

THE EUROPEAN UNION EMERGENCY TRUST FUND FOR STABILITY AND ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA

**Action Fiche for the implementation of the Horn of Africa Window
T05-EUTF-HoA-REG-25**

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Facility on Sustainable and Dignified Return and Reintegration in support of the Khartoum Process - also known as ‘The EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa’.		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR 60 950 000		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Indirect management. Delegation Agreement with an international organisation: IOM		
DAC-code	150	Sector	

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

This action represents a rider to the existing Facility on Sustainable and Dignified Return and Reintegration in support of the Khartoum Process as a response to the increased demands and additional activities necessary to consolidate the approach and ensure the establishment and consolidation of best practices. In doing so, it also responds to the joint commitments taken at the November 2017 AU-EU Summit in Abidjan with the UN to fundamentally strengthen the protection of migrants and refugees and mitigate human and development costs of dangerous journeys. These commitments have been supported by the EUTF Action ‘Protection and sustainable solutions for migrants and refugees along the Central Mediterranean route’ which further contributes to the present Facility. It supports the **EU Trust Fund objectives one** (greater economic and employment opportunities) and **three** (improved migration management in countries of origin and transit). It is also aligned with the **Joint Valletta Action Plan priority domain five** (Return, readmission and reintegration). This action also contributes to implementation of the **Commission’s Communication from June 2016 on establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration**. It also 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 facilitate, including through international cooperation, orderly, safe and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well managed migration policies (see also sub goal 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goal 10 on migration policies)

Through an innovative and comprehensive approach, the **overall objective** of the action is to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and rights-based migration through the facilitation of dignified voluntary return and the implementation of development-focused and sustainable reintegration policies and processes. Sustainable return effectively means reintegration into the economic, social and political processes of the country of origin and the ability to secure political, economic and social conditions needed to maintain life, livelihood and dignity. This will be achieved through: 1) increasing the capacities of partner countries and relevant stakeholders to develop and strengthen return and reintegration policies and processes; 2) facilitating Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) processes amongst partner countries along main migration routes; and 3) facilitating economic, social, psycho-social and legal support to reintegration of returnees. Assisted Voluntary Return under this Facility will only take place from transit countries. Return caseloads from Europe are not the focus of this action, as this is already the subject of other EU and EU Member States instruments and programmes. However, the reintegration activities will be open to both returnees from Europe and returnees from transit countries. Therefore, this Facility will be implemented in close coordination and complementarity with other EU and EU Member States' instruments and tools contributing to return and readmission, such as the European Reintegration Instrument Network (ERIN).

The **geographical scope** covers the African countries who are members of the Khartoum Process¹, and particularly the main migration routes crossing them, with a specific focus on priority partner countries for the European Union. Returns will also be effected from other transit and destination countries along those routes even if not members of the Khartoum Process. With close involvement of national and local authorities, as well as civil society organisations, in destination, transit countries and countries of origin, responses under this action will be articulated taking into account context specificity, different types of returnee profiles and associated needs and aspirations, as well as specific vulnerabilities.

In terms of **beneficiaries**, activities under this action will target all categories of returning migrants, including stranded migrants, irregular migrants, regular migrants, asylum seekers who decide not to pursue their claims or who are found not to be in need of international protection, migrants in vulnerable conditions, such as victims of trafficking, elderly people, unaccompanied migrant children and migrants with health-related needs. Beneficiaries will also include irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers returning from the EU Member States. No differentiation for the

¹ Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Libya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tunisia, and Uganda.

inclusion of returning migrants into the activities of the facility will be made on the basis of their status.

The **intervention logic** of the project is that by strengthening opportunities for reintegration in countries of origin through a rights-based approach, this action will help beneficiaries to re-establish stable livelihoods and perspectives for the future and increase absorption capacity for returnees in their respective communities, thus helping to prevent further irregular migration of returning migrants.

2.2. Context

2.2.1. Country/regional context, if applicable

The Horn of Africa and some parts of North Africa are struggling with growing challenges ranging from extreme poverty, insufficient resilience to food and nutrition crises and/or environmental stress in a context of demographic expansion, through weak social and economic infrastructure, institutional fragility and governance difficulties, to serious crime, insecurity or intra- or inter-state tensions and in some cases open conflict or terrorism/violent extremism. Some of these challenges have induced or forced people into patterns of irregular migration.

There are four main routes out of the **Horn of Africa region** commonly used. Migrants either transit through Djibouti, Somaliland and Puntland on the eastern route to Yemen, the Middle East and beyond; through Sudan on the western route mainly to Libya and onwards to Europe; on the northern route to Egypt and Israel and through Kenya on the southern route to South Africa.

Despite existing actions by African governments and donors, the challenges faced by migrants remain significant and increasingly complex. Migrants and refugees face extreme risks along migration routes, upon arrival in Libya and while crossing the Mediterranean. More recently, the migration along the Northern/ Western route is on a declining trend. During the first eleven months of 2020, the arrivals of migrants from the Horn of Africa region to Greece, Italy, and Spain by sea saw an 18% decrease compared to 2019 when 3,452 migrants from the Horn of Africa were registered upon disembarkation. The absolute number of deaths in the Mediterranean decreased in 2020 but the journey has remained dangerous, with one death for 65 arrivals (compared to one death for 59 arrivals in 2019).

Criminal networks involved in trafficking in human beings are taking advantage of irregular migration routes, targeting particularly vulnerable groups, predominantly women and girls. Overall, the number of women and girls registered at arrivals by sea and by land in Europe between 2018 and 2020 is about 76,615 equivalent to 20% of total arrivals².

² Data source: DTM Europe (IOM)

Migrants from the Horn of Africa often end up stranded in transit countries on their journey towards Europe and other countries of destination. Compared to the situation in the EU, these migrants are particularly vulnerable as they may not be able to receive the information and support for voluntary return and reintegration back to their home countries, even when they have decided to go back. In particular, almost 1500 Ethiopians and migrants of other nationalities were detained in Tanzanian prisons for illegal entry as of July 2019. Most of the migrants were adults, while some (219) were children, as young as 15 years old, all in extremely concerning situations of human rights violations and serious health issues in detention. Detained migrants face obstacles preventing full and effective access to legal remedy. Countries in the region have agreed on the need to have a more coordinated approach to addressing irregular migration along the Southern Route and have pledged to make joint efforts to address the situation of vulnerable and stranded migrants. Tanzania, Ethiopia and Kenya have also agreed a roadmap including recommendations for addressing detention conditions and alternatives to detention, as well as preventing irregular and dangerous migration, and sustainable approaches to return and reintegration.

