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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX I

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the Annual Action Plan 2024 of the Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood

Action Document for Supporting Protection and Strengthening the Resilience of Migrants, Refugees and Other People in Need of Protection in North Africa

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

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

SYNOPSIS

1.1. Action Summary Table

1. Title	Supporting Protection and Strengthening the Resilience of Migrants, Refugees and Other People in Need of Protection in North Africa
OPSYS	
Basic Act	OPSYS business reference: ACT-62803
	ABAC Commitment level 1 number: JAD.1571399
	Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe).
2. Economic and	Yes
Investment Plan (EIP)	VIII. Migration and Mobility
EIP Flagship	Yes, Flagship 8 "Migration"
3. Team Europe	Yes
Initiative	The action should contribute to the two following Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs):
	 The TEI for a Comprehensive Migration Approach in the Maghreb, Sahel and West African countries in the Atlantic/Western Mediterranean Route (AWMED) to which Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and The Netherlands contribute, as well as Switzerland. The TEI for a Comprehensive Migration Approach in the Central Mediterranean Route (Central Med) to which Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Malta and The Netherlands contribute.
	The TEIs offer a framework which allows the Union and Member States to improve coordination and increase efficiency of programmes and projects in the area of migration. Contributions can take different forms, including co-financing and individual projects contributing to the same objectives.

	The commitment of the EU's contribution to this action will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective partners' meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework
4. Beneficiar(y)/(ies) of the action	The action shall be carried out in North Africa: Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.
5. Programming document ¹	Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for a Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood
6. Link with relevant MIP(s)	The action is linked to the areas of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for a Multi- Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood (2021-2027)
objectives/expecte d results	Priority area 1 : Providing protection to forcibly displaced persons, including asylum seekers, refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and other persons in need, including migrants in vulnerable situations, as well as host communities, notably in North Africa
	PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION
7. Priority Area(s), sectors	Migration and Forced Displacement – Migration, DAC Code 15
8. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	 Main SDG: Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status Other significant SDGs: Goal 1: End poverty in all forms everywhere Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies
9. DAC code(s)	15190 (Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility) – 100%
10. Main Delivery Channel	International Organisations – 21000 United Nations agency, fund or commission (UN) Non-Governmental organisations

¹ C(2022) 8015 <u>MULTI-ANNUAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME FOR A MULTI-COUNTRY MIGRATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUTHERN</u> <u>NEIGHBOURHOOD (2021-2027), 28 November 2022 - European Commission (europa.eu)</u>

11. Targets	 ☑ Migration □ Climate ☑ Social inclusion and Human Development □ Gender □ Biodiversity [∞]Human Rights, Democracy and Governance 						
12. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objectiveNot targetedSignificant objectivePrincipal objective						
	Participation development/good governance						
	Aid to environment	\boxtimes					
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment						
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	\boxtimes					
	Disaster Risk Reduction	\boxtimes					
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities						
	Nutrition	\boxtimes					
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective			
	Biological diversity	\boxtimes					
	Combat desertification	\boxtimes					
	Climate change mitigation	\boxtimes					
	Climate change adaptation	\boxtimes					
13. Internal markers and Tags	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective			
	EIP		\boxtimes				
	EIP Flagship	YES		NO			
	Tags	YES		NO			
	transport			\boxtimes			
	energy			\boxtimes			
	environment, climate resilience			\boxtimes			
	digital			\boxtimes			

	economic development (incl. private sector, trade and macroeconomic support)					
	human development (incl. human capital and youth)			\boxtimes		
	health resilience			\boxtimes		
	migration and mobility	\boxtimes				
	agriculture, food security and rural development			\boxtimes		
	rule of law, governance and public administration reform					
	other					
	Digitalisation	\boxtimes				
	Tags	YES		NO		
	digital connectivity			\boxtimes		
	digital governance			\boxtimes		
	digital entrepreneurship			\boxtimes		
	digital skills/literacy			\boxtimes		
	digital services			\boxtimes		
	Connectivity	\boxtimes				
	Tags	YES		NO		
	digital connectivity			\boxtimes		
	energy			\boxtimes		
	transport			\boxtimes		
	health			\boxtimes		
	education and research			\boxtimes		
	Migration			\boxtimes		
	Reduction of Inequalities		\boxtimes			
	COVID-19	\boxtimes				
	BUDGET INFOR	RMATION				
14. Amounts	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020	0110 - Southern	Neighbourhood			
concerned	Total estimated cost: EUR 54 300 0	00				
	Total amount of EU budget contribu	tion EUR: 53 00	00 000			
	This action is likely to be co-financed in joint co-financing by other donor(s) for an estimated amount of EUR 1 300 000					

The commitment of the EU's contribution to this action will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective partners' meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that

	the Team Europe Initiatives (TEI) and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU Action may continue outside a TEI framework.
	MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION
15.	Direct management through:
Implementation modalities	Grants
(management mode and delivery methods)	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.2

1.2. Summary of the action

Due to their strategic economic, geographical, and geopolitical position, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya experience migration flows of refugees, asylum-seekers, and migrants. These countries are often origin, transit, and destination points. Since 2011 they have all seen significant increases in registered refugees and asylum-seekers. Egypt alone, for example, hosts around 1.3 million vulnerable migrants and approximately 737,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers², facing multiple risks. Since April 2023, the government reports that over 500,000 Sudanese refugees and third-country nationals have fled to Egypt, entering the country regularly. The number of registered refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt now represents a 93% increase compared to the end of 2022, with UNHCR estimating that this figure may reach 800,000 by the end of 2024. Similarly, Tunisia, Morocco, and Libya face complex migration and forced displacement dynamics driven by conflict, political instability, food insecurity, climate change, environmental degradation, demographic shifts, and economic challenges across the region and Sub-Saharan Africa. These factors contribute to varying degrees of migratory pressures and needs in each country, highlighting the shared challenges and responses required to address migration and forced displacement effectively in the region.

Challenges persist across all four countries, including the absence of dedicated asylum legislation and reservations made to the welfare provisions in the 1951 Geneva Convention. UNHCR assumes responsibility for registration, documentation, and Refugee Status Determination (RSD) under respective MoU with governments except in Libya where UNHCR does not have a host agreement. Nevertheless, refugees, asylum-seekers, undocumented migrants, and other people in need of protection in these countries face numerous protection risks such as lengthy application processes for legal status, short duration of residence permits, access to justice, language differences, limited job opportunities, discrimination, gender-based violence, and restricted access to basic services due to resource constraints and demand pressures. Public reports from Civil Society Organisations have raised concerns about arbitrary arrests and detention in the region. The neighbouring conflicts in Sudan, which have already entailed the massive displacement of Sudanese nationals to neighbouring countries (including Egypt and Libya), and the Israel-Gaza conflict do not ease concerns on the future stability of the region.

In light of the above, the proposed Action Document (AD) aims to strengthen the protection and resilience of migrants, refugees, and people in need of protection³ across North Africa. With a total EU budget contribution of EUR 53 million, this action will contribute to the implementation of comprehensive support to deliver life-saving assistance, capacity-building of protection actors and structures, and foster long-term resilience and livelihood opportunities to enhance the protection of vulnerable people. The action will target urban and rural settings, and where relevant, disembarkation points and detention facilities.

The action intends to address the expected results of the three specific objectives stated in the **Priority Area 1** of the Multi-annual Indicative Programme for a Multi-country Migration Programme for the Southern

² <u>Country - Egypt (unhcr.org)</u>

³ Including IDPs, victims of trafficking, returning migrants, asylum-seekers, host communities, etc...

