

## ACTION DOCUMENT

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

#### 1. IDENTIFICATION

<b>Title</b>	Reference: T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-96 <b>Sudan - Support to Economic Opportunities for Youth and Women</b>			
<b>Zone benefitting from the action</b>	Sudan			
<b>Total cost</b>	Total estimated cost: 40 000 000 EUR Total amount drawn from the Trust Fund: 40 000 000 EUR			
<b>Aid modality and implementation modalities</b>	Project Modality: <b>Indirect management</b> with Agence française de développement (AFD), Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo (AICS), and with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)			
<b>DAC - codes</b>	43040 - rural development <b>15170 - Support for institutions and organisations (governmental and non-governmental) working for gender equality and women's empowerment</b> 11330 - Vocational training			
<b>Main delivery channels</b>	<b>Third Country Government (Delegated co-operation) - 13000</b> UN Women - 41146			
<b>Markers</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participatory development / good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Rio Markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification		0	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Migration marker</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Digitalisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	0	<input type="checkbox"/>
	COVID-19	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SDG	Goal 1: No Poverty Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production Goal 13: Climate Action Goal 2: Zero Hunger Goal 5: Gender Equality			
Valetta Action Plan Domains	1. Development benefits of migration and root causes of irregular migration			
Strategic objectives of the Trust Fund	1. Greater economic and employment opportunities 2. Strengthening resilience of communities, especially the most vulnerable, as well as refugees and IDPs 3. Improved governance			
Beneficiaries of the action	i. Actors in the gum Arabic value chain in Blue Nile, Sennar, Gedaref, White Nile, East Darfur, South Darfur, North Darfur and North Kordofan - with an emphasis on women and youth ii. Communities in Khartoum, Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea States - with an emphasis on women and youth iii. Youth and women in Khartoum State			
Derogations, authorised exceptions, prior approvals	EVR. 20.b			

## 2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

### 2.1. Summary of the action and objectives

The **overall objective** of this multi-component programme is to enhance economic opportunities for youth and women. The **specific objectives** are: i) strengthening the gum Arabic value chain in Blue Nile, Sennar, Gedaref, White Nile, East Darfur, South Darfur, North Darfur and North Kordofan States; ii) creating a conducive environment for the economic empowerment of the most vulnerable women living in the most vulnerable situations in Khartoum, Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea States; iii) improve employment conditions for the youth (with an emphasis on women and refugees) in Khartoum State.

This action aligns with one of the key priority criteria: Essential stabilisation efforts in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan set for the EUTF Horn of Africa window by the EUTF Strategic Board in April 2018, and is furthermore part of a Strategy proposed by the European Commission to allocate the €100 million transferred from the 11th EDF reserve to the EUTF in support of the transition process in Sudan. This will help to ensure the provision of critical support to address the most pressing needs in the country, and it will allow the EU to continue playing a relevant role during the Sudanese transition. **The Action contributes to the EU Trust Fund objectives:** (1) creating greater economic and employment opportunities, (2) strengthening resilience of communities, especially the most vulnerable, as well as refugees and IDPs, (3) improved governance. The Action is **aligned with the Valetta Action Plan** priority domain (1) “development benefits of migration and addressing root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, through “investing in development and poverty eradication”.

The **geographical coverage** of the action encompasses the States of Blue Nile, Sennar, White Nile, East Darfur, South Darfur, North Darfur, North Kordofan, Khartoum, Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea.

The **intervention logic** is that substantial governance improvements in the areas of gum Arabic, women’s economic empowerment and technical and vocational education and training will foster better employment opportunities for the target population groups: women and youth improving their well-being and living standards.

## 2.2. Context

### 2.2.1. National context

Sudan is currently undergoing a fragile and volatile transition. Following a period of thirty years of dictatorship, a peaceful revolution resulting in a power sharing agreement between military/security services and civilian opposition groups led to a civilian led, technocratic government assuming power in September 2019. On 25 October 2021 Lt Gen Abdel Fatah al-Burhan, the Chairman of the Sovereignty Council led a military coup that brought to the dissolution of the civilian government led by Prime Minister Hamdok. Al-Burhan dissolved different parts of the Government and the Sovereignty Council and declared a state of emergency. As a consequence, Sudanese people took the streets in Khartoum and all over the country condemning the coup and call for a restoration of the civilian-led transition. The EU and international partners acted united to condemn the coup and mediation efforts are ongoing to find a suitable solution. At the time of writing, the outcome of the current political crisis is uncertain

About half of the population lives below the poverty line, with a significant number living in extreme poverty. In the global Human Development Index rankings for 2019, Sudan was placed at 168 out of 189. Sudan ranks 139<sup>th</sup> over 189 countries in the Gender Inequality index (2019). It is estimated that 20% of the active population is unemployed, with women's unemployment nearly twice that of men. Agriculture remains the main source of employment, although the urban informal sector is reported to account for more than 60 per cent of GDP. If GDP were calculated with the use of the prevailing exchange rate, the GDP of Sudan would be much lower, and hence per capita GDP would also better reflect the actual levels of poverty in the country.

The humanitarian and development situation in Sudan remains serious and complex, with acute lifesaving needs across the Darfur region, Blue Nile and South Kordofan states, eastern Sudan and other areas. The Sudan 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview points to 9.3 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 3.1 million in Darfur.

Environmental factors exacerbate the humanitarian and development crises, contributing to displacement, food insecurity and environmental degradation.

In order to respond to Sudan's multiple economic emergencies, worsened by the current COVID-19 pandemic, the GoS is preparing a health-care response, as well as an economic response. The economic response seeks to shield the economy and "flatten the recession curve" to the extent possible, by supporting individuals and keeping firms alive and employees employed. At the centre of this plan is the "Sudan Family Support Programme", a cash transfer intervention to 80% of families to start as soon as possible and leveraging on National Civil Registry and digital payments.

### 2.2.2. Sector context: policies and challenges

Please see detailed presentation in Annex

## Gum Arabic

**Sudan is the world's largest producer and exporter of raw gum Arabic followed by Chad and Nigeria.** The global gum Arabic market size was valued at USD 373 million in 2018. The market for gum Arabic has been estimated to reach 800 million USD by 2019, at an annual growth rate of 6.7% between 2014 and 2017. In twenty years, gum producing countries' exports have more than doubled, from 41,500 tons in 1995 to 97,600 tons of gum arabic exported in 2015 (equivalent to an annual growth rate of 4.2% per year on this period). In the meantime, world gum arabic export value (including re-export from non-producing countries) went from \$US 182.7mn in 1995 to \$US 352.2mn (+3.2% per year). In Sudan, the annual production varied a lot according to climate conditions and conflicts, but it is now estimated to be 88,000 tons, corresponding to 80% of the global market.

**Gum Arabic is an important contributor to the Sudanese economy, to the poor's livelihoods**

**and to economic opportunities for the vulnerable populations living in vulnerable situations.**

Gum Arabic provides an average of 12% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country. It is a labour-intensive sector, and one million poor households (6 million people, 15% of the population of Sudan) currently depend on revenue from gum Arabic production. Gum Arabic also provides economic opportunities that can lift women out of poverty and reinforce their role in their households and communities because they have a significant role in the gum Arabic value chain.

**The Gum Arabic value chain contributes to environmental integrity and supports biodiversity** management as well as ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation. In Sudan, gum Arabic is traditionally produced in sustainably-managed agroforestry systems. The gum belt (520,000 square kilometres) spans over eleven states South Kordofan, North Darfour, South Darfour, East Darfur, Sennar, White Nile, Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala and River Nile.

**However, there are a lot of economic opportunities in the gum Arabic sector that are not seized** as estimates indicate that only 20% of potential is exploited in Sudan.

**Fostering production and producers' revenues from gum Arabic started in 2009 with a major market reform.** Significant reform took place in the sector as a result of a Presidential Directive issued in June 2009. Subsequently, the share of the price received by producers changed, according to some estimates from 15% to 60% of the free-on-board (fob) price. National statistics show that total gum production has rebounded to previous levels (around 75,000 tons compared to 25,000 between the beginning of the century and 2010).

The Action will contribute to the Great Green Wall (GGW) flagship initiative to re-green the Sahel from Senegal to Somalia. There is renewed momentum for this initiative that has evolved from its initial focus on tree planting towards a comprehensive rural development initiative aiming to transform the lives of populations by supporting a mosaic of green and productive landscapes. A multi-actor “GGW Accelerator” strategy<sup>1</sup> has been recently launched, defining a broad framework for actions structured around different objectives and pillars. This Action will mainly support the GGW Accelerator Pillar 1 of “Investment in small and medium-sized farms, promoting agro-ecological approaches resilient to climate change, and strengthening of value chains, local markets, organization of exports”, contributing primarily to the GGW goals of restoring 100 million hectares of degraded land and creating 10 million jobs.

**But many challenges remain and much remains to be done.** Producers lack access to credit. The traditional “sheil” system is very costly for small scale producers. Producers lack access to market and to market information. Empirical observations indicate that women are particularly affected by these barriers. The quality of the gum (and thus price) can be improved with appropriate training, particularly for the youth. On a wider point of view, producers lack access to water, and conflicts between pastoralists and producers increase the risk of inter-community tensions.

## **Women's Economic Empowerment**

In Sudan, social norms, traditional practices, legislation and customary laws have shaped the Sudanese women's role and status. More significant in rural than urban areas, **gender discrimination in Sudan is further aggravated by extreme poverty.** Women's integration in the productive sector is among the lowest in Eastern Africa. Female labour force participation stands at 31.3%. In the formal non-agricultural sector, the percentage drops to 17%, demonstrating a female over-representation in agriculture and the informal economy. Notably, female labour force participation in agricultural rural areas is 80%. Although women have equal access to land use, very few have land ownership rights, and thus lack the collateral

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unccd.int/actions/great-green-wall-initiative/great-green-wall-accelerator>

needed for credit and for membership in cooperatives and access to extension and production technology. The majority of subsistence farmers operate under the system of customary land tenure, which assures equal usufruct rights to both men and women (FAO, n.d). While government-owned land is rented or leased to farmers irrespective of gender, few women have the economic resource base required to access this land. Privately-owned lands are usually registered in the name of the head of household, and in those cases in which women do own land they usually transfer the title to male members of the household, due to custom and tradition (The World Bank and Trust Law Connect 2013, p.4). The baseline study conducted in February 2019 for the development of the National Strategy on Gender and Agriculture indicates that 65.7% of land owners in North Kordofan, South Darfur, Al-Jazeera and Red Sea are men, compared to 19.2% of women. In addition, women owning farming lands predominantly own medium and small lands with less productivity. This is not only an injustice but also a major hindrance to the development of workable land tenure systems and to higher agricultural production.

