



European
Commission

WORKING WITH PARTNER COUNTRIES

THE COMMISSION'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE LEADERS' AGENDA

#FutureofEurope #EURoad2Sibiu

The European Union introduced the Partnership Framework on Migration in June 2016, fully embedding migration in the EU's foreign policy. The Partnership Framework combines all EU policies and instruments with the aim to save lives, break the business model of smugglers, prevent irregular migration and enhance cooperation on returns and readmission, as well as to address the root causes of migration, improve opportunities in countries of origin, step up investments in partner countries and ensure legal pathways to Europe for those in need of international protection. The framework provides a tailor-made and pragmatic approach combining both short and long-term measures, taking into account the specificities of each country and region, as well as the special interests of our partners. The EU started implementing this framework with a number of priority countries of origin and transit – Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal and Ethiopia. A year into the implementation, the approach has delivered concrete results, and is also being applied with countries in North and West Africa, as well as in Asia.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SO FAR?



- **Cooperation:** Political dialogue with partner countries has reached an unprecedented level. More than 30 high-level visits or meetings involving Member State or EU politicians have taken place in the last quarter of this year. These are often prepared and/or followed up by technical missions. EU involvement in partner countries is being strengthened: Twelve dedicated European migration liaison officers have been deployed to priority countries of origin and transit; and cooperation between partner countries and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and Europol is being stepped up.



- **Fighting trafficking and smuggling:** In Niger, the EU and Niger have set up a Joint Investigation Team. Through EU support to the Nigerien authorities, in the first half of 2017, 101 persons were arrested and brought to court; and 66 vehicles and 8 motorcycles were seized (in addition, 79 persons were arrested for crimes related to human trafficking). The Joint Investigation Team model will be expanded to other countries, as called for by the European Council in October 2017. In parallel, to provide alternative income sources to smuggling, the EU is providing income support to local communities in northern Niger. The EU will further support the G5 Sahel Joint Force in taking action in the region, with €50 million in funding.



- **Protection:** Under the EU-IOM partnership, 5 transit centres where migrants receive assistance, medical care and psychosocial support have been funded in Niger. EU-financed projects will assist and protect more than 64,500 persons in detention centres, at disembarkation points or in host communities in Libya. Over 15,000 migrants stranded along the route have been assisted in voluntarily returning to their homes. The Commission has also launched a new resettlement scheme, with at least 50,000 additional places for refugees from Turkey, the Middle East and Africa by the end of 2019, and set aside €500 million to support Member States' resettlement efforts. So far, 19 Member States have pledged 39,758 places under the new scheme.



• **Better management:** Returning those who do not have the right to stay in the EU in full respect of fundamental rights is an essential part of the EU's migration policy. To this end, the EU is collectively working with partner countries on concluding readmission agreements and, in parallel, ensuring safe and legal pathways to Europe. For example, Standard Operating Procedures on return have been concluded with Bangladesh, providing a clear framework. The EU is also supporting partners in their migration management systems, through developing for example innovative IT solutions to better manage migration and contribute to good governance and development (monitoring of flows, registry of population).



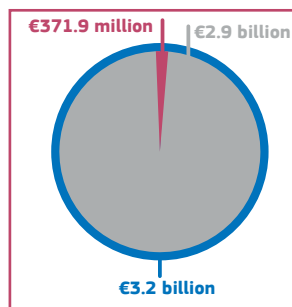
• **Opportunities:** Alternative job programmes have been launched in regions where trafficking used to be the main source of income. In the Horn of Africa, projects now under way with support from the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa will create over 44,000 jobs across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, and will directly finance a further 30,000 jobs in South Sudan. Projects are supporting the delivery of basic social services to over 1.6 million beneficiaries. In West Africa and the Sahel, ongoing work targets the creation of 114,000 jobs and supports almost 10,000 micro, small and medium enterprises. Most of these actions include support for returning migrants, to provide them with reintegration opportunities.



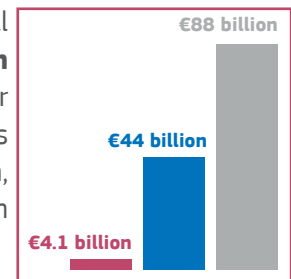
• **Investments:** An ambitious European External Investment Plan (EIP) to support investments in partner countries in Africa and the European Neighbourhood is also being made operational swiftly.

FUNDING

The resources allocated to the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa amount to approximately **€3.2 billion**, with over **€2.9 billion** from EU Funds and **€371.9 million** from EU Member States and other partners. Its reach has been expanded to include Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.



With an input of **€4.1 billion** from the EU budget and the European Development Fund, the External Investment Plan will mobilise up to **€44 billion** of investments. If Member States and other partners match the EU's contribution, the total amount could reach **€88 billion**.



NEXT STEPS

In order to build on initial achievements and ensure continuous progress, further steps need to be taken:

- Additional funding needs to be ensured for the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, in particular the North Africa window. It is necessary that the **funding gap of €340 million**, of which €110 million are for immediate needs, is closed.
- EU Member States need to deliver on the remaining **10,242 resettlement pledges** under the new programme by February 2018.
- Negotiations on **readmission** agreements or practical arrangements with countries of origin need to continue.
- All components of the **EU's External Investment Plan** need to be implemented rapidly.