Neighbourhood: "Providing protection to forcibly displaced persons, including asylum-seekers, refugees, IDPs, and other persons in need, including migrants in vulnerable situations, as well as host communities, notably in North Africa" those being:

SO1: Enhanced provision of quality lifesaving support to migrants and forcibly displaced persons through an integrated approach;

SO2: Improved resilience and self-reliance of forcibly displaced people and other persons in need, including access to services, economic inclusion, community approaches to durable solutions, social cohesion and resettlement;

SO3: Strengthened protection and resilience of persons and minors at risk, especially unaccompanied minors, young adults, and victims of trafficking in human beings.

The action is 100% DAC-able (DAC 15190) and directly contributes to the achievement **Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries, notably target 10.2:** *By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.* As well as Goal 1: End poverty in all forms everywhere, Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies. Finally, the action contributes to the two Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) covering the regional migration actions, notably the TEI for a Comprehensive Migration Approach in the Maghreb, Sahel and West African countries in the Atlantic/Western Mediterranean Route and the TEI for a Comprehensive Migration Approach in the Central Mediterranean Route.

Moreover, the action responds to one of the key priority areas of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum⁴'s external dimension on "protecting those in need and supporting host countries" and the EU's strong commitment to providing life-saving support to millions of refugees and displaced people, as well as fostering sustainable development-oriented solutions. It is also aligned with the partnership approach of the Joint Communication on a Renewed Partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood⁵ of February 2021, where migration and mobility are indicated as priority areas. The action also aligns with the Communication "Lives in Dignity" (2016)⁶, aiming to put forward a policy framework to prevent dependence on humanitarian assistance in existing displacement situations by fostering self-reliance and enabling the displaced to live in dignity as contributors to their host societies, until voluntary return or resettlement when possible.

The action also follows and seeks to deliver on the specific engagements of the EU with the countries in Northern Africa.

1.3. Beneficiar(y)/(ies) of the action

The action shall be carried out in Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia all of which are included in the list of ODA recipients.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Context

As of June 2024, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia continue to grapple with a complex array of challenges that significantly influence origin, transit, and destination migration dynamics. Historically, Egypt has been a hub for emigration, focusing on managing its diaspora and outbound labour migration, while gradually also becoming a significant destination and transit point for mixed migration flows, notably from neighbouring

⁴ <u>Pact on Migration and Asylum - European Commission (europa.eu)</u>

⁵ joint communication renewed partnership southern neighbourhood.pdf (europa.eu)

⁶ EUR-Lex - 52016DC0234 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

Sudan since April 2023. Similarly, Tunisia experiences migration dynamics as both an origin and transit country, with Tunisians historically emigrating for economic opportunities and the country now facing a larger number of migrants and being an important point of departure to Europe. Libya's geographical position and instability makes it a major transit country for migrants crossing the Mediterranean. It is also considered a country of destination and attraction for labour workers in search for economic opportunities. Morocco manages diverse migration and refugee flows, with sub-Saharan Africans transiting through or settling, and others seeking routes to Europe. On their migratory routes, migrants have a risk of facing challenges of human rights abuses and trafficking in human beings.

Socio-economic disparities in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco contribute to migration pressures, exacerbated by high unemployment rates, especially among youth. Urbanisation rates continue to rise, straining infrastructure and services in urban centres where migrants often settle. Demographic shifts, including significant youth populations, add complexity to socio-economic integration efforts. Environmental challenges such as water scarcity, desertification, and climate change impacts further complicate the situation, leading to displacement from rural areas and heightened vulnerabilities among affected populations. In Libya, the realities of the current political and institutional fragmentation contribute to hindering effective migration governance.

Building on previous protection actions

In general, this action will be complementary to the ongoing and planned bilateral programmes, which are supporting local communities across various sectors in partner countries, in particular programmes that are related to the access to basic services and livelihoods.

In Egypt, the proposed activities of this action build on and complements:

- the protection and resilience-building interventions conducted under the EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), the EUR 60 million Programme in Egypt: "*Enhancing the Response to Migration Challenges in Egypt*". Between 2017 and 2024, the EUTF-NoA has been the main instrument through which the EU cooperated with North African partners in the areas of migration, mobility and forced displacement. The EUTF programme in Egypt has focused on boosting job opportunities in areas prone to migration, creating employment and building skills of young people, as well as supporting labour-intensive infrastructure development in cities hosting migrants, and other actions (SMEs, skills, health care) for areas with a high concentration of migrants.
- the regional UNHCR-led EUTF interventions "Enhancing self-reliance and access to rights for refugees and asylum-seekers in North Africa" and "Durable solutions for Refugee Unaccompanied and Separated Children (Libya and Egypt) and Family Reunification", which focuses on improving protection and expanding access to sustainable solutions for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other categories of children and youth-at-risk along the Central Mediterranean Route.
- the NDICI programme "Strengthening the protection and resilience of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants in vulnerable situation in Egypt" amounting to EUR 28 million (contracted in 2023 and currently under implementation). The programme aims to strengthen resilience and to contribute to the protection of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, in particular the most vulnerable, as well as promoting social cohesion with host communities. The action focuses on facilitating and improving access to basic services in the health and education sector, enhancing the quality of these services, improving livelihoods and supporting child protection measures, including family reunification. Support is also being provided to the ongoing drafting process of the Asylum Law in close coordination with the EUAA. In 2023 additional funding has been made available by the Commission for the Sudan response, as part of the EUR 20 million announced by HRVP Borrell in June 2023, to support Egypt in hosting the Sudanese who entered the country since mid-April 2023 fleeing the war.

In Tunisia, the proposed activities build on the previous experience under EUTF – NOA, projects such as:

- "*Programme d'Appui à l'autonomisation et à l'Inclusion des Populations (PAAIP)*" for a total of EUR 2 million which supported access to economic opportunities and job creation for migrants and host communities, promoted the strategies for access to the provision of quality basic services and strengthened social cohesion between migrants and host communities
- "Protection des personnes migrantes en situation de vulnérabilité en Tunisie ProMiTAD" amounting to EUR 4,3 million implemented by a consortium of NGOs. The main objective of this action is to strengthen the protection and resilience of highly vulnerable migrants, refugees, asylum seekers in Tunisia by ensuring better accessibility and care at local level for migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers and strengthening the capacities of civil society organisations and institutional actors to improve accessibility to basic services and the integration of migrants

It also builds and complements current actions funded by NDICI, mainly:

- The Regional Programme on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration "Migrant Protection Return and Reintegration North Africa (2022-2026)" implemented by IOM. The action includes a component on protection and direct assistance to vulnerable and stranded migrants. Whenever needed and in response to migrants' specific needs and vulnerabilities identified during case management, IOM provides direct assistance in the form of shelter, food, non-food items, medical and psychosocial support or legal aid.
- The project "*Renforcement de la protection et de l'accès aux services de base des réfugiés et demandeurs d'asile vulnérables en Tunisie* (2023-2025) " implemented by UNHCR which aims to ensure access to dignified and secure accommodation and to basic services; strengthen multisectoral case management and take-up legal burden; consolidate the referencing and orientation system for better responding to the needs of beneficiaries and continue efforts to coordinate and harmonise practices with engaged actors.
- Projects funded through the action "Appui à la protection et à la (ré)intégration économique et sociale des tunisiens de retour, des populations déplacées et des communautés hôtes en Tunisie et au Maroc EDMEJ" adopted in 2022. This intervention aims to enhance access to protection and socio-economic inclusion of Tunisian returnees, displaced people and host communities in Tunisia and Morocco. Under this action, 2 contracts were signed in 2023 and implementation started by GIZ (EUR 6 M) and UNIDO (EUR 4 M) in 2024.