The Interim National Constitution assures women the same rights as men to open a bank account and access to credit (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and The World Bank 2016). The Government's Women's Empowerment Policy (2007), however states that women may face challenges in obtaining assets and credit. As of June 2015, the total number of women beneficiaries from micro-funding provided by the Agricultural Bank amounted to 21.5%, and 38.5% from Family Bank A study conducted by AICS (Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development) and Ahfad University for Women in June 2019 highlighted the inaccessibility to loans for women and land ownership together with poor accessibility to extension services. More precise data both on land ownership, saving groups types and financial products for women, will be collected as part of a survey in target areas (especially because data vary a lot between states). AICS has already engaged with experts of "Microfinanza", the Italian network for microfinance. The financial sector in Sudan is dominated by commercial banking, highly concentrated in big cities and with low penetration rate in rural areas. In particular, the number of beneficiaries of the microfinance services in rural areas, especially women in Eastern Sudan and communities in conflicts affected zones, remains insignificant.

In addition to extreme poverty and financial exclusion, **Gender Based Violence (GBV) remains one of the most prevalent and persistent issues faced by women and girls** in Sudan. Italian Cooperation research from 2019 clearly documented extensive, under-reported abuse affecting women's lives: almost the totality of women interviewed (93%) have experienced psychological violence by the partner during lifetime; 72% have experienced physical and sexual violence by the partner; and 88% have undergone FGM.

Despite numerous legal measures taken to promote women's rights, such as the National Strategy to Eradicate FGM/C in 2008, women's social and economic rights remain unattained, mainly due to cultural barriers and negative social norms. Sudan scores 29.4/100 in World Bank's Women, Business and the Law report 2020, which means that women have less than third of the legal rights measured in different stages of economic decision making, compared to those of men. Underlying barriers, such as restrictions on mobility, access to identification and inheritance are undermining women's economic opportunities. In February 2020, for the first time a Sudanese government endorsed standard operating procedures on GBV prevention and response, developed together the Unit for Combating Violence against Women and Children (CVAW) and under direct supervision of the Federal Minister of Labour and Social Development (MoLSD). CVAW played a pivotal role in putting in place strategies, policies and plans that resulted in amending laws and practices that were considered discriminatory in nature, complicating women and girls' access to justice, medical and psychosocial services. With its current Strategy spearheaded towards achieving a "Sudan free from Violence" and its Five-Year Plan, CVAW still needs to rejuvenate and strengthen its coordination much further, in order to align the 2017-2021 Five-Year Plan with the overall government National Quarter Century Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to build new State structures and deliver on the promise of the 2019 revolution, **women's**

### **economic empowerment is critical and should be boosted at the policy level.**

The policies of the previous regime did not consider impacts on women and hence were extremely detrimental to the plight of women. Women continue to be excluded from having influence on the political sphere, despite the major forces pushing for gender equality in Sudan are the women's movement and women organisations. Many women organizations have been formed in Sudan, which partly helped women to establish their own business. The last twenty years have experienced proliferation of such organizations at the federal and state levels. An example is MANSAM or "Women of Sudanese Civic and Political Groups", an alliance of eight political women's groups, 18 civil society organisations, two youth groups and individuals in Sudan that was very active in the Sudanese Revolution.

In 2017, the GoS prepared a draft of the National Women Empowerment Policy, aimed at empowering women and deepening their participation in economic development. The Policy was updated by the Federal Women's Directorate, the national machinery for women's advancement within the MoLSD. Women's Directorates exist in the 18 states of Sudan. The Women's Directorate, together with the Gender Units of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), foresee the figure of gender focal points at the various ministries.

The MoLSD leads the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Gender. This is an advisory committee composed of 45 ministerial representatives, women leaders and experts (divided into 12 supporting sub-committees according to Beijing Platform of Action), with main mandates to adopt policies, strategies, plans and budget allocations as required for women's advancement. Linking this Committee with the MoA and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) is crucial to empower the action of the MoLSD, allocating specific budget to the Gender Units to implement and monitor women's economic empowerment policies, especially in the agricultural sector. Most of the female entrepreneurs in Sudan are distributed in small and micro enterprises. Very few employ 10 or more workers. Major sectors are agriculture, beauty and cosmetics, handicrafts, services, manufacture. Most of them are between 35 and 45 years old. Women use their own or their relatives' savings to start-up their business (low access to traditional bank financing).

### **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

In Sudan, vocational training falls under the authority of the Supreme Council of Vocational Training and Apprenticeship (SCVTA); a tripartite institution, consisting of representatives of institutions, workers, and employers. SCVTA has a clear governance structure and mandate, established by the Ministry of Labour. The sector is governed by the Vocational Training and Apprenticeship Act of 2001, which foresees the establishment of State Councils for Vocational Training and Apprenticeship (StCVTA) in the respective federal states. These latter, however, do not yet exist in all states due to lacking capacities and resources. The SCVTA has undertaken recently initiatives to establish these councils in all states, but the process is slow.

The technical education sector, on the other hand, is managed by the National Council on Technical and Technological Education (NCTTE), and the Ministry of Education. The two sectors are thus institutionally completely separate and there is **no comprehensive strategy for TVET in Sudan**. The ILO developed the Sudan Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy in 2013, which was adopted by the Sudanese authorities. But this has been implemented only sporadically.

Currently, there are eleven vocational training centres in Khartoum, five under the direct responsibility of the SCVTA, six pertaining to the State Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, out of which four are operating and two in the process of finalisation. Two more VTCs are operated by the Ministry of Defence, and one pertaining to the Khartoum state Ministry of Social Development, another one under the Ministry of Energy. Furthermore, there are some more VTCs in place which are operated by NGOs (e.g. Don Bosco's St. Joseph's Vocational Training Centre) or by the private sector. Some thirty-eight (38) private centres have been certified by the SCVTA, who registers a continued demand for new certifications. The present action will include some of them, aiming at reinforcing the capacities for the provision of qualified

vocational education.

The training in the VTCs is largely theoretical, not tailored to market needs nor addressing new nor innovative technologies. Governmental institutions are generally poorly equipped due to the lack of funds for maintenance, repair and replacements. Teachers lack motivation and very often the technical and pedagogical skills for their job. Many students of the regular three-year courses are more interested in getting access to the universities for academic qualifications than joining the labour market after graduation.

The majority of vocational trainees learn their trade through traditional apprenticeship in workshops and small businesses of craftsmen, where they work for two to five years, often without formal contracts and below minimum wages. This kind of informal training is unregulated. In principle, procedures exist for the recognition of informal learning and some VTCs offer examination sessions, but certification standards are incoherent and the demand remains rather limited.

Access to training and employment is particularly challenging for women. According to the Labor Code of 1979, Art 19, women are not allowed to work in some of the trades as men. Prevailing gender stereotypes remain and pose challenges to the integration of women into the workforce, in particular in men dominated trades. Training programmes for women often focus on very traditional activities like food processing, tailoring or handicrafts with limited perspectives to generate reasonable income.

### **2.2.3. Justification for use of EUTF funds for this action**

Due to the non-ratification of the revised Cotonou Agreement by the Government of Sudan, the country is not eligible for programmable, bilateral 11th European Development Fund (EDF) funding. However, the country remains fragile while playing a crucial role for the stability of the Greater Horn and along the migratory routes heading to the Mediterranean shores. The European Union (EU) has therefore adopted ad hoc measures addressing the root causes of instability and displacement in the country, and these funds are channelled through the EUTF. Hence, this action also aligns with one of the key priority criteria (Essential stabilisation efforts in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan) set for the EUTF Horn of Africa window by the EUTF Strategic Board in April 2018.

This Action is part of a Strategy proposed by the European Commission to allocate the €100 million transferred from the 11th EDF reserve to the EUTF in support of the transition process in Sudan. These financial resources will serve as a bridge until the entry into force of the next Multi Annual Financial Framework (MFF) in 2021. This will help to ensure the provision of critical support to address the most pressing needs in the country and it will allow the EU to continue playing a relevant role during the Sudanese transition.

## **2.3. Lessons learnt**

Please see detailed presentation in Annex

### **Gum Arabic**

Lessons from the AFD financed project, EUR 1.4 million “Support in Structuring the Gum Arabic Sector in Sudan” (SSGASS), 2013-2021:

- Huge benefits of contract farming
- Development and dissemination of good practices increasing the gum quality and a higher premium for farmers. Buyers have also benefited from a higher quality
- Prefinancing by the buyers was a game changer for the producers, since it avoids the high cost of the Sheil system.
- The dissemination of new techniques (eg “*sonki*”) empowers women by increasing their participation in gum Arabic production and contributes to conserving environment by reducing damage to trees during the harvesting process
- Updating the value chain analysis and dissemination of results led to better market information

services for all stakeholders

- Exchange visits between Gum Arabic Producers Associations (GAPAs) and between GAPAs and export companies contributed to knowledge transmission and skills acquiring.
- Dialogue and inter-professional meetings of gum Arabic value chain built trust and social responsibility between different actors and helped strengthening and restructuring of the chain.
- Training of GAPAs and GAPAs leaders contributed to transfer knowledge and improve their skills to manage the associations.
- Women GAPAs tend to be more effective and sustainable than those of men.

### **Women's Economic Empowerment**

Lessons from the AICS Khartoum and UN Women joint project "*Enhancement of women's entrepreneurial capacity for effective engagement in fisheries and agribusiness in Red Sea State*" and AICS Khartoum three programmes in the Eastern States:

- women are economically marginalized and discriminated against from participating freely in economic activities
- economic empowerment of women does not translate automatically into gender equality and into the elimination of discrimination, when not accompanied by actions that also take into account social implications and cultural dynamics.

Recommendations of the mid-term review conducted by AICS in October 2019 on the updated National Women's Empowerment Policy are:

- Conduct quick gender assessments and analysis before planning any interventions.
- Provision of more intensive technical and specialized training programs for MoLSD staff on women's empowerment
- Highlight the women's empowerment and gender equality projects through the launching of awareness campaigns at community level, taking into account social norms within each community
- Appointment of experts and technicians to contribute to the implementation of the updated Women's Empowerment Policy and the new National Strategy on Gender and Agriculture at federal and states level, mainstreaming gender in policies and public budget
- Promotion of community participation programs to mobilise community leaders. Example of such programs may include peace building and health awareness programs at localities level.

### **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

- Vocational Training has to be embedded within the socio-economic context of policy dialogue, to help establish an active partnership between governments, employers, and workers.
- Strengthening collaborative ties and involvement of the private sector, no matter how weak it still may be, is a key success factor in increasing the absorption rate of graduates into the local economy.
- The development of a comprehensive TVET strategy and a National Qualification Framework (NQF) will need further co-ordinated long-term efforts by all parties before such outcomes can be implemented at the level of institutions offering vocational training.
- Supporting women to contribute to the social and economic development is a priority of the action. Lessons learnt show the need to specifically address cultural barriers preventing the participation of women in vocational training and employment from the very beginning of project implementation.
- Previous experience in Sudan has shown that women face severe challenges in accessing male-dominated sectors and are often marginalised to sectors such as food processing, sewing and small handicrafts and professions with little potential for growth. The action therefore seeks to push such boundaries and support entrepreneurial women to build a career or business.

