

**Action fiche of the EU Trust Fund to be used for the decisions of
the Operational Committee
T05-EUTF-NOA-REG-01**

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	DEV-pillar of the Regional Development and Protection Programme in the North of Africa		
Total cost	Estimated total cost: in euro: EUR 9.9M Total amount from Trust Fund: EUR 9.9M		
Aid method/Implementation methods	Project modality – direct management and indirect management Direct award - Delegation agreement with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Direct award – Grant agreements with Civil Society Organisations		
DAC code	150	Sector	

2. GROUNDS AND BACKGROUND

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

This Action Fiche captures the interventions at regional level to be committed during 2016 under the *North of Africa window of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa* (i.e. “Trust Fund”).

Protracted displacement is not only a humanitarian challenge but a developmental, political and economic one. In the Communication *Lives in dignity: from aid-dependency to self-reliance*¹, the EU reaffirms its commitment to help those who are suffering the consequences of conflict and instability to live in dignity. At the same time, the EU aims to ensure that they can contribute positively to their host communities, by fostering the self-reliance and resilience² of both the displaced and their hosts, while protecting those most vulnerable.

The Regional Development and Protection Programme (i.e. "RDPP") fully incorporates this reinforced developmental, inclusive and integrated approach to forced displacement. This Action will support the development pillar of the RDPP in the North of Africa, by contributing to the establishment of migrant-friendly inclusive services, fostering social cohesion and employment opportunities at community level and enhancing advocacy, research and knowledge-sharing.

¹ Communication COM (2016) 234 final: Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance.

² Resilience is the ability of an individual, a household, a community, a country or a region to withstand, to adapt, and to quickly recover from stresses and shocks, Communication on the EU Approach to Resilience, COM(2012)586, 03.10.2012.

2.2. Background

The present action complements on-going initiatives in the framework of the RDPP in the North of Africa³, implemented by a Consortium of Member States and International Organisations led by Italy. Building on the original Regional Protection Programmes (RPPs)⁴, which aimed to support the capacity of third countries to provide effective protection, assistance and durable solutions, the RDPP aims to adopt a more comprehensive approach that also includes the development dimension that will be supported through this action.

The EU's Task Force Mediterranean (TFM) identified the setting up of an RDPP in the North of Africa as a priority⁵. This approach was confirmed by the European Council Conclusions of June 2014, the Justice and Home Affairs Council Conclusions of October 2014 and the European Council Conclusions of April 2015. The European Agenda on Migration⁶, as well as the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy⁷, translated these political guidelines into one of the key actions for immediate follow up.

This action fully embeds the new approach put forward by the EU in the recently adopted Communication *Lives in dignity: from aid-dependency to self-reliance* to change the way forcibly displaced persons are supported in external action policies, looking at ways to help them and their host communities become more self-reliant in the countries where they reside.

This action addresses the third objective within the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, namely improved migration management in countries of origin and transit. More specifically, the action responds to the priorities of the North of Africa Window, notably: migration governance capacity building focusing on the development of integration policies and measures, as well as mainstreaming migration into public policies and services, particularly at local level; ensuring protection for those in need by strengthening the resilience of displaced populations together with their host communities, fostering inclusive approaches to the delivery of services and boosting a culture of rights, dialogue and social cohesion, as well as the protection of vulnerable and at-risk groups at both national and community level.

Migration has long shaped the Mediterranean region, with countries in the North of Africa often being, simultaneously points of origin, transit and destination. Recent years, however, have seen an increase in the numbers of migrants, moving within North Africa as well as making the perilous and at times fatal journey across the Mediterranean. The drivers of this migration are complex and context specific but include demographic and socio-economic trends, search for economic and employment opportunities, a lack of rights protection and/or access to basic services; environmental degradation aggravated by climate change; protracted conflict, instability and/or insecurity within the region and beyond; a lack of durable solutions to forced displacement; and the unavailability of legal migration channels. Accumulating

³ Eight projects have been selected to date, to be financed by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), under the AMIF work programme 2015. Additionally, the European Neighbourhood Instrument contributed in 2015 to finance a first action within the development pillar of the RDPP, the *Community Resilience Initiative to support the Regional Development and Protection Programme in North Africa* project.