In Morocco, the proposed activities of this action build on and complement the various programmes conducted under EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) or NDICI and aimed at supporting migrants and refugees through multifaceted approach focusing on direct assistance, institutional capacity building, and raising awareness about migrants' rights.

• In the field of legal protection, several initiatives have significantly contributed to supporting and ensuring the rights of migrants. The "*Empowerment juridique des personnes migrantes*" project enhanced support and access to migrants' rights, such as civil registration, by developing interconnected networks involving university legal clinics, lawyers, justice agents, public institutions, and grassroots associations, while creating a comprehensive body of knowledge and tools on migrant rights (T05-EUTF-NOA-MA-02 / ENABEL). The "Assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations" project provided essential protection, emergency housing, necessities, and medical and psychosocial aid to the most vulnerable migrants, raising awareness of their rights and social cohesion, and

facilitating their socio-economic integration (T05-EUTF-NOA-MA-03/HI, Entreculturas, MDM BE). Additionally, the "Vivre ensemble sans discrimination: Une approche basée sur les droits de l'homme et la dimension genre" project focused on awareness-raising, training, and developing tools for public service agents interacting with foreigners, supporting local actions, and targeted communication (T05-EUTF-NOA-MA-01 / AECID). The "Regional Development and Protection Program (RDPP)" in its "Protection" component provided information and training on asylum-related themes, facilitated asylum and registration requests, and supported assistance to vulnerable migrants, including children on the move, complementing services for asylum seekers and promoting sustainable local consultation mechanisms (T05-EUTF-NOA-REG-09 / High Commissioner for Refugees). Its "development" component carried out pilot operations for temporary emergency accommodation for very vulnerable migrants, developed a national online inventory of services offered to migrants, and established standards for accommodating victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors (T05-EUTF-NOA-REG-01 / IOM). The RDPP North Africa, funded by AMIF and implemented by IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF, aimed to protect vulnerable migrants and refugees, including children and unaccompanied minors, and to register asylum seekers. The "Facility for Migrant Protection and Reintegration" project enabled reintegration and protection actions after facilitated return operations (T05-EUTF-NOA-REG-04; T05-EUTF-REG-REG-04, T05-EUTF-NOA-REG-13 / IOM), with IOM supporting regional councils in the territorialization of the SNIA. Regarding the territorial development of migration policies, the "Programme d'appui au déploiement des politiques migratoires" (DEPOMI) supported three regions, six municipalities, and four provinces in integrating regional policy programming and implementation, developing local governance approaches to protect the most vulnerable migrants, preventing irregular emigration, promoting the economic integration of migrants, and supporting diasporic populations' investment for regional development and mobility promotion (T05-EUTF-NOA-MA-04 / ENABEL). The project from the Human Rights 2022 call for proposals, "RASSIF, for the transregional and transnational protection of Moroccan and foreign children in the migratory process in Morocco," also played an important role. Lastly, the "Strengthening the Protection and Access to Basic Services of Refugees in Morocco" project fortified the protection of refugees and asylum seekers in Morocco, promoting their socio-economic integration through access to health services, education, legal assistance, emergency accommodation, and financial aid to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable (NDICI-GEO-NEAR/2023/445-829/UNHCR).

Raising awareness about migrants' rights has been a pivotal strategy to ensure long-term benefits. All previous mentioned programmes focusing on direct protection and/or institutional capacity building included as well awareness-raising actions on the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, among the beneficiaries themselves but also among the various holders of obligations in order to improve reception and provision of services.

In Libya, the proposed activities build on the previous experience under EUTF-NOA and the two NDICI related action documents adopted in 2021⁷ and 2023^{8.}

Specific context in Egypt

In the context of a challenging socio-economic environment and growing mixed migration, migrants, refugees, and host communities in Egypt are becoming increasingly vulnerable. According to UNHCR, Egypt currently hosts around 1.3 million vulnerable migrants and approximately 737,000 registered refugees and asylum seekers (August 2024), facing a multitude of risks. The price for goods and services in Egypt following the

^{7 &}lt;u>COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 17.12.2021 on the financing of the individual measure for the multi-country</u> migration programme in favour of the Southern Neighbourhood for 2021 (europa.eu)

⁸ <u>COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION of 26.6.2023 on the financing of the Annual</u> <u>Action Plan2023 of the Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood - European Commission (europa.eu)</u>

war in Ukraine, coupled with the continued devaluation of the Egyptian pound from 2022 to 2024, present significant challenges to the food security and livelihoods of these groups. Additionally, the influx of forcibly displaced individuals due to the war in Sudan has significantly increased the number of vulnerable people in need. Since April 2023, the government of Egypt reports that over 500,000 Sudanese refugees and third-country nationals have fled to Egypt, entering the country regularly⁹. The number of registered refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt now represents a 93% increase compared to the end of 2022, with UNHCR estimating that this figure may reach 800,000 by the end of 2024.

As the severe humanitarian crisis continues in Sudan, UN agencies are addressing the mid- and long-term needs of those fleeing to Egypt, as well as host communities. In 2023, IOM Egypt processed 100,075 Sudanese cases and provided 48,886 instances of multi-sectoral assistance to new arrivals from Sudan. Since October 2023, Sudanese have become the largest group registered with UNHCR Egypt, followed by Syrians, South Sudanese, Eritreans, Ethiopians, and to a lesser extent, Iraqis and Yemenis.

Refugee and migrant children, particularly those suffering from abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation, as well as unaccompanied and separated children, remain among the most vulnerable groups. As of the end of March 2024, the number of registered children with UNHCR has exceeded 217,000, including 6,848 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), marking a significant increase compared to pre-Sudan crisis figures. Most UASC have fled to Egypt due to protection risks such as military conscription, conflict, and persecution. Newly displaced children and families face challenges like family separation, limited access to basic services, and the breakdown of community structures, all of which heighten their vulnerability to exploitation, abuse, and violence.

While the current protection system in Egypt is inclusive of non-Egyptian children from a regulatory standpoint, many still struggle to access services like case management, alternative care, and public education, which is limited to certain nationalities. The agreed coordination and referral pathways with national authorities are not yet fully operational. Case management partners offer services to at-risk children, but limited capacity and resources mean not all children can benefit, with priority given based on vulnerability.

Refugee and migrant children often face discrimination, violence (including gang-related violence), and poor housing conditions. These challenges have led to increased irregular onward movement to Libya, exacerbating protection risks .

This action will be in line with the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership between The Arab Republic of Egypt and the European Union¹⁰, which among its focus areas also aims at furthering a holistic approach to migration governance by tackling the root causes of irregular migration, combating smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, strengthening border management, and ensuring dignified and sustainable return and reintegration. Both sides are committed to the protection of the rights of migrants and refugees.

Specific context in Morocco

If Morocco is traditionally both a country of emigration and transit to Europe, the country has also become a country of destination for migrants. The migrant and refugee population in Morocco is heterogeneous, in terms of the legal status of people (asylum seekers, refugees, regularized migrants or irregular migrants), their country of origin, travel arrangements, gender or age of people. The geographical location of Morocco, in the immediate vicinity of Spain (including on the African continent with the enclaves of Melilla and Ceuta) makes this country particularly sensitive to irregular migratory flows to Europe. Coastal surveillance systems in

⁹ <u>Country - Egypt (unhcr.org)</u>

¹⁰ Joint Declaration on the Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership between The Arab Republic of Egypt and the European Union - European Commission (europa.eu)

Morocco were strengthened, and a significant number of prevented irregular migration attempts were reported by the Moroccan authorities, with 70,781 attempted irregular departures in 2022.

