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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX III

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Special Measure for the Regional Response to the Afghanistan refugee and displacement crisis for 2021

Action Document for Children on the Move – Phase II

ANNUAL MEASURE

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and measures in the sense of Article 23(4) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	Children on the Move – Phase II CRIS number: NDICI ASIA/2021/043-318 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
2. Team Europe Initiative	Yes The Action will be part of the broader Regional Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on the Afghan Displacement situation proposed in the Asia-Pacific regional MIP, should it be adopted by the College and subsequently materialise.
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Afghanistan. The action shall be carried out countrywide.
4. Programming document	Special measure for a Regional Response to the Afghanistan refugee and displacement crisis for 2021
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives/expected results	N/A
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Migration and Forced Displacement DEV. Assistance: YES
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	SDG 10.7 SDG 4 (Quality Education)
8 a) DAC code(s) ¹	15190 – Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility (100%)

¹ DAC sectors (codes and descriptions) are indicated in the first and fourth columns of the tab ‘purpose codes’ in the following document: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-financestandards/dacandcrscodelists.htm>

	11220 – Primary Education (25%)			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel @	41000 - United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN)			
9. Targets²	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education ³ <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance ⁴			
10. Markers⁵ (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Internal markers⁶ and Tags⁷:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ Tags: digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

² Actual contribution to targets will be confirmed ex-post based on a standardised methodology.

³ This target is specific to INTPA. If the action is marked as contributing to the Education target, please make sure the target on “Social inclusion and Human Development” is also marked.

⁴ Thematic target for geographic programmes (at least 15%) in delegated act.

⁵ For guidance, see <https://www.oecd.org/development/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/> (go to “Data collection and resources for reporters”, select Addendum 2, annexes 18 (policy) and 19 (Rio) of the reporting directive).

If an action is marked in the DAC form as contributing to one of the general policy objectives or to RIO principles as a principal objective or a significant objective, then this should be reflected in the logframe matrix (in the results chain and/or indicators).

⁶ The internal markers have been created to report on the implementation of the Commission's own policy priorities in areas where no DAC reporting tool is available. For the sake of consistency and comparability, the methodology is equivalent to the DAC markers, with three possible positions (main target, significant target, not targeted)

⁷ Methodology for additional tagging providing granularity on internal markers is under development.

	digital governance		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital entrepreneurship		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	job creation		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital skills/literacy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital services		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ Tags: transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): BGUE-B2021-14.020130-C1-INTPA Total estimated cost: EUR 15 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 15 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing⁸	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1			

1.2. Summary of the Action

Afghanistan has been identified as a long-term priority country for addressing migration and forced displacement in Asia. The New Pact on Migration and Asylum (September 2020)⁹ proposed by the European Commission calls for protecting refugees and people in need of international protection and promotes building economic opportunities in particular for youth, addressing root causes of irregular migration, as well as reinforcing partner countries' capacities on migration management and governance.

In view of the recent military victory of the Taliban, the likelihood of adverse weather events also due to climate change and subsequent increased forced displacement, actions will be required to improve the immediate protection of and (legal) assistance to forcibly displaced persons and their host communities, as well as to provide medium-term socio-economic support. This includes the extension of services to children and women in Afghanistan, who have suffered from growing insecurity, economic challenges and socioeconomic hardships. Six in ten children aged below 17 years are affected by multidimensional poverty – a prominent driver for forced displacement.

Learning from the progress made since 2016 in the first phase of 'Children on the Move', the action will support (re)integration services for unaccompanied minors, youth and their families, including on-arrival assistance, psychological support, family tracing and re-unification. In addition, the intervention will support (1) education and income generating activities for forcibly displaced youth and vulnerable host community member and (2) economic opportunities for indebted families to avoid negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, child marriage or other types of harmful practices.

⁸ Art. 27 NDICI

⁹ COM(2020) 609 final of 23.09.2020 - Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum

This action would not amount to a recognition of the Taliban government. The action will be governed by strict principles governing the delivery of aid. These include that women, girls and minorities should have non-discriminated access to services, that support cannot be channeled through the Taliban (both in Kabul and on the local level) and their affiliates and that the Action maintains strict operational independence, notably on matters of recruitment policy, implementation and management of support mechanisms.

