



Learning from EUTF-funded projects and programmes supporting youth across West Africa

FINAL REPORT

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EUTF MONITORING AND LEARNING SYSTEM (MLS)

The EU Trust Fund (EUTF) Monitoring and Learning System (MLS) was initiated in July 2017 and is being implemented by Altai Consulting. The overall objective of the MLS is to strengthen EUTF interventions through the creation of a monitoring and learning system, which should provide an evidence-based approach for programming and implementing interventions.

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|----------|---|
| ADFPE | <i>Agence de Développement et d'Encadrement des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises</i> |
| AFD | <i>Agence Française de Développement</i> |
| BMN | <i>Bureau de Mise à Niveau</i> |
| CfW | Cash-for-Work |
| DG INTPA | <i>Direction Générale des Partenariats Internationaux</i> |
| DoA | Description of Action |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States |
| EUD | EU Delegation |
| EUTF | European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa |
| FIDA | <i>Fonds International de Développement Agricole</i> |
| GIZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit |
| HIMO | <i>Haute Intensité de Main-d'Œuvre</i> |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| IP | Implementing Partner |
| ITC | International Trade Centre |
| KII | Key Informant Interview |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MIP | Multiannual Indicative Programme |
| MLS | Monitoring and Learning System |
| MSME | Micro-, Small-, and Medium-sized Enterprises |
| NDICI | Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument |
| NEET | Not in Education, Employment or Training |
| P/CVE | Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism |
| PSE | <i>Plan Sénégal Emergent</i> |
| PVE | Prevention of Violent Extremism |
| ROM | Results Oriented Monitoring |
| SLC | Sahel and Lake Chad |
| SNV | Netherlands Development Organisation |
| SO | Strategic Objective |
| TVET | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| UNCDF | United Nations Capital Development Fund |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| YAP | Youth Action Plan |

1. INTRODUCTION

As part of its work on the Monitoring and Learning System (MLS) of interventions funded under the Sahel and Lake Chad (SLC) of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund (EUTF) for Africa, Altai Consulting was mandated to conduct a cross-cutting analysis of EUTF's programme portfolio dedicated to supporting youth across West Africa. The general objective of this exercise is to provide DG INTPA with an overall picture of EUTF's programming targeting youth across the region, understand the type of projects/programmes that have been funded, analyse where efforts have been focused, and draw lessons from key initiatives to inform future programming.

Youth represent the largest share of the population in West Africaⁱ and face significant challenges in terms of access to education, employment and basic services, rendering them the most prone to engage in irregular migration. In 2024, young people aged 0–14 years were estimated to represent 41% of the population in West Africa, while 10–24-year-olds represented 32% of the population.^{1,ii} Young people face multiple challenges that prevent them from becoming drivers of development and stability, lending to significant untapped potential for the continent. Among these challenges, access to education, economic opportunities and employment are key. For example, the International Labour Organization (ILO) estimated that 35% of 15–29-year-olds in Senegal were 'not in education, employment or training' (NEET) in 2019.ⁱⁱⁱ Similarly, in Nigeria, 33% of 15–29-year-olds who have advanced education are categorised as NEET.^{iv} Alongside unemployment, the prevalence of informal employment and precarious work represents another key issue: in 2022, the share of informal employment was estimated at 98.5% in Niger, 96.3% in Benin, 95.1% in Senegal and 92.1% in Côte d'Ivoire.^v Like the rest of the population, young people also face a lack of access to basic social services, and are exposed to political instability and insecurity in some countries. Consequently, young people are also among the most prone to engage in irregular migration^{vi} and are thus highly exposed to the risks that come with it. In this context, meeting the needs of youth has become essential – both to reduce the risks they face and to tap into the significant potential they offer the continent.

The EU has funded numerous projects through the EUTF to tackle key issues in the region – several of which target youth and are the focus of this study. Since 2017, the EUTF has funded a total of 213 projects² in the SLC region. This includes 158 national projects and 55 regional projects, falling under the EUTF's four strategic objectives (SO): greater economic and employment opportunities (SO1); strengthening the resilience of communities and in particular the most vulnerable including refugees and other displaced people (SO2); improved migration management in countries of origin, transit and destination (SO3); and improved governance and conflict prevention and reduction of forced displacement and irregular migration (SO4). The EUTF portfolio includes diverse initiatives supporting youth: through a mapping of project objectives and beneficiaries, Altai identified 51 projects directly aimed at supporting youth in the SLC region, and 39 projects including youth among their beneficiaries/indirectly supporting them. (See Section 3.)