⁴ European Commission, *Communication to the Council and the European Parliament on Regional Protection Programmes*, 1.9.2015, COM(2011) 388 final

⁵ European Commission, *Communication to the Council and the European Parliament on the work of the Task Force Mediterranean*, 4.12.2013, COM (2013) 869 final

⁶ European Commission, *Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions A European Agenda on Migration*, 13.5.2015, COM (2015) 240 final

⁷ European Commission, *Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Review of the Neighbourhood Policy*, 18.11.2015, JOIN (2015) 30 final

cases of protracted displacement in North Africa, coupled with on-going economic and security concerns in many countries within the region itself, continue to place considerable pressure not only on the displaced populations but also on host communities, national governments and local authorities in North Africa, leaving migrants and individuals within host communities increasingly vulnerable. Whether driven by economic concerns or seeking asylum, migrants in North Africa are often exposed to a wide range of risks of abuse and exploitation before even reaching the southern shores of the Mediterranean.

Within this context, building the resilience and capacity of host communities to absorb and support vulnerable migrants in North Africa and ensure community stability, as well as protecting the rights of migrants in the region are key concerns both for direct beneficiaries, as well as for regional stability more broadly.

2.2.1. National background, where applicable

While the migration situation and the condition of migrant and host communities varies among the countries of North Africa, common challenges exist throughout: (i) the North Africa region acts as an important region of destination and transit for migrants primarily from West and Central Africa and the Horn of Africa; (ii) insecurity, instability and low-growth economies contribute to increased social tension and xenophobia as migrants may be held responsible for broader social and economic challenges being faced; (iii) migrant communities increasingly remain in the region for long periods and require different types of policy and programmatic responses to ensure their well-being, support sustainable livelihoods and self-reliance opportunities and contribute to resilience of host communities; (iv) migrant communities cluster in specific cities and neighbourhoods (and often within lower income neighbourhoods), increasing the possibility of tensions with host communities over competition for resources and infrastructure.

In **Egypt**, Sudanese nationals now represent the largest migrant community and estimates of their total number range from one to three million. In addition, recent studies suggest that Egypt is now host to between 17,000 to 100,000 Iraqis, 40,000 to 70,000 Palestinians, approximately 5,000 Somalis and a considerable number of Eritrean and Ethiopian migrants⁸. Migrant communities are geographically distributed throughout Egypt with important populations in informal settlements in urban areas of Greater Cairo, Alexandria, and close to the Libyan border. As of September 2015, UNHCR in Egypt registered a total of 128,019 Syrians. The government of Egypt estimates that an equal number of Syrians are unregistered and living among Egyptian communities across Egypt, with the most impacted governorates being Alexandria, Cairo, Giza and Qalyubia.

Migrant communities cluster in specific neighbourhoods of Cairo according to their nationalities with Sudanese and Somalis primarily in East Cairo, Syrians in 6th of October City, and Eritreans in Giza. Particularly vulnerable groups of migrants include (i) female-headed households which, in addition to experiencing difficult social and economic circumstances, may also suffer from psychosocial challenges due to past traumatic incidents, and are prone to engage in negative coping mechanisms; (ii) migrants with disabilities who often have additional challenges finding livelihood opportunities and face social

⁸To date, there is no centralized registration system of all migrants in Egypt. The UNHCR registration system is limited with Persons of Concern, either recognized as refugees or in the process of registration, similarly with IOM the number and nationalities are filtered through the lenses of assistance which does not necessarily reach out to all migrant populations in Egypt.

stigmatization; (iii) unaccompanied migrant children who are at greater risk of abuse and trafficking in Egypt as well as if/when they try to transit through Egypt to Europe.

While migrants are able to access public health care and, to some degree, education, barriers exist based on issues of culture, language, knowledge of how to access services, and already strained services and infrastructure in certain neighbourhoods.

Libya has witnessed three major waves of displacement since 2011 resulting in large scale internal displacements⁹. According to OCHA's September 2015 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), there are over 400,000 individuals currently internally displaced. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix's (DTM) latest findings (February 2016) identified 331,622 IDPs (64,674 IDPs households) across 467 cities, towns and villages.

