Annex IV to the Agreement establishing the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa and its internal rules.

Action Document for EU Trust Fund

1. IDENTIFICATION			
Title	Reference: Protection and sustainable solutions for migrants and refugees along the Central Mediterranean route		
Zone benefiting from the action / localisation	Regional: Libya, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda		
Total costs	Total estimated cost: EUR 123,5 M Total amount drawn from the Trust Fund: EUR 115 M Contribution of EUR 8,5M (UNHCR)		
Method of implementation	Indirect management - delegation agreement International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)		
DAC Code	130, 151, 160		
Sector of Intervention of the Valetta Action Plan	 3. Protection and Asylum 5. Return, readmission, reintegration 		
Indicator(s) of the Valetta Action Plan	 A86 - Provide comprehensive and developmental packages for safe return and reintegration A88 - Strengthen the capacity of authorities and civil society organisations in their field of competence of countries of origin and transit to manage voluntary returns and support reintegration of all returnees A57 - Enhance the protection capacities of countries which are hosting large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons A56 - Further work to prevent the loss of life at sea by continued search and rescue efforts by all sides 		
Sector of intervention of the Trust Fund	3. Improving migration management		
Objective(s) of the Operational framework Sub-objective(s) of the Operational framework	 Prévenir la migration irrégulière et les déplacements forcés et faciliter la gestion de la migration ainsi que les retours 1.3. Contribuer à une meilleure gestion de la migration le long des routes migratoires de l'Afrique occidentale 1.4. Renforcer la coopération pour faciliter le retour et la réintégration des migrants en situation irrégulière 		
Length of implementation	36 months (starting 1 st of December 2017)		

Beneficiaries	15,000 stranded migrants in Libya benefit from protection, voluntary humanitarian return to and reintegration in their countries of origin3,800 persons of concerns are evacuated from Libya and transferred to Niger
	13,850 refugees are supported for resettlement from the region (3,000 Cameroun, 5,000 Chad, 750 Burkina Faso and 5,100 Niger)

1. SUMMARY OF THE ACTION AND ITS OBJECTIVES

Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers face extreme protection risks en-route and upon arrival in Libya. Following joint commitments taken at the AU-EU Summit in Abidjan with the UN to increase the protection of migrants and refugees, this Action will contribute to strengthen the governance of migration in the region and provide protection and sustainable solutions for migrants and refugees along the central Mediterranean route.

In that regard, this Action foresees to provide emergency protection, life-saving assistance, evacuation to refugees in Libya in the framework of the Evacuation Transit Mechanism (ETM). Furthermore, it will contribute to provide resettlement and complementary pathways for refugees living in/or transiting Niger, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Chad.

Finally, the Action will also provide assistance to migrants and host and transit communities through search and rescue and community stabilisation operations and enable the assisted voluntary humanitarian return of at least 15,000 vulnerable and stranded migrants from Libya and ensure their reintegration in a dignified and sustainable manner.

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

2. JUSTIFICATION AND CONTEXT

2.1. National context

Migrants and refugees face extreme risks along migration routes, upon arrival in Libya and while crossing the Mediterranean. Although the absolute number of deaths in the Mediterranean decreased in 2017, the journey on the central Mediterranean route including the crossing of the Mediterranean is becoming increasingly dangerous for migrants and refugees, being recorded globally as one of the most dangerous one, with 1 death for 42 arrivals. Despite these difficult conditions, the number and the share of persons originating from Africa, especially West Africa, arriving irregularly by sea to Europe continues to grow with 119,000 African migrants arriving in Italy after irregularly crossing the Mediterranean. Arrivals of irregular migrants to Spain also increased significantly in 2017 as compared to 2016, reaching more than 28,000, with the main nationalities of migrants mainly including the West African countries Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and The Gambia. It is difficult to estimate the percentage of persons of concern to UNHCR in these mixed migration flows, drawing from those nationalities transiting through Sub-Saharan countries and receiving protection status at destination countries in the European Union (refugee status, subsidiary protection or

humanitarian status). Nonetheless, in the first half of 2017, almost 46,000 nationals from Sub-Saharan Africa countries were granted protection in the EU, including over 35,300 who received refugee status or subsidiary protection.

Most irregular sea departures to Europe are still from Libya. However the migration situation and flows within Libya remain highly complex and fluid and the main nationalities of migrants identified in Libya do not correlate with the main nationalities arriving to Italy. Through the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) latest report (December 2017) 180,937 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), 334,662 returnees and 621,706 migrants are recorded in Libya.¹

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

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

Already in December 2016, to address some of these challenges and respond to the needs of vulnerable and stranded migrants along the Central Mediterranean routes, the EU and the IOM developed a joint EUTF-IOM Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration focusing on several regions: North Africa, Sahel and Lake Chad and Horn of Africa. The EUTF-IOM Initiative aim to protect and assist migrants all along the migration routes, making sure that migrant rights are protected and that the migration process is safer and better managed. Both facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration management through the development of rights-based, development-focused, and return and sustainable reintegration policies and processes. Between May and end of December 2017, the EUTF-IOM Joint Initiative has enabled around 14 000 migrants to return from Libya, Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Somalia, Djibouti, and other countries along migration routes in the Horn of Africa and is supporting them to readjust and re-establish themselves in their countries of origin. Amongst these migrants 3 239 returned to Nigeria, 2 204 returned to Guinea, 1 553 to Mali, 1 191 to Senegal and 1 086 to Gambia. Under the EUTF-IOM Initiative, the protection needs as well as the pace and scale of the returns have been far more important than anticipated and calls for the reinforcement of protection, return and reintegration actions.

¹ Through the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) latest report 180,937 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), 334,662 returnees and 621,706 migrants were identified in Libya. Nationals of West Africa are also highly represented in Libya, with seven West African countries counting among the ten main countries of origin in December 2017: Niger (17%), Chad (14%), Ghana (9%), Mali (7%), Nigeria (6%), Senegal (3%), Cote d'Ivoire (2%). With regard to people of concern to UNHCR, and taking into account the nationality restriction imposed upon the Agency' access, 43,113 refugees in Libya have already been registered, with the majority who are from Syria, Palestine, Iraq, Eritrea, Somalia, and Sudan.

In addition to support to vulnerable and stranded migrants, specific solutions also need to be envisaged for refugees and people in need of international protection. More than 150,000 refugees are in need of resettlement in West Africa, which represents more than 15 per cent of UNHCR global projected resettlement needs for 2018. Considering the needs and following calls on resettlement states to support efforts, 13,700 pledges have been received from non EU and EU Member States for the region.