¹ This figure is extracted from UNFPA data for the following 16 West African countries: Benin; Burkina Faso; Cabo Verde; Cameroon, Chad; Côte d'Ivoire; Ghana; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Mali; Mauritania; Niger; Nigeria; Senegal; The Gambia; and Togo.

² Each project corresponds to a contract, signed under a financing 'decision'. Financing decisions, also called 'programmes', can encompass various projects.

2. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

2.1. OBJECTIVES

This study aims to provide a general overview of the strategies and approaches implemented by EUTF-funded projects directed at youth in the SLC region. It seeks to identify the successes, best practices, lessons learned, and challenges encountered to inform future programming. The study investigates several key questions, organised around five pillars:

- **Relevance of EUTF programming:** Based on the observed results and challenges, to what extent were EUTF-funded youth projects/programmes adapted to identified needs? How were they relevant to national and local contexts? How was the EUTF youth portfolio structured in terms of geographical coverage and content? What lessons can be learned from the different programmatic approaches employed so far (e.g. decisions made with respect to the geographical coverage, scale of intervention, implementation methods, types of partners, etc.)? What were the advantages and disadvantages of each of these approaches?
- **Coherence of EU(TF) programming:** Were EUTF-funded projects aligned with the EU's youth strategy in the countries covered by the study? Has there been enough coordination/links/synergies between the different EU(TF)-funded youth projects? To what extent could the coherence of the different EU-funded projects/programmes be improved, both within the various countries of intervention and at the regional level?
- **Reach and proportionality of the effort:** What has been the reach of EUTF-funded youth projects? How many beneficiaries did they impact, and to what extent did they generate significant quantifiable/evidence-based change (beyond anecdotal changes)? How does this compare with the resources invested?
- **Perspectives on sustainability:** What are the perspectives on the sustainability of the actions implemented and how did the EUTF-funded projects support/ensure this sustainability? How could future youth projects be refined or improved to ensure more effective and sustainable outcomes?
- **Learning from past and ongoing programming:** Considering both the lessons from the past as well as ongoing programming under NDICI, and the evolving political context at the regional and national levels, what strategies should be pursued, strengthened and refined and how?

2.2. METHODOLOGY

2.2.1. SCOPE

Geographic and temporal scope. This study covers 16 countries across West Africa, including the 12 countries from the EUTF SLC window (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and The Gambia) and four countries that benefitted from EUTF-funded programming (Benin, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Togo). It focuses specifically on **projects/programmes implemented between 2017 and 2024.**

Thematic scope. Although there is no strict, universal definition of 'youth', the 'EU Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action 2022–2027' focuses on young people aged 15–29 years and notes the 'transition from childhood to adulthood'.^{vii} Within the EUTF portfolio, most of the projects targeting youth focused on young people aged 18–35 years. **For this study, the definition of youth encompasses both and, thus, includes individuals aged 15–35 years. Children were also included** in the scope

of the study, as some EUTF projects targeted children as beneficiaries, with the aim to help them transition from childhood to adulthood.

Timeline. The study followed two main steps: 1) a cross-cutting analysis of EUTF youth-related programming in all countries under study, based upon a detailed mapping of the EUTF SLC portfolio; and 2) four case studies covering a selection of EUTF youth-related projects/programmes implemented in West Africa, and an in-depth analysis of the lessons learned from their implementation.

2.2.2. EUTF YOUTH PORTFOLIO DESCRIPTION AND CROSS-CUTTING ANALYSIS

2.2.2.1. Initial mapping

Altai started by mapping all EUTF projects aiming to support youth, to then focus only on the ones specifically designed to support youth. This analysis aimed to draw a general overview of the EUTF youth portfolio. Projects were mapped with regard to their geographical scope, budget, number of beneficiaries, type of implementing partner (IP), and main thematic areas of intervention. The findings of this analysis, highlighting the key trends and outlines of EUTF's youth portfolio, are presented in Section 3.