It is difficult to estimate the number of migrants in transit in Morocco. Due to their high mobility, the number of these migrants is only the subject of estimates, which vary between 30 to 50,000 people in migration. Added to this, is a population of refugees and asylum seekers, as of April 2024. According to the UNHCR there were 18,241 registered refugees and asylum seekers, from more than 50 countries of origin and of whom 23.5% have specific needs.

To contribute to better integration of regularised migrants and refugees on its territory, the Kingdom of Morocco adopted a "National Immigration and Asylum Strategy" (SNIA) in 2014 and followed up in 2014 and 2016, by two regularisation operations having processed just over 56,000 requests representing 113 nationalities. The Draft Law on Asylum completed in 2014 has not yet been adopted by the Moroccan's Parliament. Until the adoption of the Draft Law, the Immigration Law of 2003 (02-03) is the only national legislation applicable to immigrants.

Though, despite progress (migrants' access to certain basic services, notably Education and Health, conduct of two regularisation operations), the implementation of the SNIA is experiencing a certain slowdown which does not allow migrant populations to access certain services, particularly in terms of rights (issuance and renewal of residence cards, birth certificates, filing of complaints and administrative procedures) and protection of the most vulnerable people such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors (in absence of accommodation).

Front-line social actors report an increase in the number of migrants and refugees on the move within the country, and an increase in cases of migrants and refugees in situations of great vulnerability, in particular single women accompanied by young children and babies, unaccompanied minors, people in psychological and psychiatric suffering or victims of trafficking in human beings. Migrant and refugee populations living in conditions of great vulnerability are no longer exclusively located in the North of the country and the Oriental region. Those living in urban areas in regions in the country's interior also experience difficult situations, particularly concerning health and accommodation possibilities.

Specific context in Libya

Libya is both a transit and destination country for migrants coming from a variety of countries across Africa and Asia, and remains characterised by a highly complex and fragmented context, easily exploited by criminal networks involved in trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. Whilst all migrants face heightened risk of vulnerable situations, given the criminalisation of illegal entry across borders, more vulnerable groups, including women and girls, are particularly targeted and their vulnerabilities exploited. Libya's domestic legal framework criminalising irregular entry, stay, and exit from the country does not offer adequate protection to the most vulnerable, nor does it provide the legal basis for prosecuting perpetrators.

In 2023, the Libyan Coast Guard and General Administration for Coastal Security rescued/intercepted around 17,000 people. When they are disembarked in different locations along the Libyan coast, they arrive often drained after this perilous journey and require assistance, at minimum water and health assistance, as they are at risk of dehydration. After interception, migrants are, most of the time, detained.

Apprehension can happen at sea or land borders or in urban settings. There is no distinction made between migrants and individuals in need of international protection (asylum seekers and refugees). As of 30 June, there were 4 476 migrants held in detention centres who are placed under the authority of Libya's Directorate for Combatting Illegal Migration (DCIM). However, there are an important number of un-official detention centres across the country, for which data is unavailable and where humanitarian actors have no access.

Conditions of detention are often dire with insufficient food, water, ventilation, and sanitation. Facilities are often overcrowded, and there are risks of sexual and gender-based violence. Access to the facilities to international organizations has improved in 2024, but remains patchy.

In total 719,064 migrants were identified by Displacement Tracking Matrix Libya during latest data collection (January - February 2024)¹¹. Around eight in ten persons on the move, (78%) were adult males, 11% adult females, and 11% were children (among whom 4% were unaccompanied). Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are exposed to violence, exploitation, arbitrary detention, hazardous living conditions, and abuse at the hands of smugglers and traffickers. The protection challenges faced by migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Libya are widespread across the country and include critical issues such as Gender-Based Violence, access to basic health systems, access to education, Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and shelter. Over seven in ten migrants (72%) in Libya mentioned having limited or no access to healthcare. Undocumented migrant workers relying on informal labour arrangements are vulnerable to abuse and exploitation during migration and employment, without any possibility for minimum labour standards enforcement, or access to recourse.

As of April 2024, UNHCR had registered 62,527 asylum seekers, of whom 37,218 were Sudanese nationals. With the limited number of evacuations and resettlement pledges, only a small number of those most at risk are finding refuge outside Libya.

In the last years, the needs for protection of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers increased across the country, including in border areas. Given access limitations, humanitarian actors have stressed the increased and multiple vulnerabilities faced by individuals in the border areas.

The conflict that broke out between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces in April 2023 has resulted in an increasing number of people being displaced in Libya. This influx is placing pressure on Southern municipalities such as Al Kufra (where refugee population has been estimated at around 40,000 by a recent WHO-UNICEF assessment), where infrastructures and access to basic services such as health, housing and sanitation are already scarce. There is an estimation of 136,455 Sudanese refugees in Libya according to the last Displacement Tracking Matrix, however, figures are expected to be both higher (given the difficulty to collect migration related data) and increasing by the day. Therefore, there is a strong need for support that is designed to ensure the protection of that refugee population.

Specific context in Tunisia

Tunisia remains a key country on the Central Mediterranean migration route, as a country of origin, transit and destination. In 2023, most irregular migrants arriving in Italy left from Tunisia (almost 98,701 of a total of 157,652 people on the Central Mediterranean route). Departures have dropped since October 2023 and from January until April 2024 6,656 people have irregularly arrived in Italy from Tunisia via the Central Mediterranean Route, constituting approximately one third of the arrivals for the same period last year. This drop in arrivals is partially due to increased security measures by the Tunisian authorities who prevented people from departing and increased interceptions of migrants at sea and/or closed to land borders with Algeria and Libya. Furthermore, in 2023 and 2024 Tunisians security forces carried out operations to remove migrants from urban areas and to move them to more rural or border areas. with limited protection for human rights, including for women, children and refugees or asylum seekers. IOM reported that at least 29 people have died due to those manoeuvres. However, many migrants and asylum seekers continue to arrive in Tunisia. Estimates are that since the beginning of 2024, the number of migrants in Sfax governorate, centre of the mixed migrant community in Tunisia, has tripled. In April 2024 partners estimated numbers to be around 20,000 and growing.

¹¹ Libya | Displacement Tracking Matrix (iom.int)

Whereas Tunisia has become more and more transit-country for Sub-Saharan migrants, Tunisians are still the third largest nationality that irregularly arrive in Italy. Although the total number of persons under the responsibility of UNHCR remains relatively modest, with almost 16,374 forcibly displaced people in March 2024 (including 3,677 refugees and 12,697 asylum seekers), the increase in asylum applications in recent years has been very rapid. UNHCR registered 7,835 new asylum seekers in Tunisia in 2023, a 588% increase compared to 2022. In addition, in 2023, the number of new asylum seekers from countries covered by UNHCR increased sharply, with almost 90 % coming from war-torn countries such as Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Syria. Due to their vulnerability, and in the light of the gradual deterioration of the protective space, these people often have multiple needs in terms of accommodation, access to basic services and protection.

Tensions between migrants and local communities have increased over the past months, particularly in the Sfax region, where several security incidents occurred. Migrants have been living rough in several villages, but also on the streets of Tunis, with often no access to shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), or other basic needs services, the health conditions are dire and risk leading to the outbreak of infectious diseases.