## **2.4. Complementary actions and synergies**

Please see detailed presentation in Annex



## **Gum Arabic**

- Two projects are managed by the FAO and implemented by the Forests National Corporation. One is in its inception phase and funded by the Netherlands government (EUR 7 million) but has only a small component on gum Arabic and targets a limited number of GAPAs; the other is still under preparation and is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) (EUR 10 million). These “ Gum for Adaptation and Mitigation” FAO projects will work in Great Kordofan (South, West and North) and North and East Darfur with the objective of enhancing the adaptive capacity of local communities and restoring the carbon sink potential of the Gum Arabic belt - expanding Africa’s Great Green Wall and increase resilience of the livelihoods and food and water security of vulnerable people and communities in the Gum Arabic Belt. Both projects’ periods are four years, which matches the EUTF implementation period.
- Financed by Turkey in Kassala State, a project currently focuses on environmental protection and GAPAs capacity building, notably on Gum Arabic issues.
- “Support in Structuring the Gum Arabic Sector in Sudan” (SSGASS) project financed by AFD (1.4 EUR million, 2012-2021).

## **Women’s Economic Empowerment**

- the initiative “Promoting resilience to climate change of the most vulnerable populations in the state of Kassala, Sudan” funded by AICS to COOPI in Kassala, with a component of women’s economic empowerment through home gardening and tree planting;
- the initiative “TADMEEN - Social inclusion, Human Capital Development and Protection of Vulnerable Groups within Migrants, Refugees and Host Communities” funded and implemented from AICS, and working in the sectors of women’s economic empowerment and gender equality, child protection and social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Khartoum and Red Sea states;
- the initiative “RESEAST - Resilience of Agro-pastoral Populations of East Sudan” funded from AICS and implemented together with UNIDO, to increase resilience of the most vulnerable communities in Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea states, with a focus on the inclusion of women in the agribusiness sector and the empowerment of women’s associations;
- the initiative “Enhancement of women’s entrepreneurial capacity for effective engagement in fisheries and agribusiness in Red Sea State” funded from AICS and implemented by UN Women.

## **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

- “Employment Initiative Khartoum: perspectives for Refugees and Host Communities” with a budget of up to EUR 9 million. Discussions are ongoing with the BMZ for another project targeting strategic advice and structural reforms to the federal Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Supreme Council of Vocational Training and Apprenticeship
- In Khartoum, GIZ is implementing a BMZ Public Private Partnership project in cooperation with Siemens to supports the training of trainers and students for the energy sector, aiming at the qualification of technicians for the maintenance and repair of power plants.
- The EUTF also supports four vocational training centres in Khartoum State by implementing a system of competency-based training, in which students are qualified in modular courses that build upon each other. The project is part of the RDPP Sudan, is funded with € 3,000,000 for a period of three years and implemented by UNIDO.
- UNESCO implements the project “TVET System Development in Sudan” as part of the Capacity Development for Education Programme (CapED) financed by Finland, Norway, and Sweden with a total budget of USD 500,000 for 2017 - 2019. The project aims at developing an overarching TVET strategy, a National Qualification Framework (NQF), and enables five Sudanese TVET institutions to develop and manage their improvement plans.

## 2.5. Donor coordination

The Sudan Partnership Forum was launched in September 202 as a high political level Forum, chaired by the Prime Minister with the EU ambassador, the head of the World Bank and Sweden as vice chairs. It convenes all international actors in Sudan, whether bilateral donors, multilateral development banks or financing institutions, UN entities or NGOs. The Government has prioritized working groups aligned to its priorities. It is the intention of the EU to enhance presence and actions in these groups; for the purpose of this action document, the EU will focus on agriculture; women's rights and empowerment; education including technical and vocational training.

Following the military coup on 25 October 2021 it is unclear what will be the future of the Sudan Partnership Forum. However, donors ensure coordination through periodic development partners working groups meetings.

## 3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

### 3.1. Objectives and expected outputs

The **overall objective** (expected impact) of this action is to enhance economic opportunities for youth and women in Sudan.

The **specific objectives** (expected outcomes) are the following:

- i. The gum Arabic value chain in Blue Nile, Sennar, Gedaref, White Nile, East Darfur, South Darfur, North Darfur and North Kordofan States is strengthened and women in the value chain are empowered
- ii. A conducive environment for the economic empowerment of the most vulnerable women in Khartoum, Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea States is created and promoted
- iii. Employment opportunities for youth (with an emphasis on women and refugees) in Khartoum State is improved

The expected outputs are therefore:

#### **Gum Arabic**

- contract farming system introduced and capacities of producers and Gum Arabic Producers Associations' (GAPAs) strengthened; **focus on women**
- quality of gum Arabic produced enhanced and organisational and commercial capacity of stakeholders to market gum Arabic improved; **focus on women**
- sustainability improved through agroforestry, water management, reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded forests and rangelands

#### **Women's economic empowerment**

- Access of young women and men, living in vulnerable situations, to a more inclusive market system enhanced
- Institutions at Federal and State levels strengthened to develop and adopt coordination mechanisms and policies aimed at promoting Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment.
- Positive social norms and attitudes towards Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment embraced by families and communities.

#### **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

- offer of employment-oriented qualification programmes based on Labour Market Assessment for young female and male Sudanese in Khartoum State improved offer on employment-oriented services by public and private actors is improved

- conditions for refugees and host communities are improved to develop successfully their enterprises
- access to information on starting a business and employment is improved
- cultural barriers preventing or limiting the participation of women in vocational training and employment across fields, including traditionally male dominated fields, addressed and access to entrepreneurial support services improved for women entrepreneurs

An indicative logical framework reflecting objectives and results is included in Annex 1 of this Action Document.

## **3.2. Main activities**

### **3.2.1. Activities associated with each result**

#### **Gum Arabic**

*Demand side of the Gum Arabic Value Chain (GAVC):* identify and map gum Arabic users, new potential usages and prospects for market diversification at national and international levels; develop promotional material on gum Arabic, based on market surveys and interactive message formulations (SMS, radio, etc.); support international marketing trips depending on the opportunities related to market analysis (particularly to participate in trade fairs); undertake a national campaign to promote and increase Sudanese domestic gum Arabic consumption; Develop new market opportunities in innovating sectors (health, organic, etc.)

*Supply side of the GAVC:* Update and disseminate quality specifications produced in the SSGASS pilot project; reprint, disseminate and regularly update the quality manual produced in the SSGASS pilot project; identify and support follow up on quality indicators that can easily be monitored by GAPAs, and complement their monitoring by impromptu field control; undertake a social and economic analysis of producers' households and of the cost / revenue structure of GAPAs; Reinforce the GAPAs' capacity to manage the pre-financing contracts and establish clusters of GAPAs; Create specific women GAPAs to promote gender equality

*Management of the GAVC:* undertake and disseminate value chain analysis in targeted States; organise intraregional exchange trips and support inter-professional facilitating meetings between stakeholders; update the existing pedagogical movie about the role of each actor in the value chain, and expand its diffusion; training of all stakeholders on ethical leadership and social responsibility; elaborate a common strategy for the sector, considering its main challenges (quality, access to finance, protection of resources and taking into account specific challenges women encounter); establish and animate a Consultative Technical Committee composed of representatives from the sector, including women representatives, in order to develop a real dialogue within the sector; support to the Gum Arabic Board; development of a global inter-professional policy shared by all value chain actors (GAPAs, companies etc.) and the Government; update the market information system developed in the SSGASS pilot project, and expand the number of beneficiaries receiving the information; facilitate the negotiation on price and premium applied to quality gum, both between GAPAs and exporters, then between exporters and importers

*Sustainability of the GAVC:* rehabilitate and establish community gum Arabic farms/woodlots on communal village land (seed collection and treatment, nurseries establishment, seedling production and planting); and sustainable water management systems (water basins) for local communities; knowledge transmission on non-wood housings ("Nubian Vault"); support small-scale farmers oriented research on gum Arabic, development of agroforestry and sustainable soil fertility management. Rehabilitate degraded open forest and rangelands through the provision and planting of pasture seeds, and the protection of planted areas; establish a framework with pastoralist about the management of "livestock routes" and/or feeder roads, with support to activities aiming at preventing and managing conflict between farmers and herders (e.g. road markings).

#### **Women's Economic Empowerment**

*Young women and men in vulnerable situations have access to a more inclusive market system:* create new saving groups and economic cooperatives; establish a partnership with local financial institutions to create a credit line dedicated to vulnerable women, with tailor-made financial products for income-generating activities, at the individual and group levels; elaborate a package of inclusive, accessible and gender sensitive non-financial services, including financial education; capacity building of the saving groups; monitoring of the saving groups; implement a pilot test of the combination of micro insurance packages with saving and credit products to enable women in vulnerable situations to get health coverage, along with access to the financial market; facilitate access to training opportunities and skills development ensuring meaningful participation of groups at risk of vulnerability, in collaboration with other partners;

foster WEE by increasing participation of women in agribusiness market with elements of social innovation; e.g establishment of women's markets (especially in the East, women's autonomy and mobility is very limited because of restrictive socio-cultural norms and traditions. Transporting goods to markets and marketing goods is typically undertaken by men. Markets are generally not women-friendly, and market locations do not consider women's needs, roles, workloads, and distances from their homes.

The action will primarily address cultural norms that limit women's autonomy and mobility, as we do not want to create "segregation". It will also focus on supporting services such as transportation and inputs necessary for processing and storing. Moreover, the Action will support the requests raised by women's associations that are already lobbying local authorities for an allocation of land for "women's markets", to secure their own space and bring some change to the perception of their roles and responsibilities), adapted technology, smart farming; support women's entrepreneurship and business development including start-up of new businesses.

*Institutions at Federal and State levels develop and adopt coordination mechanisms and policies aimed at promoting Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment:* support Federal and state ministries with quick gender audits/analysis; implement recommendations of the gender audit such as the adoption of action plans and policies aimed at promoting WEE and social inclusion, with a specific focus on increased access of women to agricultural land; organise and conduct trainings for staff of the line ministries at Federal and State levels based on the gaps identified from the gender audit; connect the MoA and the MoF to the InterMinisterial Committee on Gender that is led by the MoLSD; strengthen the coordination between the line ministries at Federal and State levels on issues related to gender equality and women's economic empowerment; develop an accountability framework between institutions, project partners and beneficiaries on WEE; establish platforms where women engage with decision makers within the accountability framework on WEE.

*Families and communities embrace positive social norms and attitudes towards Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment:* enable a supportive environment to address gender-based violence and discriminatory practice towards women through mobilisation of family, community members and others; support and promote referral systems for GBV following the national SoPs in coordination with MoLSD and CVAW; support and promote Advocacy and Awareness Networks on Women and Girls' Rights; Develop and disseminate positive stories and imaging of women in business and economic activities through media outreach and advocacy; organise awareness and sensitisations against social norms and barriers to women's participation in agriculture and other productive sectors; empower CSOs to advocate for gender equality and women's and girls' rights, facilitate and monitor the implementation of national policies and action plans on WEE; strengthen the relationship between women's associations, community-based organisations and women's movements Direct participation in the drafting of action plans and consequently trainings on implementation, monitoring and evaluation of such plans, together with broader trainings on human and women's rights, international conventions (mainly CED AW) and Beijing Declaration. The objective is to give CSOs an institutionalised voice (inside Advocacy and Awareness networks and the accountability framework) to push civil society requests and feedbacks to the national agenda and "test" the policies in their practical application.

