

**Action Document for EU Trust Fund**

**1. IDENTIFICATION**

Title	Reference: T05-EUTF-SAH-REG-16 Protection and sustainable solutions for migrants and refugees along the Central Mediterranean route
Zone benefiting from the action / localisation	Regional: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal
Total costs	Total estimated cost: EUR 79,8 M Total amount drawn from the Trust Fund: EUR 70 M Co-funding from UNHCR: EUR 9,8 M
Method of implementation	Indirect management - delegation agreement International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
DAC Code	130, 151, 160
Sector of Intervention of the Valetta Action Plan	3. Protection and asylum 4. Prevention of and fight against irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings 5. Return, readmission, reintegration
Indicator(s) of the Valetta Action Plan	A86 - Provide comprehensive and developmental packages for safe return and reintegration A88 - Strengthen the capacity of authorities and civil society organisations in their field of competence of countries of origin and transit to manage voluntary returns and support reintegration of all returnees A57 - Enhance the protection capacities of countries which are hosting large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons A56 - Further work to prevent the loss of life at sea by continued search and rescue efforts by all sides
Sector of intervention of the Trust Fund	3. Improving migration management
Objective(s) of the Operational framework	Preventing irregular migration and forced displacement and facilitating better migration management and returns
Sub-objective(s) of the Operational framework	Contributing to better Migration Management all along the migratory routes in West Africa Strengthening cooperation in order to facilitate the return and sustainable reintegration of irregular migrants
Length of implementation	36 months (starting 1 <sup>st</sup> of December 2017)

Beneficiaries	Stranded migrants benefit from protection, voluntary return to and reintegration in their countries of origin UNHCR Persons of concerns protected in the frame of the Evacuation Transit Mechanism
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## 1. SUMMARY OF THE ACTION AND ITS OBJECTIVES

In view of responding to the increasing needs and to the joint commitments taken at the AU-EU Summit in Abidjan, this Action will further complement the existing EUTF support, approved in February 2018, strengthening the governance of migration in the region and providing protection and sustainable solutions for migrants along the central Mediterranean route.

The Action will therefore further support the activities of UNHCR in providing international and emergency protection, basic and life-saving assistance, to refugees evacuated from Libya in the framework of the Evacuation Transit Mechanism (ETM) and facilitating the resettlement of those eligible as already foreseen in February 2018. Additionally, it will increase the number of migrants benefitting from protection and voluntary return while ensuring their sustainable and dignified reintegration in the frame of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative.

The action aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which refers to “the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship” and the obligations of states “to ensure that their returning nationals are duly received” and their commitment to ensure, including through international cooperation, “safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons” (see also sub-goal 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals 10 on migration policies).

## 2. JUSTIFICATION AND CONTEXT

### 2.1. Regional context

Migrants and refugees face extreme risks along migration routes, upon arrival in Libya and while crossing the Mediterranean. While the absolute number of deaths in the Mediterranean decreased in 2017, the route has become proportionally more deathly, with 1 death for 42 arrivals. Despite these difficult conditions, in 2017 the number and the share of persons originating from Africa, especially West Africa, who arrived by sea to Europe grew to 119,000 African migrants arriving in Italy after irregularly crossing the Mediterranean. Arrivals of irregular migrants to Spain also increased significantly in 2017 as compared to 2016, reaching more than 28,000, with the main nationalities of migrants including Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire and The Gambia.

At the same time, migration situation and flows within Libya remain highly complex and fluid and the main nationalities of migrants identified in Libya do not correlate with the main nationalities arriving to Italy. Through the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) latest report (March 2018) 184,612 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), 368,583 returnees and 662,248 migrants are recorded in Libya. It is difficult to estimate the percentage of persons of concern to UNHCR in these overall flows – and it changes over time. Nonetheless, in the first half of 2017, almost 46,000 nationals from Sub-Saharan Africa countries were granted

protection in the EU, including over 35,300 who received refugee status or subsidiary protection.

Criminal networks involved in trafficking in human beings are taking advantage of irregular migration routes, targeting particularly vulnerable groups, predominantly women and girls. Trafficking in human beings is a grave violation of human rights and a serious form of organised crime. IOM reported a 600% increase since 2014 in the number of women and girls arrived to the EU through the Central Mediterranean route potential victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, predominantly from Nigeria. As an example IOM estimated that 80% of the 11.000 Nigerian women and girls arrived to Italy in 2016 are potential victims of trafficking.

An urgent lack of effective protection and sufficient assistance inside Libya but also in countries upstream, and the absence of durable solutions, including complementary pathways of admission have been flagged by national stakeholders as well as the international community. On 29 November 2017 the EU-AU-UN agreed to put in place a joint Task Force calling for facilitating the voluntary humanitarian returns to countries of origin, and the resettlement of those in need of international protection in order to save lives and ensure protection of migrants and refugees along the routes and in particular inside Libya.

Already in December 2016, to address some of these challenges and respond to the needs of vulnerable and stranded migrants along the Central Mediterranean routes, the EU and the IOM developed a joint EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration focusing on several regions: North Africa, Sahel and Lake Chad and Horn of Africa. The EU-IOM Joint Initiative aims to protect and assist migrants all along the migration routes, making sure that migrant rights are protected and that the migration process is safer and better managed.

In February 2018, the EUTF Operational Committee approved a joint action fiche to further supporting the EUTF IOM Initiative as well as UNHCR ETM and resettlement endeavours for a total amount of 123.5 mi€. The action fiche foresaw additional support to the EU- IOM Initiative Joint as well as the support to UNHCR for the establishment and running of the Evacuation Transit Mechanism from Libya and resettlement needs.

Both actions facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible protection and migration management through the development of rights-based, development-focused policies and processes.

Under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, the protection needs as well as the pace and scale of the returns and the corresponding need for reintegration have been far more important than anticipated and calls for the reinforcement of protection, voluntary return and reintegration actions.

Under the UNHCR ETM additional efforts are necessary in order to meet the needs of refugees that are evacuated from Libya to Niger in terms of protection, assistance and facilitation of resettlement.

## **2.2. Sectorial context**

### **Evacuation Transit Mechanism**

Since November 2017, UNHCR, with the support of the European Union and Libyan authorities, has evacuated 1,474 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers, including single mothers, families and unaccompanied and separated children, out of detention in Libya, and

relocated them to Niger (1,152), Italy (312) and Romania (10). In Niger, a total 475 individuals have been submitted for resettlement to 7 resettlement States (Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland) and a total of 108 individuals have been resettled from Niger to France, Sweden and Switzerland. In addition, 71 individuals have been accepted for resettlement and are pending departure from Niger to Finland, France, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

Pending the construction of a reception centre in Niger, 19 guest houses were rented in Niamey to urgently accommodate the evacuees as well as help sustain the swift movement out of Libya. A holistic approach was adopted in response to psychosocial needs of persons of concern. Key interventions in this regard included psychiatric assessments, psychotherapy services, primary health care, food, non-food items and recreation. Clinical Psychologists are now available in all centers to conduct assessments and counseling as well as identifying cases of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder that require special care. This has been complemented by a primary health care system which has been established and linked to the national health system. There are 3 doctors covering all centers with the support of 4 nurses assigned to each center. More than 450 medical consultations have been conducted, including treatment.