Reasons for displacement include security threats, as well as lack of basic supplies and services and, in some cases, seeking to join family members. While there is considerable will of many IDPs to return to their communities of origin, significant challenges such as destruction of property, confiscation of property, and fear of militia groups prevent this and are likely to continue to prevent return for the foreseeable future.

Through the use of community cohesion tools and solid self-organizing efforts by many IDPs groups, cooperation between IDPs and host communities is reported to be good in most cases. However, IDPs suffer from shortages of basic supplies including water and fuel, further challenging livelihood development.

Libya also continues to host large numbers of international migrants, many aiming to transit through the country to Europe, but most seeking employment opportunities in Libya itself. Based on consultations with several embassies, it is estimated that over 1.1 million migrants currently reside in Libya (mainly from Nigeria, Egypt, Mali, Chad and Ghana). Of the identified migrants, 7% are housed in detention centres, while the majority are taking shelter in informal collective settlements, farms, market places (shops) or other types of private settings.

Similar to Egypt, key vulnerable groups in need of assistance include female-headed households among the IDPs and unaccompanied migrant children, as well as all international migrants who suffer from significant risk due to the instability and insecurity in the country.

In **Morocco**, there are no official statistics on the size of the foreign population, however, almost 20,000 migrants (from more than 27,000 requests) were granted legal residence in the country through the government's regularization programme in 2015. It is estimated that an additional 25,000 migrants may remain irregularly in the country having not applied for regularization (as they did not meet the criteria); the nationalities of this group are assumed to closely mirror that of the regularized population. The principle nationalities were from West Africa as well as Syria and the main cities of residence where regularization applications were submitted were Rabat (27.4%), Casablanca (18.6%), Tanger/Asilah (8.7%), Oujda/Angad (5.5%), Marrakech (4.6%), Laayoune (3%) and Salé (2.3%)..

⁹ Currently Ajdabiya hosts the largest share of IDPs with 31,750 identified (9.6%). It is followed by Al Ajaylat with 24,950 IDPs (7.5%), Al Bayda with 22,500 IDPs (6.8%), Abu Salim with 20,275 IDPs (6.1%), Alzintan with 19,425 IDPs (5.9%), Tobruk with 17,205 IDPs (6.4%), Bani Waled with 15,000 IDP (4.5), Janzour with 10,105 IDP (3%), Sabratah with 7,745 (2.3%), and Tocra with 7,520 IDP (2.3%) Combined, these 10 locations account for over half of the total identified IDP population.

Violent confrontations between Moroccans and Sub-Saharan migrants have increased, particularly in northern Morocco due to social tensions and cases of competition for resources, services and strained infrastructure; as such, there is a need for positive interventions in neighbourhoods and cities experiencing heightened tension between migrant and host communities.

In recent months, Morocco has also seen a rise in the number of its own citizens traveling irregularly to Europe via Libya and Turkey. Morocco is the only country in the region to appear within the top ten nationalities reaching Italy in the first months of 2016 and lows of Moroccans travelling through Greece were registered in 2015 and early 2016.

The most vulnerable migrants in Morocco who are in need of assistance include female migrants who are at greater risk of trafficking and abuse including gender-based violence and sexual violence, unaccompanied migrant children, and irregular migrants who did not qualify for regularization. Nationalities with a high level of vulnerable migrants in Morocco include Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Cameroon, Guinea Conakry and Senegal. Critical interventions to support displaced and host communities include the development of awareness campaigns both to support community cohesion and facilitate migrant access to services, enhancement of health services, development of labour market-responsive vocational training programmes, and facilitating services to establish micro and small businesses.

In **Tunisia**, the National Institute for Statistics estimates that more than 53,000 foreigners hold a residence permit. These figures do not include the estimated large population of migrants in irregular situations (mainly from Libya and Sub-Saharan African countries) for whom official estimates and disaggregated data are not available.