2.2. Sectorial context

Evacuation Transit Mechanism

Ongoing humanitarian efforts in Libya fall short of meeting migrants' and refugees most urgent needs, as all remain confronted with insecurity and the absence of rule of law, limited humanitarian access which limit the scope of action - including the facilitation of access to solutions such as resettlement directly out Libya. With the absence of embassies representing resettlement countries that need to interview and review resettlement cases, the restricted access to persons in need as well as the security context has restrained protection delivery and other activities in search for solutions.

In that context, the ETM is a life-saving protection tool and a burden sharing mechanism, which will also eventually help improve the protection environment in Libya and increase UNHCR's access to all persons in need of international protection there. This mechanism allows UNHCR to proceed, through robust screening with the support of partners, to the evacuation of persons with heightened protection risks, to a place of safety from where protection is effectively delivered and solutions are found. Recently, the Government of National Accord of Libya (GNA) has agreed for UNHCR to open a transit centre around Tripoli that will help implementing the activities under this Action.

A first group of 25 refugees were successfully evacuated to Niger in mid-November 2017 and then resettled to France. As of end of January 2017, 361 persons were evacuated to Niger, and an additional 162 to Italy.

While Niger offers an ETM on its territory, the country cannot be expected to carry this additional burden in the long-term, hence the need for those evacuated to the ETM to be swiftly resettled out of Niger.

Resettlement and complementary legal pathways

Refugees present in Niger, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Chad are likely to undertake onward risky journeys as employment opportunities are limited, the precarious economic environment makes the achievement of self-reliance particularly challenging. Refugees with specific needs face greater barriers to achieve local integration, hence their need for resettlement.

In the course of 2016, 38 persons were submitted for resettlement from Niger, 260 from Cameroon, 3,226 from Chad and 38 from Burkina Faso. The resettlement needs for the three countries for 2018 are estimated at 138,842 individuals. No complementary legal pathways have been achieved so far from any of these countries.

Based on a review of recorded specific needs and profiling exercises, an estimated 3,000 Malians and 105 refugees from various nationalities are in need of resettlement in Niger. Best estimate methodologies also suggest that about 7,000 Nigerian refugees (10% of the overall Nigerian refugee population) are in need of resettlement too. **Burkina-Faso** is a transit country for many West Africans, including Guineans, Gambians, Ivoirians and Ghanaians, who undertake the dangerous journey to Europe. In addition, the migration route from Ouagadougou to Niamey passes through the Sahel, where more than 23,000 Malian refugees have sought refuge and where UNHCR has concerns that some refugees in need of

resettlement. Regional instability indicates that **Cameroon** will likely continue to observe refugee influx from neighbouring countries, mainly the Central African Republic (CAR) and Nigeria. New arrivals have suffered traumatic experiences in their country of origin and arrive in deplorable physical and psychological conditions that might require specific support not available in Cameroon. Because of its geographical location and its climate, **Chad** is very closely linked to the Sahel zone. The instability in neighbouring countries has led Chad to welcome hundreds of thousands of refugees from areas where conflicts are still open or latent. The unrest in Darfur, the prolonged crisis in CAR and the tensions arising from the terrorist threat of the Islamic State in West Africa group led the Chadian government to take security measures up to the closure of borders. Given the security situation prevailing in their areas of origin, the prospects for a safe and dignified repatriation for refugees in Chad remain limited.

Voluntary humanitarian return from Libya and reintegration

IOM has been providing Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) from Libya since 2006. Through its 200 staff and through a network of national and international implementing partners, IOM is working in 13 disembarkation points, most of the official detention centres managed by the State of Libya's Department for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM) and hard to reach localities (such as Sabha and Qatroun).

In view of the worsening living conditions of migrants in Libya, both in detention and outside, and the lack of immediate and readily available alternatives for many migrants, in particular, alternatives to detention and safe and regular migration channels, demand for VHR has significantly increased in recent months. Prior to October 2017, approximately 5,000 - 6,000 migrants were being held in detention at any one time. Following the Sabratha crisis in October (where migrants being held in informal assembly points were rounded up and distributed across the detention centers), the numbers increased substantially, exacerbating the deplorable and unacceptable conditions in the detention centres. Although this number decreased again, there are according to IOM currently around 5,000 migrants being held in detention centers.

IOM supports the voluntary return of migrants – not asylum seekers or refugees or those that fear persecution or irreparable harm if returned to their country of origin. These persons would be referred to UNHCR in order to receive support appropriate to their situation. For migrants that cannot return, including in some cases i) unaccompanied children - IOM undertakes Best Interest Determination to outline the most appropriate course of action (in coordination with UNICEF), ii) those with health conditions - IOM provides case management support for health assistance and if and when they are fit to travel and wish to do so, refers them to the VHR program, iii) victims of trafficking - IOM advocates for alternatives to detention, including hosting in safe spaces and provide psychosocial support (PSS) services, taking into account gender specific and child sensitive assistance and protection needs, the form of exploitation as well as the risk of re-trafficking. In 2017, more than 6500 migrants were supported through protection and assistance activities including targeted case management for around 850 unaccompanied children, 80 victims of trafficking, 75 victims of violence and as well as support to pregnant and lactating women and those with medical conditions.

In 2017, IOM assisted 19,370 vulnerable and stranded migrants to return from Libya to their countries of origin (compared to 2,775 in 2016). Furthermore, while the scaling up of VHR assistance is very positive, it is crucial to ensure that those returning to their countries of origin and their communities receive the necessary support to re-establish themselves in the

country of origin. To help to address reintegration challenges associated with return and reintegration, the EUTF-IOM Initiative is supporting target countries to promote an integrated reintegration approach that supports both migrants and their communities, contributes to local development and aims to mitigate some of the drivers of irregular migration. The increased pace in voluntary returns, particularly from Libya, have also confirmed the need to reinforce Migrants Resource and Response Mechanisms (MRRM) in key regions of origin to provide welcome/reception assistance to returning migrants, diagnose their needs and vulnerabilities upon arrival and provide reintegration support. In order to fully respond to the needs, the extension of MRRM through centers is also being explored with national authorities in several countries (Senegal; Gambia; Ghana; Nigeria, and Cote d'Ivoire).

Search and rescue operations and community stabilisation activities in North Niger

Migrants who leave Agadez trying to reach Libya or Algeria through the desert can find themselves, for various reasons, sometimes abandoned or stranded in this desert. To assist these migrants, IOM, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Civil Protection (DGPC), is undertaking search and rescue operations to find and bring migrants to safety at three of IOM's MRRM centres (Agadez, Arlit and Dirkou) in the Agadez region. Migrants ones rescued are brought to the reception centre at one of IOM's MRRM centres (Agadez, Arlit and Dirkou) in the Agadez region. Migrants ones rescued are brought to the reception and provided with psycho-medical assistance and counselling. Since April 2017, these search and rescue operations have saved the lives of more than 3,500 migrants. The extreme vulnerability of migrants abandoned in the desert and success of the search and rescue operations demonstrates the need for continued and sustained support for these activities.