Access to rights and protection of refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia remains limited and faces major challenges. Individual CSO representatives (among which EU partners) were arrested in May and remain in prison with charges of money laundering and illegally settling foreigners in Tunisia. This has further narrowed down the protection space in Tunisia, as many CSOs have suspended their support to migrants and asylum-seekers.

Tunisia is a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and to the 1967 Protocol and the Convention of the Organisation of the African Union governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa. However, the Tunisian government has not yet adopted national legislation on asylum and refugee rights. In parallel, UN-agencies are encountering difficulties to fulfil their mandates.

This action will be in line with the Memorandum of Understanding on a strategic and global partnership between the European Union and Tunisia¹², which among its priorities also intends to further a holistic approach to migration by addressing the root causes of migration, fostering economic and social development and fighting irregular migration based on the respect of human rights.

Complementarity with EU and other Donors/partners

The action will complement on-going support, including previously mentioned protection actions and EUTF programmes, plus initiatives of other DGs within the Commission. Since 2016, over EUR 20 million from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) were transferred to protection-related support under the "Regional Development and Protection Programme for North Africa (RDPP NA)", to International Organisations and NGOs to implement projects in, amongst others, Refugee Status Determination, capacity-building for the national governments, legal assistance or medical care. These synergies and complementarities have been streamlined into the action all the way down to the proposed indicative activities, to avoid potential overlap of activities amongst various initiatives of different DGs. Furthermore, this action will tangentially support INTPA's engagement with the IGAD¹³ Platform and the Sudan/ South Sudan and South Sudan and the rest of the Horn of Africa.

¹² Memorandum of Understanding between the EU and Tunisia (europa.eu)

¹³ Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

To avoid overlapping, the action will ensure regular coordination meetings with key development stakeholders to share information and identify synergies with actions implemented in similar areas. This will include projects on migrant's protection funded by the EU, Member States and other donors. The action will engage with all relevant stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international level. EU Delegations will support and guide implementing partner(s) in the coordination process. The implementing partner(s) will also ensure that priorities identified by partner countries in their development plans and/or migration strategies at the national and/or local level are considered 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.

EU added value

The EU and Member States are involved in several continental, regional and national dialogues on migration governance, to enhance cooperation, exchange of information and best practices with a whole of route approach, which have demonstrated the EU's added value.

- The Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process), a regional migration dialogue established in 2006 and bringing together countries of origin, transit and destination of the migration routes linking Central, West and Northern Africa with Europe;
- The Khartoum Process, a platform for political cooperation among the countries along the migration route between the Horn of Africa and Europe, established in 2014;
- The 2015 Valletta Summit and the Joint Valletta action Plan (JVAP), which lays down a series of priorities aiming at supporting Valletta Partners with the enhancement of migration governance between Europe and Africa.
- Technical engagements on migration with Libyan authorities since the beginning of 2024.

2.2. Problem Analysis

Short problem analysis

The action seeks to address protection vulnerabilities faced by individuals at risk in Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia. These individuals frequently encounter significant barriers to receiving adequate protection assistance and accessing quality basic services such as healthcare, education, and social support. These barriers often stem from systemic issues within the existing frameworks, which are not adequately equipped to handle the complex needs of at-risk populations. As a result, many individuals remain underserved and vulnerable, unable to secure the help they require.

Furthermore, there is a critical need to promote durable solutions, including, alongside other actions, socioeconomic integration and resilience of these populations within their host communities. This involves not only providing immediate protection assistance but also ensuring that these individuals can build sustainable livelihoods and become self-reliant. It is essential that local stakeholders and institutions are empowered and capable of providing consistent and effective protection assistance. This requires capacity-building initiatives and continuous support to enhance their ability to respond to protection needs efficiently.

Additionally, it is imperative to support national authorities' actions aiming at fostering an environment that allows for protection concerns to be integrated into national frameworks. This includes support for national policies and regulations that prioritise the safety and well-being of at-risk populations. By doing so, national authorities can ensure that protection measures are not only implemented but also sustained over time, providing a stable and secure environment for those in need. The comprehensive approach of the action aims to address both immediate and long-term needs, creating a robust system of support for vulnerable individuals across these countries.

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

• Migrants, refugees, and other people in need of protection (including IDPS, victims of trafficking, returning migrants, asylum-seekers, host communities etc...) in North Africa are the final beneficiaries of this action.

Other main stakeholders include:

- The government authorities at national and local level and Ministries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, security forces, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Justice, Wilayas, Municipalities...).
- Member States
- UN agencies and INGOs in charge of protecting migrant rights, as well as CSOs and CBOs
- Other actors responsible for funding / managing / implementing strategies, policies, and programmes in the area of migrant protection, & vocational training.
- Host communities

2.3. Lessons Learned

- Ensuring programme flexibility as a key factor to be able to adapt to changes in migratory flows (increased workload, change of routes), to fragile political and security environments, as well as to epidemics.
- Integrating protection assistance needs into national systems. Governmental and non-governmental partners have gained, through capacity building activities, knowledge and skills on how to identify migrants' vulnerabilities and address their needs to be able to implement activities themselves. One of the main achievements, for example via the EU-IOM Joint Initiative has been building partners' ownership, awareness and skills on migrants' needs and vulnerabilities and how to respond to them.
- Continuing to identify and implement alternative options to detention centres, continue advocating for the end of detention in Libya and seeking implementation of durable solutions for those released, including foster alternatives in urban settings, other alternative accommodation schemes (family hosting, Embassies, cash support) as well as solutions outside Libya. This is especially important for women and children, being the women confronted to increased vulnerability in detention centres.
- As mentioned in the Thematic evaluation of EUTF Protection in Libya:
 - "the EUTF's multi-sectoral protection assistance contributed to improve the momentary access of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees to different forms of protection. It contributed to saving lives and to, address the beneficiaries' most pressing needs. Nevertheless, the assistance was not sufficient to meet all the needs of all, compared to the susceptibilities of the context in Libya."
 - Available durable solutions have been successful in increasing protection for vulnerable populations and individuals. Continue and expand, when possible, these services through increased funds to widen the scope of available spaces for these solutions. This should be accompanied by increased advocacy with EUMS and other actors who could speed up the process of ETM and VHR to increase the pace of implementation and the number of beneficiaries.
 - EU's presence and funding have supported protection priorities in Libya, nevertheless more critical gaps still need to be addressed in protection activities, particularly for durable solutions, legal frameworks and policies and access to livelihoods.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1. Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective(s)/Impact(s) of this action is to enhance protection and resilience of migrants, refugees and other people in need of protection¹⁴, and strengthen socio-economic cohesion.

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

- 1. Improved protection response and assistance for migrants, refugees and other people in need of protection;
- 2. Supporting strengthened socio-economic, institutional, and legal environment for the rights of migrants, refugees and other people in need of protection.

Output 1:

- 1.1 Enhanced provision of protection services to targeted beneficiaries;
- 1.2 Ensured support of resilience and livelihoods perspectives of targeted beneficiaries.

Output 2:

- 2.1 Reinforced capacities of local stakeholders (incl. Civil Society) and institutions to protect human rights and to promote socio-economic cohesion;
- 2.2 Reinforced capacities of key national authorities to integrate needs of targeted beneficiaries in their response frameworks.