Based on this preliminary mapping, Altai selected a pool of 30 projects within the 51 projects of the EUTF's youth portfolio, which served as a basis for the cross-cutting analysis of the EUTF approach to support youth. This selection was made so that a detailed analysis could be performed by Altai in the timeframe allocated to this study. In the process of selection, Altai ensured that all key themes and the diversity of approaches implemented by the EUTF projects were represented within the project pool. Altai also considered several factors, such as geographical coverage, number of beneficiaries, budget size, and type of IP. This mapping process and the list of the selected projects are further detailed in Section 3.3.

2.2.2.2. Data collection

Altai collected qualitative data through a combination of documentation review and key informant interviews (KIIs). The document review included EU strategic documents and Multi-annual Indicative Programmes, as well as project-specific documentation.

- EU strategic documents (e.g. Valletta Summit Action Plan) and Multi-annual Indicative Programmes (MIP) provided insights into the EU's key priorities and its strategy in given countries and helped assess the coherence of EUTF youth programming within the wider ecosystem of EU actions supporting youth in the SLC region.
- Project documentation, including Descriptions of Action (DoA), final reports, results oriented monitoring (ROM) reports, final evaluations and other learning products enabled Altai to answer questions related to the relevance of the actions and the project development process and programming, as well as to identify innovative approaches and tools, lessons and limitations.

In parallel, Altai led a series of interviews with key stakeholders (EU Delegation (EUD) focal points and IPs) to answer questions related to the relevance, coherence, effects/impacts and sustainability of EUTF-funded actions implemented with the aim to support youth within the SLC window. These interviews supplemented the document review through the identification of innovative approaches and tools, lessons and limitations.

- EUD focal points, who supervised EUTF youth projects, provided information on the approaches adopted by these projects, their successes, and difficulties encountered. They also provided insights into non-EUTF youth projects in their country of operation.
- IPs provided relevant information and feedback at the project level.

Different questionnaires were developed and tailored to the type of key informant and shared ahead of each meeting to ensure the most appropriate person to respond to the questions could participate and could prepare for the discussion in advance. In total, 28 people were interviewed between mid-September and mid-October 2024. The list of people interviewed can be found in Annex 6.1.

2.2.2.3. Analysis

Altai then conducted a cross-cutting analysis of EUTF's youth portfolio, focusing on a selection of 30 projects (listed in Section 3). This analysis entailed a combination of three complementary approaches – thematic, multifactorial and cross-cutting analyses.

- **Thematic analysis:** Altai identified the approaches and tools developed and assessed their relevance, results/outcomes and their (perspectives of) sustainability across identified thematic areas.
- **Multifactorial analysis:** This analysis took into account additional factors. For example: Does the type of implementing partner, the choice of geographic coverage (national versus regional, as well as urban versus rural), the number of beneficiaries or the budget allow for lessons to be drawn, and effective, sustainable or innovative practices to be identified?³
- **Cross-cutting analysis:** Altai then led a transversal analysis of the complementarity and synergies between the different projects and sought to identify similarities as well as specificities, if there were any.

The results of the analyses are presented in Section 4.

2.2.3. CASE STUDIES

As part of the second phase of this study, Altai was asked by EUTF to conduct a series of case studies aimed at delving deeper into a few projects/programmes, with the objective of drawing lessons learned from selected initiatives in greater detail.

Four projects / programmes were selected for a learning case study: **Erasmus+ WA, GrEEen UNCDF, Bab Al Amal, SAFIRE OXFAM** (see Section 5). Altai conducted the four case studies between February and July 2025. A total of 102 KIIs and five focus group discussions were conducted. Each case study was presented in a standalone report including an overview of the project, an analysis of its approach and design as well as lessons learned from its main results. The analysis is structured into two phases: (1) analysis of the project design (relevance, coherence, reach, and sustainability, focusing on adaptation to local contexts, alignment with EU and national strategies); and (2) analysis of project results (using the EU Youth Action Plan 2022–2027 as a framework, revolving around three pillars – Engage, Empower, and Connect). Lessons learned and good practices are identified and presented throughout the different sections of each case study report.

A summary of lessons learned from these four case studies as well as from the EUTF portfolio mapping and analysis are presented in a separate document.

³ It should be noted that the limited number of interviews that Altai was able to conduct with EUDs and Ips in the short timeframe of the study did not provide enough data to draw specific conclusions or establish direct links between selected programmatic choices and project results and outcomes. Such analyses are mostly drawn from existing evaluations (which were not available for all projects in the sample).