Migration is often an important source of income for local communities in these remote areas in Niger but can also be the source of social tension and / or put pressure on already limited resources. Some local actors perceive that recent development efforts in Niger are focused on migration rather than local development and Additional efforts are needed to help local authorities respond to the needs of host communities and the impacts of migration flows, as well as to support community cohesion and cope with social tensions. With initial funding from the Netherlands and Germany, IOM is setting up community stabilisation activities to support communities along the migration routes in the Agadez region with a particular focus on the Dirkou / Kawar area additional funding is required to scale up these efforts.

3. LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

3.1. Organisation's experience and lessons learnt

UNHCR

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

On the global level, UNHCR has already set up **Evacuation Transit Centres (ETC)**, in tripartite coordination with the host state and IOM, in support of the evacuation of urgent resettlement cases.³ For many years UNHCR has used Emergency Transit Facilities (ETFs) in

² See: UNHCR Resettlement Factsheet 2016, available at: <u>http://www.unhcr.org/59364f887</u>

³ The first tripartite agreement was signed in November 2008 by UNHCR, Government of Romania and IOM. It established the Emergency Transit Center (ETC) in Timisoara, which accepts a maximum of 200 persons at any given time. Similar agreements followed with the

countries such as the Philippines, Romania and Slovakia as a protection tool for refugees who are in urgent need of resettlement or as an alternative site for resettlement case processing. During 2015 and 2016, approximately, 650 refugees departed for resettlement from the three ETFs. Challenges were linked to long processing times by resettlement states and about 1% of the refugees have had to remain in those centres due to lack of options.

With regard to experience specifically in Niger, through the RDPP project 'Access to status determination procedures, reception conditions and assistance to asylum seekers in Niger'', (August 2016 - May 2018), UNHCR has been providing shelter and other basic needs of asylum seekers through UNHCR-administered guesthouses since 2016. These facilities are currently used to accommodate asylum-seekers identified within migratory movements, including those transferred from Agadez to Niamey for case processing. In addition, in November 2017, UNHCR effectively evacuated a first group of 25 refugees from Libya to Niger. Lessons learnt from this pilot evacuation, as well as the guest-houses, will feed the planned Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and the Government of Niger on the establishment and running of the ETM.

With regard to complementary legal pathways, UNHCR began exploring new prospect already in 2017, including to European countries for family reunification, study and humanitarian visas. Within the context of UNHCR Niamey's One-Stop-Shop (*Guichet Unique*) for services and advice, persons of concern to UNHCR can obtain support on administrative procedures associated with accessing complementary pathways.

In **Chad, Cameroon and Burkina Faso**, UNHCR has had long and extensive protection work related experience. Presently in Chad, UNHCR supports the government with capacity building on Refugee Status Determination and case/data management.

IOM

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

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

Given the increased number of migrants returning to their home country in a relatively short period of time, additional arrangements with national authorities and local partners have been

Philippines in 2009, for facilities in Manila, and in 2010 with the Slovak Republic for facilities located in Humenne. As of 30 September 2015, 1,717 refugees had departed from the ETC in Timisoara, and 797 refugees from Humenné to resettlement countries.

put in place to accommodate returning migrants in decent conditions and provide reception and post-arrival assistance for their immediate needs.

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

Finally, the various IOM offices continue negotiations with the governments of the target countries to formulate their needs and expectations for capacity building, including to facilitate consular services for migrants stranded in Libya. A number of countries including Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Niger, and Nigeria have requested concrete support and first technical support and identification missions to Libya have been scheduled. In this context, this Action aims to strengthen regional coordination and ensure coherence with the strategies and common approach on migration adopted by ECOWAS, including activities in the field of return and reintegration, and is also supporting an ECOWAS mission to Tripoli.

3.2. Complementary actions

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

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

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

- "Managing mixed migration flows in Libya through expanding protection space and supporting local socio-economic development", "Strengthening Protection and Resilience of Displaced Populations" and "Supporting Protection and Humanitarian Repatriation and Reintegration of Vulnerable Migrants in Libya" funded under the EUTF North of Africa.

- "Reinforcing International Protection and Delivery of Assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, migrants IDPs, returnees and host communities in Libya" aiming to strengthen protection and address needs and vulnerabilities of refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and host communities in accessible areas of Libya, "Protecting vulnerable migrants and stabilizing communities in Libya" that notably comprises protection, assistance and Voluntary Humanitarian Return components

- Initiatives funded under the Regional Development and Protection Programme (AMIF) such as "Scaling up resettlement opportunities and access to other legal avenues for vulnerable refugees in Libya" and "Access to status determination procedures, reception conditions and assistance to asylum seekers in Niger." The latter, implemented by UNHCR, will run until May 2018. From January to May 2018, the proposed action will enable a significant upscale of the activities financed by the RDPP (hosting of more evacuees,¹ increased resettlement processing¹ and support to access complementary legal pathways).

- The "Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism » (MRRM) implemented by IOM and including direct assistance to migrants, awareness raising, assisted voluntary return and reintegration, data gathering and analysis but at the same time aims at establishing and improving protection frameworks in countries along the migratory route.

- Better Migration Management (BMM) Project in support of the Khartoum process will be coordinated with. The BMM aims to enhance the capacities of the Governments in Horn of Africa to fight and prevent human trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants.

- EU-funded pilot action on voluntary return and sustainable, community-based reintegration implemented by IOM.

- The action will also complement the work of the UNHCR multi-sectorial protection and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Niger and the activities implemented by other organisations (WB, UN, LUXDEV, AFD, GIZ and the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace (HACP) as well as the efforts of a wide range of NGO partners.

Coherence and complementarities will also be sought with other relevant actions supported by EU Member states, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Development Cooperation Instrument at regional and national level.

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

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

In Libya, given the mixed migration context, IOM and UNHCR work closely together to ensure that those in need of protection, return and evacuation are provided with the required support. IOM and UNHCR undertake in that regard counselling and an initial assessment and proceed to the referral of the person to the appropriate protection Organisation. ETM for persons of concern to UNHCR complements the IOM VHR activities for vulnerable and stranded migrants.

In Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Chad UNHCR has established an inter-agency identification and referral system of vulnerable persons for assistance, protection and solutions. UNHCR works with NGO partners who have established presence in rural and urban centres and who assist with identification and referral to UNHCR for protection intervention and in some instances resettlement. In Niger and Nigeria, UNHCR leads the national Protection Cluster, the decentralised protection working group within the context of the Nigeria Situation and the Regional Refugee Response Plan process for the Nigeria crisis. In addition to protection sector leadership, UNHCR Niger actively participates in other coordination mechanisms (UNDAF, national development plans, United Nations Country team,) with a view to ensuring the integration of the needs of persons of concern to UNHCR in broader development plans and policies, as well as national and regional state development plans.

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

3.4. Donor Coordination

Donor coordination will notably be ensured through regular dialogue, both at Brussels headquarters level as well as at field level, including with relevant EU Delegations and EU Member States missions. A Steering Committee will be set up under the Action which will regularly interact with other EU actions 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 under this action, coordination meetings involving all the relevant stakeholders (and also including international partners, NGOs, UN agencies – as relevant) will be organised.

4. **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

4.1. Objectives

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

The specific objectives of the Action are the following:

Component 1 – UNHCR

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

Specific Objective 2: Provide support to resettlement and complementary pathways for persons in need of international protection living in/or transiting Niger, Burkina Faso, Cameroon and Chad through resettlement and the expansion of complementary pathways.

Component 2 - IOM

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

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

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

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

Activities under this component will target all categories of returnees, including stranded migrants, irregular migrants, regular migrants, migrants in vulnerable conditions, such as victims of trafficking, elderly people, unaccompanied migrant children and migrants with health-related needs.

4.2. Expected results and main activities

Component 1 - UNHCR

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

R1.1. Persons of concern to UNHCR have been identified and transferred from Libya to Niger

In Libya, UNHCR will gather basic biodata, assess basic vulnerabilities and any exclusion but will not undertake refugee status determination or resettlement. In Tripoli, UNHCR will identify suitable accommodation options to host persons of concern to UNHCR who are waiting evacuation to avoid prolonged detention. Persons of concern to UNHCR will be evacuated to Niger using chartered planes. Coordination with ICRC will continue for the provision of travel documents for persons of concern to UNHCR who are traveling.

A total amount of 3,800 with an initial caseload of 1,300 individuals will be evacuated on an urgent basis between December 2017 and May 2018. An additional 2 500 persons of concern to UNHCR could be evacuated until the end of the programme.

R1.2. Persons of concern to UNHCR evacuated from Libya have been provided with basic services

In support to the evacuation out of Libya to Niger, UNHCR Niger will construct an evacuation transit centre in a location to be provided by the government of Niger between the capital city of Niamey and the border with Burkina Faso. This open transit centre will have a maximum capacity of 500 persons of concern, and will include both family and individual accommodation units. UNHCR and partners will run the reception centre during a limited time. When the need for the ETM ends, the building will be handed over to the Nigerien authorities for use deemed appropriate. While the centre is being constructed, evacuees will be accommodated in rented facilities, equipped and managed by UNHCR through partner organisations.

Initial steps upon arrival will include; (1) registration; (2) medical screening; (3) provision of a hot meal; (4) distribution of a standard NFI kit; (5) and installation in appropriate accommodation. Daily meals and non-food items will be provided to persons of concern will include bed sheets, towels, hygiene kit, clothing and a basic mobile phone with SIM card to allow persons of concern to contact their families.

It is estimated that that from December 2017 to the end of the grant period, additional 2 500 persons of concern could be received in Niger and provided with basic services.

The services provided to all persons of concern within the transit centre and/or guesthouses are designed to meet their basic needs while providing access (on-site or through referral) to other services in response to specific psycho-social, SGBV and child protection needs.

Special attention will be given to women and children owing to their specific vulnerabilities and to other persons on account of diversity needs such as language through the provision of appropriate staff. It is expected that the majority of evacuees will remain between 3-6 months in the ETM centre.

Additional persons of concern to UNHCR might be evacuated from Libya and provided with basic services in third countries once ETM Facilities are established in other third countries. Indeed currently UNHCR is negotiating with concerned third countries so that more evacuation transit mechanisms can be implemented on their respective territories.

Specific Objective 2: Provide support to resettlement and complementary pathways for persons in need of international protection living in/or transiting Niger, Burkina Faso,

Cameroon and Chad through resettlement and the expansion of complementary pathways.

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

Actions with regard to this result will focus on improved case identification to feed the resettlement pipeline and efficient case processing with a view to increasing the number of resettlement submissions from targeted countries but also from other third countries once the ETM has been established. It is foreseen that 13,850 refugees are being identified and submitted for resettlement (5,100 refugees in Niger, 3,000 refugees in Cameroun, 750 in Burkina Faso and 5,000 in Chad)

This will be achieved through capacity building activities targeting UNHCR field staff in all four countries and NGO partners.

• Improved case identification: Through proactive case identification by functional units, to be enhanced through refresher trainings on resettlement case identification, referral, resettlement criteria and anti-fraud. Overtime, this will allow for increasing the number of resettlement submissions with additional staffing. It is foreseen that there will be a sufficient pool of cases in the resettlement case processing pipeline to meet increased quotas.

• Increased capacity: UNHCR's resettlement case processing capacity will be reinforced through the requested additional staffing resources. Capacity will also be increased at Regional Resettlement Unit Dakar to enable the office to provide effective support, guidance, and oversight on resettlement processing in the region, and to help ensure integrity in case processing.

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

Advice and administrative support with regard to complementary legal pathways (family reunification, humanitarian visa, study visa, labour mobility schemes) will be provided to 300 refugees (100 refugees in Niger, 100 refugees in Chad, 50 in Cameroon and 50 in Burkina Faso).

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

While advocacy activities will be conducted in support of admission, it should be noted that the admission of persons of concern through the use of complementary legal pathways is highly dependent on receiving countries and consent of persons themselves. Therefore, UNHCR cannot indicate at this time the number of people who will be accepted through complementary mechanisms.

Component 2 – IOM

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

R1.1. Migrants benefitted from a safe and dignified voluntary return assistance

Safe and dignified voluntary return for stranded and vulnerable migrants will be supported in line with the approach adopted in the EUTF-IOM Initiative. Voluntary return is an important

protection measure and one of the most suitable options for vulnerable and stranded migrants facing dire conditions along the routes and who wish to return to their countries of origin but do not have the necessary means to do so. Within the frame of the Voluntary Return Assistance, the current Action proposes to provide **voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) assistance** from Libya to an additional **15,000** vulnerable and stranded migrants. These returns are voluntary, since they are done at the explicit request of the individual returning, and humanitarian, as they represent a life-saving option for many migrants who live in particularly deplorable conditions, both inside or outside of detention centers. All those expressing an interest to return are counselled to make an informed decision and during this period, IOM makes an initial assessment of any risks of ill-treatment, persecution or other human rights violations that the migrant may suffer in case of return to country of origin and in coordination with UNHCR an assessment of non-refoulement.