## **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

*Offer of employment-oriented qualification programmes for refugees and host communities improved including women and youth:* assess VTCs in Khartoum to identify the human and physical capacities, existing training programmes as well as potentials and gaps to take up additional training courses. Will include selected VTCs operated by NGOs or the private sector to get a better understanding on offers and capacities in the market. The action will assess ways of cooperation with these centres aiming at reaching out to a higher number of beneficiaries, both women and men; analyse the labour market, based on already existing data and completed by additional research. This will allow to identify the trades for which training

programmes will be developed. In addition to classical domains of income generation for women like beauty, hair dressing or food processing, the action will put a strong focus on innovative trades in the area of solar power systems, home appliance repair and IT linked activities, but also support the introduction of new technics in classical trades like construction or car mechanics; based on these assessments, procure tools and equipment to complete or replace the existing facilities; consider the rehabilitation or eventually construction of classrooms or workshops to enlarge training capacities; discuss the option to offer specific trainings/classes for women and running accompanying awareness campaigns aiming at offering socially better accepted training and employment conditions;

*The offer on employment-oriented services by public and private actors for refugees and host communities including women and youth is improved:* map existing actors in the private and public sector offering decent job placement services and identify suitable partners for cooperation. According to the results of the assessments and using the results of the labour market analysis mentioned under result 1, tailor made programmes and tools will be developed taking into account the specific needs of each target group (women, refugees, people with disabilities and young people). The services will not only comprise job placements but also job counselling to provide guidance to job seekers; re-activate existing dialogue platforms to foster exchanges between job placement services, TVET institutions, and the private sector; beyond the classical institutionalised job placement centres with staff and physical infrastructures, advanced technologies and platforms like “sudan jobs” will be used or developed to reach out to a large public.

*The conditions for youth (women and men) are improved to develop successfully their enterprises:* identify suitable Business Development Service providers in Khartoum; Address issues related to access to BDS - such as poverty, gender stereotypes or limited resources of the target groups; link up the promotion of business development services with the interventions under result 1 to ensure that technical skills are combined with managerial knowledge on how to successfully run a business.

*Access to information on starting a business and employment is improved:* verify, adapt and validate existing GIZ experience and findings with the competent authorities in Khartoum; identify and prepare most suitable tools, e.g. radio and TV programmes, flyers, leaflets etc., to disseminate the information and identify the focus areas within Khartoum; Monitor constantly the coverage of information dissemination and re-adjust the programmes if necessary.

### **3.2.2. Target groups and final beneficiaries**

Please see details in Annex.

The primary and direct beneficiaries are the rights-holders, women and youth of the communities of the targeted States and, living in the most vulnerable situations, which are identified as follows; women in situations of vulnerability (women heads of households such as widows, single mothers and divorced women ); women with disabilities; women with small-scale farms in rural and urban areas; youth at risk in rural and urban areas; IDPs and refugees (women affected by conflicts or climate change especially); male farmers in remote rural areas.

### 3.3. Risks and assumptions

Risk	Level of risk	Mitigating measures
Climate risks: - Rainfall is becoming increasingly uncertain and unreliable in the gum Arabic belt due to effect of climate change and Gum trees are getting old without replacement - Fire break at the gum tree gardens during the dry season	Medium	Restauration component rehabilitation of gum trees, protection and conservation and community involvement in the sustainable forests management Opening fire lines on time at the gum trees gardens have good effect for the mitigation measures
Nomads with their increasing numbers of livestock are putting more pressure on the grazing areas with negative impacts on the pasture land carrying capacity and trees	Medium	Restauration component rehabilitation of rangelands and pastures, conflict resolution between farmers and pastoralist to reach to mutual understanding in conserving the resources with agreements signed and committed with the two parties for collaborative management of the NRs
Pests and insects (desert locusts)	Medium	Integrated pests management to prevent spread of desert locust
Communities may be reluctant to accept the changes proposed by the programme, in particular regarding social norms and cultural behaviours, including in respect to gender, and the project duration might not allow to achieve sustainable results.	Medium	AICS will ensure to adopt a participatory approach throughout the entire intervention, both at community and institutional levels, from planning to execution Gender analysis will be elaborated to ensure that the project is adapted to the specific needs of each target group. The project will respect the “Do not harm” principle and the “No-one left behind” principle.
The socio-economic environment further deteriorates, and the commitments of public institution might shift to other incumbent priorities.	High	The project brings together the FMoLSD, the FMoA and the FMoF, the small industry and trade unions and the CSOs with the aim of improving policies to enable an environment that promotes WEE and GE. In addition, the project enhances the resilience of the local small- scale economy to conflict over scarce resources or climate shocks. The project also aims at creating a culture of awareness and accountability that will further boost WEE initiatives.
Conflicts and insecurity caused by political and social unrest impact on the	High	AICS' risk management at national and state level in place; constant

Risk	Level of risk	Mitigating measures
achievement of project results		communication and information exchange with UN organisations, embassies and international/national experts.
No civilian government will be reinstalled	High	Orienting implementation modalities to work through civil society organisations
Lack of government support and strained resources for the provision of teachers, administrative and managerial staff and running costs of TVET centres	Medium / High	GIZ will liaise with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development to support easing the generation of revenues by the TVET centres to reduce the dependency from public funding Capacity building of school directors aims at an improved management and accountability to cover the costs of additional training programmes offered.
The enabling business environment further deteriorates due to the volatile political and economic situation, further exacerbated by the Corona Pandemie in Sudan.	High	The project brings together the Ministry of Labour and Social Development, the business associations and the Commissioner for Refugees with the aim of improving policies and information systems shaping the business environment. Also, the project enhances the resilience of the local small-scale economy to conflict over scarce resources or market opportunities, (e.g. competition between host communities and refugees), by creating alternative income generating activities in the small industries and hand crafts sectors.

The **assumptions** for the success of the project and its implementation include:

- Economic stability is maintained, guaranteeing a conducive environment for economic development
- Political crisis following the military coup of 25/10/2021 unfolds in such a way that engagement and work in the country for international partners is preserved
- The political relations between the EU and Sudan will not deteriorate affecting the relations with Sudanese authorities
- The relevant States in Sudan remain accessible for all project staff throughout the project implementation period.

### 3.4. Mainstreaming

**Gender equality** is a serious challenge for project interventions as the role of women in Sudan is still strongly determined by traditional social norms and taboos. Gender equality considerations will be built into the detailed project design and will be mainstreamed in all the activities planned during the Inception Phase of all components of the project. Hence, a gender perspective will be integrated into every phase of the action: design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation - with a view to promoting equal rights and opportunities for women and men. From an operational point of view, the differing needs and abilities of the most vulnerable women, men, girls and boys will be identified and assistance targeted accordingly.



The action will ensure equal opportunities and access to services, gender balanced human resource management, and gender sensitive monitoring and evaluation system including gender-disaggregated data collection and gender performance indicators.

**Good governance** principles have been followed in the design phase of the programme by organising joint planning sessions. Results and activities are designed to be in accordance with relevant GoS policies at national and state level. In the implementation phase, good governance will be addressed by improving the organisational and managerial structures of selected institutions, as well as private sector organisations where feasible. Participatory planning processes and regular feedback and accountability mechanisms will increase transparency of decision making and enhance accountability of leaders or managers.

**Conflict prevention:** project interventions will take account of the interactions (whether intended or not) between the project in the conflict dynamics. The project is embedded in the understanding that employment generation can ease or exacerbate conflict potential, depending on how it is implemented. Design, implementation and monitoring of the project all depart from the understanding that access to resources, training, jobs and markets in a contested environment will inevitably affect the existing power structures. Therefore, the project will not only monitor results, but also pay close attention to processes, perceptions and communication, and ensure that interventions are perceived as neutral, transparent, and inclusive. Project staff is or will be trained in the do-no-harm approach and sensitised to understand situations which might lead to conflicts. Participatory methods will be employed to address conflictual issues in a timely manner and to identify solutions which can satisfy all parties involved.

**Climate change** is a factor that might exacerbate tensions in the region, increasing pressure on the rural and urban populations and urban infrastructure and the economy as a whole. The feasibility of installing renewable energy infrastructure in all components of the project will be assessed. Moreover, through the rehabilitation of degraded open forests and rangeland, expanding the area of application for agro-ecological practices, such as agroforestry and soil fertility management, the project will contribute to increase soils ability to capture Carbon.

**Human rights:** in the design and implementation of the project, a rights-based approach to development is applied. The project will strengthen the capacities of the rights- holders specially women, youth and refugees in Sudan as well as the duty-bearers/public institutions. It will also ensure their meaningful participation at all stages. In addition, the action supports the fulfilment of the rights to decent work, an adequate standard of living, non-discrimination, freedom from child labour, and the rights of people with disabilities (education, accessibility, participation, work and employment, adequate standard of living).

### **3.5. Stakeholder analysis**

See details in Annex

#### ***General / all***

All components of the Action will include an inception phase aimed at build consensus and support from authorities and sector partners. At the end of the Inception Phased, detailed stakeholder analyses and Logical Frameworks will be agreed with the EU.

## **4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

### **4.1. Financing agreement, if relevant**

Not applicable

### **4.2. Indicative operational implementation period**

The implementation period will begin from the date of signature by the last party of the first contract implementing this Action, or from the earliest starting date of implementation period at contract level in case of retroactive financing, whichever occurs first, and will last until the 31/12/2025.

This operational implementation period will be followed by a liquidation period of 18 months which will end on the 30/06/2027.

### **4.3. Implementation modalities**

The Action activities will be implemented with the following modalities:

#### **Gum Arabic**

The envisaged implementation modality is indirect management with Agence française de développement. The Agence française de développement will subgrant to Civil Society Organisations (e. g. development NGOs specialized in value chains/rural development, professional or inter-professional associations, labor unions) or its prior implementation partner: the Forest National Corporation (FNC)<sup>2</sup>. The Agence Française de Développement has demonstrated a strong expertise in similar programmes. Currently the Forest National Corporation is implementing the pilot programme on Gum Arabic financed by AFD. The objective was to support the Gum Arabic Value Chain, and results achieved are very satisfactory. AFD is currently the only Financing Institution present in Sudan with the capacity to manage such a programme. See also the “donor coordination” section. The other on-going projects in the GA sector are based on the previous experiences (pilot projects) of AFD.

#### **Women’s Economic Empowerment**

The envisaged implementation modality is indirect management with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation. Most of the activities will be implemented by the agency, but part of the activities will be implemented by UN Women as co-delegatee. Sudan is a priority country for Italy, which works for combating poverty, improving health services and social conditions and reaching gender equality. Among crosscutting sectors, the Agency works towards social inclusion particularly addressing gender equality, disability rights, women’s empowerment, and migration related issues. AICS has an historical presence in the Eastern regions of Sudan, but it works also in Khartoum, El Gezira, Blue Nile and Darfur states. Out of the total budget of AICS in Sudan, 20% is allocated to cover projects for social inclusion, gender equality and poverty alleviation. Currently there are 7 ongoing bilateral and multilateral funded initiatives implemented in partnership with UNICEF, UNESCO and UNWOMEN, to promote gender equality, social inclusion and protection of children and persons with disabilities. AICS is currently managing three EU-funded projects in Eastern Sudan and Darfur to strengthen resilience for refugees, IDPs and host communities and improve access to the health system.