In the Horn of Africa, over 4 million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are estimated to have returned to their areas of origin between 2006 and 2013. This figure is presumably higher today. Forced returns from Saudi Arabia in 2013, and conflict in Yemen since 2015, have generated return flows from the Gulf States to the Horn of Africa, mainly to Ethiopia and Sudan, but also to Somalia and Djibouti. There has been little in terms of sustainable return or reintegration policies for migrants in these countries.

Migration has long shaped the Mediterranean region, with countries in the North of Africa often simultaneously being points of origin, transit and destination. Recent years, however, have seen an increase in the numbers of migrants moving within North Africa as well as making the perilous journey across the Mediterranean. Accumulating cases of protracted displacement in North Africa, coupled with ongoing economic and security concerns in many countries within the region itself, continue to place considerable pressure not only on the displaced populations but also on host communities, national governments and local authorities in the region, leaving migrants and individuals within host communities increasingly vulnerable. Whether driven by economic concerns or seeking asylum, migrants in North Africa are often exposed to a wide range of risks of abuse and exploitation throughout their journey.

By April 2020, the global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic reached the Horn of Africa region with confirmed cases of infection in all countries supported under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in the Horn of Africa. Travel and movement restrictions, social distancing measures on gatherings and other requirements have impacted the countries to differing degrees. Many migrants, whether in irregular or regular situations, are facing additional challenges in sustaining an income, and accessing basic services and health care. Growing numbers of migrants find themselves stranded as a result of travel restrictions or in government-imposed quarantine. This is particularly the case for Ethiopian migrants in Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan since the government of Ethiopia has put in place a strict measure to only allow the most vulnerable returnees such as children, pregnant women, medical cases and elderly.

Deportation and expulsions of irregular migrants without adequate quarantine and precautionary measures expose migrants to increased risk of infection and have the potential to undermine containment efforts. Stigma and xenophobia against foreigners, seen as bearers of the disease, is further contributing to migrants' unequal access to services, placing them and everyone else at risk. Families dependent on remittances face hardships as migrants working abroad lose their earnings.

2.2.2. Sector context: policies and challenges

The return and reintegration process is an integral and crucial component of any effective migration management system and is governed by specific laws ~~law~~ in most countries. Reintegration is an essential part of sustainable and dignified return, as it can contribute to protecting and empowering returnees by providing them with the tools and assistance for their successful reinsertion into the society of their country of origin.

Return can feature in the migration cycle of migrants with any kind of status. Persons with no legal right to remain in a country, who receive a return decision, are under the legal obligation to leave that country, provided that access to effective remedy has been afforded. In case, for different reasons, this decision is not respected, the person (e.g. irregular migrants or rejected asylum seekers) can be forcibly returned to his/her country of origin, as long as relevant human rights standards are respected, including the principle of non-refoulement. Irregular overstay leads to exclusion and, in many cases, exploitation by criminal networks. In addition, because of their irregular status and precarious situations, migrants are particularly vulnerable to rights violations. For example, migrants are often subject to discrimination in their ability to access basic services such as education and health care in host and transit States. Compounding this problem, migrants are rarely informed or aware of their rights. In the Horn of Africa, most countries' administrations know that detention should be a last resort, but in the absence of viable alternatives it is often seen as the only solution to address the flow. AVRR can be one form (amongst others) of an alternative to detention.

Both migrants with and without a legal right to stay can benefit from assisted voluntary return programmes. Voluntary forms of return are both more humane, allowing irregular migrants to return with greater dignity, and are more cost-effective. Voluntary return also allows migrants to better prepare for their return and reintegration. Thus, the voluntary form should be the preferred option. Common motivations for migrants to return voluntarily include changed circumstances in the country of origin, reuniting with family members, the completion of an individual migration 'project', a wish to contribute to the development of the country of origin or a desire to take advantage of new economic opportunities there.

Voluntary return is also an important tool to assist those who have been trafficked across borders. Victims of trafficking will require a reflection and possibly recovery period and will need specialised assistance, but in many cases voluntary return and reintegration will open up the possibility to regain control of their lives.

In the Horn of Africa, increased efforts in recent years have been made towards improving return and reintegration processes, with the aim to ensure that adequate and

tailored assistance is made available to returnees with the overall aim of making reintegration sustainable³. This has been hindered by limited research into the effectiveness of different measures for sustainable return, and monitoring has often not been possible beyond the 6 or 12 months lifespan of projects.

Approximately 18 000 return decisions for irregular migrants and rejected asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa region were taken in 2014 and 2015 by EU Member States, of which around 3300 were carried out. The low return rate to the countries of the Horn of Africa is partially due to the fragile situation in countries of origin and the low level of cooperation with those countries. The main countries for which return decisions were issued in 2014 and 2015 are Somalia (6681), Eritrea (5841) and Sudan (2150).

Within the region, a projection of 7,775 AVR caseloads has been made by IOM for the programme implementation period based on the past trend. In Djibouti around 2,750 stranded migrants may wish to return to their country of origin. It is expected that these migrants will be almost exclusively Ethiopians, including a significant number of unaccompanied migrant children (estimated to be 20-30 percent). In Somalia, approximately 1,550 migrants (mainly Ethiopians) could be assisted with AVRR support mainly from the existing MRCs in Hargeisa and Bosaso. In Sudan, around 1,300 migrants could be assisted with AVRR. There is also a continuous need for support to migrants through AVRR, mainly from Ethiopia and Somalia, who are stranded or held in detention along other migration routes (mainly in Tanzania Malawi, and Zambia, but can include other countries) estimated at 2,175⁴.

Additionally, upon return an estimated 11,150 migrants would require post-arrival and reintegration measures arise across the region based on the past trend and returnees caseload identified across the three regions in the Horn of Africa, North Africa as well as Sahel and Lake Chad. The main needs for reintegration support are in Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somalia. In Ethiopia the EU-IOM Joint Initiative assists an indicative 6,150 migrants with reintegration support. In addition, an estimated 3,800 migrants returning to Sudan and 1,000 migrants returning to Somalia also receive support for their reintegration. Reintegration assistance can also be provided to 200 returnees to other non-core countries, such as Khartoum Process member states, or be distributed among the core countries as needs arise⁵.

