EN

THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX 30

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Sub-Saharan Africa for 2022 - 2026 Part 2

Action Document for the Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa Phase II (FMM West Africa II)"

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

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title **CRIS/OPSYS business reference** **Basic Act**	Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa Phase II OPSYS number: ACT-61484 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	Team Europe Initiatives on the Western Mediterranean and Atlantic Route and on the Central Mediterranean route.
3. Zone benefiting from the action	West Africa region (ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania)
4. Programming document	Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme (MIP) of the NDICI 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	The action will contribute to the Migration, Mobility and Forced Displacement priority of the regional MIP, and in particular Specific Objective 1: Contribute to strengthening migration management, migration policy, and migration governance in Sub-Saharan Africa.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Priority Area 6: Migration and Forced Displacement
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 8 [Decent Work and Economic Growth] Other significant SDGs and where appropriate, targets: SDG 5 [Gender Equality], SDG 10 [Reduce inequality within and among countries] SDG 13 [Climate Action]; SDG 16 [Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels]; as well as SDG 17 [Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development].
8 a) DAC code(s)	DAC Code 1- 15190- Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility DAC Code 2- 13010- Population and administrative management DAC Code 3- 16062- Statistical capacity building
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	47000-Other multilateral institution 47066-International Organisation for Migration

9. Targets	☒Migration ☐ Climate ☐ Social inclusion and Human Development ☐ Gender ☐ Biodiversity ☐ Education ☐ Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
10. Markers (from DAC form)	**General policy objective** @	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Participation development/good governance	☐	☐	☒
	Aid to environment @	☒	☐	☐
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	☐	☒	☐
	Trade development	☒	☐	☐
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	☒	☐	☐
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	☒	☐	☐
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	☒	☐	☐
	Nutrition @	☒	☐	☐
	RIO Convention markers	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Biological diversity @	☒	☐	☐
	Combat desertification @	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change mitigation @	☒	☐	☐
	Climate change adaptation @	☒	☐	☐
11. Internal markers and Tag:	**Policy objectives**	**Not targeted**	**Significant objective**	**Principal objective**
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship	☐	☒ ☐ ☒ ☐ ☒ ☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

	job creation digital skills/literacy digital services		☒	☐
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	☐	☒ ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐	☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	☐	☐	☒
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	☐	☒	☐
	Covid-19	☐	☒	☐
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2023-14.020120-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 34 000 000 Total amount of contribution: EUR 34 000 000 The Action will contribute to two Migration TEIs. EUMS indicative contributions to be confirmed. AWMED TEI EUMS: BE, DE, CZ, DK, ES, FR, NL, IT, CH as an associated country CENTRAL MED TEI EUMS: AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FR, NL, IT, MT. CH as an associated country.			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and International Labour Organization (ILO)			

1.2 Summary of the Action

The overall objective of the proposed intervention is to maximize the development potential of free movement of persons and migration within a more secure and rights-based Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the context of the regional integration process. Free movement of persons within the ECOWAS zone is crucial for regional economic integration and labour market integration. This should be achieved by supporting the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Free movement Protocol and the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration at the regional, national and local levels.

Previous EU support towards the implementation of ECOWAS migration related policies and frameworks was instrumental in improving migration governance in the region. The 10th EDF "Support to Free Movement and Migration" (FMM West Africa) programme strengthened migration governance at regional and national level, with

the inclusion of civil society, through a multi-stakeholder consortium implementation modality. The project was strongly aligned with international and regional commitments on migration management and came to an end in March 2021 after 7 years of successful implementation. Conceived as a continuation of the previous programme, the "Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration-Phase II (FMM II)" will consolidate the achievements under the first phase of the programme at the ECOWAS and Member States' levels, as well as Mauritania's. The programme will be implemented at regional, national and local level, with the main objective of effectively implementing the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol and the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration. The main areas of intervention will be migration governance and migration management, targeted through stronger institutional regional dialogue, actions with a national focus as well as partnerships for engagement of civil society and local authorities in migration.

The new programme will be implemented over a course of a 5 years period from 2023 to 2028 and will be firmly anchored in the priorities of ECOWAS and in the recommendations received through numerous studies and evaluations of EU support in the area of migration and mobility in the region. The Action is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG target 10.7 (Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people), and the European Consensus for Development, which recognises the importance of migration and mobility to inclusive growth and sustainable development. Furthermore, the Action will contribute to the external dimension of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum as well asthe Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). It recognises that in West Africa migration and mobility flows are largely intra-African, and that a well-implemented free movement regime can be part of a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to migration and mobility. The action is also in line with EU political priorities and strategies on migration, such as the EU pact on Migration and Asylum; the on-going dialogues and Action Plans from the EU-AU Continent to Continent Migration and Mobility Dialogue (C2CMMD), the Joint Valletta Action Plan, the Rabat Process, as well as the associated policy documents such as the African Union's (AU) Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018 – 2030). The action is expected to contribute to delivering on the Joint vision for 2030 set out at the latest European Union (EU)-African Union (AU) Summit held in February 2022. On this occasion, both continents' leaders agreed on an enhanced and reciprocal partnership for migration and mobility. The Action will also contribute to the Team Europe Initiatives on the Atlantic/Western Mediterranean route, and on the Central Mediterranean route, especially in migration governance as well as the fight against trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. Finally, the programme will give the EU the opportunity to continue contributing to migration governance in the ECOWAS region at regional, national and local levels. Scaling up support to promote intra-regional mobility can contribute to decreasing irregular migration towards Europe and will give the EU new impetus for region-wide political dialogue on migration with origin and transit countries in the region.

2. RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) aims to promote economic integration among its 15 Member States (MS). The ECOWAS bloc's countries are characterised by high mobility due to millions of community citizens and migrants traversing its borders every day. The demographics of a growing, young population combined with a lack of access to quality training and education systems and decent work opportunities in countries of origin are among the drivers of regional labour migration in West Africa. Part of the regional migration is irregular, linked to conflict, climate change, limited access to regular migration channels and weak asylum processing systems. Moreover, the complex link between migration, environment and climate change continues indeed to have an unprecedented impact on human mobility, livelihoods and food security.

The ECOWAS 1979 Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, the Protocols on the Right of Residence and Establishment and subsequent supplementary Protocols set the legal framework for free movement in the region. The 2006 joint ECOWAS-WAEMU regional strategic document, the 2008 ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration, the ECOWAS Vision 2020 and the ECOWAS Strategic Plan 2020-2024 acknowledge the potential that free movement and migration have for regional development provided that they are adequately managed. Since its inception, ECOWAS has fostered coordinated responses to migration governance, through policy dialogue frameworks, such as the Migration Dialogue in West Africa (MIDWA), as well as the tripartite Social Dialogue Forum (SDF).

The Common Approach on Migration is the foundational policy document guiding ECOWAS Member States on migration-related matters since 2008. Moreover, ECOWAS Protocols encourage Member States to adopt national rights-based labour migration policies in order to address labour market imbalances while ensuring effective protection of migrant workers. Although Mauritania withdrew from its full ECOWAS membership in 2000, the country participates in the Migration Dialogue in West Africa (MIDWA), as it remains a major country of transit and destination in Sub-Saharan Africa. Mauritania is also targeted by the Team Europe Initiative along the Atlantic/Western Mediterranean route.

Apart from the establishment of regional consultative processes such as the Migration Dialogue for Economic Community of West Africa (MIDWA) and the Social Dialogue Forum (SDF) other major reforms have been recorded in the past years. They aimed at contributing to facilitating free movement and mobility, promoting security in the region, as well as validating the ECOWAS Regional Migration Policy and migration policies at national level. These reforms include inter alia the ECOWAS General Convention on Social security Regional Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour in West Africa 2021-2030; the establishment of the Heads of Immigration Meeting (HOI); the removal of the visa requirement for citizens of ECOWAS Member States; as well as the adoption and deployment of the ECOWAS National Biometric Identity Card (ENBIC).

Overall, the EU has positively influenced the ECOWAS' regional migration governance, as well as policy context. At regional level, EU's assistance has enhanced the planning, coordination and monitoring capacities of the ECOWAS Commission to lead intra-regional dialogue and act as a platform for development and harmonisation. At the national level, the EU strengthened the capacities of selected national institutions to manage migration in line with regional strategic policy frameworks, whilst contributing to strengthening regional dialogue. The Demand-Driven Facility (DDF), established under the previous phase of the programme, was instrumental in building institutional capacity. It contributed to achieving objectives already outlined in national policies, strategies or action plans and addressed the needs of the requesting institutions without duplicating existing initiatives in the region. Non-State Actors and Local Authorities were also supported through the implementation of initiatives promoting migrants' and cross-border populations' rights. Ultimately, improvement of free movement and migration governance within West Africa was pursued through a multi-disciplinary approach. The action will build on previous achievements in order to maximise and continue strengthening the region's development potential and leverage the EU's role in West Africa and Africa in general.