RATIONALE

2.1. Context

The Afghan forced displacement situation is categorised as one of world's most protracted crisis. More than four decades of conflicts and instability have led Afghans to seek asylum and protection abroad, notably in the neighbouring countries of Iran and Pakistan but also further afield. According to UNHCR and International Organization for Migration (IOM), despite some 5.3 million Afghan refugees returning home since 2002, millions of Afghans remain outside of Afghanistan. These organisations estimate some 2.7 million documented Afghan refugees and up to 3 million undocumented Afghans are currently living in Pakistan and Iran.

Movements of Afghans within the sub-region have historically been a fact and part of their coping mechanism and an important aspect of cross-border economies and livelihoods: the number of Afghan citizens with no refugee status is estimated at around 1.1 million in Pakistan and around 2.5 million in Iran, including passport holders and undocumented citizens, as of December 2020.

The economic downturn in the region, especially in Iran, has triggered record numbers of (undocumented) refugees and migrants to return to Afghanistan, with over 865 000 Afghans crossing the border in 2020¹⁰. The vast majority returned from Iran, reporting that they felt compelled to return due to COVID-19 restrictions, lack of employment opportunities and threats of deportation or criminalisation.

In Afghanistan, the number of internally displaced persons has also been on the raise since 2012, with an estimated 4.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) nationwide in 2020. More than 390 000 persons were newly displaced in 2020¹¹. Figures from a recent 'whole of Afghanistan' assessment, facilitated by the United Nations' inter-cluster coordination team, show that the vast majority of those displaced long-term do not intend to return to their place of origin within the next six months. Around half never intend to return. Many displaced people reside in urban/peri-urban informal settlements with precarious land rights and livelihoods. Lacking qualifications and social connections prevent many to integrate in the urban economy, forced secondary (cross-border) displacement. Displaced children and youth lack appropriate access to education and are exposed to health hazards and crime.

The military victory of the Taliban has fundamentally changed the security, political and economic situation in the country. On the one hand, hostilities between the Afghan National Army and the Taliban have stopped, considerably reducing the pressure on rural communities to flee the violence of military confrontation. On the other hand, the economic situation is deteriorating drastically: foreign aid has come to a halt and public officials report not having received their salaries. Banks face a shortage of cash and foreign currencies. This economic crisis is compounded by disasters and climate change related events (droughts, floods, pests and diseases). The result is food insecurity, limited access to land, inadequate shelter, and limited services including healthcare, education, legal assistance, identification, documentation, and very scarce livelihoods opportunities. All these factors have put pressure on the already strained coping mechanisms of the population, resulting in further displacement as the last option for many. According to

¹⁰ IOM – [Return of Undocumented Afghans](#) – December 2020

¹¹ IOM – [Displacement Tracking Matrix - Afghanistan — Baseline Mobility Assessment Summary Results](#) (July—December 2020)

OCHA, 18.4 million Afghans are in humanitarian need, and more than a third of the population (14.1 million) is now facing emergency or crisis levels of food insecurity. Constrained humanitarian access and logistics – especially in remote and conflict-affected locations – are currently hindering more detailed needs assessments, thus preventing verification of the full extent of internal displacement and undermining the provision of assistance within Afghanistan. Still it can be anticipated that previously described displacement drivers will continue in 2021.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Issues concerning returnees and IDPs in Afghanistan are quite diverse but can be clustered in the following main categories, which are interlinked:

For the period 2012-2020, the IOM estimated the number of **internally displaced people** in Afghanistan to be around 4.9 million individuals, a major part of which are in prolonged (one to five years) or even protracted (over five years) situations. IDPs are mostly hosted by their extended family networks or close acquaintances; in some circumstances they have been compelled to settle in makeshift camps or urban informal settlements. The widespread poverty of the host communities, doubled with the strains of sharing limited resources with displaced groups, IDPs' limited access to basic services, precarious accommodation, and generally material and psychological hardship, continue to be the most important challenges for these segments of the population.

Similar to the situation of IDPs, **Afghan returnees** face difficulties in reintegrating in Afghanistan, with limited access to basic social services and development opportunities. While the Taliban victory has the potential to improve the overall security situation for the moment, targeted persecution of minorities, women and political opponents, the current economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic might push more Afghans to flee their country. Meanwhile, the socio-economic situation in neighbouring countries is also dire, also in light of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. In Afghanistan, the living conditions are not favourable enough for a sustained return, and there is an increasing concern regarding possible reverse migration to the neighbouring countries and further afield.