Based on a recent IOM study, it is estimated that the Libyan population in Tunisia are mainly concentrated in Greater Tunis (34.7%), the Centre-East (29.3%), the Northeast (16.8%), the Southeast (15.5%) and, to a much lesser extent, in the Southwest (3.4%). The geographical distribution of the areas of residence of Libyans in Tunisia is connected to the area of their children's schooling and by the socio-economic situation of their parents. The distribution of the sample used for the study, per neighbourhood in each governorate, indicates that Libyans are located in both wealthy and poorer neighbourhoods. The cross-distribution of the whole sample per neighbourhood shows that 55.6% of Libyans live in modern neighbourhoods while 44.4% live in outlying or vulnerable, impoverished neighbourhoods.

Key vulnerable groups within the community include (i) youth unable to access education services; (ii) displaced Libyans living in impoverished neighbourhoods and unable to access livelihood opportunities; (iii) Sub-Saharan migrants who are at greater risk of experiencing discrimination and violence based on xenophobia and racism.

In **Algeria**, according to UN country statistics, in 2014 the number of refugees and other people of concern to UNHCR were 96,640 including between 2,000 and 3,000 Syrians; however, Algerian government statistics place the number closer to 25,000. Refugees and asylum seekers in Algeria can arguably be divided into three categories: Sahrawi, Sub-Saharan African, Palestinian and Iraqi and Syrian refugees. Migrants originating from West Africa can be found in the south of the country (Tindouf, Adrar, In Salah, and Tamanrasset) as well as the North, whereas Syrian, Iraqi and Palestinian populations are primarily located in urban areas in the north (Algiers, Oran, Annaba, Constantine, and Batna).

2.2.2. Sectoral background: policies and challenges

Among the countries participating in the RDPP for North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia have signed and ratified the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. In addition, Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia ratified the 1967 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (OAU Convention). The latter has also been ratified by Libya. While most countries in the region do not have specific legislation on protection, as a minimum their legal systems contain a referral to non-return persons fleeing persecution. The need to protect refugees is also included in the constitutions of some countries, such as Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia.

Morocco and Tunisia are making significant advances in the development of asylum legislation and are in the process of finalizing a law, which establishes the legal framework for asylum in the country. Mobility Partnerships contain commitments to cooperate on promoting international protection and asylum.

Despite positive advances on some fronts, given the security challenges within the region including cases of open conflict and fears of terrorism, as well as ongoing economic fragility, migration continues to be seen broadly within a security framework both as a possible entry gate for terrorism (or financing of terrorism) as well as a possible destabilizing effect within a fragile economy and weak labour market. These persistent political and economic conditions create challenges for the advancement of the rights of migrants and displaced populations and in efforts to improve self-sufficiency through livelihoods and labour market access.

Security and economic fears related to the presence of migrant populations can and have been played upon in certain media outlets which further fans social tensions and can lead to both misperceptions and misunderstandings within host communities, cases of discrimination as well as outbreaks of violence that threaten migrant communities.

Recognizing the vulnerabilities and needs of displaced populations in the region as well as the considerable strain and instability such flows can place on host communities throughout North Africa, the EU has established the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in North Africa. Building on the original Regional Protection Programmes (RPPs)¹⁰, which aimed to support the capacity of third countries to provide effective protection, assistance and durable solutions, the RDPP aims to adopt a more comprehensive approach that also includes the development dimension thus responding to the more protracted nature of many migrant communities in the region and their consequent impacts on host communities. The action aims to implement the third pillar of the RDPP for North Africa and proposes to contribute to strengthening the resilience of displaced populations together with their host communities, by applying a Rights-Based Approach to addressing socio-economic concerns and promoting a culture of rights, dialogue and social cohesion.

2.3. Lessons learnt

The present action builds on the experience of the *'Regional Protection Programme in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia'*¹¹ which ended in 2015 and the ongoing *'Regional Development and*

¹⁰ European Commission, *Communication to the Council and the European Parliament on Regional Protection Programmes*, 1.9.2015, COM(2011) 388 final

¹¹ Decision DCI 2010/022-219 - Thematic Programme for Migration and Asylum AAP 2010 part 2 - Action Fiche 5 RPP.

