EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development
Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa

OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK
FOR THE SAHEL & LAKE CHAD WINDOW

1. INTRODUCTION

The EU Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (the EUTF) is guided by a Strategic Orientation Document (the EUTF Strategy). This sets out the EUTF general objectives and strategic lines of action, as well as the specific objectives and lines of action for each of the three windows of the Trust Fund, notably the Sahel and Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa and parts of North Africa. It also foresees the development of more detailed operational guidance for the project proposals to be presented to the respective Operational Committees, thus guiding the priority setting at national and regional levels. This is the purpose of the present note.

In the Sahel and Lake Chad region, the root causes of instability, forced displacement and irregular migration are diverse, complex and often inter-related, requiring a holistic and integrated approach. The EU aims to support the Sahel region at large to tackle growing challenges linked to demographic pressure, environmental stress, extreme poverty, internal tensions, institutional weaknesses, weak social and economic infrastructures, and insufficient resilience to food crises. These have in some cases led to open conflict, displacement, criminality, radicalisation and violent extremism, as well as irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants – all further exacerbating existing challenges.

The mobilisation of the EUTF takes place in the broader context of the dialogue taking place between the EU and its African partners on the various aspects of the issue of migration. At the Valletta Summit, the issue of migration was addressed in a comprehensive manner and the EU and its African partners agreed on a joint political declaration and a joint action plan, which emphasises the shared responsibilities as well as the joint coordinated actions needed to address the different aspects of migration, be they positive or negative. As such, the Joint Valletta Action Plan provides for a concrete frame of action in five key areas and 16 urgent priority initiatives have also been identified to be initiated before the end of 2016, some of which should benefit from Trust Fund funding. The EUTF responds directly to the priorities of the Valletta Action Plan and challenges and objectives outlined in the EUTF Strategy. With regard to the broader issues of development and security in the region, the EU Sahel Strategy and its Action Plan 2015-2020 also provide important references.

The EUTF seeks to complement existing instruments by providing a swift and flexible answer to such challenges and thus contributing to achieving the common goals and interests of the EU and its African partners in managing migration flows and promoting stability. The identification of the priorities in the EUTF is the result of thorough dialogue with local, national and regional stakeholders and is based on an analysis based on a review of relevant quantitative data (migration flows, malnutrition rates, number of violent acts...) as well as a qualitative analysis of the situation on the ground, with a clear and in-depth understanding of the countries' situations and local contexts.

This enables key geographical areas and beneficiaries to be targeted and the most suitable implementing partners to be identified. The Trust Fund interventions are guided by the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity, with a view to avoid overlap and create synergies with actions funded under other financing instruments of the EU and of its Member States, in particular the National and Regional Indicative Programmes.
2. OVERALL ORIENTATIONS FRAMING THE ACTION OF THE TRUST FUND IN THE SAHEL / LAKE CHAD REGION

The “Sahel/Lake Chad window” annex of the EUTF Strategy, which was presented at the first meeting of the Board of the EUTF, identifies a number of challenges, some of which differ from one country to the other, in order to address them in a strategic and coherent way. These specific country situations have been broadly characterised as follows:

- Countries and/or regions that “traditionally” are areas of origin for legal and/or irregular migration;
- Countries and/or regions that are zones of transit for irregular migration;
- Countries and/or regions marked by structural vulnerability, insufficient access to basic services, demographic pressure, and low resilience to external shocks;
- Countries and/or regions marked by instability, recent or ongoing conflict, including terrorist activities (leading to refugee flows and internal displacement); and
- Issues related to regional cooperation, security, wider issues of governance and human rights, and existing capacities for the management of migration flows.

The analysis of country situations presented in Annex refers to this broad characterisation of key challenges, guiding the identification of priorities for action to be supported by the Trust Fund. However, country specific interventions can only be successful in the long run if they are synchronised with regional approaches that ensure that the many existing cross-border challenges are addressed comprehensively. As a result, the following 5 main criteria will be used for the selection of projects, in addition to high quality and impact standards: i) respond to the two-fold logic: Preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management, or building a comprehensive approach for stability, security and resilience, ii) respect the thematic and geographical scope of each contributing financial instrument and their respective regulation especially regarding official development assistance (ODA) rules, iii) respect the specific areas defined in section 3 below, iv) to be complementary to other EU and MS actions in the region and v) to be in agreement with the beneficiary authorities.

The EUTF undertakes to address issues that are constantly evolving: migration flows are adapting to new routes, trafficking/smuggling networks adapt to new opportunities and border situations, terrorist groups make alliances, food security is seasonal and partly depends on climate. As it seeks a balance between short and long term approaches, the EUTF also needs to adapt to evolving conditions. To do so, the EUTF relies on one hand on qualitative analysis based on the expertise developed by EU Delegations and its partners, constant dialogue with various stakeholders and results obtained from past projects. The EUTF relies on the other hand on a quantitative analysis based on the latest data available from numerous sources such as national statistics, IOM, Eurostat, Frontex, ACLED, HCR, FAO, World Bank, UNICEF and CILSS. The orientations mentioned below are based on this analysis.

To assist the EUTF in this effort, the EUTF will also rely on a research facility, mobilising the best available research partners, to enhance the knowledge and understanding of the complex root causes of instability, insecurity, irregular migration and forced displacement, their drivers and underlying factors. The research facility will also contribute to the identification and dissemination of the most effective policies and approaches to address these challenges and equip the EUTF with sufficient evidence to refine its identification and implementation processes. All actions will be supported by a strong monitoring and evaluation framework.

Within this context the operational framework for the Sahel is based on a two-fold logic:
- Preventing irregular migration and forced displacement & facilitating better migration management
- Building a comprehensive approach for stability, security and resilience

Both have a common denominator: Youth of the region.
3. **Specific areas of action**

The map below illustrates some of the key challenges of the region, in terms of migration situation (zone of origin or transit), vulnerability of populations (resilience / food security) and conflict zones, highlighting their complexity and overlapping nature.

