyond the immediate return, such as livelihoods, shelter, and legal support for housing, land and property (HLP) claims. In addition, there is a need for a more sustainable approach to vocational and entrepreneurship training for returnees in Burundi and refugees in countries of asylum. Currently, skills development in countries of asylum is not recognised and/or adapted to the context of return. When returnees receive entrepreneurship training, they are not able to turn their skills into income-generating livelihoods without any capital. Cooperatives are a popular support system in Burundi and can contribute to social reintegration and access to finance for returnees but the latter are often unable to join due to financial requirements.

In Burundi, separations and divorces led to many women heading households independently. Single women often lack access to land and, therefore, agricultural livelihoods. There should be a minimum 50 percent quota for women in productive programmes, such as cash-for-work, community rehabilitation, and creation of agricultural cooperatives, in order to ensure their rights are respected, and their specific vulnerabilities are responded to.

The private sector remains an untapped resource in durable solutions throughout the five countries. Still, there are opportunities for it to work closely with development partners already working with refugees to co-design skills development and employment programmes within local job markets. Agriculture is the most important livelihoods sector in Burundi and represents a large potential for greater cross-border cooperation. However, poor infrastructure and lack of systems and legal governance limit the market potential at national and regional levels. There is potential for cross-border activities between Burundi and Tanzania, and Rwanda in the agricultural sector.

Self-reliance for Burundian refugees hosted in the DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda remains limited, albeit in different ways. Refugees in Rwanda and Uganda have the legal right to access work and education, and stakeholders support their self-reliance, but in reality, their livelihood, finance, and education opportunities are limited. There are opportunities for local integration to be explored in Rwanda, for instance, through support to financial inclusion and documentation. In the DRC, economic opportunities have disappeared with the deterioration of the security situation and relations between refugees and members of the host community over the last several years, pushing many Burundians to return. In Tanzania, economic opportunities for Burundian refugees have dried up, as the government no longer promotes livelihoods for refugees and, in some cases, seems to actively prevent them in favour of repatriation. In contexts with a diverse refugee population, such as in Uganda, a key entry point for targeting Burundian refugees and supporting their return is ensuring that livelihood and skills development programming is explicitly linked to contexts of return and voluntary repatriation. In all contexts, access to information is needed to enhance preparedness and voluntary decision making on durable solutions, whether return or local integration.

To achieve durable solutions for Burundians refugees in the Great Lakes region, all main stakeholders agreed that greater investment was needed in Burundi as the country of origin and context of return. At national and community level, adequate standards of living remain a challenge for many returnees, covering access to essential

services such as housing, land and property, healthcare, education, income generating activities and social protection services.

Coordination and learning for durable solutions at national and regional levels

Multiple stakeholders emphasised that each country in the Great Lakes Region has its own approach to addressing durable solutions for refugee populations – including Burundian refugees. There is a need to harmonise policies on forcibly displaced populations at the regional level and find common arrangements for common approaches to displacement in line with the triple nexus. The idea that displacement must be seen and addressed as a long-term challenge rather than a short-term crisis has been increasingly recognised at international, regional and national levels over the past decade. This has led to discussions on integrated approaches and area-based approaches to address the needs of displacement-affected communities within broader national and regional development strategies and operation, including National Development Plans, the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and World Bank Country Partnership Strategies. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), anchored in a ‘leave no-one behind’ approach, calls for a triple nexus between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding.

The lack of coordination between actors involved in the return and reintegration process, including Burundian government ministries involved in return, leads to duplication of programmes and missed opportunities for synergies. Furthermore, the lack of referral, harmonisation of forms and procedures, a common database and a regional rather than national approach to case management leads to insufficient continuity of care in the return process. Monitoring Burundian returnees to determine levels of sustainable reintegration requires common indicators and methods. However, the lack of funding has impacted data collection, especially sex-disaggregated data and led to less frequent and/or less consistent data collection measures both nationally and regionally, with governments prioritising other interventions. It has also limited the capacity of relevant stakeholders and institutions to meaningfully monitor and track achievements or funds, a prerequisite for durable solutions.

Beyond reinforcing monitoring, ensuring continued intergovernmental learning and exchange at a regional level is missing, and a more coordinated regional response is needed to address the Burundian refugee crisis in the Great Lakes region while lending support to both displaced groups and host communities. The potential for regional cooperation remains strong, especially given the existence of sub-regional organisations, including the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) between Rwanda, DRC and Burundi; the EAC – which now includes the DRC; as well as the ICGLR. Furthermore, there is a need for the greater promotion of regionally coordinated and locally owned solutions within the Great Lakes region.