Noting the lack of a functioning asylum system in Niger, UNHCR invests heavily in the strengthening of the national Refugee Status Determination system through direct financial and human resource to render the process effective and efficient. Training, information sharing and coaching of the DGEC-RM and the National Eligibility Commission (CNE) were conducted. Since January, support missions and Temporary Assistance in Programme, Administration and Protection from outside the Niger operation were required to sustain the Niger operation capacity to deliver on the ETM, weighting heavily against the Administrative budget. Some 57 staff were deployed to support the Niger ETM operation (particularly for the process leading to resettlement submissions). Thanks to the combined efforts of the Commission and UNHCR, 2,681 pledges of resettlement have been received for Niger and 200 for Burkina Faso.

At the end of the first trimester of 2018 it has become apparent that an effective implementation of the ETM requires additional funds than those approved by the EUTF in February 2018, in part related to costs of housing, specialized care and delays related to the effective facilitation of resettlement.

### **EU-IOM Joint Initiative**

Based on the assessment of migration flows and trends at the time, and following discussions with partner countries, national and regional actions in the frame of the EU-IOM joint Initiative were designed and set provisional targets for voluntary return and reintegration. These were based on the approach and assumption that each returnee should receive tailored reintegration support if they wish so.

During 2017, due to additional emergency returns from Libya financed by the EUTF, by other donors and African partner countries, the number of returning migrants in need of reintegration assistance increased, reaching thereby almost the initial reintegration targets foreseen for the full 3 year implementation and calling for adjustments to accommodate the sudden large increase in demand for reintegration support.

The ongoing EU-IOM Joint Initiative has contributed so far to strengthen migration governance by setting up a comprehensive approach on awareness raising on irregular

migration, providing protection and direct assistance to stranded and vulnerable migrants as well as supporting voluntary returns and reintegration opportunities in countries of origin.

As of end of February 2017, the Initiative had already demonstrated significant results, by enabling, in particular:

- the rescue of over 6 000 migrants in the desert in Niger
- the voluntary return of over 19 400 migrants to their country of origin
- the post arrival assistance and initial reintegration support to over 29 000 migrants returned by the EU-IOM Joint Initiative or with the support of other donors or African countries.

While focus has been put on the direct assistance to migrants, national governance mechanisms and capacity building of national authorities have also been supported to ensure the ownership of the Initiative by national stakeholders and enhance the sustainability of the approach.

Since the launch of the actions from mid-2017 onwards, the number of migrants rescued, assisted, returned and who received post-arrival assistance far exceeded expectations and targets.

Reintegration assistance however does not scale up as rapidly and is delivered in a more progressive manner as it is a longer-term process that requires an intensive and individually tailored process for returnees involving active participation of communities and institutions in countries of origin. In that regard, the level of reintegration assistance to returnees cannot match the current high pace of return.

Similarly, the set-up of necessary governance mechanisms and return and reintegration procedures and systems requires support for capacity development with national stakeholders which requires a longer-term engagement. In some cases the need to establish coordination and governance mechanisms has led to delays in the launch of the reintegration activities.

In order to respond to the increased scale of reintegration assistance needed, the EUTF and IOM, in cooperation with national partners, have made temporary and internal adjustments, including staff and budgetary reallocations, and reviewed the post arrival, referral and reintegration process within the initial national programmes. Whilst this will enable additional migrants to benefit from the reintegration support schemes and has contributed to further strengthen the EU-IOM Joint Initiative approach to migrant protection and reintegration, these adjustments alone are not sufficient to meet the needs of the large numbers of migrants stranded along the Central Mediterranean routes or returning to countries of origin covered by the Joint Initiative .

As of end of February 2018, the overall number of migrants who would be eligible for reintegration under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative stands at more than 83 %<sup>1</sup>, of the target beneficiaries for reintegration support foreseen in the original contracts and Libya response action.

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<sup>1</sup> In line with the needs based and demand driven nature of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, all migrants who return through a voluntary or forced return procedure from countries along the CMR, Europe or North Africa to target countries are eligible for reintegration support under the Joint Initiative.

### 3. LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

#### 3.1. Organisation's experience and lessons learnt

##### UNHCR

UNHCR has extensive experience of using **resettlement** as a protection tool. For example in 2016, 163,206 individuals were submitted for resettlement.<sup>2</sup> In support of this global strategic priority, UNHCR has scaled up the use of resettlement as a durable solution with an emphasis on the most vulnerable individuals, including refugees who face serious protection risks, through improved registration, use of biometrics and protection monitoring.

On the global level, UNHCR has already set up **Evacuation Transit Centres (ETC), in tripartite coordination with the host state and IOM**, in support of the evacuation of urgent resettlement cases.<sup>3</sup> For many years UNHCR has used Emergency Transit Facilities (ETFs) in countries such as the Philippines, Romania and Slovakia as a protection tool for refugees who are in urgent need of resettlement or as an alternative site for resettlement case processing. During 2015 and 2016, approximately, 650 refugees departed for resettlement from the three ETFs. Challenges were linked to long processing times by resettlement states and about 1% of the refugees have had to remain in those centres due to lack of options.

With regard to experience specifically in Niger, through the RDPP project '*Access to status determination procedures, reception conditions and assistance to asylum seekers in Niger*', (August 2016 - September 2018), UNHCR has been providing shelter and other basic needs of asylum seekers through UNHCR-administered guesthouses since 2016. These facilities are currently used to accommodate asylum-seekers identified within migratory movements, including those transferred from Agadez to Niamey for case processing.

In addition, since November 2017, UNHCR in the frame of the ETM effectively evacuated refugees from Libya to Niger and provided resettlement to some of those. While UNHCR has built experience of ETM like mechanisms in other regions of the world, including Europe, the ETM in Niger is the first of such programs in Africa. At the end of the first trimester of 2018 it had become apparent that an effective implementation of the ETM requires additional support for the implementation of activities related to the protection of refugees (housing, the refugee status determination, specialized care) and delays related to the effective facilitation of resettlement.

##### IOM

Since the start of the implementation period of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, activities related to protection and direct assistance to migrants, as well as voluntary return and reintegration support, have already provided some key indications to inform the programme approach. The acute vulnerabilities of many migrants returning, particularly from Libya and the increased caseloads show the importance of providing additional support in countries of origin to ensure that returning migrants receive adequate and appropriate assistance and that referral and support systems are strengthened, particularly in the area of mental health and psychosocial-support and specific assistance to migrants in a vulnerable situation (including victims of trafficking, unaccompanied migrant children, victims of violence, individuals with physical or mental health needs, pregnant women).

Indeed, IOM's experience in organizing and supporting voluntary returns and reintegration have made it possible to start activities quickly. As a result of very high needs and demand for voluntary return assistance, IOM has increased the pace of work to scale up, in terms of numbers and frequency, the voluntary humanitarian returns organised from Libya and supports voluntary return from Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Mali. In total, IOM assisted more than 26 000 migrants to return from these countries to their countries of origin in 2017.

Given the increased number of migrants returning to their country of origin in a relatively short period of time, additional arrangements with national authorities and local partners have been put in place to accommodate returning migrants in decent conditions and provide reception and post-arrival assistance for their immediate needs.