3. MAPPING THE EUTF YOUTH PORTFOLIO

3.1. GENERAL OVERVIEW

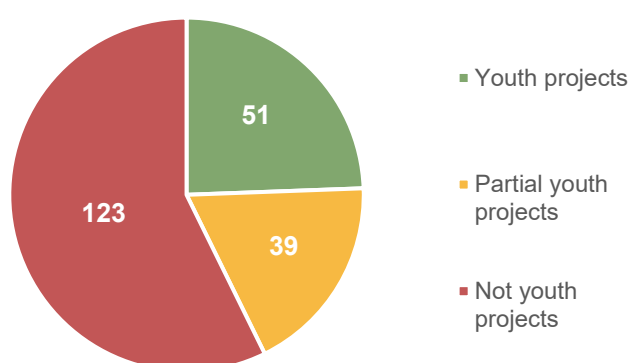
EUTF projects can be classified into three categories based on the extent to which they target young people as their beneficiaries: projects exclusively designed to directly support youth; projects supporting youth among other beneficiary groups; and projects that do not target youth (Table 1).

Table 1: Criteria for project/programme selection

| Classification | Characteristics |
|------------------------|---|
| Youth projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The project is exclusively designed for youth: youth are the specific and only target group, and the activities are specifically designed and dedicated to supporting them. |
| Partial youth projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Youth are among the target groups but are not the only beneficiary group. ➤ At least one component or activity of the project is dedicated to supporting youth. |
| Not youth projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Youth are not specifically mentioned as targeted beneficiaries. |

Youth projects hold importance within EUTF's portfolio. Based on these criteria, Altai identified 51 projects specifically designed to support youth exclusively ('youth projects') and 39 projects which had at least one set of activities or component oriented towards youth or targeting youth among other groups of beneficiaries ('partial youth' projects), as shown in Figure 1. In other words, across the EUTF SLC window, 42% of projects targeted youth specifically (24%) or included them as one of their beneficiary groups (18%). Projects targeting youth specifically represented 19% (EUR 399,9M) of EUTF's total budget in the SLC window.

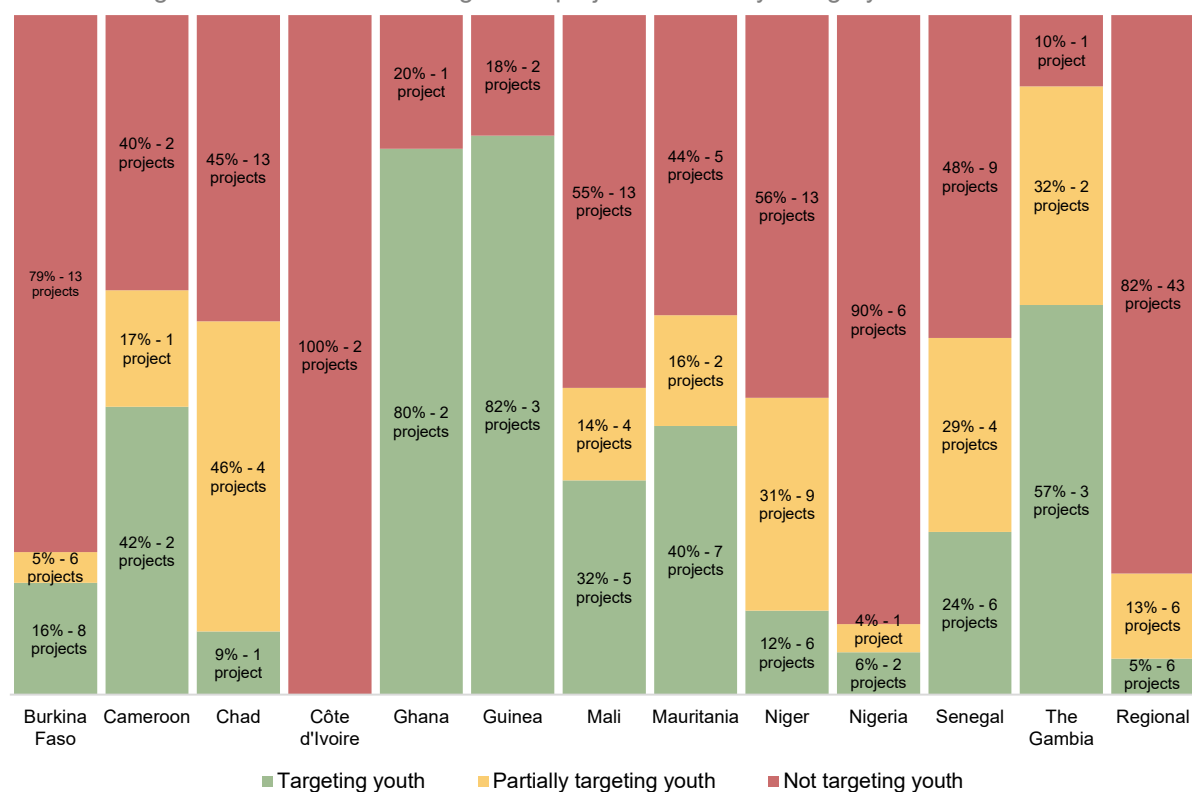
Figure 1: Number of projects by category (see Table 1)