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

UN agencies

- UNHCR remains the leading actor in the region on both durable solutions and humanitarian action. It plays a critical operational role by supporting the governments in providing refugees and asylum seekers with international protection and durable solutions. Working with government and ministries in each country, it has been accompanying voluntary returns and providing information.
- The WFP, operating in humanitarian protection, is present in all 5 countries and provides food assistance in partnership with UNHCR, through cash-based and/or in-kind interventions, targeting vulnerable populations.
- IOM has a strong regional operational presence in Bujumbura, Kigali and Dar-es-Salaam, and promotes safe and orderly migration, and protection to Burundian refugees.
- UNDP supports sustainable solutions for returning refugees, to rebuild their lives with dignity and peace, with a strong commitment to Burundian authorities and UNHCR as part of the JRRRP. On reintegration, UNDP specifically works on justice and legal support, on social cohesion and community dialogues, and on alternative livelihood strategies and quick impact projects.
- FAO promotes agricultural development, environmental protection, and capacity strengthening of government actors. It is especially present in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania through different programmes and projects targeting both displaced and host communities.

The World Bank is present in all five countries and plays a critical role in terms of durable solutions in the sectors of infrastructure development, resilience, and social protection. The World Bank has been collaborating with

relevant national ministries, the EU, UNHCR and other key stakeholders to promote learning and dialogue around durable solutions in the Great Lakes Region.

EU member states and development or cooperation agencies, are present in all countries in the Great Lakes Region, financing and implementing durable solutions programmes and protection interventions. Building synergies with these actors will be a key aspect of this action, in order foster coordination and avoid programming duplications. UN, EU and its member states have strong human rights based and gender approach and strategies that would benefit to the implementation of the action.

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as the East African Community (EAC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) are engaged in promoting economic cooperation and regional integration in the Great Lakes Region and key stakeholders to be considered in the coordination of regional dialogue and action around durable solutions and forced displacement.

The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) is an inter-governmental organisation of 12 countries in the Great Lakes Region, established to facilitate regional efforts to respond to forced displacement in the region, with an aim to promote long-term peace and development processes. The potential of ICGLR to foster regional dialogue around durable solutions, and to feed the reflection around a protection framework for forcibly displaced populations will be harnessed under this Action.

On the duty-bearers' side: The national governments and responsible local authorities affected by the Burundi refugee crisis and involved in the responses to forced displacement will be key partners under this action in order to coordinate the implementation of durable solutions interventions in their respective countries, in terms of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, as well as integration of Burundian refugees who do not wish to return at present. The gender machinery and national human rights institutions will be involved.

International and national NGOs, CSOs engaged in the protection interventions and durable solutions in the Region will be key stakeholders, and involved depending on their expertise in the different thematic areas targeted by this action and their operational capacities on the ground. Collaboration with CSOs working on women's rights and the rights of people with disability will be promoted.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to contribute to provide a regional multi-sectoral response for durable solutions to the Burundian refugee crisis in five countries of the Great Lakes region.

The Specific Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are to

1. Enhance the protection of Burundian refugees (women and men in all their diversity) in the region and returnees (women and men in all their diversity) in Burundi.
2. Strengthen the resilience, empowerment and self-reliance of refugees (women and men in all their diversity), communities hosting refugees and returnees and the reintegration (the economic empowerment and social reintegration) of returnees (women and men in all their diversity) in Burundi.
3. Enhance scope of application of durable solutions for refugees and returnees through national and regional learning and exchanges.

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

- 1.1 Enhanced capacity of local authorities in cross-border areas to foster informed, voluntary, dignified, and safe movement for the reintegration of Burundian refugees with a focus on specific protection needs faced by groups in the most vulnerable situations such as stateless refugees, women, children, and the people with special needs (i.e., people with disabilities).

1.2 Enhanced capacity of national and local authorities and education institutions in Burundi and refugee-hosting countries in the region on provision of legal and equal rights of all Burundian refugees in terms of documentation, housing, land, property, education, and identity management.

2.1 To support area-based approaches to local integration and reintegration, focusing on self-reliance through sustainable skills development, financial inclusion, alternative livelihoods support and durable, green, and climate-resilient agricultural solutions.

2.2 Enhanced infrastructure and policies for durable, green, and climate-resilient economic activities and mobility across borders in the region.

2.3 Enhanced participation of returnees in social cohesion and community-based interventions and in local structures and strengthened measures to prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence including being re-trafficked in situations of fragility and conflict and to provide services to survivors (GAPIII)

3.1 Enhanced analytical, planning, monitoring and coordination capacity of the Burundian authorities related to durable solutions activities and notably of all the activities the EU funds.

3.2 Deepened intergovernmental coordination and learning on durable solutions for refugees and returnees in the region.

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1:

- Support local authorities to improve cross-border awareness-raising and information sharing, including zone profiling, regular intention surveys, mapping available services, and gathering area information, include a gender perspective to better prepare returnees and local authorities for the reintegration process.
- Promote protection training and awareness-raising sessions in Burundi, focusing on specific protection needs faced by more returnees in the most vulnerable situations such as stateless returnees, women, children, and the people with special needs.
- Include monitoring of human rights violations in bilateral advocacy, policy efforts, and diplomacy.