3.1. Preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management and returns

The scale and nature of current migratory flows reaching the EU is unprecedented, and requires stepping up the action to address it in a sustainable way. In 2015, Italy saw the arrival of over 150,000 migrants by sea, an estimated 80-85% of whom travelled via Libya. Main countries of origin included Eritrea, Nigeria and Somalia, which combined account for nearly half of all arrivals, with significant numbers (between 9,000 and 5,000 each) also originating from Sudan, Gambia, Syria, Senegal, Mali and Bangladesh. Migrants from West and Central Africa make up approximately 35% of arrivals, with weak economic development being among the key factors leading migrants to the decision to leave in search of better opportunities. In 2015, IOM registered 46,360 border crossings from Nigeria, Gambia, Senegal and Mali.

Following the Valetta Summit and with a view to stepping up dialogue with the most important countries of origin and transit of irregular migration, High Level Dialogues have taken place since mid-2015, led by the HRVP, Commissioners Mimica and Avramopoulos and EU Member States. The results of these political dialogues and of discussions at technical level feed into the process of identification of initiatives and projects at country and regional levels. In this framework, the EUTF appears as a flexible and swift instrument able to address the specific needs of the beneficiary countries when they are not covered by other financial instruments.

In particular, the EUTF has been created to address the immediate concerns of increased forced displacement and migration pressures in partner countries. In doing so, the EUTF will pursue a balanced strategy between short and long term assistance: short term approaches are needed to address immediate needs, while longer term approaches are needed to sustainably address the complexity and the root causes of forced displacement and irregular migration. Development measures that specifically address the needs and aspirations of potential migrants and high levels of inequality, and
that seek to build stable, inclusive societies are likely to be most effective in reducing the challenge of irregular migration.

As highlighted in the map, the challenges related to irregular migration and forced displacement are not similar across the Sahel/Lake Chad region and need to be addressed with a tailored approach, according to the particular nature of national or sub-regional situations. But tackling this problem at a national level only would simply risk displacing the existing smuggling/trafficking routes. The EUTF will therefore support all countries of the region, while taking into account country-specific needs and issues.

As a result, the support planned to prevent irregular migration and forced displacement, and to facilitate better migration management and returns should be as follows:

- **Creating economic and employment opportunities, in regions with a high migration potential, to prevent irregular migration and facilitate returns**, in particular by i) enhancing the professional skills and employability of young people, ii) stepping up support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the formal and informal sector, iii) increasing access to finance and deepening financial inclusion and iv) continue building the capacities of civil society and local authorities to foster a culture of social accountability. In the framework of these three components, particular attention will be given to empowering women as entrepreneurs and workers, promoting diaspora engagement in countries of origin to boost local economic development and supporting the reintegration of returnees into their communities.

- **Transforming systems built around irregular migration in regions where migrant smuggling and services for migrants are important economic factors**, in particular by i) providing economic opportunities to local communities, ii) supporting local authorities to deal with the impact of migratory flows, iii) reinforcing migration management capacities of national authorities and iv) strengthening their ability to fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human being networks.

- **Contributing to better Migration Management all along the migratory routes in West Africa**, including i) supporting the adoption and implementation of appropriate legislative, policy and institutional frameworks, ii) strengthening the capacity of law enforcement, judicial bodies and border management authorities to better control the migratory flows across the borders and to detect, investigate, and prosecute smugglers and traffickers, iii) encouraging regional approaches for joint border management, information gathering and sharing, iv) support for border management practices such as rights-based border controls and enforcement, or refugee protection, including through offering protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and smuggling and vulnerable migrants, and v) undertaking awareness raising campaigns on the dangers of engaging in irregular migration, and legal alternatives to it.

- **Strengthening cooperation in order to facilitate the return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants**, in particular by i) enhancing identification of citizens by improving civil status registration and supporting coherent and robust civil registry systems and fingerprint digitalisation, but also by ii) providing support packages both for returnees and for the return communities, in complementarity with EU and EU Member States initiatives such as the European Reintegration Network (ERIN), (iii) support to the voluntary return from major transit countries. As part of this process, it is important to ensure that returnees are aware of and have access to their rights.

In doing so, the EUTF for the Sahel will cover the five key areas of the Valetta Action plan and 10 of the 16 urgent priority initiatives identified.
3.2. Building a comprehensive approach for stability, security and resilience

Conflict and terrorism are among the key drivers for displacement and irregular migration. The security situation in the Sahel and Lake Chad region remains volatile due to the presence of terrorist groups, in particular AQMI and Boko Haram, but also IS. Violent extremism and terrorism are increasingly spreading across the region, and radicalisation in the Sahel and Lake Chad area is a crucial challenge fuelled by a combination of complex factors and circumstances, which go beyond poverty, poor economic conditions, etc.

The response to these challenges has to go beyond traditional development work and has to be both prevent-specific and prevent-relevant. Prevent-specific activities are aimed at stopping people from turning to terrorism; prevent-relevant activities address the conditions that could be conducive to radicalisation and the spread of terrorism. Current EU programming in the Sahel/Lake Chad contains several elements to address radicalisation and recruitment of youth by terrorist groups, but much more must be done.

