

PORTFOLIO EVALUATION FOR EUROPEAN UNION EMERGENCY TRUST FUND FOR AFRICA



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The years 2014 and 2015 saw an unprecedented increase in the number of migrants and refugees in the Mediterranean region. Many of these migrants and refugees sought entry into the European Union (EU) in response to limited economic opportunities in their home countries, or in flight from protracted conflicts.

As a result, EU member states and some African states met in November 2015 in Valletta (Malta) in an international summit to find solutions to the root causes of the migration and remedies that would help already displaced people, those in transit and those vulnerable to displacement. The summit resulted in a common declaration and an Action Plan built around 5 priority domains and 16 priority initiatives. In addition, on 12 November 2015, 25 EU Member States, Norway, Switzerland and the European Commission signed the Constitutive Agreement, officially establishing the EU Emergency trust fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (the 'EUTF for Africa' or the EUTF), with its accompanying strategy. This strategy contains 4 Strategic Objectives (SO) and place specific focus on: increasing economic and employment opportunities, strengthening resilience, improving migration management, improved governance and conflict prevention. The EUTF programs are implemented in

three regional windows of Africa: the North of Africa (NoA), Sahel and Lake Chad (SLC), and the Horn of Africa (HoA).

EUTF provides support to partner countries



and implementing agencies to address urgent development and security needs aligned with the strategic objectives, including improved access to basic services and support of employment initiatives, while focusing on young people from vulnerable and marginalized groups.

EUROPEAN UNION EMERGENCY TRUST FUND FOR AFRICA STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 1 Greater economic and employment opportunities
- 2 Strengthening resilience of communities and in particular the most vulnerable including refugees and other displaced people
- 3 Improved migration management in countries of origin, transit, and destination
- 4 Improved governance and conflict prevention and reduction of forced displacement and irregular migration

EVALUATION SCOPE

In 2021, EUTF launched a series of counterfactual impact evaluations (CIEs) and a portfolio evaluation (PE) with an aim to provide key stakeholders with increased knowledge and data on the outcomes and impacts of EUTF funded projects under Strategic Objective 1 (SO-1) in the SLC and HoA windows. Key stakeholders include the European Commission, implementing partners, part of the Coordination Committee, participating governments, organizations,

and the wider public. The evaluation will provide insight on key lessons, conclusions and recommendations on the effectiveness and impact of the EUTF projects related to SO-1.

Overall, the evaluation includes nine projects (Result Area 1, or R1) in seven countries; and one Portfolio Evaluation (Result Area 2, R2) with 12 case studies projects in eight countries.



Table 1: R1 Designs and Methods

Program	Implementing Partner	Country	Evaluation Strategy	Mixed Methods Design
STEDE	Mercy Corps	Ethiopia	Clustered RCT in host communities & Reversed Difference in Differences (DiD) in refugee camps	Experimental and quasi-experimental embedded design
TEKKI FII	GIZ	The Gambia	Propensity Score Matching	Light qualitative component
GrEEn	UNCDF & SNV	Ghana	i) RCT or matching, ii) RDD, iii) panel data analysis	Experimental embedded design & Correlational embedded design
INTEGRA	GIZ	Guinea	Clustered DiD with matching	Quasi-experimental embedded design
INTEGRA	ITC	Guinea	RCT	Experimental embedded design
PECOBAT	ILO	Mauritania	Qualitative methods	Qualitative content analysis
Promopêche	ILO	Mauritania	Qualitative methods	Qualitative content analysis
PARERBA	ENABEL	Senegal	IPWRA	Quasi-experimental embedded design
RISE	GIZ	Uganda	RCT	Experimental embedded design

Table 2: R2 Case studies Evaluation Methods

Program	Country	Implementing Partner/s	Evaluation Strategy
ABLI-G	Kenya	DRC, NRC, Intracen	Outcome Harvesting & Stories of Change
LISEC Green Jobs	Ethiopia	PIN, IRC, Solidaridad	Outcome Harvesting & Stories of Change
LISEC	Ethiopia	UNIDO	Outcome Harvesting
Jobs Creation and Trade Development	South Sudan	ITC	Outcome Harvesting & Stories of Change
JEEN	Niger	SNV, Oxfam, DGD/CT, Partner for Innovation, UNCDF	Outcome Harvesting & Stories of Change
DURAZINDER	Niger	ENABEL	Outcome Harvesting
DESERT	Niger	AICS, Terre Solidali, COOPI, CISP, COSPE	Outcome Harvesting
TUMMA	Burkina Faso	ADA	Outcome Harvesting & Stories of Change
I&P Acceleration au Sahel	Senegal	I&P (Terranga Capital)	Outcome Harvesting & Stories of Change
I&P Acceleration au Sahel	Ivory Coast	I&P (Comoe Capital)	Outcome Harvesting & Stories of Change
SPRS-NU	Uganda	ENABEL	Outcome Harvesting
SUPREME	Uganda	World Vision, SNV, ZOA, RICE-West Nile	Outcome Harvesting & Stories of Change

The evaluation seeks to answer six key evaluation questions about the intervention's influence on improving employment and employability, livelihood and resilience, while also assessing intended and unintended outcomes, differential effects across key subgroups and target populations, cost-effectiveness and EU added value.