Protection Programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East' (Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq).¹²

Recognizing that fast and sometimes unpredictable changes within the political and security environment can result in changing migration routes, patterns and trends, shifting needs/priorities, and the feasibility of engaging in certain activities or regions, the proposed action aims to incorporate a flexible and responsive approach to the needs of the target groups and key stakeholders. The action will build on the first results of the development pillar of the RDPP project, particularly the needs assessment undertaken in this context. In addition to defining core activities that respond to well-recognized protracted needs and priorities emerging from the aforementioned needs assessment, the action will also include a flexible and adaptive mechanism of financial support to targeted initiatives that respond to localized community level needs.

Given that displacement and assistance to migrant communities can often be deemed as a sensitive political issue, it will be critical to keep central governments of all target countries clearly informed of the objectives and activities of the project throughout. Particularly in regards to the development of livelihood and employment opportunities for members of the displaced and host communities, many governments within the region and beyond remain sceptical of the possible impacts of allowing displaced communities to engage in the labour market. As such, it will be critical that under this programme project managers (i) understand and abide by national regulations relating to employment of displaced populations but also receive government buy-in for support initiatives; (ii) receive government approval for the development of innovative pilot initiatives under the project that aim to build income generating opportunities for displaced and host communities; (iii) closely monitor and evaluate the economic and labour market impacts of project activities so as to provide objective evidence to governments and other stakeholders on the impacts of livelihood initiatives targeting displaced and host communities.

For the activities under this programme to meet the objectives and contribute to sustainable positive change for displaced and host communities in the region, considerable community buy-in and trust is required. As such, it will be critical for project managers to effectively map out key stakeholders within the target community including Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and municipal authorities with links to host and displaced communities. The needs assessment, currently under development within the previous phase of the RDPP will be a critical tool not only to gauge the most important social economic needs of displaced and host communities, but also to identify the key stakeholders and entry points for the programme's implementing partners to build the required trust and receive the buy-in of the target communities.

2.4. Complementary actions

Strict complementarity and coordination will be sought with relevant initiatives funded at bilateral and regional level by the EU and other donors, in particular the EU-funded projects in support of the Mobility Partnerships in Morocco and Tunisia, as well as upcoming projects to be funded under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa.

This action complements on-going activities in support of the protection pillars of the RDPP in the North of Africa, funded by the European Commission under the AMIF, by providing

¹² Decision DCI 2013/025-074 - Regional Development and Protection Programme for refugees and host communities in the Middle East (Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq).

support for the development dimension, which represents the third pillar of the RDPP for North Africa. The action builds on and expands the first phase of support to the RDPP's development pillar financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument. The development pillar of the RDPP includes four main areas as follows: (i) needs assessment, capacity building of civil society and the media; (ii) protection, social cohesion and access to inclusive services; (iii) economic, employment and livelihood opportunities; and (iv) knowledge sharing and advocacy.

Beyond the close coordination that will be established with all the initiatives funded by the RDPP in the North of Africa through the formal linking of this action to the RDPP Steering Committee, and close cooperation with Italy as the leading Member State, this project will also seek to ensure links with the other major EU political dialogue processes in the region, namely the Khartoum and Rabat Processes and the EU-funded Euromed Migration cooperation platform.

2.5. Donor coordination

The RDPP North Africa Steering Committee will oversee the political direction and strategy of the RDPP North Africa. Within this framework, a sub-group consisting of officials responsible for the project's management at DG NEAR and IOM officials will meet on a regular basis to monitor the activities and results under the RDPP development pillar and provide requisite guidance for the action's further implementation. Whenever relevant, CSOs' representatives with implementing responsibilities within the RDPP will also be invited to attend the sub-group.

IOM is committed to ensuring close cooperation and coordination with national and international actors involved in refugee and migrant response in North of Africa. Additionally, IOM is committed to constantly share information with DG NEAR on actions funded by other donors in the targeted countries and implemented by IOM, which are related to the RDPP's objectives and activities. Depending on the countries, existing key assessments and response plans such as the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), Multi-sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Libya and the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), will serve as key guidance.

At national level, national coordination mechanisms/working groups in each of the targeted countries will also be envisaged between the key stakeholders of the RDPP under the leadership of the EU Delegations. These mechanisms shall not duplicate existing working groups, forums or platforms, but rather build on and complement existing national coordination tools.