#### **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

The envisaged implementation modality is indirect management with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The German dual system of vocational training and the integrated employment approach are implanted by GIZ worldwide. In the Sudan, there is a particular history of successfully introducing this approach; the first vocational training centres in the country offering employment-oriented training were established by Germany. Currently, GIZ supports TVET and private sector development in seven (7) states of Sudan on behalf of EU and BMZ.

Each component of the Action will establish a Project Advisory Committee with relevant stakeholder

<sup>2</sup> Implementation modality might change depending on political developments in Sudan

representatives. The European Union will have the status of Observer in the Project Advisory Committee meetings. A mechanism to ensure co-ordination and cross fertilisation between components will be elaborated during the Inception Phase.

#### 4.5 Indicative budget

Component	EU contribution (in EUR)
<p><b>Objective 1:</b> Strengthening the Gum Arabic value chain in Blue Nile, Sennar, Gedaref, White Nile, East Darfur, South Darfur, North Darfur and North Kordofan States</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Contribution Agreement (indirect management) with Agence française de développement</p>	19 800 000
<p><b>Objective 2:</b> Creating a conducive environment for the economic empowerment of the women living in vulnerable situations in Khartoum, Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea States</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Contribution Agreement (indirect management) with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation</p>	12 600 000
<p><b>Objective 3:</b> Improve employment conditions for the youth (with an emphasis on women and refugees) in Khartoum State</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Contribution Agreement (indirect management) with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**</p>	7 000 000
<b>Communication and visibility</b>	300 000
<b>Monitoring, evaluation and audit</b>	300 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>40 000 000</b>

\*\* : a contribution of EUR 2 million from BMZ to this component will be requested

The additional contribution from the EUTF of EUR 10,000,000 to this Action is dependent upon the approval of the de-commitment of EUR 26 million from the Action Document “T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-60 - Ethiopia Job Compact Sector Reform and Performance Contract” by the Operational Committee of the Trust Fund and the conclusion of the required budgetary procedures to allocate EUR 10,000,000 within this Action.

#### 4.6 Monitoring and reporting

The implementing partners must establish permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and prepare regular progress reports and final reports.

In the initial phase, the indicative logical framework agreed in contract and/or the agreement signed with the implementing partner must be complemented with baselines, milestones and targets for each indicator. Progress reports provided by the implementing partner should contain the most recent version of the logical framework agreed by the parties and showing the current values for each indicator. The final report should complete the logical framework with initial and final values for each indicator. The final report

will assess gender equality results and implementation of rights-based approach working method principles (Participation, Non-discrimination, Accountability and Transparency) in terms of implementation of the project and project outcomes. Baseline indicators will be established before and during the inception phase for all programme's components and will include disaggregated indicators relating to sex, age group and disability. External monitoring will be carried out by independent consultants in accordance with EU rules and procedures on specifically established terms of reference.

The final report, financial and descriptive, will cover the entire period of the implementation of the action.

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

The implementing partner(s) will report on a number of common EUTF indicators of the selected results for this Action<sup>3</sup>

Project Implementing Partners will be required to provide regular data, including the evolution of the actual values of the indicators (at least every six months) to the contracting authority, in a format which is to be indicated during the contract negotiation phase. The evolution of the indicators will be accessible to the public through the EUTF website (<https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/>) and the Akvo RSR platform (<https://eutf.akvoapp.org/en/projects/>).

#### **4.7 Evaluation and audit**

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 EUR. 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.

#### **4.8 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, which will be developed early in the implementation. The measures are implemented by the Commission, the partner country, the contractors, the beneficiaries and/or the entities responsible in terms of legal obligations regarding communication and visibility. Appropriate contractual obligations will be included in the financing agreement, purchase and grant agreements and delegation as well as contribution agreements.

Communication and visibility requirements for the European Union are used to establish the communication and visibility plan for the action and the relevant contractual obligations.

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<sup>3</sup> EN : [https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/default/files/revised\\_list\\_of\\_indicators\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/default/files/revised_list_of_indicators_en_0.pdf)

FR : [https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/default/files/revised\\_list\\_of\\_indicators\\_fr.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/default/files/revised_list_of_indicators_fr.pdf)

## List of acronyms

AICS	Agenzia Italiana per la Cooperazione allo Sviluppo
BMM	Better Migration Management
BMZ	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit and Entwicklung / German Ministry for Economic Cooperation Development and
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CVAW	Unit for Combating Violence against Women and Children
EDF	European Development Fund
EEDK	Employment Entrepreneurship Development for migrant youth refugees and in Khartoum State
EU	European Union
EUTF	European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FoS	Friends of Sudan
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HIPC	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HQ	Head Quarter
HR	Human Resources
IcSP	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
IDPs	Internally Displaced Person
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
iNGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFF	Multi Annual Financial Framework
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoLSD	Ministry of Labour and Social Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OPD	Organisations of Persons with Disabilities
PISCCA	Projet Innovant des Sociétés Civiles et Coalitions d'Acteurs
PMU	Project Management Unit

QUBI	Quasi-Universal Basic Income
RDPP	Regional Development and Protection Programme
SCR	Situation-Complication-Resolution
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIMP	Social Impact Mitigation Program
SIPF	Sudan International Partners Forum
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UN	United Nations
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WEE	Women's Economic Empowerment

## Annex I: Indicative Logical Framework Matrix

*Additional note:* The term "results" refers to the outputs, outcome(s) and impact of the Action (OECD DAC definition).

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)</b>	<b>Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)</b>	<b>Sources and means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Impact (Overall objective)</b>	To enhance economic opportunities for youth and women.	<p>1. Employment to population ratio (EPR) gender disaggregated, age group and disability (GAP 14.4, CRPD art. 27e and SDG 8.5)</p> <p>2. (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, (gender disaggregated); and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure (SDG 5.a.1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS)</li> <li>• Baseline survey and gender analysis/audits</li> <li>• NGOs/INGOs reports</li> <li>• Federal MoLSD, MoA, MoF reports</li> <li>• Reports from UN agencies</li> </ul>	
<b>Outcomes (Specific Objectives)</b>	<p><b>SO 1:</b> strengthening the gum Arabic value chain in Blue Nile, Sennar, Gedaref, White Nile, East Darfur, South Darfur, North Darfur and North Kordofan States;</p> <p><b>SO 2:</b> creating a conducive environment for the economic empowerment of the most vulnerable women in Khartoum, Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea States;</p> <p><b>SO 3:</b> improve employment conditions for the youth (with an emphasis on women) in</p>	<p><b>SO 1:</b> Overall revenues of GA producers in the targeted areas increase during the project, disaggregated by sex and age categories; Exports of gum Arabic</p> <p><b>SO 2:</b> % of the women directly benefitting from the project activities that are economically empowered;</p> <p><b>SO3:</b> Number of young people provided with employable skills, disaggregated by gender and status (host communities, refugees);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline survey and gender analysis/audits</li> <li>• Federal MoL SD, MoA, MoF reports</li> <li>• UN Women reports</li> <li>• NGOs/CSOs Reports</li> <li>• Program M&amp;E reports</li> <li>• Program Mid-term Report</li> <li>• Program Final Report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peace prevails and security is maintained</li> <li>• National financial and economic situation is stable</li> </ul>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Outputs Gum Arabica</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- contract farming system in the target States of the project implemented; focus on women's access to credit</li> <li>- organisational and technical capacities, including on gender equal practices, of producers and Gum Arabic Producers Associations' (GAPAs) strengthened, and supporting and creation of women's GAPAs to promote gender equality</li> <li>- quality of gum Arabic produced enhanced through, training, applied research and update of quality manuals; focus on women's role, particularly important in all the steps</li> <li>- organisational and commercial capacity of stakeholders to market gum Arabic improved; focus on women who have less access to market opportunities than men</li> <li>- sustainability of the gum Arabic value chain improved through reforestation, agroforestry, and rehabilitation of degraded forests and rangelands, soil fertility management as well as water management</li> <li>- social sustainability of the gum Arabic value chain improved through a i) better role for woman ii) inclusion of young people including at the GAPAs strategic functions, iii) agreements for management of the feeder roads</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of contract farmers at project end (sex/age disaggregated)</li> <li>- Number of jobs created in the GA value chain (sex/age disaggregated)</li> <li>- At least 85% of produced GA respects the quality standards in targeted states</li> <li>- At least 20 GAPAs have pre-financing contracts by the end of the project quality of gum Arabic produced enhanced through, training, applied research and update of quality manuals; focus on women's role, particularly important in all the steps</li> <li>- Orders from new clients for GA represent at least 10% of the baseline GA orders in targeted States</li> <li>- Number of people benefited from skills development, disaggregated by sex and age category</li> <li>- Number of people benefited from knowledge sharing on non-wood housing construction by sex and age category</li> <li>- Number of field studies, surveys and other research conducted</li> <li>- A framework of on-going concertation is created in each of the targeted states, with at least 2 actors representing each level of the value chain</li> <li>- Number of local development plan directly supported</li> <li>- Number of hectares sustainably restored via sustainable land and water management practices</li> <li>- Number of trees planted</li> <li>- Number of water basins built</li> <li>- nb of multi-stakeholders groups and learning mechanisms formed and regularly gathering</li> <li>- Number of institutions and non-state actors benefiting from capacity building on conflict prevention</li> </ul>	<p>Project periodic reports, Activity reports, methods used are field visits of animators, M&amp;E specialist visits, project management supervision visits, the visits to the auction market, 2.2. Management tools used to follow up the contract farming process, survival surveys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-No major political shocks</li> <li>-No big shock on the GA international market</li> <li>-No major natural disaster occurs during the project</li> <li>-No major alternative source of revenues in Gum Belt (eg: mines) that would imply a deforestation and/or less producers interested</li> <li>-No clash between the actors</li> </ul>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Women's Economic Empowerment</b></p>	<p>- Access of young women and men in vulnerable situations to a more inclusive market system enhanced</p> <p>- Institutions at Federal and State levels strengthen to develop and adopt coordination mechanisms and policies aimed at promoting Gender Equality and Women Economic Empowerment.</p> <p>- Families and communities have embraced positive social norms and attitudes towards Women Economic Empowerment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- # of tailor-made financial products, disaggregated by target group</li> <li>- # of saving groups and cooperatives established/strengthened</li> <li>- % of women with access to financial services and market, by age group and disability</li> <li>- # of gender audits</li> <li>- # of gender sensitive legislative and public finance reforms, policies and action plans that include recommendations from gender audits</li> <li>- # Systems adopted to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5.c.1) with allocations disaggregated by target population</li> <li>- # of civil servants trained on gender responsive governance, gender budgeting and gender mainstreaming by sex, age group and disability</li> <li>- # gender units/gender coordination mechanisms created and functioning</li> <li>- # of public institutions that adopt the accountability frameworks on WEE# and type of services provided to women survivors of GBV during the project</li> <li>- # of women that experienced GBV or other forms of discrimination and reported to services provided during the project, by age group and disability</li> <li>- # of posts, articles and press releases disseminating positive stories of WEE through media channels</li> <li>- # of awareness campaigns on women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Federal and State MoLSD, MoA, MoF reports</li> <li>- Gender Analysis for private sector and markets</li> <li>- Gender Analysis of the access to basic services (Education, Health and Social Protection sectors)</li> <li>- UNWomen reports</li> <li>- Gender audits</li> <li>- Vocational training reports and registers</li> <li>- CSOs and women's associations feedbacks (FGDs)</li> <li>- Program M&amp;E reports</li> <li>- Program Mid-term report</li> <li>- Program Final Report</li> <li>- Financial Report - % Reasonable accommodation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Federal MoLSD, MoA, MoF support</li> <li>- State authorities support</li> <li>- Communities engage in the process and support</li> <li>- Peace prevails and security is maintained</li> <li>- National financial and economic situation is stable</li> </ul>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TVET</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- offer of employment-oriented qualification programmes for young Sudanese in Khartoum State improved</li> <li>- offer on employment-oriented services by public and private actors is improved</li> <li>- conditions for refugees and host communities are improved to develop successfully their enterprises</li> <li>- access to information on starting a business and employment is improved</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- X of the existing VTCs offer innovative and demand-driven training courses</li> <li>- number of members of host communities and refugees living in Khartoum have successfully completed labour market-oriented training measures supported by the project, disaggregated by sex.</li> <li>- X public-private BDS providers offer labor market oriented services aiming at the improvement of employability for refugees and host communities</li> <li>- One of the local service providers has established a pool of x trainers for relevant business services for MSMEs</li> <li>- # of potential start-ups have successfully concluded innovative promotion programmes to start a business and No of how many of these are women owned</li> <li>- X start-ups or existing MSMEs have made use of financial and non-financial service offers (50% refugees jointly with host community members; 50% women)</li> <li>- # of refugees and members of host communities confirm that they have more and better information on starting a business and employment, disaggregated by sex</li> <li>- # of employment obtained/ # of start-ups registered, disaggregated by sex</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentation of curricula</li> <li>- Reports and statistics of job centres</li> <li>- Survey among those participating in job orientation and career counselling</li> <li>- Reports and statistics of BDS providers</li> <li>- Survey of BDS providers</li> <li>- Survey among those participating in trainings in business development and entrepreneurship development.</li> <li>- Survey at mid-term and of project</li> <li>- Illustrated with 10 examples</li> </ul>	
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## Annex III: Additional background information