2.2 Problem Analysis

ECOWAS' migration and labour migration governance are still constrained by resources, limited capacity and heavy bureaucracy at different levels. Major challenges towards the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol and Common Approach on Migration at all levels of governance include: (i) Inadequate capacity for policy development and implementation; (ii) Poor border management; (iii) Irregular migration; (iv) Climate change-induced migration, (v) Inefficient migrant protection affecting vulnerable groups in particular (e.g. women, youth, LGBTQI+ individuals); (vi) Overall weak migration data coverage; (vii) Weak civil society structures. All these challenges present an urgent need to be addressed as they represent an impediment towards free mobility within the region.

At regional level, the degree of implementation of the Free movement Protocol by Member States varies significantly. ECOWAS lacks a policy for the management of its common external borders and has been unable to create a joint border force of all 15 states that screens people coming from outside the region. Major challenges still remain at land borders where immigration, customs and other border officials are often reported to harass travellers, especially women, during border checks. It is envisaged that the establishment of monitoring units will address concerns of Community citizens by alleviating the impediments which obstruct the application of the Free Movement Protocol as well as provide data for ECOWAS on labour market, cross-border movements, harassment and extortion along the border to better inform policy making. The regional consultative processes - Migration Dialogue in West Africa (MIDWA), Heads of Immigration (HOI) meeting and Social Dialogue Forum (SDF) - designed to encourage ECOWAS Member States to discuss common migration issues and concerns in a regional context have not been consistently operational in the past years whereas they contribute to the overall objective of the free movement protocol. While a regional approach to trafficking in human beings has been systematized through support provided to the Focal Points' Annual Review meetings, gaps in reporting on implementation of the ECOWAS' THB Directives still exist.

Furthermore, migrant smuggling has only been addressed indirectly under the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework which pursues the objective of fighting cross-border crime, and the ECOWAS Draft Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Implementation Plan which addresses THB. The Taskforce on Irregular migration, conceived in 2015

to provide a regional concerted response for the management of irregular migrant flows through the Nigerian route is not operational. Implementation of the phase-out of the current intra-ECOWAS Travel Certificate and the new ECOWAS National Biometric Identity Card (ENBIC) for travel among the Community's States is at various levels and has been hampered by technical, policy, legal and financial challenges that are preventing Member States from moving forward. This in turn impacts severely on intra-regional free travel.

Other mainstream challenges affecting migration and mobility within the ECOWAS region include climate change and gender equality. This Action will pay particular attention to them. Identifying the linkages between migration, climate change and environmental degradation is central to understanding the additional drivers of migration and mobility as well as to deciding on additional areas of intervention to further support regional integration and development. This is a complex policy area which is currently under-developed at regional level. Existing structures within the ECOWAS Commission, ECOWAS Member States, EU, IOM, the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) and its thematic groups can accommodate migration, climate change and environment nexus considerations in order to mainstream these issues. Likewise, on gender equality, more could be done at ECOWAS level to ensure that sufficient and coherent policies are adopted. ECOWAS has incorporated gender equality in its legal framework, specifically in its revised treaty article 63, targeting the "enhancement of the economic, social, and cultural conditions of women''. However, a large number of women and men – particularly those with low incomes or those living in rural areas – are still discriminated against and therefore cannot reap the benefits of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol. To address this, there is a need to better understand the position of women and girls as well as men and boys on the potential benefits of the Free Movement Protocol. The intervention will strengthen the implementation of gender-responsive policies by the ECOWAS Commission, regional partners and member states' programmes and ensure that both women and men have equal rights and opportunities in terms of free movement. More generally, there is a need to ensure the respect, implementation and enforcement of fundamental principles and rights for migrant workers.

At the Member States level, divergent interests, security issues, limited capacity and budgetary constraints represent the main challenges preventing the full application of ECOWAS free movement policies. Internal border checks by each individual State prevent ECOWAS citizens from enjoying peacefully the benefits of the Free movement Protocol. More generally, the iterative approach of the DDF will ensure that emergent needs at member states level are addressed with the ultimate aim of attaining ECOWAS regional integration objectives. Unlike ICMPD-led MIEUX actions that prioritize the use of experts from EU Member States to foster peer to peer exchange between European officials and their West African counterparts, the DDF prioritises national and West African expertise based on the regional context, while ensuring complementarity with initiatives implemented by the other consortium partners as well as through bilateral EU supported programmes at national level.

At local level, despite the establishment of the Non-State Actor Fund during the previous phase, civil society does not have the necessary means, neither technical nor financial, to raise awareness on migrants' rights and build the bridge with local authorities. Due to the non-existence of a comprehensive ECOWAS- Non-State Actors Engagement Strategy, ECOWAS has not yet fully engaged Non-State Actors or related entities such as the private sector, academia, migrant's associations, worker's and employers' organizations and youth groups in addressing critical challenges in the implementation of the Protocol. Civil society actors can be agents for transformation of public opinions on migration and are expected to contribute to promoting intra-regional mobility as opposed to irregular migration options to Europe.

Overall, full implementation of the Free Movement Protocol needs efficient and functional borders, able to facilitate movements, particularly those of ECOWAS citizens while maintaining security and control. Through this Action, the EU proposes engagement with the ECOWAS Commission, Member States and Mauritania to enhance their efforts in promoting free movement and the conditions for migration and mobility. It is also clear that there is a need to continue supporting Non-State Actors, social partners and local authorities to enhance their technical and operational capacities to implement the free movement protocol and address concrete issues preventing mobility.

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

The ECOWAS Commission Free Movement of Persons and the Humanitarian and Social Affairs Departments are the key regional stakeholders in this programme. The Departments of Statistics and Private Sector will also be thoroughly involved in the programme. The office of the President and Vice-President will play a key role in ensuring ownership both at the Commission and Member State levels. The ECOWAS Commission has fully participated in the formulation process and remains fully committed to the implementation of the Action. In addition, the Action will

engage and work with the African Union, sub-regional groups of workers' and employers' organizations as well as with relevant EU Delegations, IOM, ICMPD and ILO offices in the region as the three implementing agencies.

National stakeholders include ECOWAS Member States Governments and Mauritania; public employment services; counter-trafficking departments; national institutions involved in the production of migration-related data; diaspora Commissions and organizations; employers' and workers' organizations; private sector, including chambers of commerce; local authorities; media organizations; academia. The present Action will focus on both capacity-building and strengthening institutional coordination.

At local level, the Action will target Non-State Actors including social partners and Civil Society Organizations (Regional CSOs and Local CSOs), as these partners are central to the achievement of the ECOWAS vision for development and integration within the region. Awareness raising and sensitization campaigns of grassroots and border communities on the economic development of youth and women groups as well as on migrant and labour rights are foreseen to help establish a link between the ECOWAS Commission, Member States, LAs, border and grassroots communities.

Other stakeholders active in the area of migration such as Frontex, UNODC and EU Member States have indicated acknowledgement of the project's key objectives, expected results and main activities during consultations in the context of MIDWA, GCM consultations for ECOWAS and ECOWAS Member States, the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC) and the Niamey Declaration.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The ***overall objective*** of the action is to maximise the development potential of free movement of persons and migration in West Africa by supporting the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement of Persons' Protocols, the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration.

The Objectives (Outcomes) of this action are:

SO1: Strengthened capacities of the ECOWAS Commission to implement the free movement protocol through intra-regional dialogue on free movement and migration issues, policy development, harmonization as well as monitoring the application and implementation of the Free movement Protocol

SO2: Enhanced capacities of national institutions of ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania in the areas of migration data collection and management, migration policy development, border management, labour migration, counter trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, diaspora engagement, and migration, environment and climate change.

SO3: Increased capacities of Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in the areas of information and protection for the benefit of migrants, returnees and cross-border populations in West Africa.