Reintegration activities have also started in the target countries, with targeted studies in place to obtain a clear assessment in each country of the main areas of return, the profiles of returnees, their needs and the capacities on which reintegration can be based. Standard operating procedures for return and reintegration have been developed and are being adapted to each national context with relevant authorities to allow for harmonized dignified voluntary return and reintegration support, based on a clear and valid expression of needs. The EU-IOM Joint Initiative promotes sustainability of reintegration through local ownership, partnership and closer alignment to development planning. Whenever possible referral to local partners and services should constitute the first option for all migrants, whether or not vulnerable. The reintegration support aims to address returnees' economic, social and psychosocial needs and foster inclusion of communities of return in reintegration planning and support. The strategy of involving national authorities is starting to bear fruit, with authorities increasingly open to discussing with IOM synergies, both for returns and for reintegration schemes. Similarly, the establishment of Flow Monitoring Points at various strategic crossing points in the region is beginning to provide data on the routes and needs of migrants in the region. Specific assistance, protection and reintegration is provided vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking in human beings, taking into account the gender and age of the victims and the consequences of the type of exploitation suffered.

Finally, the various IOM offices continue negotiations with the governments of the target countries to formulate their needs and expectations for capacity building, including to facilitate consular services for migrants stranded in Libya. A number of countries including Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Niger, and ECOWAS in Nigeria have requested concrete support and first technical support and identification missions to Libya and Niger have been scheduled.

In this context, this Action aims to strengthen regional coordination and ensure coherence with the strategies and common approach on migration adopted by ECOWAS, including activities in the field of return and reintegration, and is also supporting an ECOWAS mission to Tripoli.

### **3.2. Complementary actions**

The Action will be complementary to IOM activities and other relevant programmes, particularly those funded by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, in the targeted countries.

The IOM action builds on and further strengthens the activities of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa, Sahel, Lake Chad and North

Africa regions. As such, the Action covered by the present document is not a standalone action but has to be seen as complementary to the national and regional actions funded by the EUTF in the two regions above.

The proposed action will coordinate and seek coherence synergies with other regional and country-level actions under the EUTF and other EU-financed activities, in particular:

- "Managing mixed migration flows in Libya through expanding protection space and supporting local socio-economic development", "Strengthening Protection and Resilience of Displaced Populations" and "Supporting Protection and Humanitarian Repatriation and Reintegration of Vulnerable Migrants in Libya" funded under the EUTF North of Africa.
- "Reinforcing International Protection and Delivery of Assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, migrants IDPs, returnees and host communities in Libya" aiming to strengthen protection and address needs and vulnerabilities of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and host communities in accessible areas of Libya, "Protecting vulnerable migrants and stabilizing communities in Libya" that notably comprises protection, assistance and Voluntary Humanitarian Return components
- Initiatives funded under the Regional Development and Protection Programme (AMIF) such as "Scaling up resettlement opportunities and access to other legal avenues for vulnerable refugees in Libya" and "Access to status determination procedures, reception conditions and assistance to asylum seekers in Niger." The latter, implemented by UNHCR, will run until September 2018. From January to September 2018, the proposed action will enable a significant upscale of the activities financed by the RDPP (hosting of more evacuees,<sup>1</sup> increased resettlement processing<sup>1</sup> and support to access complementary legal pathways).
- The "Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism » (MRRM) implemented by IOM and including direct assistance to migrants, awareness raising, assisted voluntary return and reintegration, data gathering and analysis but at the same time aims at establishing and improving protection frameworks in countries along the migratory route.
- Better Migration Management (BMM) Project in support of the Khartoum process will be coordinated with. The BMM aims to enhance the capacities of the Governments in Horn of Africa to fight and prevent human trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.
- EU-funded pilot action on voluntary return and sustainable, community-based reintegration implemented by IOM.
- The action will also complement the work of the UNHCR multi-sectorial protection and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Niger and the activities implemented by other organisations (WB, UN, LUXDEV, AFD, GIZ and the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace (HACP) as well as the efforts of a wide range of NGO partners.

Coherence and complementarities will also be sought with other relevant actions supported by EU Member states, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), in particular the Readmission Capacity Building Facility delegation agreement to IOM and the information and awareness raising actions on the risks of irregular migration funded under AMIF Union Actions, and the Development Cooperation Instrument at regional and national level.

### **3.3. Synergy and coordination of actors in the zone of intervention**

IOM and UNHCR have a long standing and extensive history of cooperation. In the frame of this Action, strengthening of joint coordinated mechanisms between IOM and UNHCR will be ensured to further support the implementation of the identification, protection, evacuation, return, reintegration or resettlement activities. UNHCR and IOM will among others seek to improve their cross-referral mechanism with a view to finding swift protection solutions to the needs of refugees and migrants stranded in Libya.

At the regional level, synergies will be sought with ECOWAS and in particular the financing mechanism "Spain / ECOWAS Fund for Migration and Development" to specifically support the development and implementation of the ECOWAS Common Approach to Immigration, in line with the African Position on Migration and Development and the Declaration of Rabat.

To avoid overlapping and/or duplication of actions, close cooperation will also be sought with other initiatives funded by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. Referral mechanisms for (potential) migrants will be developed in cooperation with partners. Information sharing meetings with the EU Delegation and other key stakeholders will be organized regularly to discuss EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa project progress and identify potential synergies with actions implemented with the same stakeholders in similar areas. The rationale is to further strengthen all four components of the Initiative plus the cross-cutting component that is capacity-building.

IOM offices in targeted countries will work closely together to facilitate the return and reintegration of beneficiaries, developing partnerships with local NGOs when relevant. IOM country offices will explore partnerships within their respective countries, with local authorities, NGOs and International Organizations, including EU Delegations, civil society and the private sector to enhance information sharing.

UNHCR Niger actively participates in other coordination mechanisms (UNDAF, national development plans, United Nations Country team,) with a view to ensuring the integration of the needs of persons of concern to UNHCR in broader development plans and policies, as well as national and regional state development plans.

In Burkina Faso, UNHCR has established an inter-agency identification and referral system of vulnerable persons for assistance, protection and solutions. UNHCR works with NGO partners who have established presence in rural and urban centres and who assist with identification and referral to UNHCR for protection intervention and in some instances resettlement.

In the sector of **resettlement**, UNHCR holds annual consultations with potential resettlement countries to brief representatives on resettlement needs. A Core Group for Enhanced Resettlement and Complementary Pathways along the Central Mediterranean Route has also been established in 2017.

### **3.4. Donor Coordination**

Donor coordination by UNHCR and IOM will notably be ensured through regular dialogue, both at Brussels headquarters level as well as at field level, including with relevant EU Delegations and EU Member States missions.

A coordination and reporting Committee, under the Action, will regularly interact with other EU actions on return, readmission and reintegration in the Horn and North Africa and the Sahel and Lake Chad regions, as well as with EU Member States' action and that of other key donors in the area.

For the specific interventions under this action, coordination meetings involving all the relevant stakeholders (and also including international partners, NGOs, UN agencies – as relevant) will be organised.

## **4. DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

### **4.1. Objectives**

The overall objective of the Action is to contribute to strengthen the governance of migration in the region and provide protection and sustainable solutions for migrants and refugees along the Central Mediterranean route.

The specific objectives of the Action are the following:

#### **Component 1 – UNHCR**

Specific Objective 1: Provide emergency protection and life-saving assistance to persons of concern to UNHCR in the framework of the Evacuation Transit Mechanism (ETM).

Specific Objective 2: Provide support to resettlement and complementary pathways for persons in need of international protection in the framework of the ETM.

In order to continue the implementation of the ETM activities, this action tops up the support of the activities of UNHCR in Niger and possibly Burkina Faso previously approved by the EUTF in February 2018 under the action "Protection and sustainable solutions for migrants and refugees along the Central Mediterranean route". Activities under this component target primarily persons of concern to UNHCR, including refugees and asylum seekers as well as others eligible for international protection<sup>4</sup> in Niger and possibly Burkina Faso.