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 IOM developed the joint EU-IOM Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration focusing on several regions: North Africa, Sahel and Lake Chad and Horn of Africa. The EU-IOM Initiative aims to protect and assist migrants all along the migration

³ Sustainable return is here defined as reintegration into the economic, social and political processes of the country of origin and the ability to secure political, economic and social conditions needed to maintain life, livelihood and dignity. This sustainability criterion is essential and should be measured adequately over time to allow the assessment of the success of the measures implemented under this facility.

⁴ This indicative breakdown of the 7,775 migrants from Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and the Southern route will be reviewed and adapted based on the actual demand.

⁵ This indicative breakdown of 11,150 migrants to be assisted with reintegration support will be reviewed and adapted based on actual demand.

routes, making sure that migrant rights are protected and that the migration process is safer and better managed. Within a coherent intervention framework, national and regional actions have been developed and tailored to the specific needs. They provide for a consistent approach to protection and assistance for vulnerable and stranded migrants as well as respect of their rights, assistance for voluntary return, support for sustainable reintegration in the communities of return, the dissemination of accurate information on migration to migrants, potential migrants and communities, and the collection of data on migration flows. The EU-IOM Initiative facilitates orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration management through the development of rights-based, development focused, and return and sustainable reintegration policies and processes.

The ongoing EU-IOM Initiative has so far contributed to strengthening 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 December 2020, the Initiative had already demonstrated significant results, by enabling, in particular:

- Voluntary return of over 92,000 migrants to their country of origin
- Post arrival assistance and reintegration to over 104,000 migrants returning through the Initiative.

However, in the Horn of Africa, continuing and newly arising fragile political and security situations have hampered implementation in certain areas, where the national authorities prevented access to communities of return due to political considerations or because of a worsening security situation that could not guarantee staff safety.

Additionally, worsening economic situations in some of the countries have caused fuel shortages and cash flow issues, which severely affect the field operations and hence entail a slower pace of implementation.

National stakeholders and the international community have flagged the lack of effective protection and sufficient assistance inside Libya and the countries of origin and transit, and the absence of durable solutions including complementary pathways of admission. On 29 November 2017 the EU, AU and UN agreed to put a joint Task Force in place 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.

In light of the increasing complexity of the issues addressed through this action and the EUs increasing investment therein, data and knowledge gaps emerge as key challenges to be met to ensure sustainability and value for money. This includes both quantitative data on flows and overall socio-economic indicators as well as efforts to ensure the sound identification of best practices and track longer term sustainability issues as identified above. To allow a structured set-up and expansion of the data hub and the accompanying learning component, the action is being extended from the current 48 to 70 months.

a) The applicable policy framework

The **Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM)** is, since 2005, the overarching framework of the EU external migration and asylum policy, and for a comprehensive, enhanced and tailor-made dialogue and cooperation, addressing mobility issues as well as the need to facilitate return, readmission and reintegration of migrants. A key feature of this dialogue and cooperation is to support capacity building efforts of government authorities both in destination and transit countries and in countries of origin to better manage voluntary return and reintegration in a way that maximises its development impact.

At the **Valletta Summit** on migration of 11-12 November 2015, the EU and African partners agreed to respond decisively and together manage migration flows in all their aspects. The issue of migration was addressed in a comprehensive manner and the EU and its African partners agreed on a joint political declaration and a joint action plan, which emphasises the shared responsibilities as well as the joint coordinated actions needed to address the different aspects of migration, be they positive or negative. As such, the Joint Valletta Action Plan provides for a concrete frame of action in five key areas, including return, readmission and reintegration, and 16 urgent priority initiatives have also been identified to be initiated before the end of 2016, including support for the reintegration of all returnees through development of policy frameworks and community-based reintegration measures. Since then, the EU has opened High Level Dialogues with key countries of origin, transit and destination of migration, prepared tailor-made country packages, and approved close to €1 billion worth in projects for the implementation of the Joint Valletta Action Plan under the newly created EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

The Khartoum Process, established in November 2014, is a platform for political cooperation and dialogue amongst the countries along the migration route between the Horn of Africa and Europe. As per the Khartoum Declaration, the main focus of the dialogue is fighting and preventing human trafficking and smuggling. In 2016, the thematic meetings of the Khartoum process also focus on visa facilitation and return, readmission and reintegration, therefore widening the mandate of the process and providing a political framework for cooperation. The Steering Committee of this facility will report progress regularly to the Khartoum Process.

An efficient and sustainable return and reintegration is part and parcel of a comprehensive and holistic migration policy, and was highlighted as one of the priorities in the **European Agenda on Migration**, adopted in May 2015, the **New Partnership Framework** with third countries of June 2016 and the **New Pact on Migration and Asylum** proposed by the European Commission on 23 September 2020. Building on the Agenda and the New Partnership Framework, the New Pact on Migration and Asylum strengthens the EU's engagement to develop comprehensive, balanced and tailor-made cooperation with partner countries, which is fully embedded within the overall relationships with partner countries. The need to support the latter to meet their readmission obligations, by providing capacity building for the management of returns, information and awareness raising campaigns and support for reintegration measures and monitoring upon return, forms part of such a balanced EU engagement, linking to the new Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Strategy, to be developed under the Pact. The Pact announces the Strategy on Voluntary Return

and Reintegration, which will set out a new approach to designing, promoting and implementing EU member countries' schemes for assisted voluntary return and reintegration. The aim is to increase voluntary returns and improve the effectiveness and sustainability of reintegration measures in non-EU countries.

No readmission agreements are currently in place between the EU and the countries of the Horn of Africa.

As stressed in the EU Action Plan on Return, relevant Council Conclusions and the Joint Valletta Action Plan, voluntary return is the preferred option. In addition to individual return packages, creative and innovative solutions are needed to manage migration more responsibly. Stronger cooperation between EU Member States will be promoted, building upon existing models (ERIN).

b) A regional dimension following a country approach

The New Partnership Frameworks are building on existing cooperation with partner countries and will provide capacity building for partner countries in the area of return and reintegration. Country packages will be agreed with priority countries that include actions on both sides in the area of migration. As migration goes well beyond national borders, this regional facility will accommodate countries' needs and contribute to country packages, whilst at the same time capturing the regional and beyond-regional dimension of migration in an effective and coherent way.

The facility will remain flexible as regards to issues particular to individual countries, and specific national actions are envisaged. Some countries present particular complexities that will require additional efforts, both in terms of resources and political will for the implementation of the action.