Activities relating to Output 1.2:

- Facilitate legal access and documentation to housing, land and property (HLP) for returnees and refugees by addressing capacity gaps and funding conflict resolution programmes, especially for persons in the most vulnerable situations (i.e., women).
- Support the Burundian local authorities' capacity in identity management to improve their accountability in the recognition of rights for children born to foreign fathers, single mothers, and stateless refugees.
- Support a regional approach to harmonise education and diploma to ensure that skills acquired by Burundian refugees are recognised upon return to Burundi.
- Fund cross-border education activities to bridge language barriers to support reintegration into a French education system in Burundi.

Activities relating to Output 2.1:

- Promote the integration of refugees in host communities by matching pledges of concerned Governments made at the Global Refugee Forum for instance on the inclusion of refugees in national and local development plans and national systems for education and health, inclusion of refugees in the labour market, efforts to end encampment or to provide documentation for refugees
- Promote financial inclusion and financial literacy for returnees, refugees and host communities targeting women and other groups/populations in vulnerable situations.
- Support durable, green, and climate-resilient agricultural solutions for returnees, refugees, and host communities by investing in training programmes for sustainable farming practices, government capacity, and green technologies.
- Support vocational skills and higher education adapted to local markets of return and asylum countries.

Activities relating to Output 2.2:

- Promote durable, green, and climate-resilient cross-border agricultural economic activities via sustainable farming and fishing programmes.
- Support regional policymaking and infrastructure to enable free cross-border markets for goods, labour, and attract market investments.
- Promote durable, green, and climate-resilient cross-border agricultural economic activities.

- Develop and implement vocational training and capacity building schemes at the cross-border level to improve local community knowledge and skills on cross-border farming and cross-border market linkages.

Activities relating to Output 2.3:

- Support community-based interventions in areas of return by building on ongoing initiatives, such as local peace committees and civil society, and involving returnees in local decision-making.
- Facilitate the systematic inclusion of context- and conflict-sensitive analyses in return areas in all EU-funded programmes and coordination platforms.
- Conduct training and awareness-raising on sexual misconduct and support community-based referral systems
- Fund mental health support for Burundian refugees, particularly for survivors of SGBV. Promote representation for the returnee community in local development plans, coordination and cooperatives to receive funding with a condition of a 20% returnee representation in the programmes and groups

Activities relating to Output 3.1:

- Support the development of the durable solutions strategy in Burundi by allocating funding and technical skills for a national database to ensure coordination and monitoring of the Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan (JRRRP).
- Develop a coordination mechanism for all durable solutions activities in the region, notably of the ones the EU is and will fund, to ensure synergies.
- Strengthen monitoring partnerships to reinforce analytical capacities and strengthen planning, using outcome indicators and MEAL exercises to foster learning curves and progressive operational expertise.

Activities relating to Output 3.2:

- Facilitate intergovernmental coordination and learning and promoting technical working groups and ambassadors or durable solutions champions.
- Building on existing technical working and learning groups to address key questions around documentation, education, livelihoods and data.
- Strengthen ICGLR's role by building its strategy and capacity on displacement in the region.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

Gender will be a crucial component of the action with a focus on integrating gender analysis in the design and monitoring of programmes from the inception phase and supporting gender-transformative activities to address specific challenges faced by women and girls particularly. The action will support sex-disaggregated data throughout its different stages. The action will promote participation of women organisations and include the gender machinery.

Human Rights

From a human rights perspective, the action will adhere to human rights principles of “do no harm”, participation, and accountability, and provide additional modalities for groups based on vulnerabilities they experience due to their social or legal status. A conflict-sensitive approach implies that activities will be carefully contextualised to the local power dynamics, political systems, and governance structures and empower the target populations to claim their rights. Activities may use non-stigmatising affirmative action for target groups with specific vulnerabilities to contribute to equity and social inclusion, for instance, by addressing human rights violations faced by Burundian returnees. This commitment to a human rights-based approach will inform choices in the design and implementation of all activities. This requires that the design of the programmes is inclusive to reach all those in need within the target population. The action will apply the working principles of the HRBA: applying all human rights for all, meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making, non-discrimination and equality, accountability and rule of law for all, and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data.

Disability

While disability-related issues are not a main objective of this action, the needs of persons with disabilities among the target populations in terms of being able to access facilities and participate in interventions will be duly assessed and addressed by the implementing partners.

Democracy

The action aims at supporting the protection and restoration of democratic rights for all affected populations in the Great Lakes Region. This will mainly include promoting access to legal rights and civic documentation for Burundian refugees, returnees, and host communities through advocacy with governments in the region and supporting government capacities. A particular focus will be on supporting the realisation of rights for vulnerable groups such as stateless Burundian refugees, undocumented returnees in Burundi and Burundian refugees who have been in a protracted situation in Tanzania.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The Great Lakes region in Africa has been characterised by forced displacement on a large scale over the last several decades due to political instability, armed conflict, ethnic tensions, and disputes over land and other natural resources. Therefore, all activities supported under this action need to include conflict sensitivity to follow the triple nexus between humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding, anchored in the ‘leave no-one behind’ approach of the SDGs. This approach will be of particular importance in DRC given the protracted insecurity situation in the country.