#### **Component 2 - IOM**

Specific Objective 1: Improve protection, provide assistance to migrants and communities and enable the assisted voluntary return of vulnerable and stranded migrants in target countries.

Specific Objective 2: Improve the reintegration of returning migrants and strengthen capacities to manage reintegration in a dignified and sustainable manner.

Specific Objective 3: Enable migrants or potential migrants to make informed decisions about the migratory journey and raise awareness of communities on migration.

Specific Objective 4: Strengthen migration data and communication on migratory flows, routes and trends, as well as on the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants in the targeted countries, in order to support evidence-based policies and programmes design.

Activities under this component will target all categories of returnees, including stranded migrants, irregular migrants, regular migrants, migrants in vulnerable conditions, such as victims of trafficking, elderly people, unaccompanied migrant children and migrants with health-related needs. Given the high needs in terms of return and reintegration, IOM is currently reviewing its approach in order to further increase and optimize the reintegration support provided under the ongoing EU-IOM Joint Initiative. The number of migrants that are additionally targeted by the Action will be further defined during the contracting process<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/ph/persons-concern-unhcr>

## **4.2. Expected results and main activities**

### **Component 1 - UNHCR**

**Specific Objective 1:** Provide emergency protection and life-saving assistance to persons of concern to UNHCR in the framework of the Evacuation Transit Mechanism (ETM).

#### ***R1.1. Persons of concern to UNHCR evacuated from Libya have been provided with basic services***

In support to the evacuation out of Libya to Niger, UNHCR Niger will implement an evacuation transit centre in a location provided by the government of Niger. .

This open transit centre will have a maximum capacity of 500 persons of concern, and will include both family and individual accommodation units. UNHCR and partners will run the reception centre during a limited time. When the need for the ETM ends, the building will be handed over to the Nigerien authorities for use deemed appropriate. While the centre is being constructed, evacuees will be accommodated in rented facilities, equipped and managed by UNHCR through partner organisations.

The services provided to all persons of concern within the transit centre and/or guesthouses are designed to meet their basic needs while providing access (on-site or through referral) to other services in response to specific psycho-social, SGBV and child protection and education needs. Special attention are given to women and children owing to their specific vulnerabilities and to other persons on account of diversity needs such as language through the provision of appropriate staff.

UNHCR is currently negotiating with Burkina Faso in order to implement an evacuation transit mechanism in the country. Additional persons of concern to UNHCR might be evacuated from Libya and provided with basic services in Burkina Faso once an ETM Facility is established.

**Specific Objective 2:** Provide support to resettlement and complementary pathways for persons in need of international protection in the frame of the ETM.

#### ***R2.1. Refugees are being identified and submitted for resettlement***

Actions with regard to this result will focus on improved case identification to feed the resettlement pipeline and efficient case processing with a view to increasing the number of resettlement submissions from Niger and possibly Burkina Faso.

#### ***R2.2. Refugees have improved access to complementary legal pathways for admission***

Advice and administrative support with regard to complementary legal pathways (family reunification, humanitarian visa, study visa, labour mobility schemes) will be provided to refugees in Niger and possibly in Burkina Faso.

These activities will include: (1) compilation of information on existing complementary legal pathways of admission and associated eligibility criteria; (2) training of staff on complementary legal pathways and dissemination of this information amongst the refugee community; (3) support for persons of concern in following the administrative procedures to access the complementary legal pathways; (4) liaison with consular sections on individual cases; (5) liaison with educational institutions for scholarships and (6) finally transport to destination countries. In destination countries, in which there are ongoing EU-funded projects on employment creation or vocational training, as far as possible synergies will be sought to integrate refugees amongst the beneficiaries of the projects.

While advocacy activities will be conducted in support of admission, it should be noted that the admission of persons of concern through the use of complementary legal pathways is highly dependent on receiving countries and consent of persons themselves.

## **Component 2 – IOM**

**Specific Objective 1:** Improve protection, provide assistance and enable the assisted voluntary return services of vulnerable and stranded migrants in target countries.

### ***R1.1. Migrants benefitted from protection and assistance***

Stranded migrants registered in centers or with mobile teams will receive immediate assistance in the form of accommodation, food, basic necessities, and / or psychosocial and medical assistance. Specific and tailor-made support will be provided to the most vulnerable people such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied or separated migrant children or migrants with medical and psychosocial needs, taking into account gender specificities and age. This assistance can be provided through referential mechanisms, advice and support for return, and family tracing.

The programme will support local authorities to respond to the urgent needs of host and returning communities and the impacts of migration flows, as well as to support community cohesion and cope with social tensions. It also includes programmes where local authorities would need to carry out service provision to migrants and residents and would require personnel trained on how to carry out those activities. All activities must be bottom-up in nature and therefore should take the shape of specific gaps as identified by the government, migrants and communities so these may vary.

### ***R1.2. Migrants benefitted from a safe and dignified voluntary return assistance***

Safe and dignified voluntary return for stranded and vulnerable migrants will be supported in line with the approach adopted in the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. Voluntary return is an important protection measure and one of the most suitable options for vulnerable and stranded migrants facing dire conditions along the routes and who wish to return to their countries of origin but do not have the necessary means to do so. Within the frame of the Voluntary Return Assistance, the current Action proposes to provide **voluntary return assistance** from Transit countries. These returns are voluntary, since they are done at the explicit request of the individual returning, and humanitarian, as they represent a life-saving option for many migrants who live in particularly deplorable conditions, both inside or outside of detention centers. All those expressing an interest to return are counselled to make an informed decision and during this period, IOM makes an initial assessment of any risks of ill-treatment, persecution or other human rights violations that the migrant may suffer in case of return to country of origin and in coordination with UNHCR an assessment of non-refoulement.

The support follows a tailored approach, putting the rights and the needs of the migrant at the forefront. Individual assessments are undertaken to tailor support to each migrant with specific standard operating procedures and measures for unaccompanied and separated children pregnant women or lactating, victims of trafficking in human beings and/or victims of other forms of abuse and exploitation. Before departure, IOM medical staff provides assessments of migrants' health conditions and medical escorts specialised ones for unaccompanied and separated children will be provided.

***R1.3. The capacity of governments and local stakeholders is strengthened to protect vulnerable and stranded migrants and facilitate safe and dignified voluntary return.***

Building on the capacity building activities at the national level, regional or multi-country capacity building activities will be continued to allow knowledge sharing and exchange on specific areas of common interest and concern such as protection, assistance for particular categories of vulnerable migrants (e.g. unaccompanied or separated migrant children; migrants with medical needs). Facilitating access to consular services for stranded and vulnerable migrants is an essential step in the voluntary return process and has long been a priority issue for IOM. Currently, the vast majority of migrants seeking IOM support to return home from transit and destination countries in Africa do not have valid travel documents (c. 60% of migrants in Niger and more than 90% of migrants assisted in Libya). IOM is working in the immediate term to support governments to ensure timely and wider geographic access to basic consular services for migrants in need.

**Specific Objective 2:** Improve the reintegration of returning migrants and strengthen national structures and capacities to manage reintegration in a dignified and sustainable manner

***R2.1. Returning migrants are supported in their reintegration***

Framework standard operating procedures (SOPs) for assisted voluntary return and reintegration have been developed for the EU-IOM Joint Initiative based on IOM's Integrated Approach to Reintegration in the context of return.<sup>6</sup> These are now being adapted and refined through a consultative process in each target country.