Expected results (outputs) are as follows :

SO1: Strengthened capacities of the ECOWAS Commission to implement free movement protocol through intra-regional dialogue on free movement and migration issues, policy development, harmonisation as well as monitoring of the application and implementation of the Free movement Protocol

Output 1.1.: Capacity of ECOWAS Commission to conduct and lead selected MIDWA regional ministerial and technical working group meetings, as well as tripartite dialogue on labour migration and mobility through the Social Dialogue Forum (SDF) strengthened
Output 1.2.: Data collection, management capacities and implementation of the Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Migration Data Management in the ECOWAS Region operationalized and strengthened
Output 1.3.: ECOWAS capacity in document examination, data management and trends analysis to exchange information and share regional migration trends through the Heads of Immigration (HOI) and Integrated Border Management (IBM) Working Group meetings enhanced

Output 1.4.: Capacity of the ECOWAS Commission in planning, coordination, monitoring and reporting in the area of counter-trafficking in human beings, migrant smuggling and child labour strengthened

Output 1.5: Evidence-based understanding of environmental migration in West Africa to support policy development and knowledge sharing strengthened

Output 1.6: Regional public information and sensitization on the Free Movement Protocol, Integrated Border Management, migration, environment and climate change; Countering Trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling, labour migration, Cross border communities, ENBIC and regional integration enhanced

Output 1.7: Regional governance frameworks for labour migration, mobility, protection and access to social protection for female and male migrant workers as well as children in the ECOWAS region strengthened

SO2: Enhanced capacities of selected national institutions of ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania in the areas of migration data collection and management, migration policy development, border management, labour migration, counter-trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, diaspora engagement, and migration, environment and climate change.

Output 2.1.: ECOWAS Policies and Frameworks in the field of migration management operationalized in MS
Output 2.2.: Capacities of Member States border management in legal identity/identity management enhancing the security and compatibility of travel documents increased, through ensuring technical and advisory expertise towards the rollout of the roadmap of the ECOWAS Biometric ID card and the development and implementation of a strategy for monitoring at border posts in pilot border areas
Output 2.3.: Harmonisation and standardisation of Training manuals of border agencies in MS, in line with the ECOWAS Border Management and Free Movement manual enhanced
Output 2.4.: Capacity of MS to combat child labour, forced labour, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants in the region enhanced, including improved data collection and analysis, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of THB/SOM interventions reinforced

Output 2.5.: National governance frameworks for labour migration and mobility enhanced and protection of men and women migrant workers strengthened

Output 2.6.: Harmonisation of MS data collection with the 2018 International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration through Phase II of a Labour Market and Migration Information System (LMMIS) in ECOWAS Member States enhanced

Output 2.7: Technical capacities of national institutions to implement the provisions of the various regional instruments on Free Movement and to mainstream gender, climate change and protection of human rights in migration governance strengthened.

NB: outputs under SO2 will be complementary to outputs supported by the EU at national level in the ECOWAS region and Mauritania to ensure that all relevant Member States institutions have the required capacities to contribute to the overall objective of the action while avoiding duplications.

SO3: Increased capacities of Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in information and protection activities for the benefit of migrants, returnees and cross-border populations in West Africa.

Output 3.1.: Civil society in ECOWAS Region and private sector awareness raising on the Protocol on Free Movement and Regional Integration Agenda promoted
Output 3.2: Non-State Actors and Local Authorities, including women's organisations and movements promoting gender equality, access to initiatives actively supporting protection of migrants, returnees and cross-border populations' rights increased

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1.1:

- Support the organisation of selected regional ministerial and TWG/Thematic/Steering Committee/Secretariat meetings (MIDWA) as well as the organization of regional SDF meetings;

Activities relating to Output 1.2:

- Undertake baseline surveys to identify existing needs and priorities of the ECOWAS Commission on migration management, and data collection as well as on immigration and border management;
- Support the ECOWAS Commission in developing a Regional Migration Profile as well as coordinate, develop, and publish the ECOWAS annual migration data report.

Activities relating to Output 1.3:

- Organise the annual "Heads of Immigration Meeting (HOI)";

Activities relating to output 1.4:

- Conduct an impact assessment and prepare a new Plan of Action on Combating THB and SOM in the region;
- Support planning, monitoring and coordination activities of the ECOWAS THB unit, through the organisation of ECOWAS Annual Review Meeting of THB/SOM focal points;
- Support ECOWAS in drafting and validating an ECOWAS Plan of Action on combatting smuggling of migrants (SOM);
- Develop a monitoring framework for the ECOWAS Regional Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour, prepare a regional child labour report, and publish the Regional Action Plan and the ECOWAS Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems and its Guidelines for Implementation;
- Support collaboration of national child labour focal points at the regional level through a dedicated platform;
- Develop and validate Regional Mixed Migration Strategy;

Activities relating to Output 1.5:

- Strengthen the capacity of the ECOWAS and Member states on mainstreaming nature-based solutions, green jobs and create livelihood opportunities;
- Strengthen the capacity of ECOWAS and Member states to develop/update/finalize the implementation of the ECOWAS Climate strategy;

Activities relating to output 1.6:

- Update the regional public information strategy on the Free Movement Protocol, integrated border management and regional integration to reach a wider scope;
- Raise awareness of the community citizens and border officials through robust sensitization using available media to build their capacity on the privileges of the Free movement protocol to promote safe and orderly movement within the region (ENBIC);

Activities relating to output 1.7:

- Support the capacity of the ECOWAS Commission to evaluate the implementation of the ECOWAS Protocols on Free Movement of Persons;

Activities relating to Output 2.1:

- Coordinate and organize National Coordination Mechanisms with respect to the national review plans of continental and global migration management frameworks such as the GCM;
- Conduct trainings and capacity building activities on mainstreaming migration management into national policies;

Activities relating to Output 2.2:

- Develop a national ECOWAS biometric ID card roll out road map;
- Establish and or strengthen the selected Monitoring unit Points of Entries;
- Establish and coordinate together with ECOWAS the Steering Committee meetings for the Monitoring Posts;

Activities relating to Output 2.3:

- Update the ECOWAS Border Management and Free Movement manual in line with current trends and realities (e.g. pandemics);

Activities relating to Output 2.4:

- Assessment of the capacities of MS THB focal points on regional border management, data collection and analysis, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of THB and SOM interventions;
- Organise training activities to strengthen the capacity of THB/SOM focal persons to collect, analyse and report THB and SOM related data;

Activities relating to Output 2.5:

- Organise training workshops and provide technical support to ECOWAS MS in the development, evaluation and revision of rights-based and gender-responsive labour migration policies and facilitate the engagement of workers' and employers' organizations;
- Provide technical support to ECOWAS MS and social partners in the application of the Guide for Policymakers on the Protection of Migrant Workers' Rights;
- Organize capacity building and training workshops to advance practical implementation of bilateral and multilateral social security agreements at the national level and support national reforms to alleviate barriers to portability of rights;

Activities relating to Output 2.6:

- Develop a harmonized questionnaire for West African countries for data collection on Labour Market and Migration;
- Produce and adopt Technical Plan for the regular collection and dissemination of data on the 7 Labour Market and Migration indicators proposed and adopted by 7 MS in the first phase;
- Develop training curricula and train labour migration focal points in MS on labour market and migration information systems adapted to the West African context;

Activities relating to 2.7:

- Conduct preparatory activities for the implementation of the Demand Driven Facility (DDF) for National Institutions;

Activities relating to Output 3.1:

- Launch two calls for proposals for non-state actors including social partners and local authorities for the implementation of prevention, advocacy and assistance activities targeting migrants and cross-border populations, in particular vulnerable migrants and populations at risk: women, children and youth, stranded migrants, victims of trafficking;
- Provide training for non-state actors including social partners and local authorities for the implementation of prevention, advocacy and assistance activities targeting migrants and cross-border populations;

Activities relating to Output 3.2:

- Organise advocacy and sensitization campaigns with civil society actors, private sector, transport owners and unions, border communities and border officials in the implementation of Free Movement Protocol;

Organise a regional stakeholder consultation as useful mechanism for gaining buy-in and insight for gender-responsive.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Acknowledging the risk that climate change and environmental degradation pose for stability and prosperity of the region, the proposal outlines a holistic strategy that approaches to environmental degradation both as a root cause and an effect of internal and international migration and displacement. In synergy with the project "Implementing Global Policies on Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement in West Africa" led by IOM together with the Platform on Disaster Displacement (PDD) and funded by the Government of France, the programme will aim at promoting a shared understanding among regional and national stakeholders, identifying the priority issues and defining strategies to support States to implement at regional and national levels the commitments made under the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) Objectives 2 and 5 related to environmental migration and disaster displacement. Based on the results of FMM and the intermediary results of the project "Implementing Global Policies on Environmental Migration and Disaster Displacement in West Africa" and taking into consideration current happenings within the region and the world as a whole, the Action will aim at improving the knowledge of the community citizens of the rights and obligations toward the Free Movement Protocol; advocating to Member states on the status of the implementation of the Free Movement protocol vis-à-vis environment and climate change, developing and implementing policy related to the subject matter, working hand-in-hand with Non-State Actors to improve the environment and reduce the effect on migration.