Overall, all stakeholders spoke of the need to aim for equality in targeting returnees, refugees, and host communities in order to strengthen social cohesion and avoid conflicts over perceptions that refugees and returnees are more supported than the host communities. This aspect should be mainstreamed throughout the regional action plan in a conflict-sensitive manner and adherence to the principles established under the Global Compact on Refugees.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The high vulnerability to climate change disasters with natural hazards such as floods, landslides, and earthquakes is one of the main drivers of conflict and migration in the Great Lakes Region. Therefore, the conflict-sensitive approach of the action needs to include an angle on disaster risk reduction and mitigation, which will be closely linked to the mainstream environmental protection and climate change component. In addition, regional dialogues will contribute to consultative exchanges on cross-border cooperation and coordination for disaster risk education and mitigation, given the regional nature of such disasters and the region's interconnectedness.

Other considerations if relevant

Stateless refugees, undocumented returnees, refugee children born to foreign fathers, and single mothers among Burundian refugees are also more vulnerable and frequently denied their legal rights when returning to Burundi, as previously mentioned. Their specific needs have to be mainstreamed throughout the action.

A durable approach in Uganda needs to include Burundian refugees and refugees from other countries of origin as the refugee settlements have a diverse population, and focusing on one group is impractical given how funding and programming for refugee populations are implemented in Uganda, and might lead to social tensions.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Communication and information	The political will to commit to a regional approach	Medium	High	Policy dialogue and intergovernmental exchange and learning are key mitigation strategies for this risk. A multi-sectoral

	<p>to address the Burundian refugee crisis and the capacity of regional actors to support durable solutions. Additionally, many of the relevant strategies were under review and/or drafting at the time of preparing the action document.</p> <p>This presents a risk in the level of adherence of refugees, returnees, and host communities to regional approaches.</p>			<p>approach will be adopted at each level - regional, national, and local - so stakeholders can share information, policymaking, promising initiatives, lessons learned and good practices in a more coordinated manner. Thus, a regional platform for the exchange on durable solutions features prominently in this Action. Furthermore, to get key regional stakeholders on board, greater capacity and strategy building will be incorporated to invest more in processes to bolster buy-in and ownership on a regional scale.</p> <p>At the localised level with refugees, returnees, and host communities, awareness raising activities should be carried out, in order to connect regional and national priorities with the local level.</p>
External environment	Contextual risks are inherent in wider country and regional contexts within all five countries, and include deterioration of the security situation and political instabilities, particularly in DRC.	High	High	To mitigate the risks of a deteriorating security situation, implementing partners for the action need to have ample experience working in the contexts and adhere to security protocols and humanitarian principles. As part of the conflict-sensitive approach taken, interventions need to include a context analysis and mitigation measures at the start of each activity. Traditional M&E systems need to be adapted to be adaptive to cycles of conflict and fragility. The conflict and risk analysis are not a one-time exercise during the development of an intervention but need to be included in the M&E systems for periodic reviews and regular security assessments to allow for adaptive programming.
Planning, processes and systems	Programmatic risks in the implementation of the action are based on the scope and complexity as it involves multiple countries and areas with varied socio-	Medium	Medium	Frameworks for adaptive programming must be included in the implementation and funding modalities for all activities funded under this action in line with the mitigation for risk 2. Adaptive programming enables implementing partners to respond adequately and promptly adapt their activities if new outbreaks and needs arise.

	political and security contexts.			
External environment	New epidemic outbreaks such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic might lead to increased protection risks for refugees, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child abuse, and health concerns.	Medium	Medium	Frameworks for adaptive programming must be included in the implementation and funding modalities for all activities funded under this action in line with the mitigation for risk 2. Adaptive programming enables implementing partners to respond adequately and promptly adapt their activities if new outbreaks and needs arise.
External environment	The risk of climate events and disasters is high across the region and can potentially lead to new displacement situations and conflict	High	High	The mitigation strategy for climate disasters is closely linked to the mitigation for risk 2 as a conflict-sensitive approach needs to include an angle on disaster risk reduction and mitigation. Activities funded under this action will also aim at mitigating the effects of climate change through green and climate-resilient durable solution strategies.
External environment	Women are at higher risk of human rights abuses in the region, particularly displaced women and girls. Gender-blind activities can negatively impact the intended outcomes of this action.	Medium	High	Gender analyses are done in the inception phase of the action, and gender-transformative activities are supported to address specific challenges faced by women and girls. Activities may use non-stigmatising affirmative action to contribute to gender quality. There will be a minimum 50 percent quota for women in productive programmes, such as cash-for-work, community rehabilitation, and the creation of agricultural cooperatives, in order to ensure their rights are respected, and their specific vulnerabilities are responded to.