These evaluation questions open avenues to evaluate the main priority areas under SO-1 in the SLC and HoA windows. For instance, they enable us to enable the assessment of the extent to which project activities in the SLC window contributed to creating economic and employment opportunities in targeted regions with high migration potentials; shed light on how and to what extent systems built around irregular migration in the region have been transformed and clarify the extent to which project activities have reinforced the resilience of communities.

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

EQ 1. To what extent did EUTF interventions contribute to employment, job creation, and skills?

EQ 2. To what extent did EUTF interventions change resilience and livelihoods for beneficiaries?

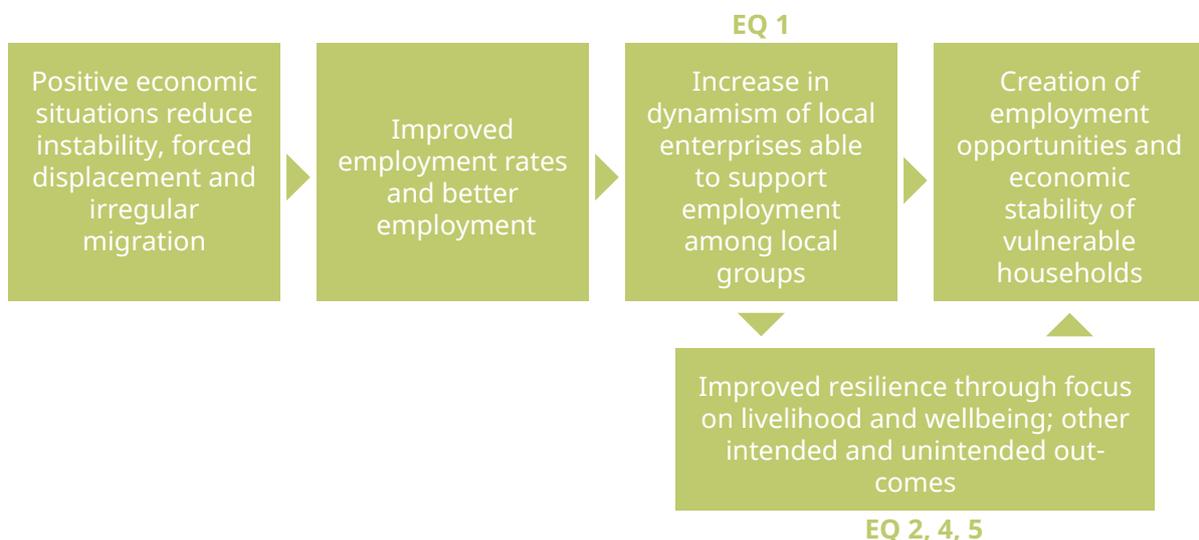
EQ 3. Which were the most cost-effective EUTF support options to enhance employability?

EQ 4. What other intended and unintended outcomes (e.g. mobility, migration, migration intentions, employment policies and reforms) did EUTF interventions contribute to?

EQ 5. How did EUTF interventions include and promote different vulnerable groups such as youths, women, refugees, IDPs, migrants and host communities alike through its activities?

EQ 6. What were the likely contributions of EUTF interventions when compared to Member States' independent and separate bilateral interventions and to what extent were EUTF interventions coherent with other local interventions?

Figure 1: Illustrates the change process and their linkages to Evaluation Questions (EQs)



PORTFOLIO EVALUATION APPROACH

The Portfolio Evaluation is applying mixed methods to generate a description of the overall portfolio under study. It integrates an analysis of a portfolio-wide Project Managers Survey, Monitoring and Learning Systems data, Key Informant Interviews, Desk Study with results from Outcome Harvesting, Stories of Change, and R1 projects (see Table 3: R2 Tools and Coverage below).