In this context, children and women have especially suffered from growing insecurity, economic challenges and socioeconomic disparities in the recent years. Six in ten children aged 0-17 years are affected by multidimensional poverty¹². According to the Afghanistan's Education Management Information System data for Afghan fiscal year 1398 (December 2018 to December 2019), 10 million children were enrolled in school (about 3.8 million were girls)¹³. An estimated 3.7 million children do not attend school, 60% of whom were girls. Citing the 2016-17 Living Conditions Survey, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) noted in its August 2020 report on key socio-economic indicators, based on a range of sources, 'Most of the out-of-school children lived in rural areas while the attendance rates, particularly for women, were considerably higher in urban areas than in rural Afghanistan'¹⁴. In the event of a deteriorating security conditions and vast population movement, this category may end up arriving in urban areas, contributing to the number of out-of-school children.

Running from conflict and driven by poverty or climate change, children and youth are among affected Afghans. Large numbers of Afghan youths are displaced in search of a better life abroad, hence, often in a vulnerable situation and in need of protection. Many risk being forced into exploitative work relations within Afghanistan. Some of these children and youth will seek employment in Iran as undocumented workers; others are migrants making the risky journey to Turkey or Europe. If detained, they are sent back to Afghanistan. Such returns pose significant risks for young people, who are often separated from their families. Alone and in limbo, they are an easy target for smugglers and human traffickers. Specifically **young migrants/refugees** face a situation with very limited economic perspective upon return, competing among an estimated 400 000 new entrants into a saturated labour market each year. This exacerbates the risk of continued migration pressure as much as the risk of vulnerability to radicalisation.

¹² UNICEF Afghanistan [Annual report 2019](#)

¹³ [Ministry of Education](#), Afghanistan

¹⁴ EASO, '[Afghanistan - Key socio-economic indicators. Focus on Kabul City, Mazar-e Sharif and Herat City](#)' August 2020

For Afghan women and girls, insidious and systemic oppression in all aspects of life has worsened. This now includes the closure of women's universities, denying girls access to education, and more brutal reversions of females to property with incidences of child brides for the militants.

As such, persistent social, cultural and economic challenges compound protection risks and limit (re)integration prospects for returnees and IDPs, resulting in negative coping mechanisms (e.g. child labour, early marriage, labour exploitation, debt, illegal activities, onward migration etc.) and secondary displacement.

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

UN agencies such as UNHCR (which focuses on documented refugees/returnees), IOM (which deals with undocumented returnees, IDPs), UNHABITAT (land allocation), UNICEF (children rights and protection), UNESCO (social and cultural reintegration), OCHA (IDPs and coordination) are all supporting Afghans on the move. Furthermore, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are providing support, notably in the humanitarian, livelihoods and legal assistance dimensions, to the uprooted Afghans.

UNICEF has a well-established presence in the country and has protection of children as its core focus. The organisation has been at the forefront to provide protection, education and reunification services to children and unaccompanied minor in the country as is evidenced by implementation of measures such as 'children on the move'; 'education cannot wait' and by co-leading the 'education in emergencies' working group in Afghanistan.

The Taliban have signalled their intention to maintain government functions and engage with the international community. However, lack of foreign funding and government expertise, in addition to an uncertain legal status of the Taliban government, might considerably limit their ability to address many of the country's problems. Internal divisions (e.g. with the Haqqani network) and conflicts with other insurgent groups (Islamic State-Khorasan) might further destabilise the situation. One must therefore expect an end of public sector investments and a strong weakening of service delivery, potentially even a return of localised hostilities. In public media the Taliban have announced that they will protect women's rights in accordance with Sharia law and within their approved framework. Anecdotal reporting from Afghanistan suggests that these statements are not to be trusted and that the respect for fundamental rights and the situation and protection of women under the regime needs to be closely monitored

The European Commission through its Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) is actively involved in providing humanitarian assistance to the recently displaced due to conflict or natural disaster.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective (Impact) of this action is to enhance the resilience and self-reliance of forcibly displaced youth and unaccompanied minors, including their families and vulnerable host communities, in a way that they live together peacefully, have access to social services and develop economic ties to build sustainable livelihoods and thus foster social cohesion and stability.