Intensification of dialogue and cooperation between ECOWAS, its Member States and international partners, on measures addressing environmental degradation, climate change and migration is in this regard essential. At regional level, where communities and economies are particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate change, the Action, through MIDWA, will contribute to a comprehensive policy dialogue, at several levels of governance and in alignment with the commitments made by ECOWAS and its Member States in the framework of GCM, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Last but not least, the Action, under the leadership of ILO, will conduct labour market assessments and market system analyses to identify opportunities for local green job creation in migration-prone areas. Relevant synergies with other actors involved in this area such as the World Bank will be also pursued.

Outcomes of the SEA screening (relevant for budget support and strategic-level interventions)
The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening concluded that no further action was required.

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

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

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

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

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that Gender equality is a significant objective of the programme. During project inception period, a gender analysis will be developed taking into consideration the entire regional and national project engagement to develop an FMM wide plan. The EU is committed to scaling up its engagement with Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE) through the Gender Action Plan III14. Technical assistance will support the strengthening of the efforts on GEWE with a human-rights approach. Lessons learned through COMISA will be incorporated into the action.

Human Rights

Human rights, gender and conflict prevention are all fundamental issues that will be integrated throughout the programme cycle from design to implementation.

Disability

Social protection is addressed under the labour migration activities and disability is covered by social dialogue supported by the Action.

Democracy

The proposed intervention recognises the importance to intensify efforts to mainstream democracy.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Conflict prevention will be integrated using dialogue at regional and national level and through specific actions to ensure that no tensions between national authorities and ECOWAS bodies hamper the implementation of the programme.

Disaster Risk Reduction

The Action acknowledges that climate change and environmental degradation pose for migration, stability and prosperity of the region. This Action will approach environmental degradation both as a root cause and as an effect of internal and international migration and displacement.

Other considerations if relevant

Access to health care in migration movements also remains a challenge that could be addressed under the labour migration component (in relation with the social protection of migrants). Crosscutting issues addressed by the project include youth and children, who are targeted as special vulnerable groups, along with victims of trafficking and stranded migrants.

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

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

Risk category 1 – External environment	Security situation deteriorates in ECOWAS countries	H	H	A rigorous risk assessment will help inform programmatic decision making. The programme together with ECOWAS will make informed decisions to halt implementation or suspend activities in hotspot countries and resume once the situation improves. Varying levels of communication will be established and strengthened to triangulate information and assess the risk impact. The EU will also support the police and other key security agencies for improvement in security provision through other projects.
Risk category 1 – External environment	Outbreak of infectious diseases i.e Ebola, Covid etc.	H	H	A flexible approach combining satellite programme implementation, remote monitoring and in person physical implementation will be adopted by the project based on lessons learned from the implementation of the previous programme. Furthermore, the project will implement projects at border crossings for an enhanced Integrated Health Border Management.
Risk category 2 – Planning, processes and systems	Project management structure comprising three international organisations with variable levels of representation and presence across the ECOWAS region that bring about competing interests, disagreements, and coordination challenges between the implementing agencies, although this is a risk well identified and manageable	H	M	The project will seek to elevate the coordination mechanism put in place under FMM. A MoU or a coordination and conflict resolution strategy will be developed which will provide clear roles and responsibilities for the lead agency and lead ECOWAS Directorate as well as implementing partners. The strategy will contain coordination, communication, visibility and conflict resolution plans of action.

Risk category 2 – Planning, processes and systems	Delays and deficiencies in delivering the NSA grant scheme	H	H	The programme will combine approaches including remote monitoring and supervision from Abuja and an in-depth monitoring and decentralised management from IOM country offices resulting in the recruitment of dedicated Programme Offices in each NSA country location. Capacity building support to selected NSAs will ensure their awareness of rules and regulations of the grant, as well to provide targeted training to address identified project management skills and capacity gaps. A communication and risk assessment mechanism will be developed to ensure that NSAs are supported to implement projects in accordance with FMM and EU policies and in line with the parameters of the grant scheme.
Risk category 2 – Planning, processes and systems	Communication, coordination and visibility challenges	M	M	The programme will continue the mitigation measure communication and coordination mechanism put in place during FMM implementation. Regular channels and intervals for exchange, ensuring adequate information will be made available in accessible formats to enable preparatory actions for outcome-oriented consultations and engagement. The FMM communications project team will consist of EU Delegation in Abuja and all the EUD in MS, ECOWAS Commission technical and senior management staff as well as country offices, stakeholders and implementing agencies.

Risk category 3 – People and organisation	Limited staff resources and the competing demands upon ECOWAS staff within the Directorate of Free Movement and the Directorate of Humanitarian and Social Affairs.	H	H	The programme will continue to undertake technical capacity building support with ECOWAS in recruiting expertise, organising trainings and workshops for ECOWAS Staff, development of Standing Operating Procedures to ensure smooth delivery of plans and organising regular meetings with ECOWAS technical and senior management staff.
Risk category 3 – People and organisation	Insufficient/inconsistent engagement and/or support from ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania	M	M	The programme will continue to work closely with representatives and focal points from ECOWAS MS and Mauritania to encourage active participation within relevant regional-level consultations, events and activities.

Lessons Learned: Many of the products supported by FMM are now ECOWAS tools which in turn have made ECOWAS stronger in migration governance in the continent and will serve as the starting point for the implementation of the new Action. FMM has supported ECOWAS Member States on migration governance through the development of National Migration Policies and Profiles as well as Labour Migration Policies and has been complementary to projects at national level. Furthermore, the flexible DDF component offered MS the opportunity to delve deeper into concrete actions and explore innovative approaches to translating ECOWAS objectives into actions at the country level. FMM was also the first cooperation platform where migrant smuggling had been discussed in the region. Lessons learned from holding MIDWA thematic groups on border management, cross-border crime or climate change-induced migration demonstrated how this format can contribute to support the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement of Persons' Protocols as well as the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration. More attention will also be paid to mainstreaming gender issues, with a particular focus on women and children. At local level, FMM enhanced the capacities of the Civil Society Organizations and Non-State Actors on furthering the ECOWAS Commissions' integration and Free Movement Protocol Agenda but more needs to be done to fully engage civil society within the region. The second phase will incorporate achievements under the EUTF COMISA programme as well as the regional civil society partnership component of the 11th EDF "Action against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Nigeria" programme that has launched and supported a regional network of civil society organisations active in the area of counter-trafficking.

The strengths of the partnership established under FMM remain visible through the ongoing collaboration amongst ECOWAS secretariat, implementing partners as well as EU Delegations. However, there is a need to restructure and mainstream inter-agency coordination, collaboration and communication. Synergies and complementarities were established between FMM and the Rabat Process, GCM and AFIC when it comes to commitments of ECOWAS and its Member States vis-à-vis these platforms as well as with other national and regional projects implemented in the region. Synergies will need to be ensured and explored between FMM II and future regional and national programmes under the Global Europe instrument in the areas of migration, peace and security, police cooperation, rule of law and counter-terrorism. EU support towards the implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement Protocol helped position the EU as a key partner on free movement and migration governance in West Africa. EU engagement with longstanding partners in migration management active in the region, such as international organisations, EU member states and specialised EU agencies in justice and home affairs continues to be important and of relevance to the objective of the action. It has also been identified that it is in the EU's interest to engage into further work on regional mobility, in order to avoid fragmented and uncoordinated approaches by bridging the gap between actions implemented at the national level and the ECOWAS policy framework.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that:

IF ECOWAS, with the support of the Action, delivers its mandate in a professional manner, with consolidated processes and sustainable effects, building their institutional memory and their capacities to proactively adjust to the challenges imposed on the implementation of the free movement protocol because of the pandemic AND mobilises its Member States and advocates for the implementation of the various instruments that have been developed to facilitate free movement in the region;

AND IF Members States and Mauritania, with the support of the Action, confirm their buy-in to the implementation of the Free Movement Protocol at the highest levels, including in regional fora and platforms for migration dialogue, as well as implementation of national migration frameworks and policies;

AND IF CSOs and non-state actors contribute to the implementation of the protocol by ensuring that institutional stakeholders are kept accountable to the public because of an effective civil society both at national and local levels;

AND IF, a favourable environment is created that will strengthen the technical expertise of community citizens, enhance regional integration, free movement and development, including governments, women and men, support the development aspirations and opportunities for NSAs, CSOs, cross border communities from Member States,

THEN this would contribute to the overall implementation of the Free Movement Protocol and the ECOWAS Common Approach to Migration.