3.2. Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1:

- Improve access to non-discriminatory quality primary health care, education, and social/community services in particular for women and UASC's needs;
- Provide legal/administrative services and consular assistance to renew residence permit or obtain regularisation;
- Family reunification, which includes resettlement activities and support to family reunification procedures (children and youth-at-risk to join parents abroad), screening and interviews with child/youth, with caregiver and/or parents/relative abroad and home visits;
- Child protection programmes, which includes access to registration and best interest procedures for UASC, long-term psychosocial health and legal advice/assistance for UASC;
- Provision of cash for education and health care access (referrals, drugs, consultations)/ support of education through grants, including non-formal options for refugee children.
- Specific to Libya:
 - Lifesaving interventions at disembarkation points and detention centres (e.g. protection, psychological first aid, NFI, health);
 - Providing support for the protection f the population of Sudanese refugees, notably in the area of Al Kufra. This support should include measures aiming at enhancing the resilience of the local communities.
 - Advocacy for the end of the arbitrary detention, and providing support for the implementation of measures for the release of children and their caretakers, including identification and implementation of durable solutions (e.g. resettlement)

¹⁴ Including IDPs, victims of trafficking, returning migrants, asylum-seekers, host communities, etc...

• Advocacy for regularisation of labour migrants in line with national competencies and on the basis of specific criteria to reduce their vulnerability

Activities related to Output 1.2 (including for host communities):

- Support national measures for regularisation of migrants
- Facilitate professional, labour and livelihood trainings, skills development, and entrepreneurship, with particular attention to the needs of women and young people.
- Facilitate job placement services and apprenticeships in collaboration with local businesses and industries;
- Launch microfinance and small business grant schemes for migrants and refugees to start or expand income-generating activities.
- Implement vocational training programs tailored to market demands in North Africa.

Activities related to Output 2.1:

- Conduct training sessions for local government officials, community leaders, and civil society organisations on the rights and needs of migrants and refugees;
- Supporting developing municipal plans including inclusive migration and regional labour migration initiatives, with gender mainstreaming initiatives;
- Equip local authorities to support micro, small and medium scale livelihoods and income generating activities;
- Provide capacity-building activities and technical support notably for health and education, social affairs sectors;
- Activities engaging youth, women, divided communities, and livelihood development support;
- Organise inter-community dialogue forums and cultural exchange events to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between migrants, refugees, and host communities;

Activities related to Output 2.2

- Support the operational capacities and technical knowledge of key ministries (Social affairs, Justice, etc)
- Provide technical assistance and capacity-building for national policymakers on migration governance, protection frameworks, and human rights standards.
- Facilitate study tours and exchanges with EU MS that have effective integration and protection policies to share best practices.

The commitment of the EU's contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers, will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member's meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the Team Europe Initiatives (TEI) and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

3.3. Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection, Climate Change and Biodiversity

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

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

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

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

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender concerns will be mainstreamed throughout all activities under this action to the extent possible, with various outputs placing specific attention to the gender lens, notably GBV response and SRH. In addition to this, health and specific needs of women will be prioritised, as well as empowerment and participation of women and girls in education. The interventions funded within this action will be aligned with the EU's external policy on gender equality and women's empowerment; the action will ensure that assistance provided is tailored to the needs of women and girls and thus contributing to the EU Gender action Plan¹⁵ (GAP) III¹⁶. Unaccompanied minors will be provided with specialised, gender-specific and child-sensitive assistance and protection.

Human Rights

In line with the Human Rights Based approach¹⁷, all intervention should advance the realisation of human rights. This action is designed to mainstream human rights all along the document, its outcomes, outputs and activities. It will ensure full respect of the human rights of migrants, forcibly displaced persons and their communities, based on non-discriminatory principles, self-determination and participation of the migrants as well as confidentiality and right to privacy. The action ensures that the principle of leaving no-one behind is fully respected. The action seeks to provide timely, relevant and quality support to vulnerable people along migratory routes so that their needs and rights are met. It recognises the universal right to health, education and protection, as per the Article 25 and 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Protection and assistance mechanisms will take into account the specific situation and vulnerability of migrants, such as ensuring the best interest of the child, as well as gender and age dimensions. As the action focuses in part on unaccompanied minors, it will also work in respect of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. Nevertheless, should persons with disabilities be part of the targeted group, special attention will be given throughout the process taking into account the specific situation and the degree of vulnerability.

Democracy

The action will be based on non-discrimination principles, self-determination and participation of the migrants and refugees as well as confidentiality and right to privacy.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

¹⁵ The Gender Action Plan III is a Joint communication by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy which was welcomed through EU Presidency Conclusions of 16 December 2020. Drafting was led by European Commission in close consultation with EU Member States, EEAS, civil society organisations, partner governments, and international organisations (UN entities, International Finance Institutions among others). The different parties contributed to the drafting of the document through meetings and through responses to a survey conducted during the process.

¹⁶ join-2020-17-final en.pdf (europa.eu)

¹⁷ The Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) - EXACT External Wiki - EN - EC Public Wiki (europa.eu)

Peaceful coexistence with local populations is also a cross cutting issue which will be considered across all elements of the implementation, through needs assessments and context analysis. For the success of the action, it is essential that efforts are made to maintain dialogue with local population and ensure sensitisation of the community.

Disaster Risk Reduction

Migrants are considered as a group that is more vulnerable in case of a disaster given their inherent vulnerabilities and limited access to information. This action will aim at integrating strategies to reduce migrants' vulnerability and exposure to risks.

3.4. Risks and Assumptions

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
1 (external environment)	Increased insecurity, political instability/ security concerns, negatively impacting implementation and/or Implementing Partners (Ips)	Μ	Μ	EUDs- together with the selected Ips – will engage with relevant authorities at the highest level possible to advocate for the programme's right-based approach and other principles. If effective follow-up and monitoring mechanisms cannot be established, operations will be put on hold or postponed. Political dialogue or technical engagement with HQ involvement could also be engaged, as appropriate Continuous cooperation with international actors, Member States, EUDEL and all internal stakeholders.
1	Changing Government priorities, including the risk of politicisation of migration and protection of migrants	Μ	Η	Interventions will be designed in a flexible manner to enable adaptation to different circumstances (e.g., focus on different geographical areas and/or decentralised level too). Political dialogue or technical engagement with HQ involvement could also be engaged, as appropriate In close cooperation with EUDs, the action will promote regular inter- stakeholder dialogue and information exchange, based on evidence, regarding the benefits. The overall engagement will also seek to obtain full local support for UN activities.
1	Suspension of UNHCR's pre- registration and registration of asylum by the	М	Н	Support to UNHCR to continue and strengthen dialogue with the Tunisian authorities, notably by demonstrating negative impact of lack of registration. Support UNHCR efforts towards the

	Tunisian Government			adoption of a transitory system for a national registration mechanism.
1	Access issues related to security. Suspensions in implementing activities in the event that access is not possible.	М	М-Н	The action will continue to coordinate with involved partners, authorities and communities regarding security. Activities may be delayed until the security situation in the target area is sound and there is no potential for harm for the beneficiaries or project staff.
1	COVID-19 recrudescence or sudden pandemic of communicable diseases.	L	М	Follow up the evolution and adapt accordingly including via reprogramming to achieve the intended results of the action in consultation with the donor. Foster new/remote delivery methods according to access restrictions, negotiate humanitarian access considering safety of the staff and national regulations.
1	Fluctuation rates/ inflation /liquidity problems/ collapse of banking system / lack of available cash in country	М	M	Careful planning of bank transfers to ensure sufficient liquidity, identification of alternatives forms of payment. Identification of alternatives such as voucher systems or payment through mobile phones.
1	Allegations of human rights violations	Н	М	Verification of allegations and follow up with implementing partners and authorities in line with the human rights-based approach
3 (people and organisation)	Local staff threatened/ intimidated or (feeling) accused because of their activities in favour of migrant population	L	М	Maintain a constant relation with local communities, build trust relationships and social engagement. Support vulnerable host communities to avoid feelings of exclusion.
4 (legality and regulatory aspects)	Diversion and misuse of funds/ fraud	L	Μ	Work with pre-vetted and reliable partners, run third party monitoring, spot- checks and inspections.
4	Loss of EU-funds caused by double- funding of projects as a result of weak coordination between departments or with external donors	L	М	Intense scoping and needs-assessment, discussion with Embassy, coordination with other relevant DGs (notably HOME and ECHO) and Governments.

