

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

**1. IDENTIFICATION**

Title	Reference: T05-EUTF-HOA-ET-76 <b>Stability and socio-economic development for vulnerable and marginalised communities in the Tigray region of Ethiopia</b>			
Zone benefitting from the action / Localisation	Tigray region, Ethiopia			
Total cost	Total estimated cost: 6 000 000 EUR Total amount drawn from the Trust Fund: 6 000 000 EUR			
Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)	<b>Direct Management</b> through: Grants and Service contracts List of possible implementing partners: Civil society organisations (CSO), regional and local authorities, private sector, universities, among others.			
DAC – codes	<b>15220 Civilian peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution</b> / 15190 Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility /16020 Employment creation / 11330 Vocational training / 31120 Agricultural development / 31163 Livestock /15170 Women and Youth			
Main delivery channels	Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society - 20000 / International NGOs - 21000			
Markers	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participatory development / good governance	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disability	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Rio Markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Migration marker</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SDG	<b>Goal 5: Gender Equality</b> <b>Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth</b> <b>Goal 10: Reduced inequalities</b>			

	<b>Goal 15:</b> Life on Land <b>Goal 16:</b> Peace, Justice and strong institutions
Valetta Action Plan Domains	<b>1.</b> Development benefits of migration and root causes of irregular migration <b>4.</b> Prevention of and fight against irregular migration, migrant smuggling, and trafficking of human beings <b>5.</b> Return, readmission and reintegration
Strategic priorities of the Trust Fund	<b>1.</b> Greater economic and employment opportunities <b>2.</b> Strengthening resilience of communities and in particular the most vulnerable, as well as refugees and displaced people (IDPs) <b>4.</b> Improved governance and conflict prevention and reduction of forced displacement and irregular migration
Beneficiaries of the action	<b>Local communities living in peripheral areas of the Tigray region of Ethiopia</b> will be the direct beneficiaries of this action. Given the limited resources, the action will mainly focus on three zones: <b>Central, Eastern and Southern zones of the Tigray region</b> . Small components of the action may take place in other areas in the region.  The action will target the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, including <b>potential migrants, migrants, returnees and IDPs</b> , living in towns and cities in the Tigray region. Priority will be given to <b>youth and women</b> .
Derogations, authorised exceptions, prior agreements	Exceptions 8.a and 8.b Events to be reported 20.b, 21 and 25.a2

## 2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

### 2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The historic political commitments made by Ethiopia and Eritrea with the signature of the peace declaration between the two countries in July 2018 offers an unprecedented opportunity for regional stability and for a renewed focus on bettering the prospects of marginalised communities. These areas are currently undergoing profound changes offering new opportunities for economic and social development but also new challenges.

This Action will contribute **to promoting stability and reconciliation, socio-economic development and greater self-reliance, in the Tigray region of Ethiopia**. It will take a two-pronged approach with investments, on the one hand, in addressing local conflict and building social cohesion and, on the other in enhancing and diversifying livelihoods opportunities for local communities. With a total amount of **6 000 000 EUR** and a duration of **42 months**, the Action Document will be implemented in **Direct Management** through direct award of grants and/or service contracts.

The **geographical scope of the action** is in the Central, Eastern and Southern Zones of the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The main **target beneficiaries of this action** is youth (a large percentage of whom will be women) living in the three targeted zones. The focus will be on the most vulnerable and marginalised population, including returnees, IDPs, migrants and potential migrants.

The **intervention logic** is that by supporting sustainable peace and enhancing economic and job opportunities for local communities of the targeted areas, the action will stimulate

inclusive economic growth, build self-reliance and enable communities to take advantage of the new relations between both countries.

This action will significantly contribute to the **EU Trust Fund (EUTF) objectives**, including implementation of the Migration Partnership Framework with Ethiopia, and is fully aligned with the **Valletta Action Plan** and will contribute to the Agenda 2030, as well as to the Gender Action Plan (2016-2020) to two thematic priorities: "physical and psychological integrity of women and girls" and "economic, social and cultural rights – Economic and Social Empowerment" (objectives: 7, 9, 14 and 15). This intervention will be integrated within the on-going EU projects in the region and in the country in order to benefit from their lessons learned and the platforms and networks already established with implementing partners, regional and national institutions and donors working in these sectors.