The Actions give priority to sustainability of reintegration through local ownership, partnership and closer alignment to development planning. Whenever possible referral to local partners and services should constitute the first option for all migrants, whether or not vulnerable. The reintegration support aims to address returnees' economic, social and psychosocial needs and foster inclusion of communities of return in reintegration planning and support. It should be noted that this is not a simple, linear or short-term process. The factors affecting the reintegration process and subsequently its sustainability are similar to those that resulted in the decision to migrate in the first place. Furthermore, additional factors resulting from the migration experience itself (e.g. debt, possible trauma, separation, etc.) must be taken into account.

Reintegration assistance provided under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative SOPs is tailored to needs and opportunities. The SOPs are adapted according to specificities in every context of reintegration in order to best respond to the returnees needs. The programme does not foresee specific one size fits all reintegration packages but adapts to the needs of the migrants. Indeed, Migrants in vulnerable situations may have additional needs and it is important that they receive specific assistance.

Upon arrival in the country of origin, migrants are provided with immediate assistance. The process includes, registration, profiling and first medical assistance as well as pocket money for basic needs. At this stage, a first screening regarding vulnerabilities and urgent needs takes place and enables to respond to the needs of vulnerable migrants such as unaccompanied children, victims of trafficking, persons with health-related needs etc. Accordingly, assistance is provided to cover basic needs on health, housing, food and other specific basic needs. If necessary, referrals are made in order to meet specific needs such as protection or care.

Based on a screening and counselling process, the returning migrants receive general reintegration support according to their needs and potentials, taking into account the specific context. This includes trainings, referrals, medical assistance and psycho-social support. Finally migrants received complementary reintegration assistance that is based on a counselling process and a mapping of opportunities for reintegration. The support can foresee

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<sup>6</sup> See [https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our\\_work/DMM/AVRR/Towards-an-Integrated-Approach-to-Reintegration.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DMM/AVRR/Towards-an-Integrated-Approach-to-Reintegration.pdf)

individual assistance targeting the specific needs of returning migrants and households; collective reintegration support enabling returning migrants to pool resources in a common project; community-based support to foster a participatory approach in the reintegration process where families and communities are involved and their specific needs and concerns addressed.

***R2.2. The capacity of governments and local stakeholders is strengthened to ensure the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants and ownership of reintegration activities at the national level***

To complement the capacity building activities undertaken at the national level in the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, regional or multi-country capacity building activities will be continued to allow knowledge sharing and exchange on specific areas of common interest (e.g. linking pre-return and post-arrival procedures to enhance provision of reintegration assistance).

***R2.3. The reintegration referential mechanisms have been strengthened***

The reintegration approach supported by the EU aims at enhancing migrant's well-being upon return to reach levels of economic self-sufficiency and social stability within their communities, facilitating thereby sustainable reintegration and coping mechanisms related to (re)migration drivers.

In order to further increase the type of reintegration already supported by the EUTF, the action will support a specific reintegration referral mechanism at national and regional level to enhance synergies and coordination among local, national and international initiatives and services able to provide complementary reintegration opportunities to those concerned. More specifically, an online website will be foreseen in several countries in order to further support information sharing on the possible services and programmes available to migrants. The Action will also support the implementation of a specific referral platform in order to refer migrants to partners as well as monitor and report on the reintegration implemented by other partners.

**Specific Objective 3: To enable migrants and potential migrants to make informed decisions about their migratory journey and sensitize communities on migration**

***R3.1. Migrants are informed and made aware of the risks of irregular migration and alternatives to it***

Actions under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative contribute to sensitising the communities of return to improve relations between returnees and their communities. In many host countries, false perceptions on migrants prevail. It is therefore important to raise awareness on both the rights and responsibilities of migrants in their host countries. Under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, a regional awareness raising strategy is being developed and awareness raising activities are coordinated at the regional level.

**Specific Objective 4:** Strengthen migration data and communication on migratory flows, routes and trends, as well as on the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants in the targeted countries, in order to support evidence-based policies and programme design.

***R. 4.1 Data on migration flows are collected, analysed and produced in order to feed into policies and actions.***

Flow monitoring points (FMP) are part of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) tools and aim at collecting migration data in key transit areas in order to offer a better understanding of intra and inter-regional migration patterns. They are complemented by more qualitative information collected through Flow monitoring surveys (FMS) to better understand the profile of migrants. A set of common tools (e.g. FMP and FMS methodology, dashboard templates) will be produced and adopted by target countries.

The Action will continue to support the further development of existing IOM voluntary return and reintegration data systems. Collection of data on reintegration assistance conducted, the profile of returning migrants, their migratory route and experience, intentions, needs, capacities, reintegration projects and the sustainability of these projects. Finally, particular focus will be given to piloting new methodologies for measuring the sustainability of reintegration.

### **4.3. Targeted groups and final beneficiaries**

Beneficiaries of the activities under the component 1 implemented by UNHCR, are persons of concern to UNHCR in Niger and possibly Burkina Faso under the ETM.

Beneficiaries of the activities under the component 2 implemented by IOM, are vulnerable and stranded migrants and communities of transit and origin.

Building on the partnerships and cooperation established with key national authorities and relevant partners, capacity building support for state and non-state actors working in the areas of the two components will be carried out.

### **4.4. Stakeholders analysis**

#### The government of Niger

All activities will be planned and implemented in close collaboration with national and local level government counterparts in Niger. In Niger, UNHCR will continue to develop its strong partnership with the Ministry of Interior, line ministry for refugee-related issues, in support of the hosting of the evacuation mechanism on Nigerien territory. The Government of Niger is involved in clearing cases and facilitating administrative formalities required to ensure the entry of evacuees into Niger.

#### The government of Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, UNHCR works with the government to improve RSD procedures by reinforcing the capacity of adjudicators and interviewers through training, documentation and technical assistance. The government and UNHCR are working together to ensure that all refugee children born in the country receive birth certificates. Current discussions are ongoing with the government of Burkina Faso in order to implement a possible ETM mechanism.

#### Resettlement countries:

UNHCR Niger has a resettlement quota of 800 individuals, outside of those evacuated through the ETM, for 2018. However, the achievement of resettlement targets outlined in this Action will be dependent on the allocation of quota, currently over 13,700 pledges from non EU and EU Member states for the central Mediterranean route UNHCR will continue to advocate for higher quotas, new exchange programs, abridged administrative

requirements/procedures for persons of concern and more favourable evaluation of requests submitted by persons in need of international protection.

Target countries of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative

During the Valletta Summit in 2015, African and European leaders unequivocally acknowledged the benefits of well-managed migration and agreed to respond decisively together manage migration flows in all their aspects and to develop common strategies in addressing the inherent opportunities and challenges. The work of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative is based on a **strong tri-lateral cooperation between the EU, IOM and the African and European States**. In this spirit, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative aims to enhance government and stakeholder policies and responses to migration challenges, while encouraging a balanced rights-based approach that seeks to promote regular migration and mobility options. This includes specific activities focusing on transfer of knowledge and technical capacities as well as support to the operational capacities of the relevant government actors, civil society and other relevant stakeholders.

Through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, the planning and implementation of the Action and in particular the protection, return, reintegration and sensitization activities are done in close collaboration with the countries of transit and origin. This Action will continue to further strengthen the cooperation with the government through national and regional activities.