The Specific(s) Objective(s) of this action are:

1. Protection of IDPs, returnees, and children on the move, including unaccompanied minors;
2. Supporting education and livelihoods for IDPs, returnees, children on the move and their host communities; and

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are
1.1 contributing to Specific Objective 1: Afghan 'Children on the Move', particularly unaccompanied children, being returned to Afghanistan and who are transiting between Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, are protected and receive basic services and a reintegration package

- 2.1 contributing to Specific Objective 2: Afghan displaced children and youth, their families and vulnerable host communities, have equal access to education, protection, health and nutrition and basic (re)integration services;
- 3.1 contributing to Specific Objective 2: Indebted families with specific needs, among displaced and host communities, are identified and supported to contribute in reducing negative coping mechanisms and harmful practices.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1: Provision of basic services, legal and protection assistance to unaccompanied minors

- a. Provision of basic services, on-arrival assistance, psychological support, family tracing and reunification to the unaccompanied minors returning to Afghanistan and those transiting between Afghanistan and the neighbouring countries
- b. Promotion of knowledge and awareness among communities on the risks of irregular migration and the (re)integration needs of children

Activities related to Output 2: Support access to education, health and nutrition and basic (re)integration services for Afghan displaced children and youth, their families and vulnerable host communities

- a. Promote accelerated/community based or public education for out-of-school girls and boys in the communities targeted
- b. Support economic and resilience building assistance to the children and adolescents as well as their families at most risks
- c. Support access to health and nutrition for youth, their families and host-communities through community programs and other existing structures

Activities related to Output 3: Resilience building

- a. Support income generating activities for forcibly displaced working age youth and their vulnerable host community members
- b. Support economic opportunities for indebted families, to prevent children being sent to neighbouring countries for work

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Regional Team Europe Initiative on the Afghan Displacement situation proposed in the Asia-Pacific regional MIP, should it be adopted by the College and subsequently materialise, will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe partners. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective partners' meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

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

The SEA screening concluded that no further action was required.

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

The EIA screening classified the action as no need for further assessment.

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

The 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. The current intervention is designed to protect female and male forcibly displaced children.

In line with the Gender Country Profile, the action will also address female poverty and contributes to alleviate challenges and pressures on families due to their compulsorily negative coping mechanisms (e.g. child labour, early marriage, labour exploitation, debt, illegal activities, onward migration etc.) and secondary displacement, encompassing all human rights.

In addition, the project will address gender-specific needs through efforts to reach female community members through multiple interventions. Social resilience and awareness raising activities will include fostering dialogue between men and women to foster the agency of both and contribute towards gender equality. Similarly, disaggregated data throughout the programme cycle (i.e. baseline and results) will help make clear to what extent the programme benefits women and men according to their needs.

Human Rights

Cross-cutting issues, such as gender and human rights, will be carefully considered and mainstreamed throughout the implementation process, ensuring a Rights Based Approach.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1.

The project in addition focuses on including marginalized groups within returnee and IDP population, as well as within host families in the informal settlements, makeshift camps and per-urban settings.

Democracy

Due to its nature, the action has no direct impact on or linkages to democratic processes in Afghanistan.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

This action has been informed by the EU Delegation's conflict analysis. By supporting children, their families and host communities who have been displaced due to conflict and natural disasters, the action contributes to their resilience. It combines short and more long-term support and has been designed as an implementation of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Disaster Risk Reduction

While this action does not immediately contribute to disaster risk reduction, it mitigates the impact of natural and man-made disasters and increases the resilience of one of the most vulnerable groups.

3.4. Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)	Impact (High/Medium/Low)	Mitigating measures
To the external environment.	A deterioration of the security situation and /or political instability limits the access of partners to certain geographic areas and affects the delivery of services to the targeted population.	M	H	EU regularly monitors the risk factors related to security and political developments in the country and will adopt the operating circumstances that will affect achievement of programme objectives. For security issues and access, the implementing partner works in coordination with law enforcement agencies and under guidance of the UN Department of Security and Safety.
To the external environment.	Lack of political will and commitment from the Taliban to allow work on return and reintegration, particularly on the protection of unaccompanied minor crossing the Afghan borders, in the context of migration and development.	M	M	International partners are pursuing dialogue at all levels, combining different instruments. The funding will be carefully sequenced and linked to the country's engagement and human rights record.
To the external environment.	Lack of interest of and access to returnees and their communities to engage in monitoring and participation in reintegration and development-oriented initiatives.	L - M	L – M	The issue will be addressed by working through local grassroots organizations which have strong relationships with communities and can contribute to community buy-in.