2.3. Lessons learnt

EU Development policy has supported return and reintegration programmes since 2005, mainly through the DCI thematic programme on migration and asylum, implemented both by international organisations and NGOs. Over the last 10 years, around 50 projects with a component of return and reintegration have been supported for a total value of more than EUR 65 million. Key lessons learned were identified in the 2015 Study on the Results and Impact of EU development cooperation-funded projects in the area of voluntary return and reintegration, which are fully considered in the design of this Facility. They include:

There is a need to provide comprehensive support across categories of migrants while paying attention to their particular needs and vulnerabilities, regardless of their status. Vulnerable groups are important to bear in mind as reintegration efforts (as in the case of victims of trafficking and victims of exploitation) need to start from the moment of identification/pre-departure, including certain legal safeguards in the case of children.

Where needed, tailor-made support to post-conflict contexts, including for instance community peace building and social cohesion initiatives or assistance with reclaiming property.

In terms of support to communities, those with strong social networks and resources can offer precious support and protection to returning individuals and families. If return is perceived positively by other community members, returnees can greatly benefit from a welcoming environment and can quickly re-establish the social ties they had left behind during their journey abroad. On the other hand, returnees can be negatively affected by the deficiencies and needs prevailing in their communities, for instance with regards to limited access to essential services (housing, employment, education and health).

Ensure sustainability and focus on strengthening national systems and avoiding parallel structures. This includes the integration of returnees in national education, health, social protection and VET systems, among others, and a focus on capacity building for concerned institutions and actors, to enable their involvement and lead in the return/reintegration efforts.

Avoid strong focus on individual one-off grants to returning migrants. Unless embedded into national policies and structures, they have not proven effective in promoting socio-economic integration. More comprehensive in-kind support such as granting assistance to prospective returnees in the design of business plans or capitalising on expertise acquired abroad on the other hand should be clearly linked to local labour market realities in terms of finding sectors where there is economic opportunity, and identifying the SMEs which can absorb more labour. This requires thorough labour market surveys. However, individual cash support based on specific needs and vulnerabilities cannot be excluded from the available range of reintegration measures⁶. This being said, the management of returns from multiple countries of destination with large variations in packages and forms of in-kind assistance within one mechanism is operationally challenging and creates fragmentation of services in the areas of return.

Since the start of the implementation period of the EU-IOM Initiative in 2017, activities related to protection and direct assistance to migrants, as well as voluntary return and reintegration support have already provided some lessons learnt to be taken into account for the further programming:

Government ownership

Direct involvement and joint efforts to support reintegration of the government in the country of departure and origin have proven key to implement the action successfully. The governments are also directly supported through the capacity building measures under this programme which are starting to bear fruit. This has been evident for instance in the strong partnership with the government of Somalia in the joint reception of the Somali returnees from Libya in Mogadishu, the active leadership in providing family reunification support to children in Somalia and the joint

⁶ According to IOM experience, most of the returnees to/ in the region have significant vulnerabilities. An internal assessment for returns to Somalia, found that more than 80 percent of returnees were considered vulnerable by IOM standards. This requires the provision of comprehensive reintegration packages that link psycho-social and social-economic reintegration support and to ensure that this support begins before departure.

reintegration counselling in Sudan with the Secretariat of Sudanese Working Abroad (SSWA).

The Ethiopian government has also provided direct contribution to the voluntary return assistance through covering the costs of some returns from the Southern route and from Sudan through Ethiopian Airlines.

Several governments have also been leading in or directly involved in facilitating the voluntary return process from Libya and other countries within and beyond the region, for instance conducting consular visits to prisons and detention facilities to verify identifications and conducting scoping missions to Libya.

Developing national referral mechanisms and working with partners

IOM has concluded partnerships with over 62 state and non-state actors⁷ and international organisations to make use of national referral mechanisms and to build on existing structures where possible⁸. This includes activities ranging from reintegration orientation to family tracing and harmonising reintegration support.

A particularly important area that the action has been delivering is the psychosocial support to returnees. IOM has placed psychosocial experts to provide individual and group counselling, has been supporting further training for government psychologists, ministries and NGO partners. It is clear that the acute vulnerabilities of many returning migrants and the increased caseloads require additional support in countries of origin to ensure that returning migrants receive adequate and appropriate assistance, that referral and support systems are strengthened.

Reintegration activities have been ongoing in the target countries, with targeted studies to obtain a clear assessment in each country of the profiles of returnees, their needs and the capacities on the ground to provide reintegration. ‘Standard Operating Procedures’ for return and reintegration have been adapted to each national context, together with relevant national authorities. 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 synergies with IOM, both for returns and for reintegration. 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.

Data management and flow monitoring

To further understand migratory flows and to be able to adapt policies and programmes to protect migrants better, further and better data is needed. This need has

⁷ MoUs have been signed with 62 (34 government and 28 non-government actors) as of April 2020.

⁸ In Sudan for instance, Food and Agriculture Organization provides agricultural input support to returnees assisted under the Action through referral

been further highlighted through the increasing attention paid by policymakers and the public alike. To better monitor migration flows and provide primary data on migration trends, an expansion and strengthening of data collection and management systems in the Horn of Africa is already ongoing through the support of the Facility and other programmes, but needs to be significantly expanded in geographical coverage and analysis. A data hub was established at the Regional Office in Nairobi to centralise information from different IOM mixed migration programmes, improving the systematic documentation, analysis and understanding of migration movements in the East and Horn of Africa region as well as promote greater stakeholder engagement and increase research and dialogue on migration.

2.4. Complementary actions

The action coordinates and seeks coherence with other regional and country-level actions under the EUTF, as well as other EU-funded actions in support of the Khartoum Process. This is particularly the case of: the regional project “EU Response to Health and Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19 in the IGAD Region” (€60 million) in which IOM implements activities as one of the implementing partners, aimed at increasing access to health and socio-economic support for vulnerable groups; the regional project Better Migration Management) in support of the Khartoum Process (€46 million Phase I and €35 million Phase II), which aims to enhance the capacities of the Governments of the region to fight and prevent human trafficking and smuggling; the Regional Development and Protection Programmes implemented in Ethiopia (€30 million), Somalia (€50 million), Kenya (€15 million), Uganda (€10 million) and Sudan (€15 million); the €10 million regional project Free Movement of Persons and Transhumance which pursues the improvement of legal migration amongst the countries of the region through enhancing avenues of labour mobility; the projects RESET II and SINCE in Ethiopia (€45 million and €20 million, respectively) which aim to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable people in areas prone to irregular migration that are also areas of return; Sustainable Reintegration Support to Ethiopian Returnees from Europe (€15 million) which supports the reintegration of Ethiopian citizens returning from Europe and ultimately contributes to the development of a National Reintegration Operational Management System for Ethiopia, and contributes to COVID-19 response activities targeting returnees and refugees.