Instability is also both a source and a result of food and nutritional security vulnerabilities, sometimes exacerbating pre-existing pressures. The Sahel continues to face an ongoing structural food crisis, regular droughts, erratic rainfall, spikes in food prices and epidemics mean that food insecurity and poverty are an endemic problem. Furthermore, the ramifications of conflict in the region, economic disparities, market distortions and the weakness of public institutions add to the fundamental problem of low resilience to chronic crisis and external shocks. Today, approximately 20% of the population – at least 25 million people – are considered very-poor and require urgent social protection. The challenges are structural and cut across several sectors: inadequate access to food and health care, insufficient diagnosis and treatment for malnutrition and lack of social safety nets. During and after crises, without adequate means to restore their livelihoods, they are forced to turn to negative coping mechanisms leaving them even more vulnerable to future shocks thus aggravating food insecurity.

The overuse of natural resources, degradation of local ecosystems and climate disruption have exacerbated the impact of environmental degradation and natural disasters in the area, often leading to violent conflict over ever scarcer natural resources. Lake Chad has shrunk by more than 80% in recent decades, threatening the water supply and livelihoods of over 20 million people and leading to conflicts over the remaining water between bordering countries and different population groups,
including farmers, herders and fishermen. Overgrazing is another major issue of concern in the area dominated by pastoralism.

These developments further aggravate endemic high levels of poverty, underdevelopment and weak governance in large parts of the region. The results are not only growing humanitarian needs, but also an increasing number of migrants and internally displaced persons as well an incentive to engage in criminal activities, including trafficking, as a means of livelihood. Indeed, conflicts in Mali and northern Nigeria – spilling over to Chad, Niger and Cameroon – have further exacerbated the food security situation. These conditions risk increasing instability in the entire region and creating a fertile breeding ground for radicalization and armed violence.

As can be seen from the below map, the CILSS harmonised framework for food and nutritional security thus foresees that a number of areas in the Sahel and Lake Chad region will be under pressure or in a crisis situation in the coming months.

In this context it is essential for the stability of the region to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable population groups in the Sahel. A specific area where the EU should step up its support and impact is the Lake Chad basin, which is specifically covered by the Trust Fund. The political, environmental, social and security challenges of the Lake Chad region call for a multi-dimensional approach. The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) aims to foster regional cooperation on the sustainable management of natural resources and thus the prevention of violent conflict over them. It also attempts to foster overall security cooperation in the area.

Finally, management of cross-border issues is crucial for stability and security in the Sahel and Lake Chad area, and has national, regional and global implications, including for the EU. Insufficient border management clearly is a factor favouring illegal border crossings. Trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants (producing unacceptable risks for the lives of migrants), but also the lack of physical means to effectively control thousands of kilometres of land borders, are among the issues to be addressed.

Transnational organised crime is known to play a key role in the smuggling and trafficking of humans in the Sahel/Lake Chad region, with established links towards the Maghreb as well as with regions of origin in the Horn of Africa, such as Eritrea. These networks coordinate well across borders on the
channelling of individuals or groups of migrants, organising their transport and logistics to facilitate illegal border crossings. In addition they are often also used to smuggle weapons or drugs. Collecting information and clear evidence against traffickers, valid to be used in court cases, and effective investigation and prosecution are key to curb the flow of irregular migration and to stop the loss of lives that is linked to these criminal activities. Terrorism-related activities are also facilitated by porous borders as well as transnational crime and trafficking networks. This is in particular the case in the Lake Chad region that has been fundamentally destabilized by the activities of Boko Haram.

As a result, and in order to address these three interrelated areas of concern, the EUTF appears as an important additional tool to build a comprehensive approach for stability, security and resilience in the region. The support planned to implement this approach should be as follows:

- **Reinforcing the resilience of local communities through Linking Relief, Reconstruction and Development (LRRD) efforts in areas particularly affected by the current environmental, socio-economic and security challenges**, in particular by i) promoting access to basic services for the most vulnerable populations, and in particular women, ii) improving agricultural productivity and food security, including pastoral farming, iii) supporting and reinforcing the economic dynamics of cross-border exchange and iv) supporting non-violent conflict resolution. This component will include a dedicated support to internally displaced persons and refugees by providing durable solutions for their protection, their integration in host communities, their return to their areas of origin or their resettlement in third countries.

- **Improving border management, fighting against transnational trafficking and criminal networks and terrorism-related activities**, in particular by i) supporting improvements in the overall good governance, in particular by promoting conflict prevention, addressing human rights abuses and enforcing the rule of law, ii) reinforcing the national capacities of the security and the justice systems and iii) fostering inter-agency and regional cooperation among national forces addressing terrorism and organized crime, irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants with a focus on the G5 Sahel countries (Security And Defence Committee, Security Platform) including through training and institutional support (e.g. “Collège Sahélien de Sécurité”). It is understood that such cooperation should take place in the context of a more comprehensive reform approach which includes a sustained dialogue with the beneficiary country, including on the full respect of human rights. Furthermore, no lethal equipment can be provided under the EUTF.

- **Preventing radicalisation and violent extremism**, in particular by i) better informing about the development of the phenomenon of radicalization, raising stakeholders' awareness of the phenomenon and providing support to stem radicalization, ii) supporting capacity development of media, NGOs, civil society, organisations that promote peaceful religion and disseminate values and preventive messages against radicalization and iii) identify "hotspots" of radicalization and concentrate actions to have a structuring effect, including on public education, health, justice and security in the zones.

In doing so, the EUTF will cover additional priorities of the Valetta Action Plan, directly implement the Regional Action Plan for the Sahel and significantly increase the EU impact on the stabilisation of the region, in full synergy with other EU and MS instruments, including in particular the IcSP projects and CSDP missions.
3.3. Youth as a paramount objective

The operational framework for the Sahel is based on a two-fold logic but these two logics have a common denominator which is the Youth of the region. The lack of economic opportunities and disparities in wealth distribution in the region is a major source of grievance and conflict. To address this situation and to keep young people from becoming irregular migrants, radicalised or recruited by networks engaged in transnational organised crime and smuggling, it is critical to offer valuable alternatives and opportunities and rekindling hope, notably for the African youth, must be our paramount objective, according to the Valetta political declaration.