Table 3: R2 Tools and Coverage

Tool	Coverage	State of progress	Outstanding
Project Manager Survey	Implementing partner project managers of all 84 portfolio contracts	31/84	53
Desk Review	All relevant documents including Action Fiches, ROM reports and Evaluation reports	209 documents reviewed	ongoing
Outcome Harvesting	10 contracts in: Niger, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Uganda, South Sudan and Kenya	73 outcomes collected in SLC and 42 in HoA	ongoing
Stories of Change	8 projects in in: Niger, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Uganda, South Sudan and Kenya	Data collection completed for Niger, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Senegal.	Data collection ongoing in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda.
Expert Interviews (using KIIs)	Available EU delegations and implementing projects managers across the portfolio	21	29
R1 impact evaluations	9 contracts in: Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal, Uganda	At least midline data was collected for all countries. Endline data collection completed for Ethiopia and Mauritania.	Endline data for Guinea, Uganda, Ghana, and Senegal.

PORTFOLIO EVALUATION METHODS

OUTCOME HARVESTING (OH)

is a qualitative data collection approach to gather evidence of what has been achieved and works backward to determine whether and how an intervention contributed to change. The outcome shows in detail, what changed and who/what enabled the change and where and when changes occurred.

STORIES OF CHANGE (SoC)

is an inductive case study method to investigate and report on the contributions of an intervention to specific outcomes. It reports on the mechanisms and pathways through which a project was able to influence a particular change that has been observed.

KEY EXPERT INTERVIEWS (KIIs)

are conducted with individuals with extensive experience and knowledge about a particular topic.

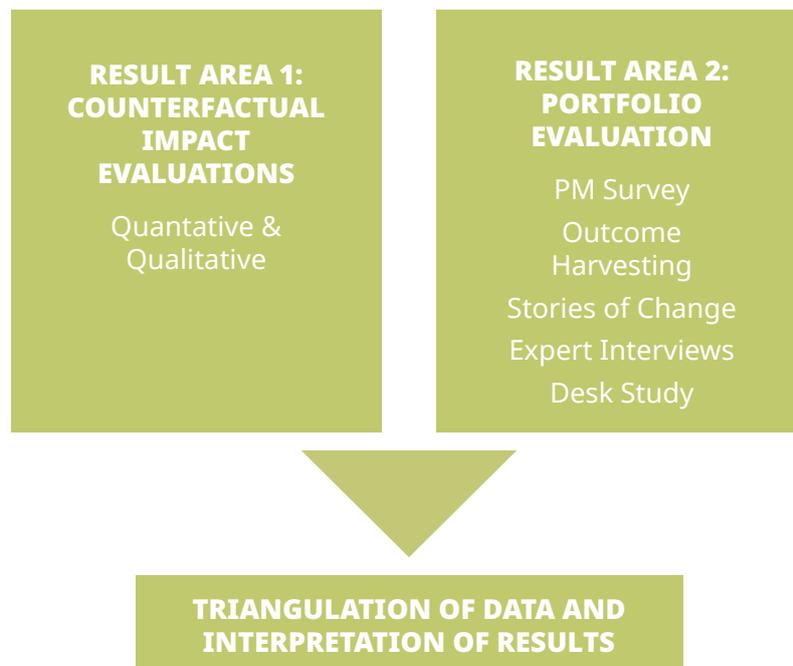


ANALYSIS AND USE

Findings from R1 will complement data collected in the portfolio evaluation. The data from each of these result areas is being collected concurrently (R1 and R2),

and triangulated. Triangulation will be used to identify consistent and inconsistent data outputs in order to provide evidence on how the EUTF performs in regard to SO-1.

Figure 2: Overall evaluation concurrent mixed methods design



Together, these approaches will offer deeper insights into the extent and pathways through which the EUTF supported interventions achieved the goals of improving economic and employment opportunities

and how this influenced migration intentions in the targeted areas. The evaluation will provide evidence and learning to inform evidenced-based policy.

MIXED METHODS are useful for exploring interventions from a variety of perspectives and tackling multiple layers of research questions. By strategically combining quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, mixed-methods approaches grant researchers a deeper understanding of processes that took place before, during and after the implementation of project interventions.

COUNTERFACTUAL IMPACT EVALUATIONS (CIE) are used to determine the attributable effect of a program on beneficiaries. A “counterfactual” is what life would have looked like in the absence of the intervention. Since we cannot directly observe a counterfactual, rigorous experimental and quasi-experimental methods use comparison groups to estimate the counterfactual.

TIMELINE

Throughout the 4-year evaluation period, the following segments of the Portfolio Evaluation and CIEs will take place:



2021

Complete inception report and agreement on design and evaluation approach with EUTF
Desk Study & CIE Data Collection



2022

Desk Study & CIE Data Collection & Stories of Change
Q1: Project Manager Survey Launch
Q1: Outcome Harvesting workshops
Q3: KIIs with PMs and EUDs



2023

Desk Study & CIE Data Collection & Stories of Change
Q2: Outcome Harvesting workshop
Q3: KIIs with PMs and EUDs



2024

Desk Study & CIE Data Collection
Data analysis and triangulation with CIEs, overall analysis, and dissemination of results