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

R1.2. The capacity of governments and local stakeholders is strengthened to protect vulnerable and stranded migrants and facilitate safe and dignified voluntary return. Building on the capacity building activities at the national level, regional or multi-country capacity building activities will be proposed to allow knowledge sharing and exchange on specific areas of common interest and concern such as protection, assistance for particular categories of vulnerable migrants (e.g. unaccompanied or separated migrant children; migrants with medical needs). On the basis of the needs identified and in coordination with relevant national authorities and/or civil society of relevant countries, regional training and workshop can be organized on topics to be jointly defined ensuring synergies with the protection group within MIDWA and ECOWAS.

Finally, **facilitating access to consular services** for stranded and vulnerable migrants is an essential step in the voluntary return process and has long been a priority issue for IOM. Currently, the vast majority of migrants seeking IOM support to return home from transit and destination countries in Africa do not have valid travel documents (c. 60% of migrants in Niger and more than 90% of migrants assisted in Libya). IOM is working in the immediate term to support governments to ensure timely and wider geographic access to basic consular services for migrants in need. This may include providing technical and financial support for consular missions, basic equipment, the shipment of documents, or the facilitation of video-calls. In the longer term, the objective is to support interested governments to enhance procedures for identification and travel document issuance. Target countries may request specific support for these actions.

R1.3. Search and rescue operations of migrants blocked in the desert and observation and awareness raising points set up in Madama and/or Assamaka

While Libya remains the main route for irregular migration to North Africa and Europe, an increasing number of migrants' transit on the eastern corridor (Tchintabaraden – Ingall – Arlit - Assamaka) to avoid Agadez, enter into Algeria through the desert and either move to Algiers or enter Morocco or Libya. Migrants from many different nationalities are found abandoned on these eastern routes or are rejected by Algerian authorities when found on their territory. Currently, on average 50 migrants per week with peaks up to 200 migrants are rescued near

the Algerian borders. There are no other actors in the area, apart from civil authorities who lack means and capacity to rescue migrants, and military forces mostly dedicated at the security of uranium mines and borders, it is therefore urgent to reinforce the IOM supported Search and Rescue operations in these areas.

In order to save migrants, IOM, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Civil Protection (DGPC), will continue to undertaking search and rescue operations in the Agadez region in full respect of migrants' rights. Migrants once rescued are brought to safety at three of IOM's MRRM centres (Agadez, Arlit and Dirkou) in the Agadez region. IOM provides then medical first aid and psychosocial support, as well as information on voluntary return options and alternatives to dangerous irregular migration through the desert. The action would to reinforce the existing Search and Rescue mechanism with additional vehicles to cover an extended area and ensure more frequent missions. Food, water, medical items would be purchased to support 10 000 rescued migrants. In addition, observation and awareness raising points set up in Madama and/or Assamaka will provided information to migrants on the alternatives to irregular migration as well as provide information on migration flows and trends in the areas.

R1.4. Initiatives aiming at community stabilization in the North of Niger are implemented

The programme will support local authorities to respond to the urgent needs of host communities and the impacts of migration flows, as well as to support community cohesion and cope with social tensions. In particular, local communities in Northern Agadez generate their income by economic activities related to the transit of migrants: accommodation, transportation, services to migrants. IOM and local authorities in the main villages, urban and rural areas on the migratory routes, are identifying initiatives included in the local communal and regional development plans for immediate or quick implementation in order to provide jobs to local youth, promote regular activities in different economic sectors, refurbish or rehabilitate small infrastructures using local labour force, resources, contractors. The aim is to quick start these initiatives while larger and longer term development initiatives are taking shape.

It also includes programmes where local authorities would need to carry out service provision to migrants and residents and would require personnel trained on how to carry out those activities. All activities must be bottom-up in nature and therefore should take the shape of specific gaps as identified by the government, migrants and communities so these may vary. Social cohesion and communication grants reinforce also the visibility and the information on selected projects as well as key messages about: the risks of irregular migration; economic alternatives. The action builds on IOM experience in community stabilisation in the region.

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

R2.1. Returning migrants are supported in their reintegration

Framework standard operating procedures (SOPs) for assisted voluntary return and reintegration have been developed for the EUTF-IOM Initiative based on IOM's Integrated Approach to Reintegration in the context of return.⁴ These will now being adapted and refined through a consultative process in each target country.

⁴ See https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DMM/AVRR/Towards-an-Integrated-Approach-to-Reintegration.pdf

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

Reintegration assistance provided under the EUTF-IOM Initiative SOPs is tailored to **needs** and opportunities. The value and duration of the assistance is not fixed and can vary. 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 support⁵. 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.

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

To complement the capacity building activities undertaken at the national level in the EUTF-IOM Initiative, regional or multi-country capacity building activities will be proposed to allow knowledge sharing and exchange on specific areas of common interest (e.g. linking prereturn and post-arrival procedures to enhance provision of reintegration assistance) and will be supported under this Action.

The EUTF-IOM Initiative is designed to provide complementary reintegration support to migrants who return from the EU, Norway and Switzerland through voluntary or forced return procedures. To streamline communication and provide clear guidance to facilitate referral of these migrants for reintegration assistance, the Action will establish at first an off-line reintegration referral mechanism with specific forms that will be replaced by an online tool. This system will allow EU Member States authorities, service providers, or other relevant actors to refer migrants to the relevant national actions under the EUTF for complementary reintegration support.

Additionally, based on the mapping of all partners and reintegration opportunities for migrants in each country implemented by national stakeholders or international agencies, a specific online tool will be developed to refer migrants to reintegration support and programmes.

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

⁵ Examples of general support activities include: (i) regular training sessions (on business management, technical skills, etc.), (ii) focus groups among returnees or psychosocial counselling sessions with relatives, (iii) job or other types of fairs where returnees can meet representatives of the private sector, of microfinance institutions, etc.

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

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

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

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

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

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

4.3. Targeted groups and final beneficiaries

Component 1 – UNHCR

Beneficiaries of the activities under specific objective 1, the ETM, are persons of concern to UNHCR currently in Libya. 3,800 of these individuals will be evacuated from shelter and detention centres following their identification. Some will be able to be accommodated in the Tripoli transit centre that the authorities have recently allowed UNHCR to open. At present a number of individuals have been identified by UNHCR directly, through reinforced screening activities through improved registration and work through community-based partners.