The Sahel/Lake Chad region is characterised by a population growth of around 3% per year, and is distinguished by its young population. This is expected to continue over the coming decades. Young people are both a great opportunity and a major challenge for the countries in the region. Experience shows that frustrated aspirations and hopelessness not only are a drain on development potential, due to increased migration pressures, instability and violence, but also in today’s globalised world foster the spread of terrorist ideologies.

All the actions foreseen under the first two sections concern youths; support by the EUTF is also envisaged to respond to requests from the G5 Sahel but will concentrate on fields where its intervention can be significant and have a measurable impact, in particular in remote areas where there is reduced or little State presence.

Support of the EUTF will seek to complement the existing instruments and projects where appropriate in the following areas:

- **Increase access to quality education for vulnerable or excluded groups** (peripheral areas without public services, nomadic populations, etc.), with special attention to gender issues and the reconciliation of the objectives of secular and Islamic education.

- **Support the generation of jobs** for young people and improve their chances of employment, for instance through enhancing entrepreneurship and professional training.

- **Encourage the social and political integration of young people in society.** Actions will seek to promote civic and political participation of young people and social cohesion for the most marginalised sections of the population (associations, youth forums for debate, sporting and cultural activities, media and communication, mediation etc.)

- **Accelerate demographic transition:** In remote areas where there is little state presence in terms of education and awareness-raising, the Trust Fund programme can facilitate the access of the most vulnerable populations to family planning, while also supporting the deployment of basic services for a rapidly expanding population in these areas.
At a glance

**BURKINA FASO**

**Situation index**

- Food Insecurity
- Conflict Risk
- Socio-Eco Vulnerability
- Displaced people
- Irregular migrants

**Key figures**

- Population (in million): 17.9
- GDP per Capita (in $): 631
- Fertility rate (births per woman): 5.6
- HDI rank (out of 188): 183

**Snapshot analysis**

The situation of Burkina Faso has to be considered in the light of the recently — and successfully — concluded transition, leading to instauration of a new, freely elected government, following the popular uprising in October 2014 which put paid to the 27 year regime of former President Compaoré.

- Burkina Faso remains one of the 10 least developed countries in the world. Although it has recently benefited from above average GDP growth compared to other sub-Saharan countries, its high population growth continues to pose a challenge. The creation of economic opportunities and relevant training for all is a major challenge for the future.
- Burkina Faso has not been a source of irregular migration to the EU in recent years. However, the country remains an important source of intra-regional migration, in particular towards Côte d’Ivoire. A landlocked country, Burkina Faso is one of the main transit countries in the region and the Government faces several challenges linked to transiting migrants, notably in the field of trafficking and border management.
- Food insecurity is a structural problem in Burkina; 80% of the population is reliant on drought-prone subsistence farming and many households have struggled to overcome food and nutrition crises and illness. Burkina Faso still hosts 33 574 Malian refugee camps in the North in Djibo and Dori.
- Traditionally a stable country, Burkina Faso has recently become more vulnerable to regional insecurity as evidenced by the terrorist attacks in January 2016 in Ouagadougou and elsewhere. It is presently in the process of reforming its security apparatus.
EUTF PRIORITIES

Considering the security and human situation in the North, the objective should be to build a comprehensive approach for stability, security and resilience of vulnerable groups affected by insecurity and vulnerability. It should imply:

- **Reinforcing the resilience of local communities through Linking Relief, Reconstruction and Development (LRRD) efforts in the North.** Projects already adopted:
  - Strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable populations in northern Burkina Faso – EUR 25 000 000
  - Socio-economic integration of youth and women in northern Burkina Faso (Seno province) – EUR 5 200 000

- **Improving border management, fighting against transnational trafficking and criminal networks and terrorism-related activities.** Projects already adopted:
  - Integrated border management and improved State presence in border areas, in particular in northern Burkina Faso – EUR 25 000 000 (presented June 13th)

- **Preventing radicalisation and violent extremism.** No projects adopted for instance

Considering the migration situation of the country, the second objective should be to preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management and returns. It should imply:

- **Creation of new opportunities for jobs and income, in particular among women and the young population;**

- **Support to Malian refugees for their integration in host communities and potential return in Mali and improved management of migratory flows;**

Complementarity should be sought with regard to planned regional and multi-country action and cooperation on border and migration management, and to the development and management of shared cross-border regions.
The situation index radar is based on 2016 data from the INFORM platform, a collaboration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task team for preparedness and resilience and the European Commission. Irregular migration index is derived from Frontex data for Italy and Greece in 2015. While the radar provides a quick overview for the country, the EUTF’s analysis is based on more data, taking into account, for instance, differences between regions.

CAMEROON

At a glance

1.5 million
Food insecure people (IPC 03/2016)

2 870
Boko Haram fatalities from 2010 to 2015 (ACLED 2015)

331 000
Refugees living in Cameroon (UNHCR 2016)

190 000
Internally displaced persons, 158 000 by Boko Haram and the rest due to disasters triggered by natural hazards. (IOM 2016)

2 250
Cameroonian irregular migrants having reached Italy in 2015 (IOM 2015)

National indicative programme (MEUR)

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<th>Governance</th>
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<th>Rural Development</th>
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<td>84</td>
<td>178</td>
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Key figures

Population (in million): ......................... 23.1
GDP per Capita (in $): ......................... 1 234
Fertility rate (births per woman): ............ 4.8
HDI rank (out of 188): ......................... 153

Snapshot analysis

• After having been for decades an anchor of stability in a volatile region, Cameroon is increasingly exposed to factors of internal and external stress. Main economic development challenges are related to the high incidence of poverty in rural areas, high levels of youth unemployment, as well as an unfavourable business climate and uneven access to basic services. This situation has recently been exacerbated by the decline in the oil price and the impact of the security situation on the economy.