Lessons Learnt:

A critical lesson learned is the absence of durable solutions and long-term strategies to respond to the Burundian refugee crisis. Regular exchanges, learning and coordination among government and development and humanitarian actors have also been limited within countries and at the regional level. The most significant gap for durable solutions in Burundi and regionally remains funding – particularly at the multi-year and multi-country level. In addition, there remains a policy gap at the national and regional levels in the Great Lakes region – each country has its own approach to addressing durable solutions for refugee populations – including Burundian refugees. Furthermore, durable solutions programming is dominated by international actors in all five countries, who are in charge of setting strategy and programming in the region. Finally, the private sector remains an untapped resource in durable solutions throughout the five countries.

The action will examine learnings from previous activities identified in the programme mapping and incorporate those where appropriate. DG ECHO supports a regional approach for access to basic humanitarian needs and durable solutions for refugees, returnees and populations in host and origin countries, which is vital for providing learnings, namely via support to UNHCR's protection assistance for Burundian refugees and information sharing across borders. EUTF funded programs were reviewed in the countries targeted under this action, i.e., in Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda. Relevant EUDs and EU member state agencies in each country are to be included by looking at their programmatic focus and building on their expertise.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that **if** appropriate multi-sectoral and multi-country durable solutions and coordination mechanisms are implemented in the Great Lakes Region, **then** Burundian refugees in the region and returnees in Burundi will enjoy better protection and the resilience and self-reliance of refugees, communities hosting refugees and returnees **and** the reintegration (the economic empowerment and social reintegration) of returnees in Burundi will be improved.

The interconnectedness of the Great Lakes Region demands a dual focus on both sides of the border (space) and long-term commitments (time) to generate positive outcomes in terms of protection and resilience. The action incorporates concepts of intergovernmental coordination on durable solutions and return in the region, adequate monitoring and learning platforms at the regional level, mobility zones and durable, green, and climate-resilient cross-border economic activities. Gender equality is being mainstreamed throughout the action.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

At action level, the indicative logframe should have a maximum of 10 expected results (Impact/Outcome(s)/Output(s)).

It constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

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

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

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

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

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities) Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result) -	Baselines (Values and years)	Targets (Values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Note: all data should be disaggregated by migration status.						
Impact	The Overall Objective of this action is to contribute to provide a regional multi-sectoral response for durable solutions to the Burundian refugee crisis in five countries of the Great Lakes region	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Extent to which the promotion of reintegration and community resilience improve the situation (material, legal, economic, social, societal and psychosocial) of women and men returning refugees and host community members in Burundi. Extent to which the (legal, material, economic, social, societal, and psychosocial) situation of women and refugees is satisfactorily and permanently resolved to enable them to live normal lives in Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and the DRC. 	<p>1 Between 1-2 on a 5-point scale where 1 is 'chronically vulnerable', 2 is 'poorly resilient and integrated', 3 is 'moderately', 4 is 'sufficiently adaptive' and 5 is 'strongly adaptive and transformative'.</p> <p>2 Between 1-2 on a 5-point scale where 1 is 'chronically volatile situation', 2 is 'poorly resolved', 3 is 'moderately resolved', 4 is 'sufficiently resolved' and 5 is 'satisfactorily and permanently'</p>	<p>1 4 (strongly) – in communities and areas supported by EU-funded interventions.</p> <p>2 4 (strongly) – in communities and areas supported by EU-funded</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> National statistics UN Data and Indices Qualitative sources TPM 	Not applicable

Outcome 1	1. Enhance the protection of Burundian refugees (women and men in all their diversity) in the region and returnees (women and men in all their diversity) in Burundi.	1.1 Percentage of targeted individuals who report improved well-being (understood as reduced level of distress) as well as access to protection and other essential services to support their future reintegration (disaggregated by sex, age, urban/rural, and migration status) 1.2 Number of people directly benefiting from legal aid interventions supported by the EU - disaggregated by sex, migration status, rural/urban, age group, disability status. 1.3 Number of referrals of SGBV victims including victims of trafficking to health facilities based on community-based referral systems	1.1. 0% (baseline 2022) 1.2. 0 (baseline 2022) 1.3. 0 (baseline 2022)	1.1 60% (2027) 1.2 80 000 (2027) 1.3 500 (2027)	1. National statistics 2. UN Data and Indices 3. Qualitative sources 4. TPM	The consequences of external crises (security, conflict, natural disasters) remain manageable and do not produce massive new displacements in the region.
Outcome 2	2. Strengthen the resilience, empowerment and self-reliance of refugees (women and men in all their diversity), communities hosting refugees and returnees and the reintegration (the economic empowerment and social reintegration) of returnees (women and men in all their diversity) in Burundi.	2.1. Percentage of displaced persons claiming that they are able to participate in the civil, economic and social sphere of their societies without discrimination (in Burundi or the region). disaggregated by sex, age group, disability status 2.2. Percentage of (refugees / refugee returnees) vs. host community members who are able to work - disaggregated by sex, age group, disability status. 2.3. Agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced (ha) in (transboundary) mobility zones	2.1. 20% (2022) 2.2. 0 (2022 – for target individuals) 2.3 0 (2022)	2.1 50% (2027) 2.2 40% for both groups (for target individuals) 2.3. 800,000 ha (2027)	1. National statistics 2. UN Data and Indices 3. Qualitative sources 4. TPM	The consequences of external crises (security, conflict, natural disasters) remain manageable and do not produce massive new displacements in the region. There are no significant pandemic outbreaks (COVID-19 or otherwise).