The Facility also builds on the experience of the EDF-funded €10 million project 'Support the reintegration of returnees and the management of labour migration in Ethiopia', implemented by ILO and focused on improving the reintegration system for Ethiopian returnees, improving access to legal migration through enhanced capacity of relevant government institutions and the provision of awareness-raising about migration. Coherence is also ensured with the EU-funded action on “Durable solutions for the most vulnerable local population, refugees and migrants in Djibouti”. Synergies are sought with the global component of the EU funded “Pilot action on voluntary return and sustainable community-based reintegration” project in which a “Knowledge Management Hub” was established in 2017 to promote

synergies between the return and reintegration programmes supported by development cooperation.

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.

IOM offices in targeted countries and the regional office 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 Organisations, including EU Delegations, civil society and the private sector to enhance information sharing.

Coordination and complementarity is also sought with the EU-funded Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), through which the EU provides for a financial support mechanism to Member States, to help address their challenges in the area of return management. Support under this programme includes a wide range of measures which put increasing emphasis on voluntary return programmes including the promotion of sustainable return and reintegration. This is the case of the ERRIN (European Return and Reintegration Instrument Network) or the 'EU Readmission Facility'.

The Facility also seeks complementarities with on-going and future action of other actors, including EU Member States and international organisations with a mandate and active involvement in return and reintegration in the Horn of Africa, such as IOM and ILO.

Migration also stands among the most important priorities of the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and forms an integral part of the renewed engagement of the EU with its southern neighbours. The latter include the promotion of mutually beneficial migration and mobility, including through the setting-up of a new start-up (Startback) fund to provide capital to promote "brain circulation". This Fund is aimed to support migrants returning to their countries of origin, so they can reintegrate and contribute, with the acquired skills and knowledge, to local economic and societal development.

2.5. Donor co-ordination

Donor coordination is ensured through the Khartoum Process 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 has been set up under the Action which regularly interacts with other EU initiatives on return, readmission and reintegration in the Horn of Africa and North Africa regions, as well as with EU Member States' action and that of other key donors in the area.

For the specific interventions, coordination meetings involving all the relevant stakeholders (and also including international partners, NGOs, UN agencies – as relevant) are organised at national and regional level.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The **overall objective** of the programme and the **specific objectives** are as follows:

Overall Objective:

The project will facilitate orderly, safe, regular and rights-based migration through the facilitation of dignified voluntary return and the implementation of development-focused and sustainable reintegration policies and processes

Specific Objectives:

1. Partner countries and relevant stakeholders develop or strengthen evidence-based return and reintegration procedures.
2. Safe, humane, dignified voluntary return processes are enhanced along main migration routes.
3. Migrants' rights are promoted and returnees benefit from sustainable economic, social and psycho-social reintegration that also benefits communities.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The **expected results** are:

Objective 1: Partner countries and relevant stakeholders develop or strengthen evidence-based return and reintegration procedures, including with respect of Human Right conditions.

Result 1.1: Migration related data and evidence is generated to inform policies, processes and programmes

Indicative activities:

- Research⁹ on the best modalities, effectiveness and impact for development of reintegration measures in the different geo-political, economic, social and cultural contexts of targeted countries of return¹⁰.
- Improving the quality and availability of data on migration trends collected at country level and strengthening regional and sub-regional analysis of data on migration to explore trends, needs, and risks along different migration routes.

⁹ Whenever not already financed by other relevant instruments such as the REF and the Sahel and North of Africa Research facilities

¹⁰ Targeted countries of return will be countries of the Khartoum Process for whose citizens a return decision has been issued in EU Member States and/or to which returnees chose to return to from transit countries. The principle of *refoulement* will be respected at all times.

- Enhancing the outreach and sharing of information on migration flows in the East and Horn of Africa with relevant stakeholders, including regional, national, and international counterparts, to promote further understanding and coordination on migration issues.
- Expansion of the IOM Regional Data Hub to provide technical support to monitor migration flows at COs and increase analysis on regional mixed migration.
- Publish well-informed country, sub-regional, and regional level analyses of mixed migration through the cross-analysis and triangulation of the data produced at country level by IOM.
- Produce a baseline including estimates on the number of returnees (forced and voluntary) and existing practices in the area of return and reintegration.
- Context and situation assessment relevant to return and reintegration such as migration profiles, key trends of migration within the Horn of African and with the EU, local/regional economic opportunities, conflict sensitivity and human rights analysis; stakeholder mapping to assess the carrying capacities of services (health, education etc.) and additional costs to include persons in these services and identification and assessment of relevant partners/service providers to work with; current legislative and policy frameworks and existing programmes, as well as linkages to existing development programmes, public services or private sector initiatives at national and local levels.
- Conduct labour market assessments including (self)-employment opportunities.
- Assessments of the communities of return with community-level stakeholder consultations such as community members, returnees, local authorities, private sector.
- Local-level assessments of key factors contributing to reintegration, including ability to access finance (e.g. open a bank account, take out a loan).
- Needs assessments including: socio-economic assessment of the returnees, communities of return, local-level assessment of key factors contributing to reintegration and community-level stakeholder consultations and establish networks across community members, returnees, local authorities, private sector to identify priority needs and project design.
- Profiling of returnees: countries of return will collect information in line with data protection laws which captures basic profiles, needs, aspirations and situations of returnees. This will help the government, implementing agencies and partners to follow up on and monitor changes in the long-term.
- Establish a short- and long-term monitoring and evaluation framework of the reintegration of returnees and the processes.
- Support for enhanced return and reintegration data collection and analysis tools.