## **2.2. Context**

### **2.2.1. National context**

After two decades of enmity ended in July 2018 when **Eritrea and Ethiopia signed a peace declaration**, the two countries have agreed to resume commerce, communications and transportation, in addition to the resumption of diplomatic relations. On 11th September 2018, two border crossing points along Zalambessa and Burawere reopened for the first time in almost 20 years, while the western border, Humera in Ethiopia and Oum Hajer in Eritrea, was reopened some months later. Despite these border crossing points having since been closed, trade with Ethiopia has increased.

The peace agreement has brought **new opportunities for prosperity and for trade and economic development, as well as better circumstances** particularly for Ethiopians and Eritreans living in the border areas, who can benefit from the movement, although in most cases limited and informal, of people and goods. For the first time in many years, Ethiopians and Eritreans are opening new businesses such as shops, restaurants and hotels in the border towns and cities of the Tigray region such as Zalambesa and Adrigat, while textile and garment companies in the Industrial Park of Mekelle have started to plan how to access Eritrean ports to export their products. Despite sporadic openings of official border posts, movement across the border has started to unite, once again, two peoples closely linked by history, language and ethnicity.

Although formal bilateral relations between Eritrea and Ethiopia have been restored, many aspects on **how this peace declaration will be operationalised** still need to be defined. Joint committees with sectorial responsibility are being established and negotiations have started. It is expected that new opportunities for trans-border trade and market development will boost livelihoods development and job creation in the targeted areas. The first joint agreement will regulate cross-border trade and movement, although little is officially known about the content and regulative framework yet.

However, the rapprochement has also brought **additional challenges to Ethiopia and particularly to the region of Tigray**, which has experienced increased population movements and arrivals in the past months. Continuous population movements and growth has put extra pressure on social services the labour market, and increased the price of goods and services (in particular of houses for rent). This situation may constitute a trigger for tensions and potential conflicts unless addressed in a timely manner. In addition, social services and infrastructure development as well as foreign and domestic investment in the border areas of Tigray have been hampered for the past 20 years due to the "no war, no peace" scenario. As a result, peripheral areas of the region are severely impacted by instability and marginalisation.

### 2.2.2. Sector context: policies and challenges

The **Tigray Regional State** is the northern-most of Ethiopia's nine regional states. Based on the last census, Tigray Regional State had a total population of 4.3 million people with an annual population growth rate of 4.6% in urban areas and 2.4 % in rural areas<sup>1</sup>. Around 25% of the population currently lives in urban areas. Around 75% of the population lives in rural areas, with teff, wheat, and barely constituting the main crops.

The **1998-2000 war** led to massive displacement of the borderlands communities on both sides, and destruction of properties. Many later re-settled back to their original communities and rebuilt their properties. However, due to the closure of the border, little attention and priority has been given to developing both social and physical infrastructure in the borderlands of the Tigray region. Furthermore, the militarisation of the area has led to increased land degradation (trees and vegetation have been cut down to build fortifications and to be used as firewood by the army). The presence of tens of thousands of troops in a relatively small area has also had its toll on the local communities, in terms of sex trade and other vices. The feeling of abandonment and marginalisation has contributed to collective social fatigue.

In the regional context, the **Tigray regional state, and particularly the Eastern zone, has been one of the regions most affected by population movements**, within the country.

Although manifested differently according to local contexts, a **complex set of drivers** underpins forced displacement and mixed migration in Northern Ethiopia: lack of economic opportunities, marginalisation, land degradation and drought, and food insecurity are at the roots of the problem. Studies in woredas of Eastern Zone of Tigray report that while the livelihood of the local people has been improved in the past years due to different development interventions, this improvement is much below the aspirations and demands of the youth. In addition, social factors are playing a role in people's decision to migrate. Pressure from family, elders and religious leaders on young people to "go find a job" is very common in the region, especially in villages that have seen successful returnees. To a certain extent, trafficking and smuggling networks and brokers contribute to this pressure, as they are usually well-organized and rooted in the communities of origin, and seek to recruit and lure potential migrants into migration. The irregular nature of migration puts young men and women at further risk including death.

A considerable number of Eritreans have migrated to Ethiopia, and in particular Tigray, after the opening of the border. Some have also started moving regularly back and forward between the two countries for conducting businesses and for family reunification. In the border zones, local integration of migrants is already a reality. For example, local authorities allow Eritrean migrants to establish business without requesting a special licence or permit.