Recognizing that Libya is signatory to the 1969 OAU Convention Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa but not the 1951 Geneva Convention on the refugee status, the Government of Libya currently recognizes seven nationalities⁶ as persons of concern to UNHCR. As such, in the short-term the ETM will be used to provide lifesaving emergency assistance for Syrian, Eritrean, Sudanese, Somali, South Sudanese (from Darfur), Ethiopian (from Omoro) and Palestinian nationals recognized by the Government of Libya, and assessed to be in urgent need of evacuation due to a life threatening situation. UNHCR is currently in discussion with the Libyan government to expand protection to persons beyond these seven nationalities. Persons eligible for voluntary humanitarian return assistance and

⁶ In Libya, only nationals from Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Somalia, Eritrea, Sudan - Darfur, Ethiopia – Oromos. For refugees from South Sudan, Yemen and Afghanistan negotiations for recognition are ongoing.

reintegration or for resettlement/family reunification directly from Libya, conditions permitting, will be excluded from the ETM scope.

Beneficiaries of the activities under specific objective 2, enhanced access to resettlement and complementary pathways of admission, are:

- 13,850 Refugees meeting the vulnerability criteria for resettlement as per UNHCR practice from various nationalities, including Sudan, Mali, Nigeria, Central Africa.
- 300 Refugees meeting the eligibility criteria for complementary legal pathways (having family members in a third country, having education level to apply for study visas).

Beneficiaries will be from all refugee populations present in Niger Burkina Faso, Cameroun and Chad.

Component 2 – IOM

In the first phase, the Action will provide voluntary humanitarian return and reintegration assistance for at least 15,000 vulnerable and stranded migrants in Libya. It will provide voluntary return and reintegration assistance from other countries upon additional financing from the EUTF.

Building on the partnerships and cooperation established with key national authorities and relevant partners under the EUTF-IOM Initiative, capacity building support for state and non-state actors working in the areas (notably protection and assistance for migrants, migration data collection and awareness-raising) will be carried out in countries experiencing additional needs linked to high rates of return. The Action will support further information and awareness raising for communities of origin and migrants in transit on migration issues including the risks of irregular migration, information on alternatives and opportunities for regular migration, the challenges and opportunities linked to return and reintegration.

With future funding, returnees from Libya but also from other countries will be targeted.

4.4. Stakeholders analysis

The government of Niger (GoN) and the government of Libya (GoL):

All activities will be planned and implemented in close collaboration with national and local level government counterparts both in Libya and Niger. In Niger, UNHCR will continue to develop its strong partnership with the Ministry of Interior, line ministry for refugee-related issues, in support of the hosting of the evacuation mechanism on Nigerien territory. The Government of Niger will be involved in clearing cases and facilitating administrative formalities required to ensure the entry of evacuees into Niger. The buy-in of the Libyan government has been critical to support the evacuation process of the first pilot group. The Libyan government issued exit visas, accepted ICRC travel documents and ensured the smooth realization of the actual evacuation including at the airport. The government also exempted the evacuees from exit penalty fees.

The State of Libya is supportive of the voluntary humanitarian returns, for which it issues the relevant exit authorisations. Further, it provides IOM access to the official detention centres managed by the Department for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM), which allows IOM to establish contact with migrants who may wish to return to their countries of origin. IOM works closely with the consular authorities of African countries to foster communication, identification and care of the nationals stranded in Libya.

Resettlement countries:

UNHCR Niger has a resettlement quota of 800 individuals, outside of those evacuated through the ETM, for 2018. However, the achievement of resettlement targets outlined in this Action will be dependent on the allocation of quota, currently over 13,700 pledges from non EU and EU Member states for the central Mediterranean route UNHCR will continue to advocate for higher quotas, new exchange programs, abridged administrative requirements/procedures for persons of concern and more favourable evaluation of requests submitted by persons in need of international protection.

Target countries of the EUTF-IOM Initiative

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

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

Non-governmental organisations:

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

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

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

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

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

4.5. Risks and assumptions

Component 1 – UNHCR

Risk	Level (H/M/	Mitigation measure
	(H / M / L)	
The deterioration of the security situation in Libya limits access for case identification and processing in support of UNHCR evacuations	H	UNHCR Libya is reinforcing case identification and screening processes through the training of national staff members and local partners. UNHCR will reinforce case processing mechanisms in Niger to ensure effective processing capacity in Niger.
Airport closures prevent or significantly delay UNHCR evacuations	Η	UNHCR Libya will advocate for the extended validity of exit visas by the Libyan Government to allow increased flexibility for travel. UNHCR Niger will underline these operational constraints in advance communications to resettlement missions to seek flexibility where required
Education, labour mobility schemes and humanitarian visa remain difficult to obtain for refugees.	М	UNHCR will continue to advocate for increases of places available for refugees and favourable decision- practice. At the same time UNHCR set targets in this Action relatively low to minimize risks.
Too restrictive resettlement criteria posed by resettlement countries may limit case identification and submission	М	UNHCR continues to advocate for its standards resettlement criteria, based on vulnerabilities and protection needs, to be considered for case identification.
Potential Resettlement cases have not been identified	L	Proactive case identification by functional units and Partners, enhanced through refresher trainings on resettlement case identification, vulnerability, referral, resettlement criteria and anti-fraud. UNHCR will reinforce case processing mechanisms, including pre-screening to verify family compositions and supporting documentation to ensure effective processing capacity.
Resettlement countries have not established quotas or fail to provide adequate resettlement quotas to respond to needs and fulfil agreed resettlement commitments.	М	UNHCR will continue to advocate for increased resettlement quotas within the framework of international commitment to share responsibilities for responding to the needs of refugees.
Fraud related to the selection of beneficiaries	М	Standard Operating Procedures are up to date and measures to combat fraud strengthened. Cases identified for resettlement are approved for processing in accordance with SOPs. Refugee biodata is checked and verified against proGres, including the use of the Biometric Identification Management Systems (BIMs) to verify the data of the applicants (such as Iris scan).
Security as a limiting factor to resettlement country missions to Chad (in particular, the security situation in Bagasola, Lake Chad region) may impact on the timely processing and finalization of cases.	М	Video conferencing for resettlement countries requiring interviews or use of dossier submission may provide a solution to facilitate adjudication.
Pull factor in view of ETM in neighboring Niger, which may be	Н	Only persons registered in the UNHCR database will be eligible for resettlement and/or safe and regulated

further reinforced by uncertainty in		pathways of admission to third countries.
the US refugee resettlement		Reinforcement of identity filters using BIMS.
program		Continuous sensitization.
Staff turn over	Η	Continue to use a roving strategy for resettlement deployees, with the objective of minimizing isolation. Also ensuring improved oversight of staff welfare.