Non-governmental organisations:

UNHCR and IOM will continue to work or develop new cooperation mechanisms with partners to implement activities in protection and reintegration foreseen within the context of the Action. NGOs with protection capacity, specifically response capacity in the sectors of SGBV and psychosocial support, will support UNHCR and IOM in responding to the needs of evacuees or stranded migrants while in Niger as well as support the reintegration of migrants once returned in their country of origin.

Prioritising referrals to local stakeholders offering reintegration-related services, IOM is developing referral mechanisms and networks with local stakeholders, to which returnees will be referred whenever possible.

Private sector actors and employers organisations engaged in employment/economic activity relevant to returnees.

Communities of return/origin and of high-out migration will benefit from community-based projects as a complement to individual reintegration assistance, leading to improved governance, service delivery, sustainable livelihood opportunities, stability, and cohesion.

The actual returnees, both from countries of transit and destination will benefit from access to tailored support to ensure a dignified voluntary return to communities and needs-based reintegration assistance that aims to address the social, economic and psychosocial dimensions of reintegration.

**4.5. Risks and assumptions**

**Component 1 – UNHCR**

Risk	Level (H/M/L)	Mitigation measure
The deterioration of the security situation in Libya limits access for case identification and processing	H	UNHCR Libya is reinforcing case identification and screening processes through the training of national staff members and local partners.

in support of UNHCR evacuations from Libya to Niger		UNHCR will reinforce case processing mechanisms in Niger to ensure effective processing capacity in Niger.
Airport closures prevent or significantly delay UNHCR evacuations	H	UNHCR Niger will underline these operational constraints in advance communications to resettlement missions to seek flexibility where required
Education, labour mobility schemes and humanitarian visa remain difficult to obtain for refugees.	M	UNHCR will continue to advocate for increases of places available for refugees and favourable decision-practice. At the same time UNHCR set targets in this Action relatively low to minimize risks.
Too restrictive resettlement criteria posed by resettlement countries may limit case identification and submission	M	UNHCR continues to advocate for its standards resettlement criteria, based on vulnerabilities and protection needs, to be considered for case identification.
Potential Resettlement cases have not been identified	L	Proactive case identification by functional units and Partners, enhanced through refresher trainings on resettlement case identification, vulnerability, referral, resettlement criteria and anti-fraud. UNHCR will reinforce case processing mechanisms, including pre-screening to verify family compositions and supporting documentation to ensure effective processing capacity.
Resettlement countries have not established quotas or fail to provide adequate resettlement quotas to respond to needs and fulfil agreed resettlement commitments.	M	UNHCR will continue to advocate for increased resettlement quotas within the framework of international commitment to share responsibilities for responding to the needs of refugees.
Fraud related to the selection of beneficiaries	M	Standard Operating Procedures are up to date and measures to combat fraud strengthened. Cases identified for resettlement are approved for processing in accordance with SOPs. Refugee biodata is checked and verified against proGres, including the use of the Biometric Identification Management Systems (BIMs) to verify the data of the applicants (such as Iris scan).
Pull factor in view of ETM in neighboring Niger, which may be further reinforced by uncertainty in the US refugee resettlement program	H	Only persons registered in the UNHCR database will be eligible for resettlement and/or safe and regulated pathways of admission to third countries. Reinforcement of identity filters using BIMs. Continuous sensitization.
Staff turn over	H	Continue to use a roving strategy for resettlement deployees, with the objective of minimizing isolation. Also ensuring improved oversight of staff welfare.

## Component 2 – IOM

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Level (H/M/L)</b>	<b>Mitigation measure</b>
Access issues related to security and infrastructure, including deteriorating security situation on roads, leading to some populations being cut-off;	Medium to High	The Action continues to coordinate with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), partners and authorities regarding security and IOM/partner presence to ensure a

related inability to identify locations deemed 'appropriate' for intervention.  Suspensions in implementing activities in the event that access is not possible.		trustful relationship between stakeholders. IOM utilizes third-party contracting where possible and appropriate. Additional support and remote monitoring is provided to the IOM Libya office by the MENA Regional Office in Cairo and the IOM office in Tunisia.  Activities may be delayed until the security situation in the target area is sound and there is no potential for harm to beneficiaries or project staff; training sites may be moved pending security assessments.
Funding for reintegration support falls short of needs and requires a change in approach and a reduced level of assistance for returning migrants in their countries of origin.	H	The Action will continue to monitor the take up of voluntary return and reintegration support and ensure close coordination between voluntary return and reintegration activities and funding with the aim to ensure that all returning migrants can benefit from adequate and appropriate support.
Government officials deny direct access to migrants in detention centres or other migrant detention facilities	M	Through this Action, maintaining effective and positive relationships with Libyan officials will remain critical to ensure continued capacity building activities and to maintain access to detention facilities.
Lack of political will and commitment from the beneficiary countries to work on migration and development in the context of return and reintegration.	M	The Action will include awareness raising and continued information exchange, based on evidence, regarding the benefits for countries to engage in sustainable return and reintegration at national and local level.
Structural changes at national and local government level, including regular turnover of staff	M	From the outset, IOM will ensure close cooperation with stakeholders highlighting the importance of dedicated resources (financial and personal), and if necessary convene meetings at high level to address the issue.
Instability, security, changing government priorities, including the risk of politicisation of migration	M	During the inception phase these aspects will be carefully considered and mapped
Interest of and access to returnees and their communities to engage in monitoring and participation in reintegration and development-oriented initiatives	M	Continued awareness raising and information exchange, based on evidence, will be part of the Action, including in particular at local government and community level.
Change of migratory flows during the implementation of the project can significantly increase or reduce the number of migrants opting for AVRR to selected target countries of origin	M	The Action will include constant monitoring of migratory flows and AVRR demand to allow for early detection of changes in the migration patterns. To ensure the Action responds to return flows and reintegration needs, adaptations to the countries of origin targeted for reintegration support will put in place to the extent possible.

The Action is based on the assumption that national and local authorities in the countries are committed to promote sustainable voluntary return and reintegration and willing to engage in the implementation of the activities, and receptive to the recommendations provided.

#### **4.6. Cross-cutting issues**

The Action will focus on the well-being and personal development of persons of concern, migrants and their communities, in full respect of their human rights. It will be based on non-discrimination principles, self-determination and participation of the migrants and refugees as well as confidentiality and right to privacy. Protection and assistance mechanisms taking into account the specific situation and vulnerability of the refugees and migrants such as ensuring the best interest of the child will always be ensured and be at the forefront of all considerations. In particular, assistance and protection for victims of trafficking in human beings will take into account the gender and age of the victims and the consequences of the specific type of exploitation suffered.

The Action will engage as much as possible all relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels in order to achieve a broad and comprehensive understanding of effective protection and migration management policies. The proposal will also ensure that priorities identified by partner countries in their development plans and/or migration strategies at the national or local level are taken into account at all levels of intervention. A “do-no-harm” approach to ensure that migrants and communities are not negatively affected by the actions will be applied.

Good governance and human rights will be integrated in all areas of intervention. Capacity building activities of key stakeholders will promote good governance principles with an emphasis on a rights-based approach to migrant and refugee assistance. All assistance will be carried out in a way that the rights of the migrant are upheld, with special support provided to vulnerable refugees and returnees such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied migrant children, migrants with health needs and single-headed families. The project will be based on non-discrimination principles, self-determination and participation of the migrations as well as confidentiality and the right to privacy.

Both age and gender considerations will be mainstreamed in all activities of the project, with gender and age sensitive information campaigns, implementation and running of centres, equal participation in trainings and sex disaggregated data. Unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking will be provided with specialised, gender specific and child sensitive assistance and protection.