Outcome 3	3. Enhance scope of application of durable solutions for refugees and returnees through national and regional learning and exchanges.	3.1. Number of EU funded interventions reporting improvement in quality and/or availability of data/statistics (disaggregated by gender, age, disability, migration profile) through EU support. 3.2. Number of migration management or forced displacement strategies, policies, mechanism to improve cross-border coordination (a) developed/revised and (b) under implementation with EU support.	3.1 0 (2022) 3.2 2 (2022)	3.1 More than 80% of significant or strong (on a 5-point scale, with 1 = none, 2 = poor, 3 = moderate, 4 = significant, 5 = strong) 3.2. Objective of 5 national and 1 regional mobility policies and strategies with regular updates to the implementation/actin plan (with EU technical support)	1.. National statistics 2. UN Data and Indices 3. Qualitative sources 4. TPM	Governmental actors across the region show a common and sustained commitment to promoting the reintegration agenda.
Output 1 relating to Outcome 1	1.1 Enhanced capacity of local authorities in cross-border areas to foster informed, voluntary, dignified, and safe movement for the reintegration of Burundian refugees with a focus on specific protection needs faced by groups in the most vulnerable situations such as stateless refugees, women, children, and the people with special needs (i.e., people with disabilities).	1.1.1. Number of migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people or individuals from host communities protected or assisted with EU support in Burundi and regionally. disaggregated by sex, age group, disability status 1.1.2. Number of refugees (in the region) who have voluntarily returned in Burundi disaggregated by sex, age group, disability status 1.1.3. Percentage of displaced persons who acquire permanent residence or nationality / residence in their host area per year out of the total number of displaced persons, disaggregated by sex, age group, migration status. 1.1.4. Out-of-school rate for children and young people in crisis and conflict-affected environments (disaggregated by sex, age group, population group, disability, migration status).	1.1.1. 0 (2022) 1.1.2. 190 000 (2022) 1.1.3. 5% (2022) 1.1.4. 60% (2022)	1.1.1 300,000 (2027) 1.1.2 300,000 (+120,000 by 2027) 1.1.3. 30% (2027) 1.1.4. 25% (2027))	1. National statistics 2. UN Data and Indices 3. Qualitative sources 4. TPM	The consequences of external crises (security, conflict, natural disasters) remain manageable and do not produce massive new displacements in the region. There are no significant pandemic outbreaks (COVID-19 or otherwise) – with a possible impact on protection, health, education, etc.