Lessons Learnt:

The basis for this action is the already existing structures and interventions that are supporting community-based protection mechanisms and networks, supported by the EU through the Children on the Move (*Phase 1*) 2018-2022 intervention. As revealed by the Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) exercises, these networks require further capacities to become self-reliant; hence, continuation of the engagement in the sector is optimal. In addition, lessons learned from the ongoing migration support measures reveal that children and youth under age of eighteen, running from conflict and driven by poverty or climate change, are among the most affected Afghans. Large numbers of Afghan youth are displaced in search of a better life abroad, and are hence often in a vulnerable situation and in need of protection. With a regional focus, the EU supported children on the move (*Phase 1*) project, until December 2020, has reunified over 17,500 unaccompanied minors, who were crossing the border, with their families; over 1,500 most vulnerable families received cash grants; and more than 550 social protection workers trained on case management, child rights and child protection matters, throughout 2018-2020. In addition, the endeavours and advocacy led to Afghanistan's first ever Child Protection Law passed through the Presidential Decree in 2019.

3.5. The Intervention Logic

Implemented through a whole-of-community approach, the Action will provide support to unaccompanied minors returning from abroad, or displaced internally, through protection and family reunification, as well as economic inclusion and education assistance to youth under eighteen years of age and their families living desolate and in disparity.

The underlying intervention logic, taking into account lessons learnt and progress made since 2016, is reflective of the fact that a large part of the Afghan refugee and migrant population, specifically returnees from Iran but also returnees from Pakistan and Europe, are young people, often minors. This group is particularly vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, discrimination and radicalisation during their displacement/migratory journey. Upon return, minors and youths are often confronted with a lack of social and economic perspectives, ostracization by family/community members due to their ‘failure’ to successfully migrate and struggle with enduring psychological trauma from abuse/exploitation from their journey.

Therefore, the Action aims to address the challenges of irregular migration and forced displacement at different levels. On the macro-level the project activities are geared towards enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to better address protection issues in the context of migration and forced displacement dynamics. This entails building the capacities of local NGOs to deliver services and economic opportunities to host communities and the displaced/returnees, which are key elements of responsible migration management and effective public service delivery.

At micro-level, the intervention is designed to build the resilience and self-reliance of IDPs, returnees, and vulnerable children on the move – including their host communities to help beneficiaries to re-establish stable livelihoods and perspectives for the future and increase absorption capacity for returnees in their respective communities, thus helping to prevent further irregular migration and fostering social cohesion.

3.6. Logical Framework Matrix

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

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

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

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

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

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

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To enhance the resilience and self-reliance of the forcibly displaced youth and unaccompanied minors, including their families and vulnerable host communities in a way that they live together peacefully, have access to social services and develop economic ties to build sustainable livelihoods and thus foster social cohesion and stability.	1. % of persons of concern covered by the Action	tbd	tbd	Project reports Monitoring reports, surveys	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome	IDPs, returnees, and children on the move, including unaccompanied minors are protected and education and livelihoods for IDPs, returnees, children on the move and their host communities are supported.	1.1 % of national population, including youth and children, with access to protection; basic services (health, education); economic opportunities (livelihoods and market access); and legal assistance (documentation) compared to % targeted beneficiaries access levels and countrywide average (if available).	tbd	tbd	Project reports Monitoring reports, surveys	Political stability in the country maintains project delivery Increased security issues and natural disasters do not divert the attention of national authorities
Output 1.1	Afghan ‘Children on the Move’, particularly unaccompanied children, being returned to Afghanistan and who are transiting between Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, are	1.1.1 Number of unaccompanied minors, disaggregated by sex, received protection and (re)integration assistance	tbd	tbd	Project reports Monitoring reports, surveys	Factors outside project management's control that may influence

	protected and receive basic services and a reintegration package					on the output-outcome linkage as analysed in the risk assessment part of the action document.
Output 2.1	Afghan displaced children and youth, their families and vulnerable host communities, have equal access to education, protection / legal services, health and nutrition and basic (re)integration services;	<p>2.1.1 Number of out of school children and youth (disaggregated by sex and age) who have access to education programmes</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of families received livelihoods support, desegregated by the status i.e. IDP, returnee or vulnerable host community</p> <p>2.2.3 Number of targeted beneficiaries who report increased in training and skills certification; education; and income - attributable to the project – disaggregated by gender</p>	tbd	tbd	Project progress report 1.2.3 ROM and other Monitoring and Evaluation reports	Factors outside project management's control that may influence on the output-outcome linkage as analysed in the risk assessment part of the action document.
Output 2.2	Indebted families with specific needs, among displaced and host communities, are identified and supported to contribute in reducing negative coping mechanisms and harmful practices.	<p>2.2.1 Number of families supported.</p> <p>2.2.2 Number of case studies/avoided harmful practices.</p>	tbd	tbd	Government Reports Project progress report ROM and other M&E reports	Factors outside project management's control that may influence on the output-outcome linkage as analysed in the risk assessment

						part of the action document.
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IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1. Financing Agreement