The impact of the project will be in scaling-up solutions to free movement in West Africa (FMM) through leveraging value generated through extensive capacity building, dialogues, top-down and bottom-up approaches towards policy development and implementation as well as the inclusion of NSAs, CSOs and cross border communities, thereby strengthening the nexus between regional integration, free movement, development and migration in the West Africa region.

The intermediate outcome of the project is: "Regional and national capacity for ECOWAS and Member States, in-depth regional dialogue on migration management, multilateral sources and methods of migration data collection and analyses, policy review and development, awareness, information sharing and sensitization, that all together, provide opportunities for reinforcing the benefits of an inclusive free movement, regional integration and community of citizens rather than of states".

The **overall objective** will be achieved through the implementation of mutually-reinforcing Strategic Objectives, outcomes and outputs as elaborated in the Log Frame. The inclusion of capacity-building activities at both regional and national level in data-management and evidence-based policy making as well as in the three interrelated areas of border management, labour migration management, smuggling of migrants and counter-trafficking in human beings, is a distinctive advantage of the project. At the same time, the flexible and demand-driven mechanism proposed for capacity-building activities will ensure maximum adequacy to national contexts and priorities. The Non-State Actors component will enhance the other two levels of intervention by ensuring an inclusive approach to migration governance at all levels of society.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To maximise the development potential of free movement of persons and migration in West Africa by supporting the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Free Movement of Persons' Protocols and the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration	1.Number of laws, policies and strategies on migration management developed/updated with the support of the Action 2. Number of state institutions and non-state Non- State Actors supported on security, border management, countering violent extremism, conflict prevention, protection of civilian population and human rights 3.Number of grassroots civil society organisations benefitting from EU support 4. Number and percentage of new actions that are gender responsive/targeted at country/regional levels	1.Zero (0) 2. Zero (0) 3. Zero (0) 4. Zero (0)	1. 40 by 2028 2. 110 by 2028 3. 16 by 2028 4. 85% of national/regional actions by 2028	ECOWAS annual synthesis reports Policy/framework/manuals discussed and validated. Project annual reports. MIDWA annual ministerial reports. Meeting reports Strategies available	*Not applicable*
Outcome 1	SO1: Strengthened capacities of the ECOWAS Commission to implement the free movement protocol through intra-regional dialogue on free movement and migration issues, policy development, harmonization as well as monitoring the application and implementation of the Free movement Protocol.	1.1 No. of Regional Ministerial MIDWA meetings held, No. of MIDWA technical Working Group meetings held. 1.2. No. of Policy/framework/manuals discussed and validated. 1.3. No. of ECOWAS annual meetings held on labour market and migration system 1.4. No. of ECOWAS Annual review meetings on THB/SOM held 1.5 No of meetings organized to Increase Advocacy for funding of	1.1 Zero (0) 1.2. Zero (0) 1.3. Zero (0) 1.4 Zero (0) 1.5 Zero (0)	1.1 Four (4) one meeting per year and Sixteen (16) Four per year 1.2. Sixteen (16) Four per year 1.3 Three (3) 1.4 Three (3) 1.5 four (4)	MIDWA annual ministerial reports. Project annual reports. Policy/framework/manuals discussed and validated. Minutes of meetings ECOWAS Meeting reports ECOWAS annual synthesis reports Report of meetings	Commitment of ECOWAS Commission and ECOWAS Member States towards the implementation of the Free Movement Protocol

		ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration				
Outcome 2	SO2: Enhanced capacities of national institutions of ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania in the areas of migration data collection and management, migration policy development, border management, labour migration, counter trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, diaspora engagement, and migration, environment and climate change.	2.1. No. of immigration academies with training curricula/manual harmonised with the regional BM and FM manual 2.2. No. of trainings organised for MS focal points trained 2.3. No. of MS reporting LMMIS data to ECOWAS 2.4. No. of ECOWAS MS benefitting from the Demand-Driven Facility.	2.1 To be defined in baseline report 2.2 Zero (0) 2.3 Zero (0) 2.4 Zero (0)	2.1 At least four (4) 2.2 At least four (4) 2.3. At least five (5) MS 2.4. At least ten (10) MS	Action Fiche Training Reports ARM meeting reports Committee meeting reports Action fiches Technical Committee reports	ECOWAS MS build ownership of co-operation mechanisms within country and regionally
Outcome 3	**SO3:** Increased capacities of Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in the areas of information and protection for the benefit of migrants, returnees and cross-border populations in West Africa.	3.1. ECOWAS Non-State Actors engagement strategy drafted, validated, available and implemented. 3.2. Database for Regional and National NSA partners, stakeholders and actors developed and utilized. 3.3. No. of NSAs at national and regional level supported.	3.1 Zero (0) 3.2 Zero (0) 3.3 Zero (0) 3.4 Zero (0)	3.1 Yes 3.2 Yes 3.3. Fifteen (15)	Project annual progress report. Meeting reports Strategies available NSA databases	Civil society and local authorities all willing to participate in activities supporting the implementation of the protocol
Output 1.1 related to Outcome 1	1.1. Capacity of ECOWAS Commission to conduct and lead selected MIDWA and regional meetings is strengthened and Capacity of ECOWAS Commission to conduct tripartite dialogue on labour migration and mobility through the Social Dialogue Forum (SDF) strengthened.	1.1.1. No. of Technical experts recruited. 1.1.2. No. of ECOWAS Departments engaged and supported. 1.1.3. No. of MIDWA thematic working groups engaged. 1.1.4. No. of regional SDF meetings held 1.1.5 No. of SDF working groups meetings held 1.1.6 SDF sustainability strategy available	1.1.1. Zero (0) 1.1.2. Zero (0) 1.1.3. Zero (0) 1.1.4. Zero (0) 1.1.5 Zero (0) 1.1.6 Zero (0) 1.1.7. Zero (0) 1.1.8 Zero (0) 1.1.9 Zero (0) 1.1.10 Zero (0)	1.1.1. Five (5) 1.1.2. Four (4) 1.1.3. Eight (8) 1.1.4. At least two (2) 1.1.5 At least four (4) working group meetings held 1.1.6 Yes 1.1.7 At least five (5) 1.1.8 Two (2)	Project annual Reports Experts Contracts and TORs Meeting reports SDF meeting reports. SDF working groups meeting reports. SDF sustainability strategy document. Workshop/consultative meeting reports. Implementation agreement reports	Interest and availability of national experts of ECOWAS Member States to participate in migration data collection and analysis activities. Interest and availability of

		1.1.7 No. of capacity building activities organized 1.1.8 No. of trainings held 1.1.9 Consultative meetings with private sector held 1.1.10 No. of implementation agreements concluded		1.1.9 At least four (4) 1.1.10 At least two (2)		national experts of ECOWAS
Output 1.2. related to Outcome 1	1.2. The Migration data-collection, management capacities and implementation of the Guidelines for the Harmonisation of Migration Data Management in the ECOWAS Region operationalized and strengthened.	1.2.1 % improvement in collection, analysis and management of migration data. 1.2.2 No. of Regional migration data reports or materials developed. 1.2.3 No. of Migration data collection trainings and skills and knowledge development conducted. 1.2.4 No. of migration studies and surveys meant to increase awareness and access on regional migration and mobility issues and provisions in the region. 1.2.5 Revamped ECOWAS Migration Data collection tool in place and in use. 1.2.6 ECOWAS Regional Migration Profile developed and available. 1.2.7 No. of Direct capacity and policy support to member states. finalised 1.2.8 No. Of Regional meeting on LMMIS organised 1.2.9 No. Of capacity building activities conducted	1.2.1. 0% 1.2.2 Zero (0) 1.2.3 Zero (0) 1.2.4 Zero (0) 1.2.5 No 1.2.6 No 1.2.7 Zero (0) 1.2.8 Zero (0) 1.2.9 Zero (0) 1.2.10 Zero (0)	1.2.1 55% 1.2.2Three (3) 1.2.3 Five (5) Regional trainings that bring together two or more countries will be prioritized. 1.2.4 Three (3) studies and surveys undertaken to inform discussions during MIDWA meetings and with Member states. 1.2.5 Yes 1.2.6 Yes 1.2.7 Fifteen (15) 1.2.8 Fifteen (15) 12.9 At least one capacity building activity conducted 1.2.10 ECOWAS Directive available	Project annual reports. Studies and survey reports and TORs Training reports Meeting reports ECOWAS meeting report Activity reports ECOWAS Directive on LMMIS	ECOWAS Member States are committed and responsive to support review of the implementation of Free Movement Protocols.