Component 2 – IOM

Risk	Level (H/M/ L)	Mitigation measure
Access issues related to security and infrastructure, including deteriorating security situation on roads, leading to some populations being cut-off; related inability to identify locations deemed 'appropriate' for intervention. Suspensions in implementing activities in the event that access is not possible.	Mediu m to High	The Action continues to coordinate with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), partners and authorities regarding security and IOM/partner presence to ensure a trustful relationship between stakeholders. IOM utilizes third-party contracting where possible and appropriate. Additional support and remote monitoring is provided to the IOM Libya office by the MENA Regional Office in Cairo and the IOM office in Tunisia. Activities may be delayed until the security situation in the target area is sound and there is no potential for harm to beneficiaries or project staff; training sites may be moved pending security assessments.
Government officials deny direct access to migrants in detention centres or other migrant detention facilities	М	Through this Action, maintaining effective and positive relationships with Libyan officials will remain critical to ensure continued capacity building activities and to maintain access to detention facilities.
Lack of political will and commitment from the beneficiary countries to work on migration and development in the context of return and reintegration.	М	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	М	From the outset, IOM will ensure close cooperation with stakeholders highlighting the importance of dedicated resources (financial and personal), and if necessary convene meetings at high level to address the issue.
Instability, security, changing government priorities, including the risk of politicisation of migration	М	During the inception phase these aspects will be carefully considered and mapped
Interest of and access to returnees and their communities to engage in monitoring and participation in reintegration and development- oriented initiatives	М	Continued awareness raising and information exchange, based on evidence, will be part of the Action, including in particular at local government and community level.
Change of migratory flows during the implementation of the project can	М	The Action will include constant monitoring of migratory flows and AVRR demand to allow for

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

4.6. Cross-cutting issues

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

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

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

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

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. Indeed, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in human beings, predominantly for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The different roles of women and men in community-based interventions, reintegration processes and livelihoods and development programmes are important to recognise and thus ensuring their inclusive and equitable participation in decision making processes and project implementation and monitoring will be key in this programme. Given the nature of the action,

the protection of human rights and due process will be an integral part of the activities carried out. Protection of human rights of particularly vulnerable categories of migrants, such as children, unaccompanied minors, disabled persons, victims of trafficking or smuggling and rejected asylum seekers will also need to be particularly considered, along with the required procedural safeguards including the need to undertake best interest determination.

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

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

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

5. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

5.1. Financing agreement, where applicable

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

5.2. Implementation modalities

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

5.3. Indicative operational implementation period

The implementation period of the decision is 36 months.

The indicative operational implementation period of this Action, during which the activities described in section 4.2 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented is 36 months. It will not go beyond the 30th of November 2020.

The starting date of the indicative implementation period is from the 1st of December 2017.

5.4. Implementation components and modules

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

Component 1 – UNHCR

The ETM component of this project led by UNHCR will be implemented in close cooperation with IOM with regard to the case identification and referral. The ETM will be operated by

UNHCR with the support of NGO implementing partners which will be engaged through standard UNHCR partner selection processes.

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

Component 2 – IOM

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

5.5. Indicative budget

Component	Current budget (EUR)
Component 1 – UN	NHCR
Support to the ETM mechanism	17,140,000
Support for resettlement from other countries	1,240,000
Operational and running cost	8,255,520
Indirect costs	1,864,480
Total Component 1	28,500,000
Component 2 IOM	
15 000 Voluntary Humanitarian Returns and Reintegration support (up to March 2018)	45,000,000
Returns and reintegration implementation costs	23,000,000
MRRM/reception centres	6,000,000
Search and rescue and community stabilisation northern Niger	5,000,000
Regional capacity building, online referral mechanism and database development	1,500,000
National and regional reinforcement of IOM operations	8,200,000
Communication and visibility	412,000
Indirect costs	5,888,000
Subtotal component 2	95,000,000

Total of the action	123,500,000
UNHCR co-funding component 1	8,500,000
EUTF total contribution	115,000,000

The overall contribution of the North of Africa window to this Action will amount to EUR 25,000,000.00. Indicatively, EUR 17,000,000.00 will be allocated to IOM and EUR 8,000,000.00 to UNHCR in support of activities to be implemented in Libya that will further contribute to the achievement of the objectives set for the programme "Managing mixed migration flows in Libya through expanding protection space and supporting local socio-economic development" (T05-EUTF-NOA-LY-03).

The overall contribution of the Horn of Africa and the Sahel and Lake Chad windows will amount to EUR 90,000,000.

5.7. Organisational structure and governance of the action

Governance of the action

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

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

Organisational structure

Component 1 – UNHCR

In Niger, the project will be managed by UNHCR's Senior Protection Officer with the support of UNHCR Niger's Senior Management Team. The ETM facility will benefit from the support of a P3 Protection Officer, as well as of experienced protection staff members and partner personnel. These individuals will coordinate closely with UNHCR Libya to ensure the provision of timely and adequate services. The location of the ETM centre is still under discussion with the Government of Niger, but discussions to date indicate that it will be 25-45 kilometres from Niamey. There will be a small on-site office to facilitate the work of staff and partners based at the ETM centre.

Resettlement out of Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso and Cameroon will be managed by the Senior Protection Officer however in Niger, Chad and Cameroon there will be support from the Resettlement Officers (based in Niamey, N'djamena and Yaoundé). In Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Chad, there is presence of an Associate Resettlement Officer (P2) who will support the Resettlement Officer. In addition, resettlement experts and resettlement assistants are present in all operations whose main responsibilities include conducting interviews, case management and counselling activities. This scaling up in resettlement activities will be supported by UNHCR Regional Office in Dakar, Senegal, which will provide technical assistance through field missions, training and case review on resettlement, support and guidance on access to complementary admission pathways, among others. Finally, the Division of International Protection in HQ Geneva will be fully engaged in overseeing these activities and provide guidance and support as necessary as well as all other concerned specialized services of UNHCR HQs.

Component 2 – IOM

The action will be based on the existing organisational structure of the EUTF-IOM Initiative, that will be strengthened to respond to the additional beneficiaries needs and numbers. The project staff implementing the EUTF-IOM Initiative actions in the 14 countries are supported by IOM staff in Headquarters and the Regional Offices of Brussels, Cairo and Dakar. A regional coordination unit in Dakar will ensure a coherent regional response and approach to reintegration, security monitoring and evaluation, communication strategy, data collection, and reporting. Coordination with the other EU funded Migrant Protection and Reintegration initiatives supported by the EUTF in the Horn of Africa and North Africa, as well as the "pilot action on voluntary return and sustainable, community-based reintegration" and "Improving reintegration of returnees in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan", is facilitated by a coordination cell in the IOM Regional Office in Brussels.