Result 1.2: Relevant stakeholders have increased capacity to develop and implement orderly, safe and dignified return and reintegration procedures

Indicative activities:

- The EU-IOM Joint Initiative has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)¹¹ for assisted voluntary return and reintegration based on IOM's Integrated Approach to Reintegration in the context of return. These will now be adapted and refined through a consultative process in each target country.
- Capacity building activities may include technical assistance, provision of materials, peer learning and/or training at both the regional, national and local level for the development and implementation of reintegration policies (such as building up referral systems at the national level).
- Identify and develop synergies between public sector/private sector/development programmes in the countries of origin (including programmes funded by the European Union) to allow their use by returnees where possible.
- Strengthen or establish coordination mechanisms/platforms of public and private stakeholders (public authorities, associations, civil society organisations, private sector, international donors, diaspora etc.) involved in the return/reintegration process.
- Strengthen collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in jointly advancing the relevant priorities linked to migrant protection and reintegration.
- Support the rollout of the Reintegration Handbook developed under a complementary Project to Operationalize an Integrated Approach to Reintegration in the Framework of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (ORION), targeting the government and civil society organizations.
- Develop a training manual and conduct training courses for service providers to improve pre-return and post-return service delivery.
- Establish or support coordination platforms to exchange experiences and identify lessons learned and best practices on the development of sustainable

¹¹ See https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DMM/AVRR/Towards-an-Integrated-Approach-toReintegration.pdf

voluntary return and reintegration programmes in the context of national and local development programmes and planning.

- Organise inter-regional and international knowledge exchanges on return and reintegration approaches.
- Support relevant stakeholders in the Khartoum Process countries – primarily focusing on the core countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan – in filling gaps related to COVID-19 preparedness and response, such as through supporting quarantine facilities, and providing personal protective equipment and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests required for the return process, and carrying out risk communications activities related to COVID-19 pandemic

Result 1.3: African Union Commission’s capacity on reintegration and migration policy and coordination is enhanced

Indicative activities:

- Place experts to the African Union Commission
- Organize capacity building workshops on subjects related to reintegration and migration policies.

Objective 2: Safe, humane, dignified voluntary return processes are enhanced along main migration routes

Result 2.1: Stranded migrants and relevant stakeholders have information about, and access to, voluntary return assistance and reintegration

Indicative activities:

- Carry out community outreach and public information campaigns to individual migrants and communities pertaining to the available AVRR options and reintegration assistance for eligible migrants in host communities.
- Support community outreach and awareness raising programmes that aim to facilitate reintegration of returnees.

Result 2.2: Migrants are assisted to return voluntarily in a safe and dignified manner

With the additional resources, a total of 7,775 assisted voluntary returns will be implemented through this Action.

Indicative activities:

- Support intra- and inter-regional return processes between partner countries.
- Reach out to migrant communities and those in detention centres, informing them about the possibility to be assisted with voluntary return back to their country of origin.

- Pre-return activities, such as medical check-ups, individual counselling to potential returnees through trained local partner organisations before departure, and specific assistance for vulnerable cases including best interest determination for unaccompanied migrant children.
- Provide basic social services such as temporary shelter, food and medical services for returnees with particular focus on women, children, persons with disability and psychological problems;
- Organise return travel.

Objective 3: Migrants’ rights are promoted and returnees benefit from sustainable economic, social and psycho-social reintegration that also benefits communities

Result 3.1: A coherent and integrated approach to post arrival and reintegration assistance is implemented in a consistent manner across the region.

Reintegration assistance provided under the EUTF-IOM Initiative SOPs is tailored to needs and opportunities. The programme does not foresee specific one size fits all reintegration packages. Migrants in vulnerable situations may have additional needs and it is important that they receive specific assistance. Assistance upon arrival and support for reintegration are provided in the form of information, counselling, referral, training and support. The support can foresee 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. In addition, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Horn of Africa aims at strengthening coordination for migration governance and migrant protection at national level in key countries of reintegration. In Ethiopia, the programme assists in the review of National Reintegration Directives and provides support to the National Partnership Coalition and National Protection Working Groups - all linked to national Referral Mechanism. In Somalia and Sudan, national referral mechanisms are not yet in place and the programme seeks to lay the groundwork for their adoption. Finally, referrals to other UN agencies (FAO, UNDO and UNIDO) are ongoing on reintegration related activities.

With the additional resources, a total of 11,150 beneficiaries will be supported with reintegration measures¹².

Indicative activities:

¹² ~~1350 additional cases in Ethiopia and 1,200 additional cases in Sudan are added to the original reintegration target: Ethiopia 2,000/Sudan 1,200/Somalia 1,000)~~

- Carry out skills assessment of the returnees.
- Provide tailor-made assistance to returnees where appropriate targeting economic reintegration.
- Work with microfinance institutions and community based financial initiatives such as small grants mechanisms/ microcredits in return areas and/or provision of necessary infrastructure to and access to energy to support local economic development.
- Strengthen and expand existing VET/entrepreneurship programmes/institutions to address specific needs of sustainable return and reintegration including standardised skills training modules for returnees.
- Based on the labour market assessments, develop a market-driven strategy which includes mapping of and engagement with relevant actors (private sector, government and bilateral development programmes).
- Provide continuous business development support including counselling and legal, financial and managerial on the job training and support including on managing potential debt arising from migration experiences.

Provide pro-active job placement support to returnees based on their own aspirations and skills including securing apprentice and job placement agreements with employers and providing start-up wage subsidies.

- Support community outreach activities to enhance trust between returnees, communities and local authorities.
- Establish or strengthen orientation and referral services for returnees (especially health, education, etc.).
- Mentor reintegration schemes.
- Establish or strengthen specialised support services for unaccompanied or separated migrant children.
- Support family tracing/reunification services.
- Support national governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to provide short-term housing to returnees, in particular with vulnerabilities, such as shelters.
- Engage religious/community leaders in provision of psycho-social support for returnees.

Result 3.2. Systems for operational data collection, analysis and dissemination on reintegration are reinforced

Indicative activities:

- Administer standardized Reintegration Assistance Monitoring and Satisfaction surveys as well as Reintegration Sustainability surveys
- Adapt and rollout an updated database of voluntary return and reintegration
- Support to partner countries to strengthen data collection, analysis and dissemination on reintegration through development of databases and technical training

3.3. Risks and assumptions

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
Lack of political will and commitment from the beneficiary countries to work on migration and development in the context of return	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, the implementing partner will ensure close cooperation with stakeholders, 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	IOM will work closely with the EU Delegations in the affected countries and engage relevant authorities at the highest level possible to advocate for the programme's rights-based approach and other principles. If effective follow-up & monitoring mechanisms cannot be established in a given country, returns will be put on hold.
Interest of and access to returnees and their communities to engage in monitoring and participation in reintegration and development oriented initiatives	M	IOM is committed to continued advocacy, awareness raising and information exchange with relevant governments and community leaders, based on evidence.
Due to deteriorating security and political contexts in several of the countries in the Horn of Africa, access for IOM and partners is reduced.	M	Continued dialogue between IOM and the governments in the region to retain their interest and commitment to allow access as needed.
Ongoing and/ or increased returns from the Middle East and Yemen cause tensions between different groups of returnees due to varying reintegration assistance in countries of origin in the Horn of Africa.	M	The Action works with an approach of individual needs assessment for each returnee, taking into account vulnerabilities and other support received. The EU and IOM are also advocating for a harmonisation of reintegration support across donors. The EU-IOM Initiative was set up to allow a harmonisation of approaches and a dialogue with different donors.