### 2.2.2. Sector context: policies and challenges

#### Gum Arabic

**The global gum Arabic market size was valued at USD 373 million in 2018 and is estimated to expand over the next years** with the increasing demand for “natural” products. Gum Arabic is a natural emulsifier primarily used as a filling and thickening agent in various industries such as food and beverage (e.g. cola soft drinks and chewing gums), cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and paints. Top importers are France (USD 65.4 million), the United States (USD 50.6 million), India (USD 29.6 million), Germany (USD 20.6 million) and the United Kingdom (USD 18.2 million). **Sudan is the world’s largest producer and exporter of raw gum Arabic followed by Chad and Nigeria.** Gum Arabic is produced in the Sudano-Sahelian zone of Africa, in a belt that extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea coast. In Sudan, the annual production varied a lot according to climate conditions and conflicts, but it is now estimated to be 88,000 tons, corresponding to 80% of the global market. Following by Chad and Nigeria (on average between 2014 and 2016, Sudan export 2/3 of the world exports, i.e. approximatively 67,000 tons).

**Gum Arabic is an important contributor to the Sudanese economy, to the poor’s livelihoods and to economic opportunities for vulnerable populations.** Gum Arabic provides an average of 12% of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country. It is a labour-intensive sector, and one million poor households (6 million people, 15% of the population of Sudan) currently depend on revenue from gum Arabic production (recent literature has shown that it accounts for about 15.3% of the household income and 50% of their total cash income). Gum Arabic also provides economic opportunities that can lift women out of poverty, and reinforce their role and give them more bargaining power in their households and communities because they have a significant role in the gum Arabic value chain, currently mostly in quality grading.

**Gum Arabic value chain also contributes to environmental integrity and supports biodiversity** management as well as ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation. Gum is a natural exudates obtained from *Acacia Senegal* and *Acacia seyal*. In Sudan, gum Arabic is traditionally produced in sustainably-managed agroforestry systems. The gum belt (520,000 square kilometres) spans over eleven states.

**However, there are a lot of economic opportunities in the gum Arabic sector that are not seized** as estimates indicate that only 20% of potential is exploited in Sudan. Gum Arabic represents opportunities for vulnerable people such as women. Gum Arabic benefits from a deep integration of woman and youth. To name but two examples: there is a lack of gum Arabic indigenous knowledge among the young labour force as elders above 60 years old are now in charge of tapping and collection process; women producers association get better results than men ones (see “Lessons Learnt” section). Renewing acacia plantations is also a means of mitigating climate change. However, gum Arabic has been in competition with other uses of acacia over the last decades (especially through the non- sustainable production of charcoal).

**Fostering production and producers’ revenues from gum Arabic started in 2009 with a major market reform.** Indeed, the most important barrier to production was low producer incentives due to Sudan’s domestic pricing policy and monopoly marketing system, through the government owned gum Arabic Company. An estimated 18 different taxes and fees were levied on gum Arabic at national, state and locality levels. Significant reform took place in the sector as a result of a Presidential Directive issued in June 2009. The directive abolished most taxes and fees that related to gum Arabic production and marketing, eliminated the Gum Arabic Company monopoly on trading and export of raw gum, and abolished the floor price policy. This major market reform has been very effective. The share of the price received by producers changed, according to some estimates from 15% to 60% of the free-on-board (fob) price. National statistics show that total gum production has rebounded to previous levels (around 75,000 tons compared to 25,000 between the beginning of the century and 2010).

**But many challenges remain and much remains to be done.** First and foremost, producers lack access to credit. The traditional “sheil” system at the village level gives them access to inputs in kinds but it binds them to reimburse with gum valued at a fixed price which is disconnected from the international price and much lower than this. Secondly, producers lack access to market and to market information. Women are particularly

affected by these barriers. Thirdly, quality of the gum (and thus price) can be improved with appropriate training, particularly for the youth. Sustainable gum Arabic production can be further encouraged through tapping at the optimum time, scheduling reforestation programmes, facilitating access to water and revising gum Arabic pricing policies and allotting sufficient fund encourage the gum Arabic producers. It is also possible to encourage other extensive benefits derived from forests including grazing, hunting, shade, forest foods in the form of tree leaves, wild fruits, nuts, tubers and herbs, tree bark for medicinal purposes.

**The Forests National Corporation (FNC)** currently implements the pilot programme on Gum Arabic financed by AFD and depends on the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The FNC is an important actor in this sector, supporting production and producers' organisations. It is also expected to coordinate with the Gum Arabic Board (GAB), under the umbrella of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The GAB is more outward oriented, and responsible for the promotion and commercialisation of the gum.

### **Women's Economic Empowerment**

In Sudan, social norms, traditional practices, legislation and customary laws have shaped the Sudanese women's role and status. More significant in rural than urban areas, **gender discrimination in Sudan is further aggravated by extreme poverty**. Women's integration in the productive sector is among the lowest in Eastern Africa. Female labour force participation stands at 31.3%. In the formal non-agricultural sector, the percentage drops to 17%, demonstrating a female over-representation in agriculture and the informal economy. Notably, female labour force participation in agricultural rural areas is 80%; most women work as labourers on the farms of other farmers, rent agricultural lands to perform their own agricultural activities or work as unpaid family workers on their families' farms. Women owning farming lands predominantly own medium and small lands with less productivity.

A study conducted by AICS (Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development) and Ahfad University for Women in June 2019 investigated the role of female farmers in urban agriculture in Khartoum. The study highlighted the inaccessibility to loans and land ownership together with poor accessibility to extension services. In fact, the financial sector in Sudan is dominated by commercial banking, highly concentrated in big cities and with low penetration rate in rural areas. The total number of the branches of banks was 732 in 2018, mainly concentrated in Khartoum State and other major cities (CARE, October 2019). Despite those who benefited from microfinance up to 2018 are about a million, of which 50% are women (CARE, October 2019), since it is estimated that 9.3 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2020 (OCHA, January 2020), the uncovered market is huge. In particular, the number of beneficiaries of the microfinance services in rural areas, especially women in Eastern Sudan and communities in conflicts affected zones, remains insignificant.

In addition to extreme poverty and financial exclusion, **Gender Based Violence (GBV) remains one of the most prevalent and persistent issues faced by women and girls** in Sudan. The Italian Cooperation conducted a research in the Red Sea State in November 2019 regarding the integration of GBV prevention and response into WEE activities. The results have clearly documented extensive, under-reported abuse affecting women's lives: almost the totality of women interviewed (93%) have experienced psychological violence by the partner during lifetime; 72% have experienced physical and sexual violence by the partner; and 88% have undergone FGM. UNFPA recently estimated (February 2020) that a total number of 45,408 cases of sexual violence in Sudan will seek care during 2020.

Despite numerous legal measures taken to promote women's rights, such as the National Strategy to Eradicate FGM/C in 2008, women's social and economic rights remain unattained, mainly due to cultural barriers and negative social norms. To ensure improved socio-economic conditions, measures to guarantee a safe environment free of violence should be in place. In February 2020, for the first time a Sudanese government endorsed standard operating procedures on GBV prevention and response, developed together the Unit for Combating Violence against Women and Children (CVAW) and under direct supervision of the Federal Minister of Labour and Social Development (MoLSD). CVAW played a pivotal role in putting in place strategies, policies and plans that resulted in amending laws and practices that were considered discriminatory in nature, complicating women and girls' access to justice, medical and psychosocial services. With its current Strategy spearheaded towards achieving a "Sudan free from Violence" and its Five-Year Plan, CVAW still needs to rejuvenate and strengthen its coordination much further, in order to align the 2017-2021

Five-Year Plan with the overall government National Quarter Century Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In order to build new State structures and deliver on the promise of the 2019 revolution, **women's economic empowerment is critical and should be boosted at the policy level**. The policies of the previous regime did not consider impacts on women and hence were extremely detrimental to the plight of women. In 2017, the GoS prepared a draft of the National Women Empowerment Policy, aimed at empowering women and deepening their participation in economic development. The Policy was updated by the Federal Women's Directorate, the national machinery for women's advancement within the MoLSD. Women's Directorates exist in the 18 states of Sudan. The Women's Directorate, together with the Gender Units of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), foresee the figure of gender focal points at the various ministries; these gender focal points should incorporate a gender perspective in the strategies and policies and sectorial plans and acted as catalysts for change, but their role is not clear or not recognised, and therefore absent or inefficient in most of the states. It is essential to capitalise on the already existing Gender Units and strengthen effective coordination channels between states and federal ministries, to develop unified strategies and improve the quality of services provided.