• Cameroon is a key destination for regional migration. Cameroon is currently hosting 259 000 refugees from the Central African Republic and 72 000 others from Nigeria. This situation constitutes a huge challenge for local administrations and communities.

• The widespread violence in the Far North due to Boko Haram has led to a massive exodus, with 158 000 Internally Displaced Persons due to Boko Haram attacks (IOM, 04/2016).

• In the Far North, nearly 80% of the population is either poor or very poor, with limited access to basic services and essential food commodities. The region is densely populated and highly vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity, particularly owing to recurrent floods and draughts. Since 2014, the insecurity has further increased the effects of these structural weaknesses, leading to a deterioration of nutritional status of children and global acute malnutrition rates reaching 14% (emergency threshold 15%).
EUTF PRIORITIES

Considering the security and human situation in the North and the terrorist threat, the objective should be to build a comprehensive approach for stability, security and resilience of vulnerable groups affected by insecurity and vulnerability. It should imply:

- **Reinforcing the resilience of local communities, including refugees and IDPs, through Linking Relief, Reconstruction and Development (LRRD) efforts in the North.** Projects already adopted:
  - Response programme to deal with the effects of internal and external population movements in the North, Adamaoua and Far North Region - EUR 20 000 000
  - Project to promote employment and strengthen resilience in North - EUR 7 000 000
  - Investment project in support of local economic development in the Far North Region, promoting the employment and integration of young people - EUR 10 000 000

- **Improving border management, fighting against transnational trafficking and criminal networks and terrorism-related activities.** No projects adopted for instance.

- **Support to initiatives for increased regional and cross-border cooperation (e.g. in the framework of the Lake Chad Basin).** Including in the framework of Boko Haram violence, initiatives to improve security, and strengthening capacities to enhance protection and security of the population, notably in the affected areas.

- **Preventing radicalisation and violent extremism.** No projects adopted for instance.

Considering the migration situation of the country, the second objective should be to preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management and returns. It should imply:

- **Creating economic and employment opportunities in regions of origin to prevent irregular migration and facilitate returns.** No projects adopted for instance:

- **Strengthening cooperation in order to facilitate the return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants, including support to improve civil status registration and supporting the creation of coherent and robust civil registry systems.** No projects adopted for instance.

- **Contributing to better Migration Management.** No projects adopted for instance.
The Gambia

At a glance

3X
more remittances than FDI

8,454
Gambians migrants reached Italy in 2015 through the sea (FRONTEX)

427,000
People are considered to be food insecure (IPC, 03/2016)

Situation index

Key figures

Population (in million): ...........................................2

GDP per Capita (in $): ...........................................384

Fertility rate (births per woman): .........................5.8

HDI rank (out of 188): ...........................................175

Snapshot analysis

- The Gambia remains on the list of least developed countries. Absolute GDP growth has been uneven during the last years and with one of the highest fertility rates in the world, GDP per capita even decreased between 2010-2014. The country’s economy is significantly depending on tourism and agriculture, both sectors having recently been subject to negative external factors, such as the impact of Ebola on employment in tourism, and the insufficient rainfall with its consequences for agriculture and food security. Poverty is particularly acute in the central and upper river regions.

- Food insecurity is endemic due to crop failure/poor harvest, rising food prices and loss of livelihoods as a result of frequent natural disasters. Close to 427 000 people are considered to be food insecure. The upper river region is currently considered under crisis while the rest of the country is under pressure according to the cadre harmonisé.

- With a population of less than 2 million, The Gambia has a diaspora of over 70 000 persons, with over 33 000 residing in the EU in 2014, most of them in Spain. Remittances are an important factor in the Gambian economy, representing 22% of the GDP (World Bank, 2014).

- The country has recently witnessed a significant increase in irregular migration flows to the EU, primarily to Italy, where 8 454 Gambians entered in 2015. The rate of effective returns was 23% in 2014, compared to 40% on EU average.

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1 The situation index radar is based on 2016 data from the INFORM platform, a collaboration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task team for preparedness and resilience and the European Commission. Irregular migration index is derived from Frontex data for Italy and Greece in 2015. While the radar provides a quick overview for the country, the EUTF’s analysis is based on more data, taking into account, for instance, differences between regions.
EUTF PRIORITIES

On this background, the priority objective for Trust Fund support should be to preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management and returns. It should imply:

- **Creating economic and employment opportunities in regions of origin to prevent irregular migration and facilitate returns.** Projects already adopted:
  - Gambia Youth Empowerment Scheme—EUR 11 000 000 (presented June 13th)

- **Strengthening cooperation in order to facilitate the return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants.** No projects adopted for instance.

- **Contributing to better Migration Management.** No projects adopted for instance.

Trust Fund support to initiatives in the Gambia should be conceived in coherence with planned support under the 11\(^{th}\) EDF (e.g. in the area of rural development) and take into account progress in broader dialogue on issues related to the root causes of irregular migration and its consequences.
MALI

Situation index

Key figures

Population (in million): .................16.3
GDP per Capita (in $): ....................672
Fertility rate (births per woman): ........6.3
HDI rank (out of 188): .....................179

Snapshot analysis

- Mali is a landlocked country, whose economy is largely dependent on the gold mining sector and agriculture production, which contributes to 37% of its GDP. Mali has a very young population, nearly half the population is less than 15 (47%). This puts pressure on a structurally weak labour market characterised by a large informal sector.

- Mali is an important country of origin (3rd highest arrivals from West Africa with some 6,500 irregular border crossings in 2015), and Gao has become an important transit point with an increasing number of irregular migrants now taking the Gao-Tessalit route. The major part of migrants comes from the region of Kayes, bordering to Mauritania in the north, Senegal in the west and Guinea in the south. The return rate for 2014 was 11.1%.