Another challenge for the region is the **increasing number of IDPs**. 72,113 displaced individuals comprising 33,448 households in 149 displacement sites were identified in Tigray region due to conflict elsewhere in Ethiopia.<sup>2</sup>

Ethiopia is one of the **most environmentally troubled countries** in the Sahel belt. Tigray contains many of the areas of greatest land degradation concern in Ethiopia's highlands. But Tigray is known not only for the severity of land degradation, but also, since the last few

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<sup>1</sup> Bureau of Planning and Finance (BPF), 2016

<sup>2</sup> Ethiopia: Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Tigray Region, Round 14: November/December 2018 – Summary of Key Findings, IOM [https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/dtm/ethiopia\\_tigray\\_dtm\\_201811-12.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/dtm/ethiopia_tigray_dtm_201811-12.pdf)

years, for the concerted efforts taking place there to redress these problems—including construction of stone terraces and soil bunds, area enclosure and afforestation. These efforts need greater support in order to counteract the severe effects of climate change in the region.

Traditionally, **women** have been excluded from Tigray’s main economic activity: agriculture. A combination of restrictive cultural and structural factors has resulted in women often not gaining access to the benefits of farming. Female-headed households, highly prevalent in the region, are particularly vulnerable to economic and social exclusion. Furthermore, one in three women in Ethiopia experience physical, emotional or sexual violence, without Tigray region being an exception. However, the current national political context and the recent reforms (for instance, regarding the CSO law) have created a more enabling environment for the advancement of gender equality in the country.

During the first identification mission of this action conducted in March, 2019, both regional and local authorities confirmed the **priority they give to developing the most vulnerable areas of the region**, including peripheral areas, since they have been traditionally marginalised from the development processes and are currently under a high pressure due to the migration movements described above. According to the authorities, the current peace situation brings an excellent opportunity for investing in infrastructure and basic services as well as promoting the economy and cross border trade, which particularly benefits youth.

The action is aligned and promotes synergies with the **main national and regional sectorial policies as well as with the Local Development Plans** of the targeted areas such as the GTP II, the National Employment Strategy 2017, the Micro and Small Enterprise Strategy 2011, among others.

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

The proposed action is in line with the overall objectives of the EUTF. The *EU Trust Fund Strategic Orientation Document for the Horn of Africa* emphasises the need for a **new approach to peripheral areas**, providing a more targeted response to tackle the main determinants of vulnerability (marginalisation, exclusion, destitution) and targeting population at risk (particularly youth) in particular where instability, forced displacement and irregular migration are playing out. The importance of interventions in peripheral regions and across borders to respond to the various challenges facing the region is also underlined in the EU Horn of Africa Regional Action Plan, adopted in October 2015.

In addition, it supports the implementation of the **Migration Partnership Framework with Ethiopia**, one of the six strategic priorities for the EUTF as set out by the EUTF Board on 24<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

The **comparative advantage** of supporting this action through the EUTF for Africa rather through other forms of EU support lies on the fact that the EUTF is already supporting similar livelihoods, resilience building and job creation initiatives in different regions of Ethiopia, including the region of Tigray (see sections 2.3 and 2.4) and the speed and flexibility of implementation the EUTF.

## **2.3. Lessons learnt**

This action will greatly benefit from the different **lessons learned of the on-going EUTF Programs in Ethiopia**. Experiences showed that peace is foundational to development and other economic opportunities, while development incentivises peace. Another important lesson learned from the EUTF Programs is the need to use a multi-sectoral approach to address the challenges of the most vulnerable and marginalised areas. The fact that the root

causes of vulnerability are multi-faceted means more integrated approaches need to be adopted in addressing them. Furthermore, interesting lessons and good practices documented from previous and on-going EU programmes such as group based off-farm income generations, value chain development, women's empowerment, youth, natural resource management and climate change, are available for scaling up. In the area of gender, the analysis of CSO approaches to gender reveals different levels of lessons, from recognising gender-based differences to mainstreaming gender and ultimately transforming gendered power relations. These lessons learned will help the implementing partners of this action in improving the coherence, impact and effectiveness of gender programming and monitoring approaches.

The action will also take advantage of the **role and experience of the Civil Society Organisations, including local and international NGOs, private sector, universities, religious institutions and women and youth associations**, in the effort to build peace and reconciliation, promote livelihoods and job opportunities and change the attitude of the youth and their families toward migration in the region.