External Assumptions

• **Operational Environment**: The intervention assumes stable security and political conditions to ensure continuous operations, or not evolving further negatively from the current situation.

Engagement with authorities and stakeholders will advocate for the programme's principles and adjust operations if monitoring is ineffective.

- **Government and Community Support**: Assumption that Government priorities will align with the action's objectives. Regular dialogue and evidence-based exchanges will demonstrate benefits to maintain alignment. Building community trust will enhance safety and project effectiveness.
- **Risk Management and Adaptation**: Assuming secure access to target areas, proactive coordination with partners and authorities will address security concerns. Activities may adjust based on the evolving security situation and health crises.
- **Financial Stability and Efficiency**: Operations assume stable economic conditions for financial transaction s. Careful planning an alternative payment method will manage risks like currency fluctuations or banking disruptions. Rigorous monitoring will prevent misuse of funds.
- Stakeholder Coordination and Communication: Effective coordination with donors and stakeholders will optimise resource use and prevent duplication. Proactive communication and transparency about achievements will address criticisms and maintain public trust.

3.5. Intervention Logic

The core intervention logic of this action is to fulfil the overall objective of enhancing protection and resilience for migrants, refugees, and other people in need of protection, while strengthening socio-economic cohesion.

To achieve this overarching goal, the action will ensure that those most vulnerable receive improved protection response and assistance for migrants, refugees and people in need of protection (Specific Objective 1). This involves improving the provision of protection services to targeted beneficiaries (Output 1.1) and supporting their resilience and livelihoods perspectives (including promoting sustainable practices adapted to the impact of climate change where relevant) (Output 1.2).

IF the enhanced provision of services and support for resilience and livelihoods perspectives are ensured, **THEN** migrants, refugees, and other people in need of protection will receive improved assistance **BECAUSE** targeted support addressing protection needs meets critical requirements and enhances the perspectives of durable solutions.

Secondly, the action aims to strengthen the socio-economic, institutional, and legal environment for the rights of migrants, refugees, and other people in need of protection (Specific Objective 2). This includes reinforcing the capacities of local stakeholders and institutions to promote socio-economic cohesion (Output 2.1) and enhancing the capacities of key national authorities to integrate these needs into policy frameworks (Output 2.2).

IF capacities of local actors and institutions are strengthened to promote social cohesion and capacities of key national authorities are enhanced to integrate needs into their actions and policy frameworks, **THEN** the socio-economic, institutional, and legal environment for the rights of migrants, refugees, and other people in need of protection will be fortified **BECAUSE** robust institutional support enhances rights protection and ensures coherent policy implementation.

3.6. Indicative Logical Framework Matrix¹⁸

¹⁸ It is important to note that non-GERF indicators in the logframe are provisional and may be substituted with agreed GERF indicators upon their approval during the contracting stage to streamline and align monitoring and evaluation exercise. As of June 2024, there are currently insufficient GERF indicators available for the below logframe.

Results	Results chain: Main expected results [maximum 10 @]	Indicators [at least one indicator per expected result @]	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact 1	The overall objective of this action is to enhance protection and resilience of migrants, refugees and other people in need of protection, and strengthen socio-economic cohesion	% of targeted populations reporting an improved feeling of safety and dignity # Increased protection and assistance in host countries as reported by relevant UN Agencies and other international actors	1 2	1 2	IP M&R Systems	Not applicable
Outcome 1	Improved protection response and assistance for migrants, refugees and other people in need of protection;	GERF 2.20 Number of migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people or individuals from host communities protected or assisted with EU support [NDICI-Global Europe] % beneficiaries accessing basic services of beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin)	To be determined during inception stage	To be determined during inception stage	IP M&R Systems	
Outcome 2	Strengthened socio-economic, institutional, and legal environment for the rights of migrants, refugees and other people in need of protection	GERF 2.21 Number of migration governance or forced displacement strategies, policies and actions (a) developed/revised, or (b) under implementation with EU support	To be determined during inception stage	To be determined during inception stage	IP M&R Systems	
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	Enhanced provision of protection services to targeted beneficiaries;	# of beneficiaries provided with safe shelter or housing assistance, including following release from detention centres	To be determined during	To be determined during	IP M&R Systems	

	(disaggregated by family unit/individual; gender)	inception stage	inception stage	
	GERF 2.25 Number of people directly benefiting from legal aid interventions supported by the EU (disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin)			
	GERF 2.36 Number of students enrolled in education with EU support: (a) primary education, (b) secondary education, (c) tertiary education [NDICI- Global Europe] disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin (disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin)			
	Number of beneficiaries accessing basic health services with EU support: disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin (disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin)			
	GERF 2.37 Number of people benefitting from EU-funded interventions to counter sexual and gender-based violence			

		 (disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin) # of Persons of Concern to UNHCR identified for durable solutions, including those for which durable solutions were implemented following release from detention centers (disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin) # of beneficiaries in receipt of cash-assistance (disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin) Number of Sudanese refugees benefitting of assistance (disaggregated by gender, age) 				
Output 2 related to Outcome 1	Ensured support of resilience and livelihoods perspectives of targeted beneficiaries	 # of targeted beneficiaries vulnerable trained in employment skills (disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin) # awareness raising initiatives for dissemination of information on labour opportunities, rights and safe & migration (disaggregated by 	To be determined during inception stage	To be determined during inception stage	IP M&R Systems	

		 gender, age and country of origin) # of beneficiaries reporting increased self-reliance (disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin) % of beneficiaries who start or expand their own businesses (disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin) % of beneficiaries who report improved skills relevant to local job market (disaggregated by individual; gender; green jobs) % of beneficiaries who are able to benefit of national labour schemes or access national labour markets (disaggregated by gender, age and country of origin) 				
Output 1 related to Outcome 2	Reinforced capacities of local stakeholders (incl. Civil Society) and institutions to protect human rights and to promote socio-economic cohesion;	 # of local leaders trained to support local governance processes (disaggregated by gender, and Institution) # of community infrastructure projects implemented collaboratively (disaggregated by gender, and Institution) 	To be determined during inception stage	To be determined during inception stage	IP M&R Systems	

		 % of trained health and educational staff, including on social cohesion (disaggregated by gender, and Institution) % beneficiaries with increased skills (disaggregated by gender, and Institution) 				
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	Reinforced capacities of key national authorities to integrate needs of targeted beneficiaries in policy frameworks	 # of national authorities participating in cross-sectoral workshops or forums on migrant, refugee, and protection issues (disaggregated by gender, and Institution) % of national authorities reporting improved understanding of international standards and best practices in protection and integration (disaggregated by gender, and Institution) % beneficiaries with increased skills (disaggregated by gender, and Institution) 	To be determined during inception stage	To be determined during inception stage	IP M&R Systems	

4. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

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

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3.1 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 72 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this financing Decision. Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures¹⁹.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

a) Purpose of the grant

To respond to Output 1 and Output 2

b) Type of applicants targeted

In order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must be (1) a legal person, and (2) non profit-making, and (3) be a civil society organisation, and (4) be established in a Member State of the European Union or European Economic Ares, or Egypt, Libya, Morocco and/or Tunisia, and (5) be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and/or affiliated entity(ies), not acting as intermediary. Any co-applicant(s) must satisfy the same eligibility criteria. Other essential characteristics of the potential applicants are the long-term experience in the countries, the knowledge and expertise in the domain of protection and resilience to ensure effective implementation.