Climatic/political/security situations creating new waves of push factors for outward migration (re-migration) in the region.	H	Continuous observation of the situation.
Drastic hindrance of staff mobility and activity implementation, including due to measures to address a pandemic	H	IOM will follow international regulations and advisory from the World Health Organization. IOM will focus on reprogramming to achieve the intended results of the Action in consultation with the donor.
Strong public criticisms against the EU-IOM Joint Initiative put the reputation of the EU and IOM at risk	L	In close consultation with the EU, IOM will issue prompt response to media coverage or other forms of criticisms with counter arguments based on facts to rectify false information and counter negative perceptions. At the same time, IOM will develop and disseminate knowledge management products showcasing the successes of the Programme. This will include the Reintegration Impact Study which should demonstrate the effectiveness of the reintegration assistance in view of the possible criticisms.
Interest of and access to returnees and their communities to engage in monitoring and participation in reintegration and development-oriented initiatives is low.	M	IOM is committed to continued advocacy, awareness raising and information exchange with relevant governments and community leaders, based on evidence.
Assumptions		
<p>The Action is based on the assumption that national and local authorities in selected pilot corridors 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.</p> <p>The diaspora communities of the Horn of Africa countries remain a powerful partner in identifying migrants in distress, referring them to the right channels and assisting with the return and reintegration process.</p>		

3.4. Cross-cutting issues

Cross cutting issues, such as gender, human rights and good governance will be carefully considered and taken into account throughout the implementation process. Given the fact that women make up close to 50% of migrants worldwide, and their vulnerability in the migration process is particularly serious, particular attention will be paid to gender concerns. 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.

Sustainability and empowerment are core cross-cutting issues that are promoted throughout the community-based interventions, which ensure inclusive participation from the initial phase of identifying priorities and needs throughout the project design, implementation and monitoring phases. An inclusive participatory approach (including participation from returnees, community members, local authorities, traditional leaders, representatives of women and/or youth groups, vulnerable persons, etc.) will provide a platform during which priority needs are identified and projects are designed, implemented and monitored. Such a process contributes to engagement, dialogue, confidence building, and empowerment. The systems, dynamics and changes in attitude that result from such processes have shown to be sustainable, continuing beyond the end of the project.

Furthermore, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative strives to contribute to environmental sustainability through promotion and prioritization of community-based reintegration projects and economic reintegration activities that are environmentally friendly. These community projects support reforestation and waste management, as well as promote “green jobs” such as beekeeping and recycling.

3.5. Stakeholders

The target groups of the action are:

- Government authorities at national and local levels in partner transit/destination countries, as well as African Union and RECs (namely IGAD), who will benefit from improved governance, capacities and expertise as well as strengthened cooperation networks to address the pre- and post-departure and voluntary return process.
- Government authorities at national and local levels in countries of origin who will benefit from improved capacities and mechanisms as well as strengthened cooperation networks to manage the reintegration process of their own nationals in a sustainable manner.
- Civil society organisations and social partners in both transit/destination and countries of origin who will benefit from improved capacities and strengthened cooperation networks among stakeholders engaged in support to returnees, especially at the local level.
- Private sector actors and employers organisations engaged in employment/economic activity relevant to returnees.
- Communities of return/origin and of high outward 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. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement, if relevant

Financing agreements are not envisaged.

4.2. Indicative operational implementation period

The implementation period will begin from the date of signature by the last party of the first contract implementing this Action, or from the earliest starting date of implementation period at contract level in case of retroactive financing, whichever occurs first, and will last until the 31/12/2024. This operational implementation period will be followed by a liquidation period of 18 months which will end on the 30/06/2026

4.3. Implementation components and modules

The implementation of the Facility will be undertaken by means of indirect management through the conclusion of a ~~PAGODA~~ Delegation Agreement with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). IOM has a distinct mandate for return and reintegration. The EU and IOM already have a strategic partnership.

At a global level, IOM will report to the coordination and reporting committee on migration and protection in Brussels. At national level, IOM will report to existing governance structures in place, such as Steering Committees set up in-country – these structures will liaise further with the coordination and reporting committee in Brussels to ensure the overall coherence of the action.

A Coordination and Reporting Committee on migration and protection is established and chaired by the EUTF in Brussels in accordance with the Terms of Reference agreed. The Committee will cover all actions under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration North Africa, Horn of Africa and the Sahel and Lake Chad regions. The Committee will meet at least every six months upon request of the EUTF.

At national level, the existing governance structures and Steering Committees in place and implemented in the frame of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in accordance with the terms of reference drawn up in each country will be continued.

For activities concerning the countries that are part of the EUTF North of Africa window, close coordination is ensured with DG NEAR. Return activities from countries covered by the EUTF North of Africa window will be implemented through the projects in the North of Africa window of the EUTF.

4.4. Indicative budget

Component	Amount in EUR
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Objective 1: Partner countries and relevant stakeholders develop or strengthen evidence-based return and reintegration procedures.	8 250 000
Objective 2: Safe, humane, dignified voluntary return processes are enhanced along main migration routes.	8 000 000
Objective 3: Migrants' rights are promoted and returnees benefit from sustainable economic, social and psycho-social reintegration that also benefits communities.	38 000 000
Monitoring, learning, audit and evaluation	5 900 000
Communications and visibility	800 000
Total	60 950 000

4.5. Evaluation and audit

All components of this action will have to be integrated with the EUTF Monitoring and Learning System (MLS)¹³ for the reporting of selected indicators, and project implementing partners must take part in case study exercises and the learning strategy developed by the MLS. Project implementing partners will be expected to provide regular (at least quarterly) data to the MLS in a format which will be introduced during the contract negotiation stage. Project implementing partners will have to report against a selected number of the MLS output indicators. The monitoring of these indicators will therefore have to be included in the M&E systems of each component (in addition to the indicators already existing in the project logical framework, annex II).

Baseline assessments, monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken systematically during the project and at each level of intervention. All activities will be closely monitored and evaluated to assess outputs, outcomes and possible up-scaling in other areas of the country or in other countries. The effectiveness of the assistance offered to returnees will be regularly reviewed, considering the sustainability of reintegration activities.