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

Under the EUTF, the EU and contributing donors are already addressing some of the drivers of instability and vulnerability identified in the targeted area. This is the case of the €19,945,000 million program Stemming Irregular Migration in Northern and Central Ethiopia (**SINCE**), which aims to contribute to reducing irregular migration from Northern and Central Ethiopia by improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable population, including potential migrants and returnees with specific focus on youth and women of the most migration-prone regions (Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region-SNNPR) of Ethiopia. The CRRF-oriented **Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP)** (€30 million) currently being implemented in 5 geographical areas of Ethiopia, including the Tigray region, aims to improve the living conditions of refugees and host communities. Furthermore, the EUTF is supporting peace building and livelihoods interventions in peripheral areas of the country such as the **Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention RASMI project** and the **Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa project (BORESHA)** in Somali region, the **Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention SEEK project** and the **Omo Delta Project, Expanding the Rangeland to achieve Growth & Transformation** in South Omo (SNNPR region).

The EU is also supporting relevant rural development projects such as the **BEE-LIEVE: Beekeepers Economic Empowerment through Long-term Investments in Entrepreneurship and Value chain** in the Eastern and Southern Zones of the region of Tigray; and several socio-economic and governance initiatives have been supported by the Civil Society Fund in the past years.

This action will look for synergies with all the on-going **EUTF projects and particularly those related to livelihoods, resilience-building, job creation and peace building** to ensure that benefits from its lessons learned and the platforms and networks already established with implementing partners, regional and national institutions and donors working in these sectors.

#### **2.5. Donor coordination**

In Ethiopia achieving effective coordination, alignments, synergies and harmonisation among the various donors entails enormous challenges. This action will take advantage of the existing coordination structures and mechanisms that have been already created at the federal, regional and local levels. For instance, there are multilateral, bilateral and NGO coordination

meetings at regional level hosted by the Bureau of Finance and Economic Development (BOFED). There is also a Food Security Steering Committee and Food Security Task Force at regional and woreda levels as well as different technical committees at all levels coordinating specific projects.

The partnership with the national and local authorities as well as with other donors and partners intervening in the target areas is an essential part of the EU cooperation approach. Donor coordination will be ensured through the EU+ migration coordination forum. The action plans to have regular exchange of information with those EU member states such as Italy and Ireland that have a significant presence in the region. USAID is the largest donor investing in region, particularly in Food Security/PSNP and related programmes. It is also expected that the implementing partners of this action will be part of the Alliance Civil Society Organisation of Tigray (ACSOT), an active platform of CSO working in the Tigray region.

### **3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

#### **3.1. Objectives and expected outputs**

The **overall objective** (expected impact) of this action is to promote stability and socio-economic development in vulnerable and marginalised areas of the Tigray region, in Ethiopia.

The **specific objectives** (expected outcomes) of the action are:

1. Promotion of peace building and conflict prevention among local populations living in peripheral areas of Tigray at regional, zonal, woreda and at community levels (Component 1)
2. Improvement of socio-economic opportunities for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations of the Tigray region (Component 2)

The expected outputs are:

#### **Component 1**

##### **Expected output 1.1: Existing and new community level peace and reconciliation initiatives and institutions are strengthened and facilitated.**

The action will conduct an analysis of the causes and consequences of the "no peace, no war" situation as well as the potential triggers for tensions and conflicts in the Tigray region. The analysis will serve to identify and implement different national, and possibly regional, grassroots initiatives following a people-to-people approach. These initiatives may take many forms and cover several sectors such as the agriculture, natural resources, water, trade, culture, sports, etc. Priority will be given to those activities proposed by the communities that are included in the Local Development Plans of the targeted towns and cities. To ensure the sustainability and ownership of the result, the action will also strengthen local and traditional community mechanisms for conflict resolution and prevention.

##### **Expected output 1.2: Increased capacities of local universities in peace building and conflict prevention.**

Universities in the region have undergone significant transformations in the past years, including access to training, pedagogical standards of teaching and learning, academic mobility, research and publications, services to community, etc. Universities are well positioned to significantly contribute to lasting peace. Taking advantage of the recently created Center for Peace and Reconciliation (CPR) at the Mekelle University and the Center for Cross Border Community and Peace Studies at the Adigrat University, the action will support different activities in the area of research, knowledge management, capacity building, networking and advocacy for peace and reconciliation. Efforts will be put into creating an

institutional architecture to cater for sustainable people-to-people peace building in the region and the country at large, by assisting in establishing university-based peace and reconciliation centres and creating a network of universities for peace at national and regional level.