Particular attention will be paid to gender concerns as women and girls are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in human beings, predominantly for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The different roles of women and men in community-based interventions, reintegration processes and livelihoods and development programmes are important to recognise and thus ensuring their inclusive and equitable participation in decision making processes and project implementation and monitoring will be key in this programme. Given the nature of the action, the protection of human rights and due process will be an integral part of the activities carried out. Protection of human rights of particularly vulnerable categories of migrants, such as children, unaccompanied minors, disabled persons, victims of trafficking or smuggling and rejected asylum seekers will also need to be particularly considered, along with the required procedural safeguards including the need to undertake best interest determination.

The Action will also integrate to the extent possible environmental and climate change considerations in the planning of the reintegration activities. Community development and reintegration activities will duly take into account ongoing environmental changes and promote community projects that are viable and respond to the local needs and opportunities.

Resettlement criteria, which will guide both evacuations and submissions of the cases of refugees are gender sensitive taking into account factors such as risk of sexual exploitation and the heightened protection risks of LGBTI persons of concern. Resettlement SOPs will also be further developed with a view to actively mitigating the risks of resettlement fraud and any discrimination with regard to case identification for resettlement.

Peaceful coexistence with local populations is also a cross cutting issue which will be considered across all elements of the implementation of this Action. For the success of the Action, it is essential that efforts are made to maintain dialogue with local population and ensure sensitization of the community.

## **5. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

### **5.1. Financing agreement, where applicable**

It is not foreseen to conclude a Financing Agreement with the partner country.

### **5.2. Implementation modalities**

The Action will be implemented in indirect management with IOM and UNHCR in accordance with Article 58(1)(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. This implementation is justified because of the experience already gained by these International Organisations and their presence and role in the ground as described above.

For the monitoring and evaluation of the EUTF return and reintegration approach, a service contract will be signed following a call for tenders.

### **5.3. Indicative operational implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this Action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented is 36 months.

The starting date of the indicative implementation period is from the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2017.

### **5.4. Implementation components and modules**

Wherever possible, efficient and relevant, IOM and UNHCR will work in partnership with authorities of countries of operation and non-state actors with a view to build capacity if necessary and support local ownership and sustainability.

#### **Component 1 – UNHCR**

The ETM component of this project led by UNHCR will be implemented in close cooperation with IOM with regard to the case identification and referral. The ETM will be operated by UNHCR with the support of NGO implementing partners which will be engaged through standard UNHCR partner selection processes.

Resettlement activities will be undertaken through direct implementation by UNHCR. UNHCR implementing partners, and other operational partners, will support case identification for resettlement through community-based protection monitoring activities and referrals.

#### **Component 2 – IOM**

In the targeted countries, the results of the Action will be achieved through close cooperation with and support to national and local actors throughout the different phases of ongoing assistance and protection, voluntary return and reintegration, awareness raising and data collection activities. Governmental and non-governmental partners in the origin countries will be able to work with the direct support and mentoring from IOM staff through specific coordination mechanisms, such as case-management committees in countries of destination/transit and origin. The Action will also feed in to the common platform that will be established to share relevant data on migratory trends and activities, situational reports, and analysis.

## 5.5. Indicative budget

Component	Current budget (EUR)
<b>Component 1 UNHCR</b>	
Protection and resettlement	27,800,000
<b>Component 2 IOM</b>	
Protection and voluntary return assistance from transit countries (Sahel and Lake Chad) and reintegration (referral, individual, collective, community) in the countries of origin	47,000,000
Monitoring and evaluation	5,000,000
<b>Total of the Action</b>	<b>79,800,000</b>
<b>UNHCR co-funding component 1</b>	<b>9,800,000</b>
<b>EUTF contribution</b>	<b>70,000,000</b>

## 5.7. Organisational structure and governance of the action

### Governance of the action

The action will be integrated to the governance structures at national and regional level that have been put in place for migration related projects under the EUTF.

At a global level, IOM and UNHCR will also report to the coordination and reporting committee on Migration and protection in Brussels. At national level, IOM and UNHCR will report to existing governance structures in place – these structures will liaise further with the coordination and reporting committee in Brussels to ensure the overall coherence of the action.

### Organisational structure

#### Component 1 – UNHCR

In Niger, the project will be managed by UNHCR’s Senior Protection Officer with the support of UNHCR Niger’s Senior Management Team. The ETM facility will benefit from the

support of a P3 Protection Officer, as well as of experienced protection staff members and partner personnel. These individuals will coordinate closely with UNHCR Libya to ensure the provision of timely and adequate services.

## **Component 2 – IOM**

The action will be based on the existing organisational structure of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, that will be strengthened to respond to the additional beneficiaries needs and numbers. The project staff implementing the EU-IOM Joint Initiative actions in the countries are supported by IOM staff in Headquarters and the Regional Offices of Brussels. A regional coordination unit in Dakar will ensure a coherent regional response and approach to reintegration, security monitoring and evaluation, communication strategy, data collection, and reporting. Coordination with the other EU funded Migrant Protection and Reintegration initiatives supported by the EUTF in the Horn of Africa and North Africa, as well as the "pilot action on voluntary return and sustainable, community-based reintegration" and "Improving reintegration of returnees in Afghanistan and Bangladesh", is facilitated by a coordination cell in the IOM Regional Office in Brussels.

### **5.8. Performance monitoring**

The technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action is a continuous process and an integral part of the organisation's responsibilities. To this end, IOM and UNHCR will rely on their existing internal monitoring system, both technical and financial. A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework will also be established in the inception phase at each level of intervention (activities, expected results, and objectives). In addition, the action will report through the monitoring system platform of the EUTF.

Building on past experience and research conducted with Samuel Hall, IOM is piloting new methodologies to measure the sustainability of reintegration support which is currently a key operational challenge for all stakeholders and will ensure that this system is now expanded to a wider group of countries and range of reintegration support approaches under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. The EU-IOM Joint Initiative includes a common but contextualized monitoring and evaluation framework, including the use of common indicators (both at individual, collective and community levels).

Stakeholders from the coordination and referral mechanisms and community platforms would be engaged in this process to support joint approaches to monitoring.

The projects implementing this action will at least have to report against a selected number of the EUTF output indicators existing at the present date. The monitoring of these indicators will therefore have to be included in the projects' M&E systems (in addition to all other indicators existing in the project's logical framework, see annex II). As more output and outcome indicators are being developed by the MLS, the projects might be requested to include additional indicators in the course of implementation of the action.

### **5.9. Evaluation and audit**

#### **5.9.1. Evaluation and audit by the European Commission**

The Commission will undertake mid-term and final evaluations of the activities. Evaluations will be carried out via independent consultants. The mid-term evaluation will be carried out for problem solving in the concerned components.

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.

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 audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

If necessary, ad hoc audits or expenditure verification assignments could be contracted by the European Commission for one or several contracts or agreements.

Audits and expenditure verification assignments will be carried out in conformity with the risk analysis in the frame of the yearly Audit Plan exercise conducted by the European Commission. The amount allocated for external evaluation and audit purposes should be shown in the budget at section 4.4. Evaluation and audit assignments will be implemented through service contracts, making use of one of the Commission's dedicated framework contracts or alternatively through the competitive negotiated procedure or the single tender procedure.