Youth programming is most prevalent at the national scale, varying significantly among countries (as further outlined in Section 3.2), **and less represented at multi-country level.** An exception is Côte d'Ivoire, where only two projects have been funded by EUTF since 2017 (one focusing on civil registration, one related to the Covid-19 pandemic), and neither of them specifically focuses on youth. The four countries outside the SLC window – Benin, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau and Togo – did not benefit from any intervention directly targeting youth under EUTF funding.

In contrast, most EUTF-funded regional projects do not include youth among their main beneficiaries. At the regional level, a substantial portion of the budget is directed towards cross-border resilience projects, nutrition objectives, WASH initiatives, governance projects and support for conflict mitigation, rather than initiatives specifically targeting youth, which represent only 5% of total regional funding – with an additional 13% from initiatives partially targeting youth.

Figure 2: Distribution of budget and project number by category across countries



The below section focuses on the 51 youth projects identified as part of this preliminary mapping.

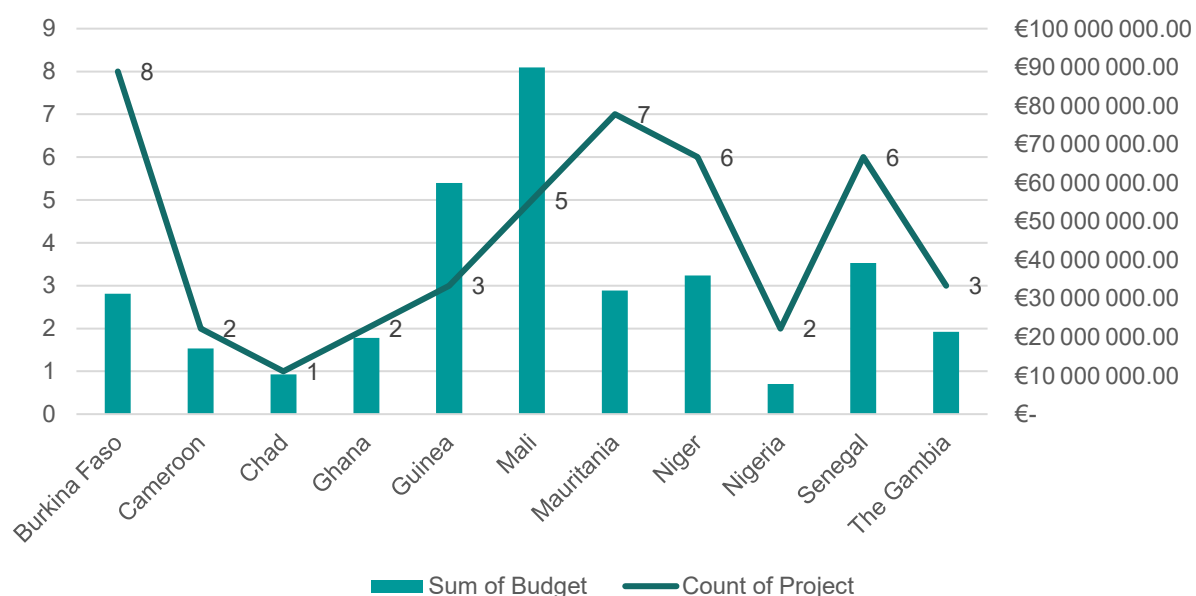
3.2. YOUTH PROJECTS: PORTFOLIO DESCRIPTION

Distribution of youth programming across countries

The allocation of budget to youth projects indicates portfolio adaptation based on national contexts, which could reflect a strategy that prioritises development through youth in more stable countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia) while directing a greater number of projects and more resources to governance, conflict prevention and stabilisation (SO4) in conflict-affected nations (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria), as depicted in Figure 2.