		1.2.10 ECOWAS Directive on LMMIS available		1.3.3 1.3.4		
Output 1.3 related to Outcome 1	1.3. ECOWAS capacities in document examination, data management and trends analysis to exchange information and share regional migration trends through the Heads of Immigration (HOI) and IBM working group meetings established.	1.3.1 Assessments of the capacity of ECOWAS Commission and Member states on Integrated Border Management (IBM) and Free Movement (FM). 1.3.2 No. of ECOWAS Member States IBM institutions engaged. 1.3.3 No. of trainings, capacity building, skills and knowledge development on the protocol, border management and Free Movement undertaken. 1.3.4 No. of HOI meetings held.	1.3.1. No 1.3.2 Zero (0) 1.3.3 Zero (0) 1.3.4 Zero (0)	1.3.1 Assessment available 1.3.2 Seven (7) 1.3.3 Five (5) 1.3.4 Four (4)	Project annual progress report. Meeting reports Assessments reports Training and capacity building reports.	ECOWAS Commission staff and Member States officials interested and available in capacity building and training activities.
Output 1.4 related to Outcome 1	1.4. Capacity of the ECOWAS Commission in planning, coordination, monitoring and reporting in the area of counter-trafficking, migrant smuggling and child labour strengthened	1.4.1 Baseline survey to identify existing needs and priorities of the Humanitarian and Social Affairs Department (THB Unit) in the area of counter-trafficking, including an analysis of existing and projected capacity building needs; 1.4.2 Impact assessment of the ECOWAS THB Plan of Action and prepare a new Plan of Action on Combating THB and SOM in the region 1.4.3 No of ECOWAS Annual THB and SOM review meeting organised 1.4.4 ECOWAS MS reporting template reviewed and implemented 1.4.5 No. of Annual synthesis report on THB and SOM compiled 1.4.6 Monitoring framework for the Regional Action plan developed 1.4.7 Regional child labour report developed	1.4.1. Zero (0) 1.4.2. Zero (0) 1.4.3. Zero (0) 1.4.4 Zero (0) 1.4.5 Zero (0) 1.4.6. Zero (0) 1. 4.7 Zero (0) 1.4.8. Zero (0) 1.4.9 Zero (0)	1.4.1 baseline survey 1.4.2 Impact assessment conducted 1.4.3 Four (4) meetings (one per year) 1.4.4 One (1) reporting template 1.4.5 Four (4) synthesis reports produced 1.4.6 Monitoring framework available 1.4.7 Report developed 1.4.8 Platform operational 1.4.9 Action Plan and Framework published	Assessment reports ECOWAS ARM Meeting reports ECOWAS reporting template Annual synthesis reports Monitoring framework for the Regional Action Plan Regional child labour report Meeting reports Regional Action Plan and Strategic Framework	ECOWAS Commission staff and Member States officials interested and available for planning, coordination, monitoring and reporting activities

		1.4.8 Regional platform of national child labour focal points operational 1.4.9 ECOWAS Regional Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labour and the Strategic Framework for Strengthening National Child Protection Systems and its Guidelines for implementation published				
Output 1.5 related to Outcome 1	1.5. Evidence-based understanding of environmental migration in West Africa to support policy development and knowledge sharing strengthened	1.5.1. Assessments of the capacity of ECOWAS Commission and Member states on environmental migration and disaster displacement. 1.5.2. No. of actions towards creating synergies and harmonisation on the reduction of the effect of environment and climate change amongst member states. 1.5.3. No. of Meetings on Migration Environment and Climate Change (MECC) supported. 1.5.4. Regional Operational framework and roll out plan for Member States developed, validated and available. 1.5.5. Strategy on Protection of IDPs and the vulnerable is developed and implemented. 1.5.6. No. of trainings and workshops supported 1.5.7. No. of Member states targeted for pilot programmes. 1.5.8. No. of ECOWAS Commission staff and Member states focal persons trained.	1.5.1. No 1.5.2. Zero (0) 1.5.3. Zero (0) 1.5.4. No 1.5.5. No 1.5.6. Zero (0) 1.5.7. Zero (0) 1.5.8. Zero (0)	1.5.1. Yes (assessment report available) 1.5.2. Four (4) 1.5.3. Four (4) 1.5.4. Yes 1.5.5. Yes 1.5.6. Three (3) 1.5.7. Five (5) 1.5.8. Seventy-Five (75) 25 per training and workshop.	Project annual progress report. Meeting reports Policies, strategies and frameworks available Training reports Training plans, presentations and concept notes Pictures	ECOWAS Commission staff and Member States officials interested and available in capacity building and training activities
Output 1.6 related to Outcome 1	1.6. Regional public information and sensitization on the Free Movement Protocol, Integrated Border	1.6.1. Public information, awareness-raising and sensitization strategy developed/reviewed, validated and implemented.	1.6.1. No 1.6.2. Zero (0) 1.6.3. Zero (0) 1.6.4. Zero	1.6.1. Yes 1.6.2. Five (5) 1.6.3. Eight (8) (Two per year)	Project annual progress report. Meeting reports Strategies available	ECOWAS and ECOWAS Member States accept to

	Management, migration, environment and climate change; Countering Trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling, labour migration, Cross border communities, ENBIC and regional integration enhanced.	1.6.2. No. of Cross border corridors targeted. 1.6.3. No. of cross border engagement meetings held. 1.6.4. No. of information and awareness-raising campaigns conducted. 1.6.5. No. of thematic areas addressed. 1.6.6. No. of information tools utilized.	1.6.5. Zero (0) 1.6.6. Zero (0)	1.6.4. Fifteen (15) corridor approach/border focused awareness will be prioritized. 1.6.5. Eight (8) 1.6.6. Five (5) Video, Audio, social media, website, prints in all 3 languages.	Engagement meeting reports, pictures, success stories etc.	implement public information activities and sensitization activities
Output 1.7	1.7 Regional governance frameworks for labour migration, mobility and protection and access to social protection for men and women migrant workers in the ECOWAS region strengthened	1.7.1 No. of regional capacity building activities on the Guide for policymakers conducted 1.7.2 Regional meeting to reactivate ECOWAS Committee of Experts held 1.7.3 No. of regional dialogues on social protection held 1.7.4 No. of dialogues on key migration corridors held	1.7.1. Zero (0) 1.7.2 Zero (0) 1.7.3 Zero (0) 1.7.4 Zero (0)	1.7.1 At least two (2) 1.7.2 At least one (1) 1.7.3 At least two (2) 1.7.4 At least three (3)	Meeting/dialogue reports; Report of ECOWAS Committee of Experts Dialogue reports	Interest and availability of ECOWAS to engage in validation of regional governance frameworks for the areas concerned
Output 2.1 related to Outcome 2	2.1: ECOWAS Policies and Frameworks in the field of migration management operationalized.	2.1.1 Regional roadmap developed. 2.1.2 Comparative analysis on operationalized policies and frameworks report available. 2.1.3 No. of policies/frameworks developed and or reviewed. 2.1.4 No. of National Coordination Mechanisms established in Member States that have demonstrated commitment to establishing such coordinating mechanisms.	2.1.1. Zero (0) 2.1.2. Zero (0) 2.1.3. Zero (0) 2.1.4. Zero (0)	2.1.1. Yes (roadmap developed) 2.2.1. Yes (report available) 2.1.3 Five (5) 2.1.4. Two (2) Sectoral approaches targeted.	Project annual reports. Policies and analysis reports Call for proposal and consultancy Terms of Reference	Interest and availability of national experts of ECOWAS Member States to participate in migration data collection and analysis activities.
Output 2.2 related to Outcome 2	2.2: Capacities of Member States border management in legal identity/identity management enhancing the security and compatibility of travel documents increased,	2.2.1 No. of Regional trainings and workshops held on the roadmap conducted. 2.2.2. No. of personnel trained 2.2.3 No. of Pilot Countries targeted.	2.2.1 Zero (0) 2.2.2 Zero (0) 2.2.3 Zero (0) 2.2.4 Zero (0) 2.2.5 One (1) 2.2.6 Zero (0)	2.2.1 Five (5) Regional trainings that bring together two or more countries will be prioritized.	Project annual reports Meeting and workshop reports National rollout plans/frameworks/initiatives report.	Interest and availability of national experts of ECOWAS Member States