Moreover, the MoLSD leads the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Gender. This is an advisory committee composed of 45 ministerial representatives, women leaders and experts (divided into 12 supporting sub-committees according to Beijing Platform of Action), with main mandates to adopt policies, strategies, plans and budget allocations as required for women's advancement. This National Committee has a mandate to mobilise national resources to support women's empowerment, provide solutions and recommendations to overcome challenges, and generally work towards accelerating the implementation of the updated National Women Empowerment Policy. Linking this Committee with the MoA and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) is crucial to empower the action of the MoLSD, allocating specific budget to the Gender Units to implement and monitor women's economic empowerment policies, especially in the agricultural sector.

### **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

In Sudan, vocational training falls under the authority of the Supreme Council of Vocational Training and Apprenticeship (SCVTA); a tripartite institution, consisting of representatives of institutions, workers, and employers. SCVTA has a clear governance structure and mandate, established by the Ministry of Labour. The sector is governed by the Vocational Training and Apprenticeship Act of 2001, which foresees the establishment of State Councils for Vocational Training and Apprenticeship (StCVTA) in the respective federal states. These latter, however, do not yet exist in all states due to lacking capacities and resources. The SCVTA has undertaken recently initiatives to establish these councils in all states, but the process is slow.

The technical education sector, on the other hand, is managed by the National Council on Technical and Technological Education (NCTTE), and the Ministry of Education. The two sectors are thus institutionally completely separate and there is **no comprehensive strategy for TVET in Sudan**. The ILO developed the Sudan Technical and Vocational Education and Training Policy in 2013, which was adopted by the Sudanese authorities. But this has been implemented only sporadically.

Currently, there are eleven vocational training centres in Khartoum, five under the direct responsibility of the SCVTA, six pertaining to the State Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, out of which four are operating and two in the process of finalisation. Two more VTCs are operated by the Ministry of Defence, and one pertaining to the Khartoum state Ministry of Social Development, another one under the Ministry of Energy. Furthermore, there are some more VTCs in place which are operated by NGOs (e.g. Don Bosco's St. Joseph's Vocational Training Centre) or by the private sector. Some thirty-eight (38) private centres have been certified by the SCVTA, who registers a continued demand for new certifications. The present action will include some of them, aiming at reinforcing the capacities for the provision of qualified vocational education.

The five VTCs operated under the SCVTA employ a total of 109 teachers, ranging from 13 in Khartoum III to 27 in the Friendship Centre in Omdurman. The capacities for regular courses vary from 250 to 500 students, those for short courses from 120 to 500. Two VTCs offer women development activities but without further specifications. The four VTCs operated by the Khartoum State are financially and administratively under the Supreme Council for Human Development but technically under the SCVTA. They have a capacity of 800

students each. No differentiation is made for regular or short courses. The total of 32 teachers, ranging from 5 to 11 per centre, indicates a higher number of students per class than in the VTCs of the SCVTA. The number of trades offered per centre is lower than in the SCVTA VTCs and indicates a certain level of specialisation in the course programmes. The VTCs under the Khartoum State implement the Competency Based Training Programme supported by UNIDO. A Sudanese - Turkish ToT centre is under the responsibility of the Khartoum State. It has a capacity to train up to 500 teachers per year.

The training in the VTCs is largely theoretical, not tailored to market needs nor addressing new nor innovative technologies. Governmental institutions are generally poorly equipped due to the lack of funds for maintenance, repair and replacements. Teachers lack motivation and very often the technical and pedagogical skills for their job. Many students of the regular three-year courses are more interested in getting access to the universities for academic qualifications than joining the labour market after graduation.

The majority of vocational trainees learn their trade through traditional apprenticeship in workshops and small businesses of craftsmen, where they work for two to five years, often without formal contracts and below minimum wages. This kind of informal training is unregulated. In principle, procedures exist for the recognition of informal learning and some VTCs offer examination sessions, but certification standards are incoherent and the demand remains rather limited.

Access to training and employment is particularly challenging for women. Prevailing gender stereotypes remain and pose challenges to the integration of women into the workforce, in particular in men dominated trades. Training programmes for women often focus on very traditional activities like food processing, tailoring or handicrafts with limited perspectives to generate reasonable income.

By law, all workshops and small businesses are members of the local small industry and crafts union. These unions have been dissolved recently considering their politically tainted leadership. They were, in all events, not very active in terms of service provision to their members resulting in the lack of incentives to pay any membership fee. Currently, new business associations are in the process of forming under new leaderships.

#### **4.4. Lessons learnt**

##### **Gum Arabic**

Lessons learnt from the “Gum Arabic Revitalisation Project”, USD 10 million, financed by IFAD and the World Bank from 2009 to 2014:

- Challenges of establishing Gum Arabic Producers’ Organizations (GAPAs) led by women
- Challenges regarding institutional and policy reform
- Challenges of maintaining market information system and providing required information to GAPAs and traders

Lessons from the AFD financed project, EUR 1.4 million “Support in Structuring the Gum Arabic Sector in Sudan” (SSGASS), 2013-2021:

- Huge benefits of contract farming. After the first season of contract farming, farmers under contract farming had increased their gum tapping by up to double thanks to the pre-financing and appropriate price incentives (they get a fairer share of the international price, and are rewarded for quality - mainly for the drying process). For October 2021’s harvest season, the producers’ premium has been increased from 10% to 20%, which contributed to reducing the socio-economic inequalities
- Development and dissemination of good practices increasing the gum quality and a higher premium for farmers. Buyers have also benefited from a higher quality.
- The dissemination of new techniques (e.g., sonki) yielded multiple benefits. It allowed women to participate more in gum arabic production, increasing their income and impacting gender equality; it helped protect the environment by reducing damage to trees during the harvesting process; and it increased individual productivity and income of producers by saving time.
- Updating the value chain analysis and disseminating results led to better market information services for all stakeholders. A better market information system (SMS to GAPAs with updated price information, market trends etc.) helped farmers to know the price on time and increase their bargaining power to negotiate with buyers
- Prefinancing by the buyers was a game changer for the producers, since it avoids the high cost of the

- Sheil system and for buyers who get a better quality gum.
- Exchange visits between GAPAs and between GAPAs and export companies contributed to knowledge transmission and skills acquiring.
- Dialogue and inter-professional meetings of gum Arabic value chain built trust and social responsibility between different actors and helped strengthening and restructuring of the chain.
- Training of GAPAs and GAPAs leaders contributed to transfer knowledge and improve their skills to manage the associations.
- Women GAPAs tend to be more effective and sustainable than those of men. The so-called mixed GAPAs tend to be dominated by men who take decisions and who benefit most. Women often have their own gum gardens and they have a tight social organisation but may not move as freely as men to distant markets. They may have access to market information but less easily to contract farming.

### **Women's Economic Empowerment**

Lessons from the AICS Khartoum and UN Women joint project "*Enhancement of women's entrepreneurial capacity for effective engagement in fisheries and agribusiness in Red Sea State*",

- women are economically marginalised and discriminated against from participating freely in economic activities. Therefore, a successful policy or support program that aims to address the gender gap in entrepreneurship should be based on a multi-level framework that pays due regard to the extra-economic, normative context of entrepreneurship, and considers the work-family interface between men and women.

Lessons from the AICS Khartoum three programmes in the Eastern States with integrated activities of economic empowerment and social inclusion:

- economic empowerment of women does not translate automatically into gender equality and into the elimination of discrimination, when not accompanied by actions that also take into account social implications and cultural dynamics.

Recommendations of the mid-term review conducted by AICS in October 2019 on the updated National Women's Empowerment Policy are:

- Conduct quick gender assessments and analysis before planning any interventions. This involves disseminating policies, guidelines and tools on gender equality and women's empowerment and making them familiar to all departments and implementing units, including at decentralized level
- Provision of more intensive technical and specialized training programs for MoLSD staff on women's empowerment
- Strengthening and establishment of effective coordination channels between functioning mechanisms so as to develop unified visions and views and improve the quality of services provided to targeted groups through the establishing of follow up, monitoring and evaluating systems at federal and states level
- Highlight the women's empowerment and gender equality projects through the launching of awareness campaigns at community level, taking into account social norms within each community
- Appointment of experts and technicians to contribute to the implementation of the updated Women's Empowerment Policy and the new National Strategy on Gender and Agriculture at federal and states level, mainstreaming gender in policies and public budget
- Promotion of community participation programs to mobilize community leaders. Example of such programs may include peace building and health awareness programs at localities level.

### **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

- Vocational Training has to be embedded within the socio-economic context of policy dialogue, to help establish an active partnership between governments, employers, and workers.
- Lessons learnt in different contexts worldwide show that strengthening collaborative ties and involvement of the private sector, no matter how weak it still may be, is a key success factor in increasing the absorption rate of graduates into the local economy.
- In Sudan, several attempts have been made at merging the sectors of technical education and vocational training. Due to the institutional division and the competition over scarce resources between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour such efforts have not been fruitful so far. The development of a comprehensive TVET strategy and a National Qualification Framework (NQF) will need further co-ordinated long-term efforts by all parties before such outcomes can be implemented at the level of

- institutions offering vocational training.
- The importance of a holistic approach cannot be underestimated. TVET initiatives have integrated components related to social cohesion, labour demand, the inclusion of vulnerable groups into the labour market, private sector development (MSMEs) and rural and environmental development.
- Supporting women to contribute to the social and economic development is a priority of the action. Lessons learnt show the need to specifically address cultural barriers preventing the participation of women in vocational training and employment from the very beginning of project implementation.
- Previous experience in Sudan has shown that women face severe challenges in accessing male-dominated sectors and are often marginalised to sectors such as food processing, sewing and small handicrafts and professions with little potential for growth. The action therefore seeks to push such boundaries and support entrepreneurial women to build a career or business.

#### **4.5. Complementary actions and synergies**

##### **Gum Arabic**

- Two projects are managed by the FAO and implemented by the Forests National Corporation. One is in its inception phase and funded by the Netherlands government (EUR 7 million) but has only a small component on gum Arabic and targets a limited number of GAPAs; the other is still under preparation (signed by Ministry of Agriculture, but not by Ministry of Justice) and is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) (EUR 10 million). These “Gum for Adaptation and Mitigation” FAO projects will work in Great Kordofan (South, West and North) and North and East Darfur with the objective of enhancing the adaptive capacity of local communities and restoring the carbon sink potential of the Gum Arabic belt - expanding Africa’s Great Green Wall and increase resilience of the livelihoods and food and water security of vulnerable people and communities in the Gum Arabic Belt. Both projects’ periods are four years, which matches the EUTF implementation period.
- Financed by Turkey in Kassala State, a project currently focuses on environmental protection and GAPAs capacity building, notably on Gum Arabic issues.
- “Support in Structuring the Gum Arabic Sector in Sudan” (SSGASS) project financed by AFD (1.4 EUR million, 2012-2021).