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

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 48 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

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

4.3. Implementation 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 measures¹⁵.

4.3.1. Indirect Management with an international organisation

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

- Pillar assessed
- At least 10 years of experience and a well-established presence in the Afghanistan
- A proven, successful track record of engaging in refugee protection measures specifically targeting minors
- Experience with providing protection and basic services to vulnerable populations
- Experience in assisting host communities and promoting social cohesion

The implementation by this entity entails achieving the objectives enumerated under 3.1 and implementing the activities enumerated under 3.2.

If negotiations with the above-mentioned entity fail and/or circumstances in the country do not allow for implementation through an International Organisation, (that part of) this action may be implemented in direct management in accordance with the implementation modalities identified in section 4.3.2.

Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs:

The Commission authorises that the costs incurred may be recognised as eligible as of 15/08/2021 because of the exceptionally urgent circumstances imposed by the situation in Afghanistan and the risks of further deterioration in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries.

4.3.2. Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances

¹⁵ 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.

Change from indirect to direct management mode is foreseen in the event of exceptional circumstances that would render the execution of the current project, or distinguishable parts thereof, impossible.

Grants: (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

The grant would contribute to achieve Special Objectives 1 and 2, and pursue outputs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

Possible applicants for funding are international organisations and NGOs that through their expertise and geographic location can contribute to achieving the above mentioned objectives.

(c) Exception to the non-retroactivity of costs

Based on Art. 193 (2b) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission authorises that the costs incurred may be recognised as eligible as of 15/08/2021 because of the exceptionally urgent circumstances imposed by the situation in Afghanistan and the risks of further deterioration in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, the implications of which cannot be fully foreseen prior to the adoption of the Decision.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

4.5. Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Indirect management with an international organisation - cf. section 4.3.1 ¹⁶ .	15 000 000
Objective 1: Protection of IDPs, returnees, and ‘Children on the Move’, including unaccompanied minors;	
Objective 2: Supporting education and livelihoods of IDPs, returnees, ‘Children on the Move and their host communities.	
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	will be covered by another Decision
Totals	15 000 000

¹⁶ In case of changes from indirect to direct management this amount will constitute the global budgetary envelope for grants.

4.6. Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The basis for this action is the already existing structures and interventions a part of the EU contribution to the Children on the Move (Phase 1) intervention. Although project phase 1 is primarily covering Afghanistan and Iran, the current intervention will support measures pertaining to Afghanistan. The Project Steering Committee set up to ensure overall coherence and coordination of activities launched through the phase 1 of the project will continue to oversee the implementation of this action.

Given the mandate of other UN partners such as UNHCR and IOM concerning refugees/ migrants, the implementing partner of this action will continue to reach out at country and regional levels, to coordinate proposed interventions and complement global efforts. These partners will continue to be core participants of the Project Steering Committee to maintain communication on the issues of Afghan returnees, and unaccompanied minors.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action.

4.7. Pre-conditions [Only for project modality]

There are no pre-conditions to be met.

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

5.2. Evaluation

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

It will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the underlying displacement and migration dynamics, as well as the overall security situation, are constantly changing.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least two 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 dissemination¹⁷. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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

5.3. Audit and Verifications

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

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

¹⁷ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

APPENDIX 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention¹⁸ (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		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single action	Present action: all contracts in the present action
Option 2: Group of actions level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of actions	Actions reference (CRIS#/OPSYS#): <Present action> <Other action>
Option 3: Contract level		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 2	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 3	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract)>
	(...)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Group of contracts 1	<foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 1> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) 2> <foreseen individual legal commitment (or contract) #>

¹⁸ [ARES \(2021\)4204912](#) - For the purpose of consistency between terms in OPSYS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI have harmonised 5 key terms, including ‘action’ and ‘Intervention’ where an ‘action’ is the content (or part of the content) of a Commission Financing Decision and ‘Intervention’ is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. See more on the [concept of intervention](#).