In order to further improve the efficiency and sustainability of the current return and reintegration mechanisms and programmes supported by IOM and other programmes, the EUTF is foreseeing a complementary integrated monitoring and evaluation framework for the return and reintegration approach. This monitoring and evaluation complementary to the monitoring and evaluation activities implemented by IOM should be carried out by a third party under a service contract.

More specifically, it aims at assessing the current return and reintegration approach, provide learnings and recommendations that facilitate steering and adaptation of actions and further raise the quality and to ensure high impact of return and reintegration mechanisms.

Whilst targeting the overall EUTF approach on return and reintegration of migrants, IOM activities within the EU-IOM joint Initiative and the coordination mechanisms on reintegration between the different actions under the EUTF will be of particular interest. Given the regional dimension of EUTF interventions and the complexity and challenges of return and reintegration efforts within an integral approach, it is important to complement the existing monitoring efforts by a framework ensuring the monitoring and evaluation of the overall approach on return and reintegration. This framework will be closely coordinated with existing monitoring arrangements and will feed into the overall EUTF results framework. Moreover, it will be in line with existing monitoring and result guidelines. It is complementary and supporting to the primary M&E and reporting responsibility of implementing partners, the EU Delegations and the EUTF.

### **5.9.2. Evaluation and audit by the organisations**

A final and mid-term review will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes and will build on the evaluation exercises foreseen in ongoing contracts. IOM and the Commission will analyze together with the Steering Committee the conclusions and recommendations and, where appropriate, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the actions.

A special attention will be provided to the reintegration component. A midterm and final evaluation will be conducted by an independent consultant to develop a comprehensive report at the regional and country level to assess the sustainability of reintegration actions

for migrants, appropriation of the mechanisms by the state partners and civil society and the impact on the communities. Recommendations will be made to improve the approach and implementation if necessary.

#### **5.10. Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country, contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in the contract.

The communication and visibility plan of the action and the appropriate contractual obligations will be established on the basis of communication and visibility guidelines for external actions of the European Union and on the basis of any other instruction from the European Commission.

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission reserves the right to publish the results, indicators and targets of the project.

The external/public-facing Akvo on-line reporting platform will be used to communicate and report on this action as well as on all projects implementing this action. It will link directly to the EUTF website. The logical frameworks of the projects will be encoded in their respective Akvo page and regular reporting of project's activities and outputs will take place on this platform.

## ANNEX 1. AREAS OF INTERVENTION OF THE TRUST FUND

Area of intervention 1: Greater economic and employment opportunities	Primary target	Secondary target
Support for entrepreneurship, SMEs and the informal sector, particularly for youth and women	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support for the development of economic growth areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strengthening the professional and technical skills and improving employability of girls and boys	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area of intervention 2: Strengthening Resilience	Primary target	Secondary target
Food and nutritional security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Production, productivity, valuation and marketing of Agricultural products	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local infrastructures (opening-up, water management for agricultural purposes etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainable management of natural resources and adaptation to climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to drinking water, hygiene and sanitation, living conditions and access to basic services (health, education etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area of intervention 3: Improving migration management	Primary target	Secondary target
Prevention of irregular migration and fight against human trafficking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum, legal migration and mobility	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Synergies between migration and development (supporting initiatives of diasporas)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support for return and reintegration	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
Border management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Area of intervention 4: Improved governance and conflict prevention	Primary target	Secondary target
Strengthening the rule of law	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preventing conflicts and radicalisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Capacity building to support security	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## ANNEX 2. LOGFRAME MATRIX OF THE PROJECT

Activities, deliverables and all indicators with their targets and reference values contained in the logframe matrix are provided for information only and may be updated during the implementation of the Action without changing the funding decision. The logframe matrix should evolve during the project lifetime: new lines can be added for listing new activities as well as new columns for intermediary targets (milestones) when it is relevant and values will be regularly updated in the column foreseen for reporting purpose.

The action has 2 components that are focused on respectively persons in need of international protection and of concern to UNHCR and other migrants falling under the mandate of IOM. The 2 components will share some capacities and will be part of the same governance structure.

	Results chain	Indicators	Baseline (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)
Overall objective: Impact	The overall objective of the action is to contribute to strengthening the governance of migration in the region and reinforce the protection of migrants and forcibly displaced persons through the provision of measures and solutions out of Libya and along the Central Mediterranean route.	% increase in the number of migrants and forcibly displaced persons who received protection through the provision of measures and solutions out of Libya and along the Central Mediterranean route.		%
<b>Component 1 - UNHCR</b>				
	Specific Objective 1: Provide emergency protection and, life-saving assistance, resettlement and to persons of concern to UNHCR in the framework of the Evacuation Transit Mechanism (ETM).			

Specific Objective 2: Provide support to resettlement and complementary pathways for persons in need of international protection in the frame of the ETM.			
(SO 1) Result 1: Persons of concern to UNHCR evacuated from Libya have been provided with basic services	# of persons of concern accommodated and receiving basic services including psychosocial support in Niger and possibly Burkina Faso  # of ETM mechanism implemented in Burkina Faso		3,800 in Niger and possibly 750 in Burkina Faso  1
(SO 2) Result 1: Refugees are being identified and submitted for resettlement  Result 2: Refugees have improved access to complementary legal pathways for admission	# of Resettlement Registration Forms (RRFs) submitted  # of migrants having access to complementary legal pathways		Over 5,250  Over 550
<b>Component - IOM</b>			
SO 1: Improve protection, provide assistance to migrants and transit communities and enable the assisted voluntary return services of vulnerable and stranded migrants in target countries	# of migrants and transit communities benefitting of protection and assistance including a dignified voluntarily humanitarian return to their countries of origin		To be confirmed during the contracting process
SO 2: Improve the reintegration of returning migrants and to strengthen national structures and capacities to manage reintegration in a dignified and sustainable manner	# of migrants and communities benefitting from assistance and access to sustainable reintegration		To be confirmed during the contracting process

SO 3: Enable migrants and potential migrants to make informed decisions about their migratory journey and raise awareness of communities on migration.	% of increase of migrants, potential migrants and communities of origin sensitized to the risks linked to irregular migration		To be confirmed during the contracting process
SO 4. Strengthen migration data and communication on migratory flows, routes and trends, as well as on the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants in the targeted countries, in order to support evidence-based policies and programmes design	% reliable data collection (migratory flows, migrants' profile, socio-economic opportunities, returns, reintegration,) to reinforce the migratory analysis. Including the availability of data disaggregated on the basis of sex, age and nationality and vulnerability.		To be confirmed during the contracting process
(SO 1) Result 1: Migrants benefitted from protection and assistance  Result 2: Migrants benefitted from voluntary return assistance  Result 3: The capacity of governments and local stakeholders is strengthened to protect vulnerable and stranded migrants and facilitate safe and dignified voluntary return  Results	# of migrants benefitting from Voluntary humanitarian assistance from Libya (desegregated data by age, gender and vulnerability – including victims of trafficking)  # of requests for technical support to develop consular services submitted by government authorities addressed		
(SO 2) : Result 1:Returning migrants are supported in their reintegration  Result 2: The capacity of governments and local stakeholders is strengthened  Result 3. The reintegration referential mechanisms have been strengthened	# of migrants supported in their reintegration (desegregated data by age, gender and vulnerability – including victims of trafficking)		
SO 3: Result 1:Migrants and their communities are informed and made aware of the dangers of irregular migration and alternatives to it.	# of migrants informed		

SO 4: Result 1 :Data on migration flows are collected, analysed and produced in order to feed into policies and actions	# of tools produced to collect and analyse data in order to share and feed policies and actions		