##### **Women’s Economic Empowerment**

- the initiative funded by the EUTF as part of the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in Sudan, implemented by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), focusing on supporting Employment Entrepreneurship Development for migrant youth and refugees in Khartoum State (EEDK);
- EU-funded "Integrated Measures to promote rural-urban value addition and Employment - IMPROVE East Sudan" implemented by GIZ;
- small projects funded by the French Embassy (under their *Projet Innovant des Sociétés Civiles et Coalitions d'Acteurs (PISCCA) 2019-2021* programme) on women economic empowerment, in particular WCDS' 18-month project "Promoting rural women’s economic empowerment in Red Sea State", ASWCD's "Economic Empowerment of Displaced Women in Red Sea State Project", and SOS Sahel's "Promoting vulnerable women’s socio-economic empowerment in Kassala State" project;
- the initiative “Promoting resilience to climate change of the most vulnerable populations in the state of Kassala, Sudan” funded by AICS to COOPI in Kassala, with a component of women economic empowerment through home gardening and tree planting;
- the initiative "Bridging the Gap - II", funded by the EU, with a focus on inclusive policies and equal access to employment promoting a mainstreamed perspective and the meaningful participation of organisations and institutions;
- the initiative “TADMEEN - Social inclusion, Human Capital Development and Protection of Vulnerable Groups within Migrants, Refugees and Host Communities” funded and implemented from AICS, and working in the sectors of women economic empowerment and gender equality, child protection and social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Khartoum and Red Sea states;
- the initiative “RESEAST - Resilience of Agro-pastoral Populations of East Sudan” funded from AICS and implemented together with UNIDO, to increase resilience of the most vulnerable communities in Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea states, with a focus on the inclusion of women in the agribusiness sector and the empowerment of women’s associations;
- the initiative “Enhancement of women’s entrepreneurial capacity for effective engagement in fisheries and agribusiness in Red Sea State” funded from AICS and implemented by UN Women.



### **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

- “Employment Initiative Darfur: Vocational Qualification for refugees, IDPs and Host Communities”, started in 2018 with funding from the BMZ Special Initiative Fund for Refugees (2017 - 2023) with up to EUR 15,000,000. The project is co-funded by EUR 15 million from the EUTF
- “Employment Initiative Khartoum: perspectives for Refugees and Host Communities” with a budget of up to EUR 9 million. Discussions are ongoing with the BMZ for another project targeting strategic advice and structural reforms to the federal Ministry of Labour and Social Development and the Supreme Council of Vocational Training and Apprenticeship
- “Vocational Training and Food Security in Eastern Sudan”. The project intervenes in the states of Gedaref and Kassala, and is co-funded by the EU with an amount of up to EUR 2 million
- In Khartoum, GIZ is implementing a BMZ Public Private Partnership project in cooperation with Siemens to support the training of trainers and students for the energy sector, aiming at the qualification of technicians for the maintenance and repair of power plants.
- The EU Trust Fund programme “IMPROVE” in the eastern states of Kassala and Gedaref: it supports refugees and host communities through employment promotion with a budget of EUR 8,000,000 for 2017 - 2020 (plus a co-financing of EUR 1,500,000 from BMZ, the project being part of the wider GIZ’s IMPROVE programme).
- The EUTF also supports four vocational training centres in Khartoum State by implementing a system of competency-based training, in which students are qualified in modular courses that build upon each other. The project is part of the RDPP Sudan, is funded with € 3,000,000 for a period of three years and implemented by UNIDO.
- With the initiative “Bridging the gap” the EU promotes the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. The action is co-funded and implemented by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) with a total budget of € 757,050 over the course of three years (2018 - 2021)
- UNESCO implements the project “TVET System Development in Sudan” as part of the Capacity Development for Education Programme (CapED) financed by Finland, Norway, and Sweden with a total budget of USD 500,000 for 2017 - 2019. The project aims at developing an overarching TVET strategy, a National Qualification Framework (NQF), and enables five Sudanese TVET institutions to develop and manage their improvement plans.
- JICA supports vocational training in Khartoum, Kosti, Kassala, El Fasher, El Geneina and Nyala. However, the JICA project in the three Darfuri states has ended in 2017, with the remaining locations to follow by mid-2020. In Darfur, JICA focussed mostly on the provision of short courses to specific target groups
- The African Development Bank is funding the project “Capacity Building for Improved Quality of the Education System and Skills Development” with UAC 17,000,000 for 2015 - 2020. The project aims to enhance teachers and managers’ skills development and the use of technology to improve quality education and training.
- In addition, training initiatives are occasionally undertaken by private sector actors. Such initiatives contribute to satisfy the demand of qualified labour. Increasing the involvement of the private sector could lift a burden from the back of the public treasury and raise the overall efficiency of TVET provision. This involves streamlining the regulations regarding the establishment, accreditation and administration of private TVET centres
- The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) supports the Sudan-Turkish Vocational and Technical Trainers Education Center in Khartoum. Similarly, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) supports the Korean-Sudanese Training of Trainers centre in Khartoum.

#### **4.5.1. Target groups and final beneficiaries**

### **Gum Arabic**

The project will target all actors in the GA value chain, starting from producers, GAPAs, unions, traders, companies’ agents, exporting companies. Importers and end users are also targeted in the dialogue process for information sharing, new market opportunities at the international level and social

responsibilities towards producers.

The FNC has grouped producers to form Gum Arabic Producers Associations (GAPAs) registered as cooperatives. The SSGASS pilot project financed by AFD has successfully reinforced some GAPAs, giving the opportunity for producers to obtain a better price from their gum, and to improve the consciousness on the importance of conserving forests. GAPAs supported by the project will be selected according to the following criteria: registered associations according to co-operative rules; associations with bank accounts; provision of *Acacia Senegal* (Hashab trees) and *Acacia seyal* (Talha trees) at the association; land free from conflict; regular production; an association with an elected office (committee); previous experience in managing revolving funds related to banks.

The gum Arabic sector is characterised by a very low level of communication between actors at the beginning and the end of the value chain. For example, exporters do not negotiate directly with producers, as they do not trust them. This is a major bottleneck for the creation of long-term business relationships between actors. The approach is designed to facilitate the dialogue between the actors of the sector, using common grounds activities as the main tool.

Women are specifically targeted as their significant contribution in the Gum Arabic value chain can lift them out of poverty and reinforce their role in their households and communities. Among others, the project will support the creation of women's GAPAs. Thanks to adapted tools (the sonki) much lighter women can participate fully in the tapping and their role in the production is hence increased. The project will also facilitate their access to credit.

Youth and persons with disabilities should be involved in the process as they are marginalised in the communities.

### **Women's Economic Empowerment**

The programmed activities are targeted directly towards specific vulnerable groups, labour market structures, institutions at federal and state levels, civil society organisations and private sector, to complementary contribute to the specific and overall objective.

The primary and direct beneficiaries are the women and youth of the communities of the targeted States (Khartoum, Kassala, Gedaref, Red Sea), and, the most vulnerable groups, which are identified as follows; women in situations of vulnerability (widowed and divorced with children especially); women with disabilities; women with small-scale farms in rural and urban areas; youth at risk in rural and urban areas; IDPs and refugees (women affected by conflicts or climate change especially); male farmers in remote rural areas.

### **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)**

The action will be implemented together with partner institutions at state-level and in close collaboration with partners at national level. Stakeholder will represent the supply side as well as the demand side of the labour market in Khartoum.

On the supply side of the labour market, the main stakeholder is the SCVTA, which falls under the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Development and governs the vocational training sector in Sudan. The SCVTA is responsible for the training of teachers, development and revision of curricula, certification and all other related matters. Five TVET centres in Khartoum state are under his direct responsibility of the SCVTA. For the training of teachers, the SCVTA has created a distinct institute which is using generally the other VTCs for conducting the course programmes. Six VTCs are operated under the responsibility of the Khartoum State Supreme Council for Human Resources and Labour. While the public VTCs offer trainings free of charge, over 30 private VTCs are operating in Khartoum, certified by the SCVTA.

All of these institutions need support to manage vocational training at state or federal level in a manner that would address the market demands for qualified graduates of vocational training.

In addition to the formal TVET sector institutions, the actions will also liaise with workshops and companies that offer informal training opportunities (traditional apprenticeship) or in-house training (medium-sized enterprises).

On the demand side of the labour market, the action will have to assess the situation and identify and select suitable partners for cooperation. Most of the existing private sector organisations had been

dissolved following the change in Government in 2019. The restructuring process is not yet finished. However, there are less formal groups in between the private sector which might even be higher motivated to provide services to its members.

Khartoum is a vibrant place for business service providers. The action will have to assess and select a number for cooperation, benefitting at the same time from their knowledge of the business environment, labour market trends and competences

In order to ensure the inclusions of refugees, the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) will be an important partner of the action, as it is responsible for all matters related to refugees. They have been negotiating for years with the Ministry of Labour and Social Development in an effort to lift the requirement of work permits for South Sudanese refugees. The action will also cooperate with UNHCR which will provide valuable information on the number, status, needs and settlements of refugees in and around Khartoum.

#### **4.6. Stakeholder**

##### **analysis Gum Arabic**

Economic actors are: producers, GAPAs, Unions of GAPAs, Village traders, Wholesalers, Auction markets, Transformers / exporters, Importers, Final clients

Supporting actors are: Forest National Corporation (FNC), Gum Arabic Board (GAB), Financial institutions, Reference Lab (SSMO)

In support for these economic actors, the following organisations play a role in the development of the sector:

- Research institutions of Gum Arabic

Depending on the political developments in Sudan, the project might continue or suspend its cooperation with the following actors:

- Ministry of Finance and National Economy
- Ministries of council
- Ministry of Industry and Trade

##### **Women's Economic Empowerment**

The initiative will closely operate with partner institutions at Federal and State level and it will be co-designed together with the MoLSD, the MoA and the MoF.

Other main stakeholders will be: trade unions, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and start-ups active in agriculture and highly innovative sectors, with a demonstrated Situation-Complication-Resolution (SCR) approach.

University of Khartoum, Ahfad University for Women, University of Medical Science and Technology and other academia representatives and research centres will be involved in conducting gender analysis and sector studies.

Media will also play a crucial role in leading cultural shift and social perception of women's economic empowerment.

UN Agencies and INGOs will be involved in the implementation of activities where specific technical capacity is needed, in particular UNIDO, International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD) and International Labour Organization (ILO) in the fields of agriculture and micro-finance.

AICS and UNWOMEN already have long-established strong partnerships with Unions for Persons with Disabilities and with local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and women associations, essential stakeholders to develop innovative and inclusive flagship interventions in selected geographical areas, especially in the agriculture and fishery sectors.

Coordination with the broader spectrum of development actors active in Sudan will be ensured through the participation of the above-mentioned SIPF working groups.

The action will abide and pursue the principles of Human Centred Co-Designing and Digital Principles for Development applied in a Human Security framework through a resilience thinking methodology. Generative techniques such as interviews, actors' mapping and cultural probes will be utilised together with focus groups, workshops and heuristic evaluation, to consolidate the available data and define the program details jointly with the project's stakeholders.

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At the start of the project, a project advisory committee will be formed, including EU, MoLSD, SCVTA and potentially other actors / partners, especially from the private sector.