<p>Output 2 relating to Outcome 1</p>	<p>1.2 Enhanced capacity of national and local authorities and education institutions in Burundi and refugee-hosting countries in the region on provision of legal and equal rights of all Burundian refugees in terms of documentation, housing, land, property, education, and identity management.</p>	<p>1.2.1. Percentage of the target population (resident/host communities and displaced persons) in urban areas living in inadequate housing, disaggregated by sex, migration status, rural/urban, income, population group, age group, disability status. 1.2.2. Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation by sex, migration status and type of tenure. 1.2.3. Number of applications for validation and recognition of diplomas and skills acquired during/pre-displacement and percentage of validations/recognitions actually obtained (disaggregated by gender, age, migration status). 1.2.4. Number of people directly benefiting from legal aid interventions supported by the EU - disaggregated by sex, migration status, rural/urban, age group, disability status.</p>	<p>1.2.1 80% (2027) 1.2.2 Less than 10-15% 1.2.3. 0 (2022) 1.2.4. 0 (2022)</p>	<p>1.2.1 25% (2027) 1.2.2. More than 40% 1.2.3. 20,000 (2027) 1.2.4 60,000 (2027)</p>	<p>1.. National statistics 2. UN Data and Indices 3. Qualitative sources 4. TPM</p>	<p>The consequences of external crises (security, conflict, natural disasters) remain manageable and do not produce massive new displacements in the region.</p> <p>Governmental actors across the region show a common and sustained commitment to promoting the reintegration agenda – especially for this output, involving legal and regulatory aspects, and civil documentation.</p>
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Output 3 relating to Outcome 2	2.1 To support area-based approaches to local integration and reintegration, focusing on self-reliance through sustainable skills development, financial inclusion, alternative livelihoods support and durable, green, and climate-resilient agricultural solutions.	2.1.1. Percentage of (refugees / returning migrants) vs. host community members in a licit remunerated occupation - disaggregated by sex, age group, disability status 2.1.2. Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider, disaggregated by gender, age, disability and migration status 2.1.3. Access to finance: number of Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) provided with access to loans and other financial services, disaggregated by sector and geographic area and sex (women led MSMEs)	2.1.1 20% (2022) 2.1.2 10% (2022) 2.1.3 0 (2022)	2.1.1 40 (2022) 2.1.2.25% (2022) 2.1.3 400 (2022)	1.. National statistics 2. UN Data and Indices 3. Qualitative sources 4. TPM	The consequences of external crises (security, conflict, natural disasters) remain manageable and do not produce massive new displacements in the region. Governmental actors across the region show a common and sustained commitment to promoting the reintegration agenda – especially for this output (involving cross-border mobility zones).
Output 4 relating to Outcome 2	2.2 Enhanced infrastructure and policies for durable, green, and climate-resilient economic activities and mobility across borders in the region.	2.2.1. Number of communities using new skills/knowledge or practices to improve resilience to climate-related security risks 2.2.2. Additional electricity production from renewable sources, per year, disaggregated by urban and rural. 2.2.3. Percentage of green jobs (vs. jobs) supported/sustained by the EU (disaggregated by sex, age group, population group, disability, migration status).	2.2.1. 0 (2022) 2.2.2. 0 (2022) 2.2.3. 0 (2022)	2.2.1 120(2027) 2.2.2. 10MW (2027) 2.2.3. 5% (2027)	1.. National statistics 2. UN Data and Indices 3. Qualitative sources 4. TPM	The consequences of external crises (security, conflict, natural disasters) remain manageable and do not produce massive new displacements in the region. Governmental actors across the region show a common and sustained commitment to promoting the reintegration agenda.

Output 5 relating to Outcome 2	<p>2.3 Enhanced participation of returnees in social cohesion and community-based interventions and in local structures and strengthened measures to prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence in situations of fragility and conflict and to provide services to survivors (GAPIII)</p>	<p>2.3.1. Percentage of CSOs declaring to have improved their knowledge and skills and to have strengthened their means of action on displacement-related issues (disaggregated by international / local)</p> <p>2.3.2. Percentage of individuals reporting an improvement in inter- and intra-community understanding in the project's target localities. (disaggregated by sex, age group, population group, disability, migration status).</p> <p>2.3.3. Number of women/minorities and other vulnerable groups' representatives participating in the implementation of post-disaster/post-conflict recovery planning and action.</p> <p>2.3.4 Number of women's rights organizations that are providing services to address sexual and gender-based violence that have appropriate state funding (GAPIII)</p>	<p>2.3.1. 0 (2022)</p> <p>2.3.2. 0 (2022)</p> <p>2.3.3 0 (2022)</p> <p>2.3.4. 0 (2022)</p>	<p>2.3.1. 75% (2027)</p> <p>2.3.2. 60% (2027)</p> <p>2.3.3. 500 (2027)</p> <p>2.3.4. 3 (2027)</p>	<p>1.. National statistics</p> <p>2. UN Data and Indices</p> <p>3. Qualitative sources</p> <p>4. TPM</p>	<p>The consequences of external crises (security, conflict, natural disasters) remain manageable and do not produce massive new displacements in the region.</p> <p>There are no significant pandemic outbreaks (COVID-19 or otherwise).</p>
Output 6 relating to Outcome 3	<p>3.1 Enhanced analytical, planning, monitoring and coordination capacity of the Burundian authorities related to durable solutions activities and notably of all the activities the EU funds.</p>	<p>3.1.1. Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular, gender responsive and responsible migration and mobility of people</p> <p>3.1.2. Number of national and transboundary interventions utilizing climate and security related risk assessments and tools</p> <p>3.1.3. Number of multilateral initiatives addressing or integrating the nexus between climate, environment and security/displacement/fragility supported</p>	<p>3.1.1. 2 (2022)</p> <p>3.1.2. 0 (2022)</p> <p>3.1.3 0 (2022)</p>	<p>3.1.1 5 (2027)</p> <p>3.1.2. 100%</p> <p>3.1.3. 80% (2027)</p>	<p>1.. National statistics</p> <p>2. UN Data and Indices</p> <p>3. Qualitative sources</p> <p>4. TPM</p>	<p>Governmental actors across the region show a common and sustained commitment to promoting the reintegration agenda.</p>

Output 7 relating to Outcome 3	3.2 Deepened intergovernmental coordination and learning on durable solutions for refugees and returnees in the region.	3.2.1. Number of government policies developed or revised with civil society organisation participation through EU support. 3.2.2. % representation of women organisations participating in the process 3.2.3. Existence of a regional and intergovernmental coordination and learning platform.	3.2.1. None (2022) 3.2.1 0 (2022) 3.2.3. None (efficient and functioning) (2022)	3.2.1. Participatory approach with CSOs for all the national and regional migration policies (5 + 1) (2027) 3.2.1 30% (2027) 3.2.3. One existing and operational coordination platform with public minutes, clear action plans, and accountability mechanisms (2027)	1.. National statistics 2. UN Data and Indices 3. Qualitative sources 4. TPM	Governmental actors across the region show a common and sustained commitment to promoting the reintegration agenda.
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4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component [For Budget Support only]

NA

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures²⁴.