- The armed conflict in the North of the country has entailed a high degree of insecurity, which together with terrorist activities, radicalization and violent extremism have caused considerable internal displacement and emigration. According to UNHCR (Dec. 2015), tens of thousands of Malian nationals are currently still staying in refugee camps in neighbouring countries.

- The conflict has also negatively impacted the food security situation and access to basic social services for the local communities (education, health, access to water resources). Also the nutrition situation remains critical with a national global malnutrition rate of 12.4% and a severe acute malnutrition rate of 2.8% exceeding the WHO emergency thresholds.

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EUTF PRIORITIES

On this background, the priority objective for Trust Fund support in Mali should be to preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management and returns. It should imply:

- **Creating economic and employment opportunities in regions of origin to prevent irregular migration and facilitate returns.** Projects already adopted:
  - Creating economic opportunities in the sector of Anarcade, in the regions with a high migration potential in Mali – EUR 23 576 233
  - Promoting diaspora engagement to boost economic development - EUR 6 000 000

- **Strengthening cooperation in order to facilitate the return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants, including support to improve civil status registration and supporting the creation of coherent and robust civil registry systems.** No projects adopted for instance.

- **Contributing to better Migration Management.** No projects adopted for instance

The second objective should be to contribute to the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation and to respond to the security and human situation in the North and in the Centre. It should be done by building a comprehensive approach for stability, security and resilience of vulnerable groups affected by insecurity and terrorist threats. It should imply:

- **Reinforcing the resilience of local communities in the North through Linking Relief, Reconstruction and Development (LRRD) efforts.** Projects already adopted:
  - Strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable populations in the North of Mali – EUR 20 000 000
  - Support to Local authorities and stimulating the economy – EUR 10 000 000
  - Security and development in the North of Mali – EUR 13 000 000

- **Improving border management, fighting against transnational trafficking and criminal networks and terrorism-related activities.** Projects already adopted:
  - Support for stepping up capacities for border management and improved State presence, in particular in the region of Gao and Mopti EUR 29 157 500 (presented June 13th)

- **Preventing radicalisation and violent extremism.** No projects adopted for instance.
MAURITANIA

Situation index

22% of the population is food insecure (IPC 2016)

4 000 cases of child labour reported to the Police in 2015 (US State Dpt)

69% of young women are unemployed in urban areas

41 113 Malian refugees (UNHCR 2016)

Key figures

Population (in million): ......................3.7

GDP per Capita (in $): ......................1 262

Fertility rate (births per woman): ............4.7

HDI rank (out of 188): ......................156

Snapshot analysis

- Despite the relatively good short and medium term economic outlook (OECD African Economic Outlook), economic growth has had a rather limited effect on reducing poverty and inequality as an estimated 42% of the population still live under the poverty line (OCHA, 03/2016). Youth unemployment is a major problem, affecting 50.8% of young urban men and 69% of urban women.

- Agriculture provides the livelihoods of about 67% of the population (FAO, 2016), however structural food deficits, scarce resources, recurrent drought and environmental degradation, making access to food difficult for vulnerable households, 22% of the population is considered food insecure.

- Mauritania is both a country of transit and a destination for West Africans (Senegal, Mali and Ivory Coast) irregularly migrating to Europe. The current conflict in Northern Mali has prompted 41 113 Malian to seek refuge at the Mbera camp, 50 kilometres from the Malian border.

Since the creation of AQMI in 2007, the terrorist threat has significantly increased in the region, including Mauritania. However the country has been free from attacks since 2011;

1 The situation index radar is based on 2016 data from the INFORM platform, a collaboration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task team for preparedness and resilience and the European Commission. Irregular migration index is derived from Frontex data for Italy and Greece in 2015. While the radar provides a quick overview for the country, the EUTF’s analysis is based on more data, taking into account, for instance, differences between regions.
EUTF PRIORITIES

On this background, the priority objective for Trust Fund support in Mauritania should be to prevent irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management and returns. It should imply:

- **Creating economic and employment opportunities in particular for youth and in regions of origin to prevent irregular migration and facilitate returns.** Projects already adopted:
  - Creating jobs for youth in the infrastructure sector – EUR 3 200 000

- **Contributing to better Migration Management and protection of migrants.** Projects already adopted:
  - Project aiming at fighting against child trafficking and irregular migration – EUR 3 000 000

- **Strengthening cooperation in order to facilitate the return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants, including support to improve civil status registration and supporting the creation of coherent and robust civil registry systems.** No projects adopted for instance.

Considering the security and human situation, the second objective should be to build a comprehensive approach for stability, security and resilience of vulnerable population. It should imply:

- **Improving border management, fighting against transnational trafficking and criminal networks and terrorism-related activities.** No projects adopted for instance

- **Preventing radicalisation and violent extremism.** No projects adopted for instance

- **Reinforcing the resilience of local communities through Linking Relief, Reconstruction and Development (LRRD) in particular** for the regions with a high potential of migration at the frontier with Mali (e.g. Nema region); No projects adopted for instance
European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa

At a glance

16 152 migrants transiting each week through Niger to Northern Africa (IOM, 05/2016)

670 000 young people entering the labour market each year (UN, World Population Prospect)

5.4 million or 30.2% of the population is food insecure (IPC 2016)

85% of the workforce operates in the agriculture sector (UNDP, 2014)

NIGER

Situation index

Key figures

- Population (in million): ................................. 18
- GDP per Capita (in $): ................................. 403
- Fertility rate (births per woman): .................. 7.6
- HDI rank (out of 188): ................................. 188