Coordination on research will be facilitated through the M-HUB Steering Committee while operational coordination and networking will be facilitated through existing country-level working groups, including the Donor Policy Groups, which bring together the major donors and implementing partners in the country. IOM will also ensure that assessments and data analyses will be closely coordinated and shared with relevant stakeholders.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to strengthen the resilience of displaced populations together with their host communities, by addressing socio-economic concerns and promoting a culture of rights, dialogue and social cohesion.

The specific objectives are to:

- Ensure sustainable systems/programmes are established and enhanced to effectively deliver inclusive services, support social cohesion, and address potential tensions between host and displaced communities;
- Provide members of migrant and host communities with greater economic and livelihood opportunities within the local community;
- Build the capacity of governments, the private sector and local actors to adopt good practices at policy, legislative and institutional level, as well as evidence-based programmes and service delivery methods that respond to the protection, socioeconomic, and labour market inclusion needs of displaced groups.

3.2. Expected results and main indicative activities

The expected results and indicative activities are:

Result area 1: social cohesion is enhanced and sustainable systems/programmes are established to effectively deliver inclusive services and address potential tensions between host and displaced communities.

1. Local authorities and stakeholders establish collaborative mechanisms, to promote positive interactions and to identify and address issues contributing to developing tensions by:
 - Organizing activities that bring together host and migrant communities, facilitate inclusion and also seek to raise awareness on critical issues.
 - Providing financial support to third parties, including CSOs, to develop services and activities aimed at supporting rights and protection of displaced communities and encouraging inclusion and cooperation among displaced and host communities.
2. Information and referral services are strengthened or established to assist members of migrant communities to effectively access migrant-friendly/inclusive services by:
 - Supporting access to migrant-friendly/inclusive services.
 - Building on the E-BOSLA model¹³, establishing mobile and off-line services to assist members of migrant communities in navigating essential services and identifying migrant-friendly/inclusive service providers.

Result area 2: members of migrant and host communities benefit from greater economic and livelihood opportunities within the local community.

1. Local services and infrastructure critical to creating an effective business environment are enhanced and improved by:
 - Providing financial support to third parties to develop small-scale concrete initiatives to improve local economic development and livelihood opportunities for displaced populations and host communities.
2. Services for matching of qualified migrants with employment opportunities and/or services for self-employment options are enhanced including opportunities for remote employment through online outsourcing by:

¹³ E-BOSLA is an online platform for migrants in Egypt providing them information on rights and services available for the migrant community. Under the development pillar of the RDPP, the E-BOSLA site will be expanded to include other countries within North Africa.

- Commissioning legal assessment of the migration legislative framework, especially in terms of provision of work permits to migrants and business start-up by foreigners to map out the requirements for both migrants and employers, the procedures they must undertake as well as identify gaps and barriers which are not in line with international standards and recommend how these can be addressed.
- Developing or enhancing voluntary registration systems of interested members of the migrant community to a user-friendly skills database and promotion of the database among local employers.
- Working with existing public employment agencies and private job intermediaries, whenever feasible, to enhance services to effectively match migrant and host community jobseekers with employment opportunities.
- Organizing joint employability trainings for migrant and host communities that cover both soft skills as well as technical training for identified professional profiles in demand in the country of destination as well as in migrants' countries of origin or can be done remotely, where possible.
- In partnership with the online outsourcing platform, Upwork¹⁴, as well as expatriate associations in main countries of destination, establishing a training and recruitment programme that allows qualified members of host and migrant communities to secure short-term remote employment opportunities online.
- Expanding support to the Narwi micro-lending platform across North Africa by (i) Engaging Microfinance Institutions (MFI) working in target communities to be included on the platform; (ii) Training new MFIs on use of the platform; (iii) Promoting the platform among Arab diaspora populations to finance new entrepreneurs and microbusinesses in target communities.

Result area 3: governments, the private sector and local actors are informed on and able to adopt good practices, at policy, legislative and institutional level, evidence-based programmes and service delivery methods that respond to the protection, socioeconomic and labour market inclusion needs of displaced groups.