## **Component 2**

### **Expected result 2.1: Improved livelihoods and employment opportunities in the targeted areas.**

The intervention will focus on stimulating economic development and better economic and job opportunities at different levels, taking advantage of the possible opportunities arising from the peace agreement with Eritrea. The action will cover a wide range of income generation and economic activities that can be promoted and supported mostly in rural settings, as well as the development of value chains with an environmental dimension. In supporting youth and women in starting Income Generation Activities, the program will provide them with technical training and support for skills development. It will also promote partnerships with the public and private sectors for investments.

An indicative logical framework reflecting objectives and results is included in Annex 2 of this Action Document

### **3.2. Main activities**

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

### **Component 1, expected result 1.1: Existing and new community level peace and reconciliation initiatives and institutions are strengthened and facilitated**

- Conduct conflict analysis and mapping of local drivers of conflict (and/or potential conflict) in the targeted areas. A gender approach will be taken into account during this exercise.
- Strengthen local and traditional community mechanisms for conflict resolution and prevention
- Provide mobile legal aid service to vulnerable populations through expansion of the existing legal aid services provided by the Adrigat and Mekele Universities
- Conduct forums for dialogue and mediation at local level. These forums will address different forms of violence including gender based violence.
- Implementation of “for peace” grass-roots activities using a people-to-people approach, prioritising activities already included in Local Development Plans: trees for peace, seeds for peace, water for peace, women for peace, culture for peace, sports for peace, markets for peace, business for peace, etc.
- Dissemination of best practices at national and regional levels

### **Component 1, expected result 1.2: Increased capacities of local universities in peace building and conflict prevention**

- Conduct relevant research on different topics of peace building and conflict prevention. Particular support will be provided to research that shows the important role and contributions of women to the sector.
- Strengthen teaching and research capacities in peace-building and conflict prevention
- Establish an online platform to facilitate access to relevant research on peace building and conflict prevention



- Seminars on peace building and conflict prevention Priority will be given to the participation of female academic staff.
- Establish a pool of voluntary international experts (emeritus professors) to help strengthen research supervision at Mekelle and Adrigat Universities
- Establish a network of “universities for peace”

**Component 2, expected result 2.1.: Improved livelihoods and employment opportunities in the targeted areas.**

- Support Income Generation Activities (IGA) in rural areas by providing training, technical advice, skills development, access to micro-finance institutions, and linkages with market
- Value Chain Development (honey, fruits, vegetables, beles cactus, eco-tourism...) by conducting feasibility assessments, organising youth and women into cooperatives, providing training and technical assistance, access to micro-finance institutions and/or investors and linkages with market
- Conduct awareness raising activities on migration, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health among targeted beneficiaries

*3.2.2. Target groups and final beneficiaries*

The action will mainly target **youth (a large percentage of whom will be women) living in the three targeted zones of the Tigray region of Ethiopia. The focus will be on the most vulnerable and marginalised population, including returnees, IDPs, migrants and potential migrants.** In particular, the action will be implemented in the **two peripheral zones (Eastern and Central zones)** that are highly populated, and mostly affected by population movements and land degradation. The action will also cover **the Southern zone** to ensure synergies with other stakeholders such as the Mekele Industrial Park, private sector initiatives and the University of Mekele. As outlined in section 3.1, a small part of the activities under component 1 may have a regional scope beyond the Tigray region.

Engaging women and youth both as participants and leaders, facilitators, mediators, researchers, etc. in people to people initiatives will be crucial for the success of the implementation of Component I. These right holders will also play a key role in Component II, since they will be the target and final beneficiaries of the socio-economic activities promoted by the project.

**3.3. Risks and assumptions**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Level of risk</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
Major exceptional economic crises occurs in target areas	Medium	Close follow up on the context Flexible approach to adapt activities to the new circumstances
Major policy changes that could jeopardise the timely and effective implementation of activities occur	Low	Close follow up on the context Dialogue and negotiations with federal, regional and local authorities Flexible approach to adapt activities to the new circumstances
The climatic conditions do not remain suitable for agriculture crops and	Medium	Flexible approach to adapt activities to the new circumstances

livestock		Close follow up on the existing Early Warning Systems Promote IGA and livelihoods activities that are resilient to shocks
Domestic tensions and in particular between Tigray and Amhara regions deteriorate further	Medium	Close follow up on the context Dialogue and negotiations with federal, regional and local authorities Flexible approach to adapt activities to the new circumstances
The relationships between Ethiopia and Eritrea turn unstable	Medium	Close follow up on the context Dialogue and negotiations with federal, regional and local authorities Flexible approach to adapt activities to the new circumstances
There is not sufficient harmonisation and coordination among relevant stakeholders on the different initiatives	Low	Action coordination mechanisms are put in place Close follow-up of stakeholders' activities
The willingness of the private sector to participate in the project activities is scarce	Low	Involvement from the beginning Evidence based data on the potentiality of the investment Promotion of win-win approach
Perpetuation of gender stereotypes and indiscriminatory social norms  Dissolution of the gender perspective during the implementation of the project	Medium	Gender analysis will be conducted before contracting  Gender-sensitive partners will be selected for the implementation of the action  Priority will be given to the participation of women and girls in the project activities  A gender mainstreaming approach will be implemented in all phases of the intervention (assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation)