5.8. Performance monitoring

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

Particular attention will be given to piloting new methodologies to measure the sustainability of reintegration support which is currently a key operational challenge for all stakeholders. The action will seek to pilot a common but contextualized monitoring and evaluation framework, including the identification of common indicators (both at individual, community and structural levels). Stakeholders from the coordination and referral mechanisms and community platforms would be engaged in this process to support joint approaches to monitoring.

The part of the action being implemented in the Horn of Africa will have to integrate the EUTF Monitoring and Learning System - MLS (T05-EUTF-HOA-REG-28) for the reporting of selected output and outcome indicators, as well as to take part in case study exercises and the learning strategy developed by the MLS. The project implementing partners will be requested to provide regular (at least quarterly) data to the MLS in a specific format, which will be introduced during the contract negotiation stage.

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

5.9. Evaluation and audit

5.9.1. Evaluation and audit by the European Commission

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

The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner

country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

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

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

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

5.9.2. Evaluation and audit by the organisations

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

A special attention will be provided to the reintegration component. A midterm and final evaluation will be conducted by an independent consultant to develop a comprehensive report at the regional and country level to assess the sustainability of reintegration actions for migrants, appropriation of the mechanisms by the state partners and civil society and the impact on the communities. Recommendations will be made to improve the approach and implementation if necessary.

5.10. Communication and visibility

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANNEX 1. AREAS OF INTERVENTION OF THE TRUST FUND

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

ANNEX 2. LOGFRAME MATRIX OF THE PROJECT

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

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

	Results chain	Indicators	Baseline (incl. reference year)	Targets (incl. reference year)			
Overall objective:	The overall objective of the action is to contribute to strengthening the governance of migration in the region and reinforce the protection of migrants and forcibly displaced persons through the provision of measures and solutions out of Libya and along the Central Mediterranean route.	% increase in the number of migrants and forcibly displaced persons who received protection through the provision of measures and solutions out of Libya and along the Central Mediterranean route.		%			
Comp	Component 1 - UNHCR						
jective(s): me(s)	SO 1. Provide emergency protection and life-saving assistance to persons of concern in Libya with critical needs through the establishment of an Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM).	# of persons evacuated from Libya	25	3800			
Specific objective(s): Direct outcome(s)	SO 2. Provide alternatives to secondary movement for persons in need of international protection through resettlement and the expansion of complementary pathways.	# of persons in need of protection who have benefitted from resettlement or complementary pathways	25	14150			
Results	(SO 1) Result 1: 3,800 persons of concern have been identified and transferred of from Libya to Niger	# of persons of concern identified, registered and evacuated# of reception centre buildings built	0	3800			

	Result 2: The evacuated persons of concern from Libya have been provided with basic services upon arrival in the transit country	# of persons of concern accommodated and receiving basic services including psychosocial support	0	3800
	(SO 2) Result 1: Refugees are being resettled	# of Resettlement Registration Forms (RRFs) submitted	0	13850 cases (5,100 from Niger, 3,000 from Cameroon, 750 from Burkina Faso and 5,000 from Chad)
	Result 2: Refugees have improved access to complementary legal pathways for admission	# of persons of concern to UNHCR receiving counselling and advice in support of access to complementary legal pathways to admission	0	300 (100 from Niger, 100 in Chad, 50 in Cameroon, 50 in Burkina Faso)
Comp	oonent 2 - IOM			
	SO 1: Improve protection, provide assistance to migrants and transit communities and enable the assisted voluntary return services of vulnerable and stranded migrants in target countries	# of migrants and transit communities benefitting of protection and assistance including a dignified voluntarily humanitarian return to their countries of origin	2017: 26,000	15,000
ive(s):	SO 2: Improve the reintegration of returning migrants and to strengthen national structures and capacities to manage reintegration in a dignified and sustainable manner	# of migrants and communities benefitting from assistance and access to sustainable reintegration		15,000
Specific objective(s):	SO 3: Enable migrants and potential migrants to make informed decisions about their migratory journey and raise awareness of communities on migration.	% of increase of migrants, potential migrants and communities of origin sensitized to the risks linked to irregular migration		%
Spe Direct outcome(s)	SO 4. Strengthen migration data and communication on migratory flows, routes and trends, as well as on the needs and vulnerabilities of migrants in the targeted countries, in order to support evidence-based policies and programmes design	% reliable data collection (migratory flows, migrants' profile, socio-economic opportunities, returns, reintegration,) to reinforce the migratory analysis. Including the availability of data disaggregated on the basis of sex, age and nationality and vulnerability.		%

	(SO 1) Result 1: Migrants benefitted from voluntary return assistance	# of migrants benefitting from Voluntary humanitarian assistance from Libya (desegregated data by age, gender and vulnerability – including victims of trafficking)		15,000
	Result 2. The capacity of governments and local stakeholders is strengthened to protect vulnerable and stranded migrants and facilitate safe and dignified voluntary return	# of requests for technical support to develop consular services submitted by government authorities addressed		6
	Result 2: Search and rescue operations of migrants blocked in the desert and observation and awareness raising points set up in Madama and/or Toummo	# of search and rescue operations	25	40
	Result 3: Initiatives aiming at community stabilization in the North of Niger are implemented	# of community initiatives supported in Niger	0	45
	(SO 2) : Result 1:Returning migrants are supported in their reintegration	# of migrants supported in their reintegration (desegregated data by age, gender and vulnerability – including victims of trafficking)		15,000
		# of « transit centers » or « protection and assistance centers» established or strengthened to provide immediate assistance to stranded, vulnerable to migrants along the migration routes and reintegration support to migrants returning to countries of origin	0	10
		# of online referral migrants for return (from EU) and reintegration (referral within the country)		1
	Result 2: The capacity of governments and local stakeholders is strengthened to ensure protection and sustainable reintegration of returning migrants and ownership of reintegration activities at the national level	# of initiatives supporting enhanced regional dialogue and cooperation on migrant protection and assistance to particular vulnerable groups and return and reintegration aligned to priorities of ECOWAS working groups	0	4

SO 3: Result 1:Migrants and their communities are informed and made aware of the dangers of irregular migration and alternatives to it.	# of regional strategy enabling targeted information towards migrants	0	1
0	# of tools produced to collect and analyse data in order to share and feed policies and actions		