	through ensuring technical and advisory expertise towards the rollout of the roadmap of the ECOWAS Biometric ID card and the development and implementation of a strategy for monitoring at border posts in pilot border areas.	2.2.4 No. of national rollout plans/frameworks/initiatives undertaken. 2.2.5 No. of Points Of Entries (POEs) targeted in the Pilot Phase. 2.2.6 No. of assessments of risks, trade and mobility conducted in the selected POEs. 2.2.7 No. of national rollout plans/frameworks/initiatives undertaken.	2.2.7 Zero (0)	2.2.2 Two Hundred and Fifty (250) 50 per regional training. 2.2.3 Five (5) 2.2.4 Five (5) 2.2.5 Three (3) 2.2.6 Five (5) 2.2.7 Three (3)	Survey/assessment/analysis reports available/published	to participate in activities on identity management.
Output 2.3 related to Outcome 2	2.3: Harmonisation and standardisation of training in MS in line with the ECOWAS Border Management and Free Movement manual enhanced	2.3.1 ECOWAS Border Management and Free Movement manual updated 2.3.2 No of MS immigration academies' training manuals harmonised to ECOWAS BM and FM manual. 2.3.3 No of training for immigration academies on the harmonised manual to ensure appropriation of the standardized ECOWAS training package on BM and FM; 2.3.4 No of regional meetings organised to review achievements and challenges in the area of joint border management and strengthen cross border collaboration	2.3.1 No 2.3.2 Zero (0) 2.3.3. Zero (0) 2.3.4 Zero (0)	2.3.1 Updated manual 2.3.2 At least four (4) 2.3.3 Four (4) 2.3.4 At least two (2)	Updated BM manual Meeting reports Training reports Harmonised MS manuals	Interest and availability of national experts of ECOWAS Member States to participate in activities on border management
Output 2.4 related to Outcome 2	2.4: Capacity of MS to combat child labour, forced labour and trafficking in human beings within the region enhanced, including improved data collection and analysis, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of TIPSOM interventions reinforced	2.4.1 Assessment of the capacities of MS TIP focal points on RBM, data collection and analysis, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of TIP interventions conducted 2.4.2 No of training workshops to strengthen the capacity of TIP focal persons to collect, analyse and report TIP related data.	245.1 Zero (0) 2.5.2 Zero (0) 2.5.3 Zero (0) 2.5.4 Zero (0) 2.4.5 Zero (0) 2.4.6 Zero (0) 2.4.7 Zero (0) 2.4.8 Zero (0)	2.4.1 One assessment conducted 2.4.2 At least 3 training workshops organised 2.4.3 At least 10 MS 2.4.4 At least five 2.4.5 At least five 2.4.6 At least three	Assessment report Activity reports Training reports Workshop reports Aligned national action plans	Commitment of ECOWAS Member States to support review of the implementation of interventions in the areas concerned

		2.4.3 No of MS with coordination mechanism of national TIP taskforce members strengthened 2.4.4 No. of national capacity building workshops on the Regional Action Plan for the Elimination of Child and Forced Labour held 2.4.5 No of national action plans aligned with the Regional Action Plan 2.4.6 No of national capacity building workshops on the Strategic Framework for Child Protection Systems Strengthening; 2.4.7 No of national child protection of networks supported 2.4.8 Regional mixed migration strategy developed, validated and available.		2.4.7 At least three 2.4.8 Yes (strategy available)		
Output 2.5 related to outcome 2	2.5: National governance frameworks for labour migration and mobility enhanced and protection of men and women migrant workers strengthened	2.5.1 No of labour migration policies assessed/revised/developed 2.5.2 No of workers' and employers' organizations supported 2.5.3 Number of implementation agreements conducted 2.5.4 No of sensitization dialogues on the ratification of ILO standards and guidelines organized 2.6.5 Number of gap analyses conducted 2.5.6 Number of multi-stakeholder validation meetings held 2.5.7 Laws and regulation of private recruitment agencies reviewed 2.5.8 No of awareness raising activities on fair recruitment practices conducted	2.5.1 Zero (0) 2.5.2 Zero (0) 2.5.3 Zero (0) 2.5.4 Zero (0) 2.5.5 Zero (0) 2.5.6 Zero (0) 2.5.7 Zero (0) 2.5.8 Zero (0) 2.5.9 Zero (0) 2.5.10 Zero (0) (0) 2.5.12 Zero (0) 2.5.13 Zero (0) 2.5.14 Zero (0) 2.5.15 Zero (0) 2.5.16 Zero (0)	2.5.1 At least five policies assessed, revised or developed 2.5.2 At least ten (10) in at least five countries 2.5.3 At least five (5) 2.5.4 At least five (5) 2.5.5 At least five (5) 2.5.6 At least five (5) 2.5.7 Laws and regulation reviewed in at least five Member States	Labour migration policies Capacity building activity reports Gap analysis reports Meeting reports Reports of analysis on laws and regulations Harmonized BLAs National review reports Assessments and actuarial studies on the portability of rights Country work plans on the Guidelines	Commitment of ECOWAS Member States to support protection of men and women migrants workers

		2.5.9 No of awareness raising and capacity building interventions on BLAs implemented 2.5.10 No of BLAs harmonized 2.5.11 National labour legislation reviewed 2.5.12 No of national workshops on the guidelines for policymakers held 2.5.13 No of workshops on social security agreements held 2.5.14 No of assessments and actuarial studies on the portability of rights developed 2.5.15 No. of country work plans on how to advance the Guidelines developed 2.5.16 No. of capacity building trainings on the Guidelines conducted		2.5.8 At least five (5) 2.5.9 At least four (4) 2.5.10 At least five (5) 2.5.11 Labour legislation reviewed in at least six Member States 2.5.12 At least six(6) 2.5.13 Three (3) 2.5.14 Five (5) 2.5.15 Four (4) 2.5.16 Four (4)		
Output 2.6 Related to Outcome 2	2.6: Harmonisation of MS capacity with 2018 ICLS Guidelines concerning statistics of international labour migration through Phase II of a Labour Market and Migration Information System (LMMIS) in ECOWAS Member States developed and implemented in line enhanced	2.6.1 No of Workshops on state of play on the implementation of the LMMIS 2.6.2 No of Country assessments Developed 2.6.3 No of Action Plans for implementation developed 2.6.4 No of study visits organised 2.6.5 Training materials available 2.6.6 No of capacity building workshops held 2.6.7 No of ECOWAS Members States supported in the collection of data on labour migration 2.6.8 No of national reports on labour migration produced 2.6.9 No of implementation agreements conducted	2.6.1 Zero (0) 2.6.2 Zero (0) 2.6.3 Zero (0) 2.6.4 No 2.6.5 Zero (0) 2.6.6 Zero (0) 2.6.7 Zero (0) 2.6.8 Zero (0) 2.6.9 Zero (0)	2.6.1 Three (3) 2.6.2 One (1) 2.6.3 Five action plans 2.6.4 One (1) 2.6.5Yes (Training materials available) 2.6.6 Two (2) 2.6.7 At least five (5) 2.6.8 At least three (3)	Training report Assessment report Action plan document Activity reports National reports on labour migration Implementation agreement reports	Commitment of ECOWAS Member States to support implementation of LMMIS