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

- Agreement and support to the intervention from the Ethiopian Government and its institutions both at national, regional and local level is maintained throughout the implementation of the project
- External factors such as climatic conditions, political and economic situation remain stable in Ethiopia and the Tigray Region
- No deterioration in the relationship between Ethiopia and Eritrea after the signature of the peace agreement will be experienced.

### 3.4. Mainstreaming

**Gender:** Given the limited sex-disaggregated data available in the region, before contracting, a gender analysis funded by the EUTF Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) will be conducted to ensure that relevant information on gender dynamics is available and taken into account during the following phases. Throughout the action, gender equality must be ensured. The action gives particular emphasis to involving vulnerable and marginalised groups, especially women. The empowerment of women should be actively promoted in both

components. Women's socio-economic empowerment and their leadership in peace building and conflict prevention should be at the core of the action<sup>3</sup>. Data should be disaggregated by age and gender, and at least 40% of beneficiaries should be women. Implementing partners should ensure that their own staffing structures and procedures take gender empowerment into account.

**Decent job agenda:** Following the four interrelated and mutually supportive pillars that comprise the Decent Job Agenda - i.e. employment, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue - the action will work towards promoting work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the work place, creates platforms for people to express their concerns, etc.

**Humanitarian and development nexus:** Drought episodes are becoming recurrent in the area, therefore longer term resilience building interventions are essential. Although this action should not be drawn into providing immediate life-saving assistance, it should clearly contribute to build people and communities' resilience to shocks and ensure its prompt recovery.

**Youth:** Young people in the region are particularly affected by the lack of opportunities. This action will focus on activities that reinforce the role of youth in peace building (since they constitute the next generation of leaders), and empower young people, by enhancing employment opportunities for vulnerable young people, including potential migrants, migrants, returnees and IDPs.

**Minorities:** A core target area will be in Eastern Zone of the Tigray region, where the minority group Irob lives. As a minority living in a degraded environment at the border, the Irob people is experiencing several layers of marginalisation.

**Environmental considerations:** The targeted areas are prone to drought. Environmental considerations, and the effect of drought in particular, must be mainstreamed into all interventions. All interventions will take significant environmental considerations into account in relation to both activities carried out under objective 1 on peace building (trees for peace, seeds for peace, water for peace, etc.) and objective 2 on livelihood opportunities and job creation (green jobs). Lessons learned from the region show us that food insecurity, water stress and environmental degradation have a bearing on stability and migration.

**Conflict sensitivity:** There is a need to ensure that, at a minimum, this intervention does no harm in terms of inflaming tensions and conflict between border communities, or within one community. Conflict sensitivity therefore needs to be an integral part of the do no harm approach.

**Right based approach (RBA):** The action will work to the realisation of all human rights taking into consideration that the targeted right holders are not mere passive recipients of aid, but active motors of their own development. The application of the RBA will contribute to meet the 5 working principles during all phases: accountability, participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency (APNAT).

### 3.5. Stakeholder analysis

The duty bearers, right holders and other stakeholders involved under this action are:

- Federal, regional and local governments.

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<sup>3</sup> In line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions.

- Local communities living in marginalised and vulnerable areas of the Tigray region, and particularly certain groups: migrants, potential migrants, returnees and IDPs as well as youth and women.
- Community associations, including farmers', women's and youth associations.
- CSO and implementing partners with field experience in the region and/or in the thematic areas.
- Mekelle University (and particularly the recently created Center for Peace and Reconciliation), Adigrat University (and particularly the recently created Center for Cross-Border Community and Peace Studies), Aksum University and other Universities in the country and beyond.
- Industrial Park in Mekelle, private sector, SMEs, local business associations, micro finance institutions, training institutions.
- Donors including EU Member States that are active in the region or are planning to have development interventions in the near future.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

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

Not applicable.