1. Relevant actors at the local and national levels throughout North Africa benefit from research and networking opportunities through which to share best practices and lessons learned in working with migrant communities by:
 - Conducting a series of knowledge sharing workshops bringing together relevant stakeholders throughout North Africa, and in particular those active in the framework of the RDPP, in order to share information and establish a community of practice.
 - Whenever relevant, coordinating on-going research to track and publish regular updates on major migration trends within North Africa and their impacts on host communities and distributing this research to relevant stakeholders across the region.
2. Government officials and other relevant local stakeholders have enhanced understanding of migrant needs and challenges in order to develop more inclusive and development-focused policies, programmes and services for migrant and host communities.

¹⁴ Upwork is one of the leading global web platforms to link workers with employment opportunities that can be done remotely thus allowing workers to work for employers based in other countries. Common occupations benefiting from online outsourcing include, inter alia, web design, data entry, accounting, telephone customer service, translation, writing, editing, or language classes.

- Whenever relevant, and in full coordination with EU-led dialogue with national authorities, establishing advocacy and capacity building programmes (such as sensitization workshops) delivered to relevant government officials, as well as other relevant stakeholders at the local level (including migrant community organizations), in order to promote understanding and establishment of policies, programmes, and services that provide access and respond to the needs of migrants and the realities of local migration dynamics within the community.

3.3. Risks

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Asumptions	Mitigating measures
Risk of political instability in the region and possible changes of governments.	Medium to High	Target governments maintain authority and environments are safe enough to implement planned activities.	The political situation is constantly monitored. The programmes' activities have been identified taking into account the current political situation in each country and anticipated developments over the coming 12 months. Mitigation measures have been designed to apply if the security situation deteriorates. Democratic structures and principles are firmly supported in the framework of the EU's political dialogue with partner countries.
Political pressures restrict opportunities for migrants to engage in training or livelihoods	Medium	Commitment of the Governments of target countries and local authorities improve access to livelihood and training opportunities.	The project includes activities such as training and support for self-employment, as well as activities to support livelihoods through online outsourcing that can create viable channels for migrants' engagement in livelihoods in the event that political pressures reduce migrants' access to the local labour markets.
Lack of political will to support community cohesion activities and open up livelihood opportunities for migrant communities in North Africa that recognize the quasi-permanence of migrant communities in the country	Low to Medium	Commitment of the Governments of target countries and local authorities to support action objectives and activities.	EU' and IOM's existing and on-going dialogue with national and local actors in the target countries has served to enhance awareness of the importance and value of supporting migrant communities. The programme's focus on supporting both host and migrant communities also limits the risks of resistance at the local and national levels as the programme produces value for the community at large.

3.4. Crosscutting issues

Considering the situation in each targeted country, the RDPP shall incorporate a Rights Based Approach (RBA) during all phases of the action, based on the toolbox prepared by the European Commission. The implementation of a RBA is founded on the universality and indivisibility of human rights and the principles of inclusion and participation in the decision-making process, non-discrimination, equality and equity, transparency and accountability. These principles are central to the EU development cooperation, ensuring the empowerment of the poorest and most vulnerable, in particular of women and minors.

The implementation of a RBA requires a context-specific assessment of the human rights situation, which will be part of the foreseen needs assessments and will include a gender analysis.

This Action will be in line with the new EU Gender Action Plan (GAP II), which provides the framework for the EU's promotion of gender equality through external action for the period 2016-2020. The GAP II is based on three thematic objectives: a) securing the physical and psychological protection of women and girls; b) promoting economic and social rights and the empowerment of women and girls; c) strengthening women's and girls' voice and participation. The fourth, and horizontal, component is to embed a gender perspective in the EU's institutional culture.

IOM's Gender Unit will provide analysis and recommendations on the project proposal, work plan and indicators to ensure that gender issues are properly reflected and taken into account within the project's design and implementation.

In addition, this action aims indirectly at reinforcing CSOs in providing and upgrading their services to local communities and in fostering interaction and networking among CSOs and between authorities and civil society. Strengthening this participatory approach lies at the heart of the good governance principles and is a core component of democracy.

This action will take into account that environment-related issues are significant when dealing with resilience of refugees and host communities, as shown in the experience with Lebanon and Jordan. Due to population increase, water availability and sanitation (including wastewater treatment capacity) as well as waste management are pressing challenges in situations of displacement/refugees both for hosting communities and any refugee camp. In addition, the human right to water includes a specific dimension when dealing with refugees/vulnerable populations and this aspect will not be neglected in the project.