Output 2.7 related to outcome 2	2.7: Technical capacities of national institutions to implement the provisions of the various regional instruments on Free Movement and to mainstream gender, climate change and protection of human rights in migration governance strengthened.	2.7.1 Guidelines and procedures for project eligibility, implementation, monitoring and evaluation Updated. 2.7.2. No of National Institutions contacted and informed about the DDF 2.7.3. No of DDFs Action Fiches developed 2.7.4. No of ECOWAS MS benefitting from DDF facility. 2.7.5. No. of trainings on mainstreaming gender, climate change and protection of human rights in migration governance conducted for DDF beneficiaries. 2.7.6. No. of DDF actions with gender, environmental migration and disaster displacement mainstreamed	2.7.1 Zero (0) 2.7.2 Zero (0) 2.7.3 Zero (0) 2.7.4 Zero (0) 2.7.5 Zero (0) 2.7.6. Zero (0)	2.7.1 Yes (guidelines updated) 2.7.2. 15 + Mauritania 2.7.3. At least eight (8) actions 2.7.4. At least ten (10) MS 2.7.5. At least four (4) trainings (one per thematic area) 2.7.6. At least three (3) actions	DDF guidelines DDF request log DDF communication strategy Approved action fiches Activity reports Training reports	ECOWAS Member States are willing to take into account regional guidelines when implementing national policies
Output 3.1 related to Outcome 3	3.1: Civil society and private sector awareness raising on the activities of the Protocol on Free Movement and regional integration agenda promoted.	3.1.1 Regional advocacy plan developed and implemented. 3.1.2 No. of CSO and NSA advocacy activities undertaken. 3.2.3 No of women and men CSO staff Trained on conducting advocacy campaigns for free Movement 3.2.4 No of sensitization activities by CSOs along the borders are Supported 3.3.5 No of Sensitization tools developed 3.3.6 No of women and men CSO staff in each country to conduct advocacy events regularly	3.1.1 Zero (0) 3.1.2 Zero (0) 3.2.3 Zero (0) 3.2.4 Zero (0) 3.3.5 Zero (0) 3.3.6 Zero (0)	3.1.1 Yes 3.1.2 Four (4) Corridor approach and cross border communities prioritised. 3.2.3 Three hundred (300) (150 men, 150 women) 3.2.4 Twenty four (24) 3.3.5 A least one (1) 3.3.6 Two hundred (200) (100 men, 100 women)	Participant list Concept Notes Copies of tools developed CSO staff lists Workshop repots Implementation reports	CSO are willing to participate in awareness raising on the activities of the Regional Monitoring Mechanism and on the Protocol on Free Movement.
Output 3.2 related to Outcome 3	3.2: Non-State Actors and Local Authorities access to initiatives actively supporting protection of migrants,	3.2.1 Grant Evaluation Committee established. 3.2.2 No. of call for proposals requested.	3.2.1 Zero (0) 3.2.2 Zero (0) 3.2.3 Zero (0)	3.2.1 Yes (Committee established)	Project annual progress report. Call for proposals document Proposal received database	Sufficient number of quality proposals are

	returnees and cross-border populations rights increased.	3.2.3 Amount of funding directed towards women's organisations and movements		3.2.2 Fifteen (15) – one per country. 3.2.3 50% of amount available for SO3		submitted by the NSAs.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a Financing Agreement with ECOWAS.

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 entry into force of the financing agreement. 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 Budget Support - N/A

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 measures[1].

4.4.1. Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with the International Organisation for Migration, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development and the International Labour Organisation. IOM will be the lead agency. This implementation entails the Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa. These three entities have been selected because they have deep specific experience and knowledge of migration matters at regional, national and local levels within the ECOWAS region and Mauritania. Furthermore, they possess solid and fruitful relations with the most important international actors in the migration governance field in the region. These elements position these organisations as very strong stakeholders in migration governance in the region, thus providing the EU with key added value for the implementation of FMMII. Lastly, as implementers of FMM Phase I, and as shown by the program's final evaluation, they demonstrated to have the required expertise and capacity to implement, deliver and meet the program's results; whilst also developing a robust operational memory which will be crucial in the roll-out of the second phase of the programme.A multi-partner Contribution Agreement with IOM, ICMPD and ILO, is the preferred option for the Action; the three organisations are best positioned to support ECOWAS, individual MS and civil society towards addressing the fundamental challenges of migration within and from West Africa and exploring innovative ways to harness its opportunitiesThe three implementing agencies have shown a cooperative spirit, resilience and adaptability under the previous programme and have eagerly agreed to renewing the partnership under the new action which clearly defines responsibilities and roles for each agency. IOM will be in charge of regional dialogue, migration and labour migration policies formulation as well as the NSA component (SO1, SO2, SO3). ICMPD will contribute to SO2 through its DDF while ILO will contribute to SO1 on regional dialogue as well as the labour migration component.

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	**EU contribution (amount in EUR)**

[1] ----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.

Indirect Management with a pillar assessed entity cf. section 4.4.1	
Specific Objective 1: Strengthened capacities of the ECOWAS Commission to lead an intra-regional dialogue on free movement and migration issues and act as a platform for policy development and harmonisation as well as monitoring of the application of the Free movement Protocol.	15 000 000
Specific Objective 2: Enhanced capacities of national institutions of ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania in the areas of migration data collection and management, migration policy development, border management, labour migration, counter trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, diaspora engagement, and migration, environment and climate change.	13 100 000
Specific Objective 3*:* Increased capacities of Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in information and protection activities for the benefit of migrants, returnees and cross-border populations in West Africa.	4 400 000
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 **Audit** – cf. section 5.3	500 00
Contingencies	1 000 000
Total	34 000 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

At the policy level, the project will be governed by a Committee for Project Steering and Coordination (CPSC). At the operational / management level, the implementation of the project will be coordinated and executed by the Project Support Unit (PSU).

Committee for Project Steering and Coordination (CPSC)

A Committee for Project Steering and Coordination (CPSC) shall be set up to ensure ECOWAS ownership of the project, to oversee and validate the overall direction and policy of the project, and to ensure that activities of all components are in line with the ECOWAS Common Approach on Migration and other key strategic and policy orientations. This Committee will be chaired by the ECOWAS Commission, represented at Commissioner and Director level, or their representatives. Other Members of the CPSC will include the IOM, ILO, ICMPD and the EUD in Abuja. Where appropriate, participation to the CPSC meetings will be open to other observers (e.g. other donors, EU or ECOWAS Member States, civil society representatives, workers and employers organizations, research institutions, etc.) The CPSC shall meet every 3 months during the first year of programme implementation. The frequency of meetings can then be revised and a new calendar established by consensus of its members.

Project Support Unit (PSU)

A Project Support Unit (PSU) will be established to manage the implementation of the project. The PSU will comprise managerial, technical, financial and administrative staff of the three implementing agencies (IOM, ICMPD, ILO) of the project. The PSU will be led and coordinated by the project manager of the lead agency. Each agency will have a Project Manager who will ensure the management and coordination of their activities, and assume the final responsibility for the implementation of their respective activities. Each agency will recruit the number and profile of International Experts, local staff and support staff needed to implement their activities. Based on lessons learned in FMM, the three agencies have agreed to manage their individual activities as they deemed appropriate to avoid possible differences in approach that could undermine the implementation of the project. The PSU staff members will

be recruited according to the recruitment procedures of the respective implementing agencies. In addition, Short-Term Technical Assistants will be identified, selected and recruited for carrying out operational activities as per project needs. Expertise will be drawn from in-house staff of implementing partners where appropriate, but also from public or private entities. Particular attention will be given to the use of regional expertise.

The PSU will be based in Abuja. Depending on the possibilities and taking into account logistical and security requirements, the PSU will be hosted in the premises of the ECOWAS Commission or at the lead agency's premises. The PSU will have the overall management responsibility over the project, in coordination with the ECOWAS Commission. Each of the three partners' Regional Office in West Africa will provide strategic guidance and technical support, including the facilitation of training activities and international dialogue meetings, review of draft policy and strategy documents, and endorsement of project reports as pertaining to their respective components. The PSU members report monthly, and also when needed, to the EU Delegation in Abuja. As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the EU Delegation 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.

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Based on lessons learnt from FMM and the Evaluation results, the Action shall ensure that there is a systematic joint M&E system covering the overall project, as well as specific M&E systems to capture each component's own progress towards implementation. The development of these component-level M&E systems shall be done in close association between EUD and each component partner. Yearly M&E sessions shall be set up at the level of the project, including the institutional beneficiaries' representatives, and regular M&E documentation shall be provided by the IPs (bi-annually or quarterly) to ensure a comprehensive follow-up and assessment. Monitoring and evaluation will assess gender equality results, an impact on rights of groups living in the most vulnerable situations and the implementation of the rights based approach working principles (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). Monitoring and evaluation will be based on indicators that are disaggregated by sex, age, disability and group when applicable. Human rights and gender equality competence is ensured in the monitoring and evaluation teams.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance and nature of the action, a mid-term and final evaluations will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the European Commission. A mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving, learning purposes. A final evaluation will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the innovative architecture of the action and the importance of the involvement of the EU in this field.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least three months 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 shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders

following the best practice of evaluation dissemination[2]. 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. Evaluation services may be contracted under a framework contract.

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 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.

[2] See best practice of evaluation dissemination

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 4.6, Indicative Budget.

Option 1: Action level		
☒	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Option 2: Group of actions level		
☐	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#):
Option 3: Contract level		
☐	Single Contract 1	
☐	Single Contract 2	
☐	Single Contract 3	
	(…)	
☐	Group of contracts 1	