4.3.2 (c) Indirect Management with a pillar-assessed entity

A part of this action may be implemented in indirect management with a pillar-assessed entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- completed pillar assessment
- proven established experience and operational capacity in the management and implementation of health, education, livelihood support, protection and/or family reunification actions in the country targeted;
- technical competence in the sector and leverage for policy dialogue, including technical expertise in managing mixed migration flows;

¹⁹ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails

- administrative capability and the experience to implement this type of intervention due to its mandate and expertise;
- extensive network of national and international partners, which can be drawn on;
- demonstrated capacity to coordinate with various stakeholders including national ministries, local authorities international organisations, INGOs and NGOs and among international and local actors at both EU and country level.
- a robust, reliable and tested internal control mechanism to prevent, detect and deter non-compliance with EU restrictive measures

4.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management (and vice versa) mode due to exceptional circumstances

If the implementation modality under indirect management as defined in section 4.3.2 cannot be implemented due to circumstances beyond the control of the Commission, the modality of implementation by grants under direct management would be used according to the following section:

(a) The action grant will cover the whole implementation of the action or one of the two components.

(b) Type of applicants targeted:

- legal person, and

- non-profit making and

- specific type of organisation such as: civil society organisations, non-governmental organisation, public sector operator, local authority, international (inter-governmental) organisation as defined by Article 156 of the EU Financial Regulation²⁰

If the implementation modality under grants as defined in section 4.3.1 cannot be implemented due to circumstances beyond the control of the Commission, the modality of implementation by indirect management with pillar assessed entities would be used following the selection criteria identified in 4.3.2 above.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

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

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

²⁰ International organisations are international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements as well as specialised agencies set up by them; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are also recognised as international organisations.

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)	Third-party contribution, in currency identified
Objective 1 - Improved protection assistance and access to multi-sectoral services for migrants, refugees and other people in need of protection	45 500 000	N.A
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	11 000 000	1 100 000
Indirect management – cf section 4.3.2	34 500 000	
Objective 2 - Strengthened socio-economic, institutional, and legal environment for the rights of migrants, refugees and other people in need of protection	7 500 000	N.A.
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	2 000 000	200 000
Indirect management – cf section 4.3.2	5 500 000	
Evaluation – cf. section 5.2 Audit – cf. section 5.3	Will be covered by another Decision	
Totals	53 000 000	1 300 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

Steering Committees (SC) providing guidance and strategic orientation will be established for each project contract to be signed under this action and if necessary, in each target country. The Contracting Authority may establish – on the bases of their preference and the variety of national and international interlocutors – whether one or more SC are necessary based on the different components of the action. These will be cochaired by representatives of the Contracting Authority and implementing partner(s). Depending on the subjects to be discussed, meetings shall be open to the participation of national Institutions and other relevant stakeholders, including those in direct contact with the final beneficiaries (civil society organisation, state actors). In principle, all EU Member States shall be invited to participate to these meetings.

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

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.3 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its Outputs and contribution to the achievement of its Outcomes, and if possible, at the time of reporting, contribution to the achievement of its Impacts, as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix.

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

Arrangements for monitoring and reporting, including roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

Implementing partners' monitoring system is expected to measure, and report, on progress in relation to the planned outputs, outcomes and impact of the action by means of RACER (Relevant, Accepted, Credible, Easy, Robust) and SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-related) indicators related to a baseline situation. Balanced indicator system should also include both quantitative and qualitative indicators as well as gendered indicators. Considering the multi-country nature of this action, indicator values will be measured, and reported, both on a country and regional level.

Establishing baselines and targets for each indicator selected will be the responsibility of implementing partners' and this information will be provided at contracting level (at the latest at the end of the inception phase). If a baseline survey is deemed necessary, correlated endline studies to collect results data will need to be envisaged. Such surveys can be financed under the regular budget of the intervention and should be budgeted accordingly at contracting level (with specific budget lines identified for this purpose).

The Monitoring system put in place will collect and analyse data to inform on progress towards achievement of planned results to feed decision-making processes and to report on the use of resources. Considering the multi-country nature of this action, the separation of tasks and coordination on monitoring and reporting duties between the implementing partners involved in the action will have to be detailed and agreed upon by all parties involved at contracting stage. Result-based reporting will be used to foster the active and meaningful participation of all stakeholders involved in the action. Result-based progress reports will be presented and discussed during the action 's steering committee or any other relevant coordination mechanisms established in the framework of this action.

5.4 Evaluation

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

In case a mid-term evaluation is envisaged: it will be carried out for problem solving, learning purposes, in particular with respect to launch a second phase of the action.

In case a final evaluation is envisaged: it will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that the field of migration governance is sensitive, thus it requires close analysis of its effectiveness as well as the level participation of direct beneficiaries (right holders), as well as the accountability of the partner countries involved.

The Commission shall form a Reference Group (RG) composed by representatives from the main stakeholders at both EU and national (representatives from the government, from civil society organisations (private sector, NGOs, etc.), etc.) levels. If deemed necessary, other donors will be invited to join. [The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation exercise and missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. 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 action s to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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

5.5 Audit and Verifications

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

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

All entities implementing EU-funded external action s have the contractual obligation to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. To that end they must comply with the instructions given in the 2022 guidance document <u>Communicating and raising EU visibility:</u> <u>Guidance for external actions</u> (or any successor document).

This obligation will apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, the partner country, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States. In each case, a reference to the relevant contractual obligations must be included in the respective financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and contribution agreements.

For the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action, the Commission may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, as part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union. Visibility and communication measures should also promote transparency and accountability on the use of funds. Effectiveness of communication activities on awareness about the action and its objectives as well as on EU funding of the action should be measured.

Implementing partners shall keep the Commission and the EU Delegation/Office fully informed of the planning and implementation of specific visibility and communication activities before the implementation. Implementing partners will ensure adequate visibility of EU financing and will report on visibility and communication action s as well as the results of the overall action to the relevant monitoring committees.

Appendix 1: IDENTIFICATION OF THE PRIMARY INTERVENTION LEVEL FOR REPORTING IN OPSYS

A Primary intervention (project/programme) is a coherent set of results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Identifying the level of the primary intervention will allow for:

- ✓ Differentiating these actions or Contracts from those that do not produce direct reportable development results, defined as support entities (i.e. audits, evaluations);
- ✓ Articulating action s and/or Contracts according to an expected common chain of results and therefore allowing them to ensure a more efficient and aggregated monitoring and reporting of performance;
- ✓ Having a complete and exhaustive mapping of all results-bearing action s and Contracts.

The present action identifies as

Contract level (i.e. Grants, Contribution Agreements, any case in which foreseen individual legal commitments identified in the budget will have different log frames, even if part of the same action Document)

Single Contract 1	Contribution Agreements
Single Contract 1	Grants