Snapshot analysis

- Niger has a population growth of 3.9%, explained by a very high fertility rate (7.6 children per woman). By 2030, 670 000 people will be entering the labour market each year and the population is expected to triple by 2050.
- Niger is the main crossroad and transit hub for irregular migration and human trafficking going towards the EU. An estimated 16 000 persons per week from Western and Central Africa travel through Niger on their way to Northern Africa. A formal and informal economy has developed in Niger around migration which represents the main source of income of local populations in cities such as Agadez. In addition of being a major transit country in Africa, Niger is also hosting about 114 000 displaced Nigerians and Nigerien returnees, 60 000 Malian refugees and 127 000 internally displaced people.
- The security situation is particularly challenging in the Lake Chad region of Niger and in the Tillabery region. The causes of insecurity are multiple and complex, including the persistent threat by terrorist groups in the North and the heavy spill-over of Boko Haram-related violence in its South-Eastern parts, in particular the Diffa region. These threats consequently require consequent and sustained budgetary efforts to the expense of public spending for poverty reduction and socio-economic development. The ‘cadre harmonisé’ currently identifies the Diffa region as being under crisis, in addition to the resilience issues in Tahoua, Tillabery and Zinder.

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National indicative programme

(MEUR)

- Food Security
- Other measures
- Reinforcing State capacities
- Road access to areas affected by insecurity
- Security, governance & peace consolidation

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On this background, the priority objective for Trust Fund support in Niger should be to preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management and returns. It should imply to:

- **Transforming systems built around irregular migration in regions where migrant smuggling and services for migrants are important economic factors.** Projects already adopted:
  - Job creation in transit zones in Niger: Tahoua and Agadez – EUR 30 000 000
  - Professional insertion of youth in transit zones: Zinder and Agadez – EUR 6 900 000
  - Strengthening the sustainable management by local authorities of the consequences of migratory flows – EUR 25 000 000

- **Contributing to better Migration Management.** Projects already adopted:
  - Protection of migrants’ rights, information and support to return of third country nationals in transit situation in Niger to their countries of origin - Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism – EUR 7 000 000

- **Improving border management, fighting against transnational trafficking and criminal networks and terrorism-related activities.** Projects already adopted:
  - Strengthening the ability of the Nigerien Police to fight against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings networks: EUR 6 000 000
  - Building of capacity related to security with a focus on border management, the fight against trafficking, justice and customs: EUR 30 000 000 (presented June 13th)

- **Strengthening cooperation in order to facilitate the return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants, including nigerien returned migrants.** No projects adopted so far

Considering the security situation in the Lake Chad region of Niger and in the Tillabery region, the second objective should be to build a comprehensive approach for stability, security and resilience of vulnerable groups affected by insecurity and terrorist threats. It should imply:

- **Reinforcing the resilience of local communities through Linking Relief, Reconstruction and Development (LRRD) efforts in the Lake Chad region.** No projects adopted for instance.

- **Improving border management, fighting against transnational trafficking and terrorism-related activities in the Lake Chad region.** No projects adopted for instance.

- **Preventing radicalisation and violent extremism.** No projects adopted so far
At a glance

18 670
Fatalities caused by Boko Haram since 2009 (ACLAD 2016)

2 241 484
IDPs (UNHCR 2015)

22 500
Nigerians migrants reached Italy by sea in 2015 (UNHCR 2016)

15.1 million
food insecure people (IPC 2016)

NIGERIA

Situation index

Key figures

Population (in million): .........................178.7
GDP per Capita (in $): .........................2 758
Fertility rate (births per woman): ..............5.7
HDI rank (out of 188): .........................152

Snapshot analysis

- Nigeria is the most populous country and biggest economy in Africa. Despite the past growth its GDP (powered by oil and gas), Nigeria remains a developing country characterized by low per capita income, a high rate of unemployment and extreme poverty with over 60% of the population living below the poverty threshold.

- With around 22,500 persons in 2015, Nigeria ranked 2\textsuperscript{nd} in illegal border crossings through the Central-Mediterranean route to Italy. The country is an important theatre for activities related to trafficking and smuggling of human beings, originating from Nigeria but also from neighbouring countries. The intensification of violence linked to Boko Haram has also caused 2.2 million people to be internally displaced and 176 000 Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries (OCHA).

- An estimated 15.1 million people are affected by food insecurity in the northern parts of Nigeria, including 8.3 million in the North-east states of Adamawa, Borno, Yobe - out of which 4 million are in urgent need of food assistance.

- Since a state of emergency was declared in Yobe, Borno and Adamawa states in 2013, massacres, suicide bombings and mass abductions, perpetrated by Boko Haram have become daily threats across the region. Continued forced displacement, killing and security incidents following the insurgency situation caused by Boko Haram's attacks.

\footnote{The situation index radar is based on 2016 data from the INFORM platform, a collaboration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task team for preparedness and resilience and the European Commission. Irregular migration index is derived from Frontex data for Italy and Greece in 2015. While the radar provides a quick overview for the country, the EUTF's analysis is based on more data, taking into account, for instance, differences between regions.}
On this background, the priority objective for Trust Fund support in Mali should be to preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management and returns. It should imply:

- **Creating economic and employment opportunities in regions of origin to prevent irregular migration and facilitate returns.** No projects adopted for instance.

- **Strengthening cooperation in order to facilitate the return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants, including support to improve civil status registration and supporting the creation of coherent and robust civil registry systems.** No projects adopted for instance.

- **Contributing to better Migration Management.** No projects adopted for instance.