Particular attention will be given to accompanying the Action with activities that focus on learning from best practices and researching the sustainability of reintegration support. This will be complementary to IOM's internal oversight and monitoring and learning mechanisms.

¹³ T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-28

Ad hoc audits or expenditure verification assignments could be contracted by the European Commission. 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. 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. A mid-term review of the project will be conducted when appropriate after the beginning of the implementation.

4.6. 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 countries and entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be entered into the Agreements concluded by the Commission with the entrusted entities and the partner countries.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations. The Akvo RSR¹⁴ on-line reporting platform, which is available to the public, will be used to communicate and report on this action. Akvo RSR links directly to the EUTF website.

¹⁴ Akvo Really Simple Reporting

ANNEX I: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK: FACILITY ON SUSTAINABLE AND DIGNIFIED RETURN AND REINTEGRATION IN SUPPORT OF THE KHARTOUM PROCESS

Please note that baselines and indicators will be further identified and defined during the inception phase.

Intervention logic	Indicators	Sources & means of verification	Assumptions
<p>Overall Objective</p> <p>To contribute to facilitating orderly, safe, regular and rights-based migration through the facilitation of dignified voluntary return and the implementation of development-focused and sustainable reintegration policies and processes.</p>	<p>% of relevant stakeholders¹⁵ declaring that they are more engaged in the field of voluntary return and reintegration assistance.</p> <p>Number of strategies, policies and plans developed and/or directly supported (linked to EUTF indicator 4.6).</p>	<p>Final evaluation on the Action which includes perception surveys and focus group discussions</p> <p>Stakeholder Survey</p> <p>Laws, strategies, policies, SOPs, plans, surveys, workshop reports</p>	<p>Security and political contexts are stable and IOM can programme safely. Partner countries and relevant stakeholders remain committed and willing and respond to capacity building efforts.</p> <p>Migrants continue to require and engage in voluntary return and reintegration processes.</p>

¹⁵ To be defined in each of the targeted countries

Objective 1: Partner countries and relevant stakeholders develop or strengthen evidence-based return and reintegration procedures.			
Result 1.1: Migration related data and evidence generated is available to inform policies, processes and programmes.	Number of field studies, surveys and other research conducted (EUTF indicator 5.3)	Reports of field studies, surveys and research	Security and political contexts allow for data collection. Government agencies provide the necessary authorisations for studies to take place. Stakeholders targeted for data collection are willing and able to participate (e.g. to complete surveys). Data collection and analysis methods are robust.
Result 1.2: Relevant stakeholders have increased capacity to develop and implement orderly, safe and dignified return and reintegration procedures.	Number of stakeholders strengthened through capacity building or operational support on reintegration. % of stakeholders who declare increased knowledge on return and reintegration issues. Number of national/regional/local networks and dialogues on migration	Reports of workshops, trainings, visits; IP agreements Stakeholder Survey Meeting minutes, survey responses	Relevant stakeholders and institutions remain committed and willing to participate in capacity building activities.

	related issues newly established or functionally enhanced (EUTF indicator 4.8).		
Result 1.3: African Union Commission's capacity on reintegration and migration is enhanced	<p>Number of networks/coordination bodies supported by the experts.</p> <p>Number of reintegration and migration-related strategies, policies and plans developed and/or directly supported by experts.</p> <p>Number of reintegration and migration-related capacity building workshops organised.</p>	<p>Meeting and workshop minutes</p> <p>Strategies, policies and plans.</p>	<p>Security and political contexts allow for data collection.</p> <p>Government agencies provide the necessary authorisations for studies to take place.</p> <p>Stakeholders targeted for data collection are willing and able to participate (e.g. to complete surveys).</p> <p>Data collection and analysis methods are robust.</p>
Objective 2: Safe, humane, dignified voluntary return processes are enhanced along main migration routes.			
Result 2.1: Stranded migrants and relevant stakeholders have information about, and access to, voluntary return and reintegration assistance.	<p>Number of awareness raising activities/events addressing migrants in target countries.</p> <p>Number of transit or migrant resource and response centres that are built, enhanced, rehabilitated or rented.</p>	<p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>IOM reports</p>	<p>Security and political contexts are stable and IOM can programme safely.</p> <p>Migrants are reachable and willing to complete surveys. Scope of pre-departure assistance and counselling available meets expectations of migrants.</p>

<p>Result 2.2: Migrants are assisted to return voluntarily in a safe and dignified manner.</p>	<p>Number of migrants assisted to return voluntarily to their countries of origin.</p> <p>Number of migrants in transit provided with protection and direct assistance.</p> <p>% of migrants satisfied with travel arrangements made for them (IOM indicator 2.1.3).</p>	<p>IOM reports, return records and database</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>AVR Monitoring and satisfaction surveys</p>	<p>Migrants are reachable and willing to complete surveys.</p> <p>Migrants' expectations regarding travel arrangements can be managed within scope of programme.</p>
<p>Objective 3: Migrants' rights are promoted and returnees benefit from sustainable economic, social and psycho-social reintegration that also benefits communities.</p>			
<p>Result 3.1: A coherent and integrated approach to post arrival and reintegration assistance is implemented in a consistent manner across the region.</p>	<p>Number of beneficiaries who have received targeted reintegration assistance.</p> <p>% of beneficiaries declaring being satisfied with reintegration assistance received from IOM.</p>	<p>IOM reports</p> <p>Reintegration records and database</p> <p>Monitoring reports</p> <p>Reintegration Assistance monitoring and satisfaction surveys</p>	<p>Actors / partners exist that can provide different elements of reintegration assistance.</p> <p>Actors / partners remain committed and willing to provide reintegration assistance.</p> <p>Partners costs to provide reintegration assistance are not excessive or unfeasible (e.g. in complex medical cases).</p>
<p>Result 3.2: Systems for operational data collection, analysis and dissemination on reintegration are reinforced.</p>	<p>Number of planning, monitoring, learning, data collection and analysis tools set up, implemented and/or strengthened (EUTF indicator 5.2)</p> <p>Number of institutions supported to establish or strengthen data collection, monitoring and/or learning tools.</p>	<p>IOM reports</p> <p>Technical assistance reports and recommendations</p> <p>Reports of workshops, trainings, visits, IP agreements</p>	<p>Security and political contexts are stable and IOM can programme safely.</p> <p>Targeted institutions remain committed and willing to collect and monitor reintegration data.</p>