4.4.1 Direct Management (Grants)

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The purpose of the intended grants is to contribute to the expected results under the following specific objectives: Specific Objective 1: enhance the protection of Burundian refugees in the region and returnees in Burundi.

Specific Objective 2: contribute to the resilience and self-reliance of refugees, communities hosting refugees and returnees and the reintegration of returnees in Burundi.

Specific Objective 3: provide a basis for national and regional learning and exchanges on durable solutions and return.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Lead applicants may be international NGOs, international organisations or Member State Organisation.

Co-applicants of the actions may be from the category listed above, as well as NGOs, local civil society organisations or local authorities.

4.4.2 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with entities, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: be an international organisation having a specific mandate and/or role with regards to the forcibly displaced, ability to operate in the countries and localities targeted in this action and preferably proven experience and/or established operational presence in the countries and localities targeted in this action, ability to collaborate effectively with relevant stakeholders.

The implementation by these entities entails a contribution to the expected results under the following specific objectives:

Specific Objective 1: enhance the protection of Burundian refugees in the region and returnees in Burundi.

²⁴ 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.

Specific Objective 2: contribute to the resilience and self-reliance of refugees, communities hosting refugees and returnees and the reintegration of returnees in Burundi.

Specific Objective 3: provide a basis for national and regional learning and exchanges on durable solutions and return.

4.4.3 Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

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

The implementation by these entities entails a contribution to the expected results under the following specific objectives:

Specific Objective 1: enhance the protection of Burundian refugees in the region and returnees in Burundi.

Specific Objective 2: contribute to the resilience and self-reliance of refugees, communities hosting refugees and returnees and the reintegration of returnees in Burundi.

Specific Objective 3: provide a basis for national and regional learning and exchanges on durable solutions and return.

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

If negotiations in indirect management with an international organisation or a Member State organisation fail, that part of this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.4.1.

If direct management cannot be identified (for instance if calls for 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 4.4.2 and 4.4.3.

4.5 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

4.6 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components ²⁵	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.4	
Objective/Outputs 1 - Enhance the protection of Burundian refugees in the region and returnees in Burundi.	14 000 000

²⁵ N.B: The final text on audit/verification depends on the outcome of ongoing discussions on pooling of funding in (one or a limited number of) Decision(s) and the subsequent financial management, i.e. for the conclusion of audit contracts and payments.

Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	10 000 000
Indirect management with Member States organisation or international organisation – cf. section 4.4.2 and 4.4.3.	4 000 000
Objective/Outputs 2 Contribute to the resilience and self-reliance of refugees, communities hosting refugees and returnees and the reintegration (the economic empowerment and social reintegration) of returnees in Burundi.	22 000 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	16 000 000
Indirect management with Member States organisation or international organisation – cf. cf. section 4.4.2 and 4.4.3.	6 000 000
Objective/Outputs 3 - Provide a basis for national and regional learning and exchanges on durable solutions and return	4 000 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.4.1	2 000 000
Indirect management with Member States organisation or international organisation – cf. cf. section 4.4.2. and 4.4.3.	2 000 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision ²⁶
Totals Grant: total envelope under section 4.4.1. : EUR 28 000 000	40 000 000

4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

This action aims at providing regional response for durable solutions to the Burundian refugee crisis following a nexus approach combining humanitarian, development and peace and security components in the Great Lakes Region. It will thus result in a number of contracts in different sectors for different areas of expertise and implementation. EUD Burundi, in close consultation with A2, will retain the lead and coordinating role. Contracts will be managed by the relevant EUDs. For each of these contracts a steering committee will be established composed of the implementing partner, the EU, including relevant Commission services and relevant EUDs, representatives of regional or Governmental entities as appropriate, beneficiaries and other relevant actors as necessary. An overall steering committee or coordination mechanism will also be put in place to ensure coherence with the overall objectives of this AD.

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

²⁶ Where the action is not covered by a financing agreement (see section 4.1), but 'will be covered by another Decision' as it is unlikely that evaluation and audit contracts on this action would be concluded within N+1. These contracts have to be authorised by another Financing Decision.

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). In addition, an HRBA and gender considerations will be taken into consideration for the monitoring set-up.

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

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

5.2 Evaluation

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

A mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the suitability of expanding the scope of the action within already targeted countries or to other displacement situations.

A final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision). All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is considering 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 Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 1 month in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination²⁷. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

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.

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 programs are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing

²⁷ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

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.

The present Action identifies as:

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