3.5. Stakeholders

Main stakeholders to be involved in the proposed action include:

- Refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and migrants.
- Host communities and societies.
- Civil society organisations.
- National and local authorities.
- Public and private service providers.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Financing agreement, where applicable

In order to implement this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the partner countries, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2. Indicative period of operational implementation

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3.2 will be carried out is from the adoption of this Action Document by the Operational Board until 31 December 2024, i.e. the end of the implementation period of the EUTF for Africa. Any postponement of the expiry date of the Trust Fund, currently set at 31 December 2020, shall automatically postpone the indicative implementation end date of this action by an equivalent additional period

4.3. Implementation components and modules

Delegation Agreement: direct award to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (indirect management)

Grants: direct award to Civil Society Organisations (direct management)

Justification of direct award of grant(s) and delegation agreement:

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the grants and the delegation agreement may be awarded without a call for proposals to IOM and to CSOs.

Under the responsibility of the Commission's authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a delegation agreement without a call for proposals is justified because IOM, as the leading international migration organisation, has extensive experience and competences in supporting migration dialogue at all levels (global, regional and local) and local development, specifically targeting migrants' communities. IOM's membership of 158 countries counts all EU Member States as well as all North African target countries of the RDPP. Given the sensitive nature of engaging on displacement and protection issues with civil society in the region, IOM's membership, presence, on-going project portfolio, and in-depth knowledge of the local situation as well as governmental and civil society stakeholders in North Africa, makes it uniquely placed to lead this action through a delegation agreement. In this context, it may not be possible to engage in sub-granting calls for proposals to civil society in all target countries, requiring also the capacity of IOM to take on an increased role in leading or directly sub-granting activities to identified CSOs on the basis of the needs assessment and inventory.

Under the coordination of its Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa based in Cairo, IOM has over 200 staff and 8 offices in the RDPP target countries as well as an important project portfolio relevant to the RDPP objectives.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has signed a Framework Administrative Agreement with the European Commission in June 2015 and entered into a Strategic Cooperation Framework with the European External Action Service and participating Directorates General of the European Commission in 2012. IOM was positively evaluated by the EC through the Seven-Pillar Assessment in 2014. As a regular implementing partner in migration-related actions funded by the EU, the proven positive experience with IOM justifies the choice to implement this complex action through a direct award to IOM.

Additionally, some activities, in particular under result area 1 and 2, will be implemented through directly awarded grants to CSOs. The intention is to support organisations active in the field of protection and migration in expanding their already on-going support to target communities and groups, with a particular focus on vulnerable and most-at-risk populations. The selection will be based on a negotiation process with those organisations, which have already developed extensive expertise and proved added value in the targeted fields of action. In doing so, the Commission will respect the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness assessed on criteria that include relevant prior experience and implementing capacity.

4.4. Indicative budget

Components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Delegation agreement to IOM	8 million
Grants to CSOs	1.9 million
Total	9.9 million

4.5. Monitoring, evaluation and audit

It is important to establish monitoring and evaluation arrangements that can measure progress towards the intended results in a consistent and regular manner. Efforts will be made to set up a single monitoring and evaluation framework for all EUTF-funded projects in the North of Africa.

If necessary, ad hoc monitoring could be contracted by the European Commission for this Action. A final evaluation will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the European Commission.

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, ad hoc audits or expenditure verification assignments could be contracted by the European Commission. Audits and expenditure verification assignments will be carried out in conformity with the risk analysis in the frame of the yearly Audit Plan exercise conducted by the European Commission. Evaluation and audit assignments will be implemented through service contracts; making use of one of the Commission's dedicated framework contracts or alternatively through the competitive negotiated procedure or the single tender procedure.

4.6. Communication and visibility

All implementing partners in receipt of funds from the Trust Fund shall take all appropriate steps to publicise the fact that an action has received funding from the EU under the Trust Fund. These measures shall be based on a specific *Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action*, to be elaborated by each implementing partner at the start of implementation on the basis of the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Action¹⁵. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the grant contracts, and/or delegation agreements.

¹⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/visibility/index_en.htm_en