Considering the security and human situation in northern Nigeria, the second objective should be to build a comprehensive approach for stability, security and resilience of vulnerable groups affected by insecurity and terrorist threats. It should imply:

- **Reinforcing the resilience of the millions of IDPs and local communities through Linking Relief, Reconstruction and Development (LRRD) efforts in the North.** Projects already adopted:
  - Enhancing state and community level conflict management capability in North East Nigeria – EUR 21 000 000
  - Investing in the Safety and Integrity of Nigerian Girls – EUR 3 500 633
  - Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development and promoting stability and safety of communities in displacement in North East Nigeria – EUR 11 623 000

- **Improving border management, fighting against transnational trafficking and criminal networks and terrorism-related activities.** Projects already adopted:

- **Preventing radicalisation and violent extremism.** No projects adopted for instance.
At a glance

300,000 young people are estimated to enter the labour market each year (IRD 2016)

30,000 job opportunities created every year (Africa close up 2016)

2 million food insecure people (IPC 2016)

5,981 Senegalese arrived in Lampedusa in 2015 (IOM 2015)

11% of the GDP comes from remittances (ICMPD, 2014)

Key figures

Population (in million): .............................. 15
GDP per Capita (in $): ............................... 934
Fertility rate (births per woman): ............ 5.1
HDI rank (out of 188): ............................ 170

Snapshot analysis

- Senegal is one of the most stable democracies in Africa. Nonetheless, despite efforts to boost the economy and provide basic social services, levels of poverty and unemployment remain high.
- Remittances from migrants abroad constitute a major source of revenues for local populations and have significant economic impact at national level (approx. 2 times ODA).
- Recurrent shocks, poor infrastructure, income drops as well as low and late funding continue to increase the overall chronic vulnerability and erode communities’ resilience.
- Senegal has a long-standing tradition of migration as both a country of origin and transit. Senegalese migrants are mainly directed to Europe where an estimated 200,000 Senegalese nationals live. However, a significant part of them emigrate towards other African countries (Ivory Coast, Gabon, The Gambia, Mali and Mauritania).

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On this background, the priority objective for Trust Fund support should be to preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management and returns. It should imply:

- **Creating economic and employment opportunities in regions of origin to prevent irregular migration and facilitate returns.** Projects already adopted:
  
  ✓ Developing economies and local businesses in the departure zones (Casamance, North, East, and South East of the country) – EUR 40 000 000
  
  ✓ Improving people’s living conditions in the rural areas in order to reduce illegal emigration – EUR 20 000 000

- **Reinforcing the resilience of local communities through Linking Relief, Reconstruction and Development (LRRD) efforts in the North.** Projects already adopted:
  
  ✓ Standardization of the life conditions of affected populations by the Casamance conflict – EUR 4 500 000 (adopted)
  
  ✓ Reinforcement of the food and nutritional safety in the region of Matam – EUR 1 100 000 (adopted)
  
  ✓ Resilience of the most vulnerable population to food and nutritional crisis in the areas of Podor, Ranéréou, Matam and Kanel – EUR 8 000 000 (adopted)

- **Strengthening cooperation in order to facilitate the return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants, including support to improve civil status registration and supporting the creation of coherent and robust civil registry systems.** No projects adopted for instance.

- **Contributing to better Migration Management.** No projects adopted for instance

- **Support to improve the flow of remittances and stimulation of local investment, involving also the diaspora** No projects adopted for instance
At a glance

46.7% of the population below the poverty line (OCHA, 03/2016)

2.8 million food insecure (IPC, 03/2016)

493 123 refugees from Sudan, central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria (UNHCR)

622 Boko Haram casualties from 2010 to 2015 (ACLED, 2015)

CHAD

Situation index

Key figures

- Population (in million): ................................ 11.6
- GDP per Capita (in $): .................. 1 010
- Fertility rate (births per woman): ............ 6.3
- HDI rank (out of 188): .................... 185

Snapshot analysis

- Ranked as LDC, Chad benefits from the initiative ‘Everything But Arms’ which gives duty-free and quota-free access to the EU market. The current budgetary crisis results from an increase in security expenses as well as from decreasing oil prices.

- Even though resilience and the fight against malnutrition recently gained momentum, malnutrition represents a heavy burden on human development (i.e. ranked 185/187 on HDI index 2014, 46.7% of the population below the poverty line and 2.8 million food insecure people). Costs associated with child under-nutrition are evaluated at 9.5% of annual GNP.

- Chad has historically been characterized by transit migration flows as its geographical position makes it an intersection between West and East, North and South of the African continent. Chad had 109 633 IDPs as of April 2016.

- Chad is a landlocked country and inserted in a very fragile regional context as it is surrounded by countries going through crises (Darfur, CAR, Libya and northern Nigeria).

- Chad experienced a substantial worsening of its security situation following the Boko Haram attacks on its own territory.

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EUTF PRIORITIES

Considering the security and human situation, the objective should be to build a comprehensive approach for stability, security and resilience of vulnerable groups affected by insecurity and vulnerability. It should imply:

- **Reinforcing the resilience of local communities through Linking Relief, Reconstruction and Development (LRRD) efforts in areas particularly affected by the current security challenges and associated migratory movements, in particular in the Lake Chad area.** Projects already adopted:
  
  ✓ Resilience in Lake Chad - EUR 27 000 000
  ✓ Project to strengthen resilience and peaceful coexistence in Chad - EUR 18 000 000
  ✓ Professional integration of young vulnerable Chadians - EUR 10 500 000 (presented June 13th)

- **Improving border management, fighting against transnational trafficking and criminal networks and terrorism-related activities.** No projects adopted for instance.

- **Preventing radicalisation and violent extremism.** No projects adopted for instance.

Regarding regional cooperation and cross-border action, with specific reference to the impact of Boko Haram violence, Chad should be supported in taking part in initiatives to improve security, border management, migration management and strengthening capacities to enhance protection and security of the population, notably in the affected areas.

Considering the migration situation of the country, the second objective should be to preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management and returns. It should imply:

- **Contributing to better Migration Management including support to improve civil status registration and supporting the creation of coherent and robust civil registry systems.** No projects adopted for instance