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

The implementation period will be 48 months from the date of contract signature.

##### **4.3. Implementation modalities**

The Action will be implemented in **Direct Management** through direct award of grants and/or service contracts to organisations, institutions or a consortium of partners which have the relevant expertise required to implement this action. Events to be reported 20.b (Use of direct award for grants without call for proposals) and 25.a2 (service negotiated procedure instead of call for tenders), as per section 8.5.1 of the DEVCO Companion are considered.

Given the nature of the grants, the type of action and the volatile situation in the targeted areas, no financial contribution from implementing partners will be required. The EUTF contribution will cover the total budget of the different components of the action (section 10.4.2.4. of the DEVCO Companion) and an event to be reported 21 (full financing of grant contract) is considered.

The following exceptions will also apply: 8.a (use of Call for expression of interests and exception) and 8.b (substantial modifications of the templates annexed to PRAG/DEVCO Companion other than the General Conditions.)

Under Component I, the organisations or consortium selected for grant award will have expertise in peace building and conflict prevention. Academic and research public and/or private institutions working in peace-building and conflict prevention might also be considered for grant award and/or service contract to implement some of the activities under this component. Under Component II, the consortium will have expertise in livelihoods, business development and job creation.

In both cases, proven experience in Ethiopia and preferably in the Tigray region will be required. Gender-sensitive organisations will be prioritised during the selection process. Participants in the consortium could be private sector entities, foundations, civil society organisations, and universities. Priority will be given to public-private-non-profit

partnerships. Alternatively, a Call for Proposals or Call for Expression of Interest will be launched.

Service contracts will be used for implementing activities related to the visibility and communication and monitoring, evaluation and audit components of the Action.

A **steering committee** composed of the EU Delegation to Ethiopia (chair), the Tigray Regional Government, local authorities, and implementing partners will ensure the joint oversight of the programme and provide strategic guidance. An additional stakeholders' committee may be established to ensure coordination and synergies with other stakeholders' interventions working in the same geographical area. Annual reports produced by the implementing partners on the implementation of the action will be discussed in the Steering Committee.

#### 4.4. Indicative budget

Component	Amount EUR
<b>SO1.</b> Promotion of peace building and conflict prevention among local populations living in peripheral areas of Tigray at regional, zonal, woreda and at community levels (Component 1) <i>Grants and/or service contract</i>	2 000 000
<b>SO2.</b> Improve socio-economic opportunities for the most vulnerable and marginalised populations of the Tigray region (Component 2) <i>Grants</i>	3 890 000
<b>Communication and visibility</b> <i>Service contract</i>	50 000
<b>Monitoring, evaluation and audit</b> <i>Service contract</i>	60 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 000 000</b>

#### 4.5. Monitoring and reporting

The implementing partner must establish a 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, 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>4</sup>

Project Implementing Partners will be required to provide regular data, including the evolution of the actual values of the indicators (at least every three 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/>.)

#### **4.6. 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.

#### **4.7. 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.

#### List of acronyms

ACSOT - Alliance Civil Society Organisation of Tigray

APNAT - Accountability, participation, non-discrimination, accountability and transparency

BOFED - Bureau of Finance and Economic Development

BORESHA - Building Opportunities for Resilience in the Horn of Africa project

BPF- Bureau of Planning and Finance

CPR – Center for Peace and Reconciliation

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<sup>4</sup> EN : [https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/euetfa/files/eutf\\_results\\_indicators\\_41.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/euetfa/files/eutf_results_indicators_41.pdf)  
FR : [https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/euetfa/files/eutf\\_results\\_indicators\\_41\\_fr.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/euetfa/files/eutf_results_indicators_41_fr.pdf)

CSO - Civil society organisations  
EU – European Union  
EUTF – European Union Trust Fund  
DTM – Displacement Tracking Matrix  
IGA – Income Generation Activities  
IDPs – Internally Displaced Persons  
ILO – International Labour Organisation  
IO – International Organisations  
IOM – International Organisation for Migration  
GoE – Government of Ethiopia  
GTP- Growth and Transformation Plan  
KAP - Knowledge, Attitude & Practice  
NGOs - Non-Governmental Organisations  
PSNP - Productive Safety Net Programme  
RDPP- Regional Development and Protection Programme  
RBA - Right based approach  
SINCE – Stemming Irregular Migration in Norther and Central Ethiopia  
SNNPR – Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region  
SDG – Sustainable Development Goals  
SO – Specific Objective  
TCF - Technical Cooperation Facility  
USAID - United States Agency for International Development

## Annex: Indicative Logical Framework Matrix

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>	Promote stability and socio economic development in vulnerable and marginalised areas of the Tigray region, in Ethiopia	<p>Number of conflict incidences in the targeted areas (disaggregated by sex and type of incidence)</p> <p>Increase in wealth in the Tigray region (disaggregated by sex and age)</p>	<p>Government reports and statistics (such as Ethiopian Socioeconomic Survey, Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey...)</p> <p>Reports from World Bank and UN</p> <p>Conflict databases</p>	
<b>Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s))</b>	<p>SO 1. Promotion of peace building and conflict prevention among local populations living in peripheral areas of Tigray at regional, zonal, woreda and at community levels (Component 1)</p> <p>SO 2. Improvement of socio-economic opportunities for the most vulnerable and marginalised populations of the Tigray region (Component 2)</p>	<p>1.1 Number of initiatives in peace building and conflict prevention in the targeted areas supported</p> <p>1.2 Local communities' perception on peace and stability in the targeted areas by sex and age</p> <p>1.3 Number of national/regional university coordination platforms and initiatives</p> <p>2.1 Unemployment rate in targeted areas disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>2.2 Average income in targeted areas disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>2.3 Irregular migration rate from the targeted areas by sex and age</p> <p>2.4 Men and women's awareness raising on key cross-cutting issues such as migration, gender equality and sexual and reproductive health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline &amp; Evaluation. Knowledge, Attitude &amp; Practice (KAP) survey report</li> <li>• Implementing partners' reports</li> <li>• Studies &amp; Researches</li> <li>• Federal, regional and local governments statistics and reports</li> <li>• Supreme Court reports &amp; statistics</li> <li>• Reports from international organisations such as IOM and ILO</li> </ul>	<p>Major exceptional economic crises do not occur in target areas</p> <p>Major policy changes that could jeopardize the timely and effective implementation of activities do not occur</p> <p>The climatic conditions remain suitable for agriculture crops and livestock</p> <p>Domestic tensions and in particular between Tigray and Amhara regions do</p>



				not deteriorate further The relationships between Ethiopia and Eritrea are stable
<b>Other Results (Outputs and/or Short-term Outcomes)</b>	<p>(SO 1) Promotion of peace building and conflict prevention among local populations living in peripheral areas of Tigray at regional, zonal, woreda and at community levels</p> <p><i>Result 1.1 Existing and new community level peace and reconciliation initiatives and institution) are strengthened and facilitated</i></p> <p><i>Result 1.2 Increased capacities of local universities in peace building and conflict prevention</i></p> <p>(SO 2) Improvement of socio-economic opportunities for the most vulnerable and marginalised populations of the Tigray region</p> <p><i>Result 2.1 Improved livelihoods and employment opportunities in the targeted areas</i></p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of people participating in conflict prevention and peace building activities by gender and age</p> <p>1.1.2 Number of local development plans directly supported</p> <p>1.2.1 Number of people participating in conflict prevention and peace building activities organised by Universities by sex and age</p> <p>1.2.2 Number of research and studies on conflict creation and peace building conducted by universities in the region/country</p> <p>1.2.3 Digital platform with resources on peace-building and conflict prevention created and frequently updated by the end of the project</p> <p>2.1.1 Number of jobs created by sex and age</p> <p>2.1.2 Number of MSMEs supported by sex and age</p> <p>2.1.3 Number of people assisted to develop economic income-generating activities by sex and age</p> <p>2.1.4 Number of returning migrants benefiting from reintegration packages by sex and age</p> <p>2.1.5 Number of people that have participated in gender equality campaigns and trainings by sex and age</p> <p>2.1.6 Number of people that have participated in campaigns and trainings on sexual and reproductive health by sex and age</p> <p>2.1.7 Number of migrants, or potential migrants, reached out by information campaign on</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline &amp; Evaluations. Knowledge, Attitude &amp; Practice (KAP) survey reports</li> <li>• Implementing Partners' reports</li> <li>• Local Development Plans &amp; local authorities' annual reports</li> <li>• Studies &amp; Researches</li> <li>• Regional Bureaus (Education, Economic, Youth &amp; Sports...) Reports</li> </ul>	<p>There is sufficient harmonisation and coordination among relevant stakeholders on the different initiatives</p> <p>There is willingness of the private sector to increase their participation in the project activities</p>

		migration and risks linked to irregular migration by sex and age		
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