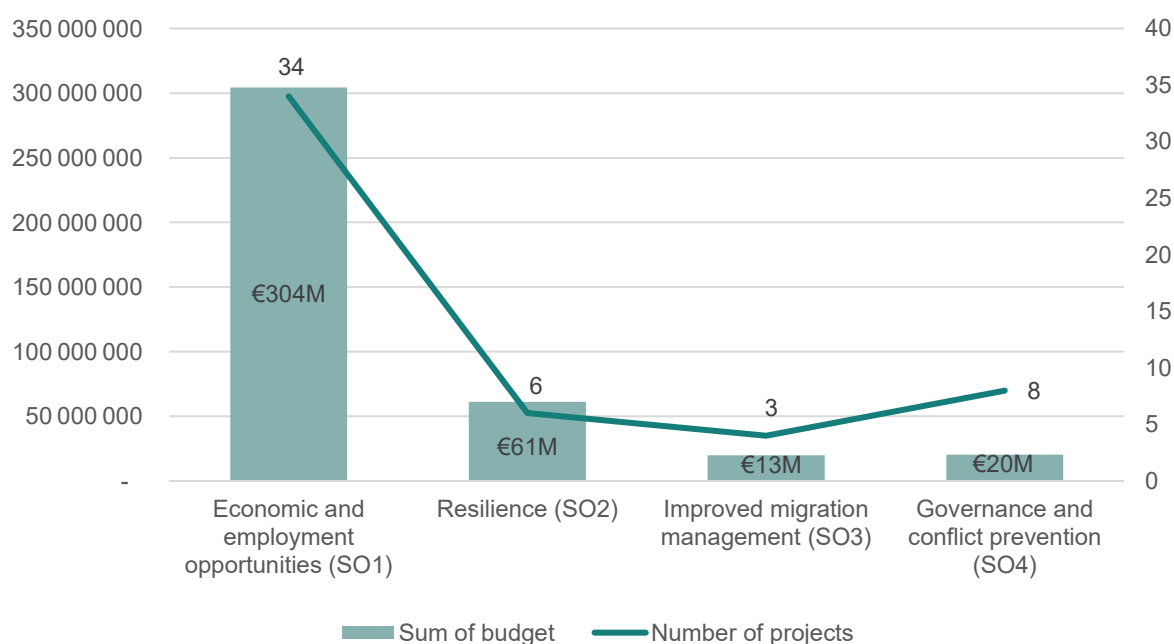
Budgetary allocations do not necessarily align with project numbers at the country level. Mali and Guinea, where respectively five and three EUTF-funded youth projects were implemented, represent the highest national budgets allocated to youth programming (EUR 90M in Mali, EUR 60M in Guinea), as illustrated in Figure 3. On the contrary, Burkina Faso and Mauritania, which register the highest number of youth projects (eight in Burkina Faso, seven in Mauritania), account for significantly smaller budgets allocated to youth programming overall (EUR 31M in Burkina Faso, EUR 32M in Mauritania). This can be partly explained by the type of projects implemented (e.g. projects/programmes involving capacity-building or awareness-raising, which are generally cheaper to implement compared to the development of infrastructure). However, available data does not allow to draw patterns or correlations between budgets and successful outcomes.

Figure 3: Budgetary allocation and number of youth projects per country



Distribution of youth programming by Strategic Objective

Figure 4: Budgetary allocation and youth projects by Strategic Objective



The share of youth projects varies significantly across SOs. SO1, which aimed to support greater economic and employment opportunities, is by far the most represented among youth projects and the SO with the highest proportion of youth projects (34 out of 51), as shown in Figure 4. Nonetheless, the budget allocated to resilience projects (SO2) remains substantial, representing 15% of the total youth budget, due to projects targeting youth resilience in urban and rural settings.

Improved migration management (SO3) features a low number of youth projects and a modest budget. Despite being associated with almost as many projects as SO2 and SO3 combined, SO4 – which is related to governance and conflict prevention – has a relatively lower budget allocated to youth: this can be attributed to governance and radicalisation prevention initiatives, which require less budget than

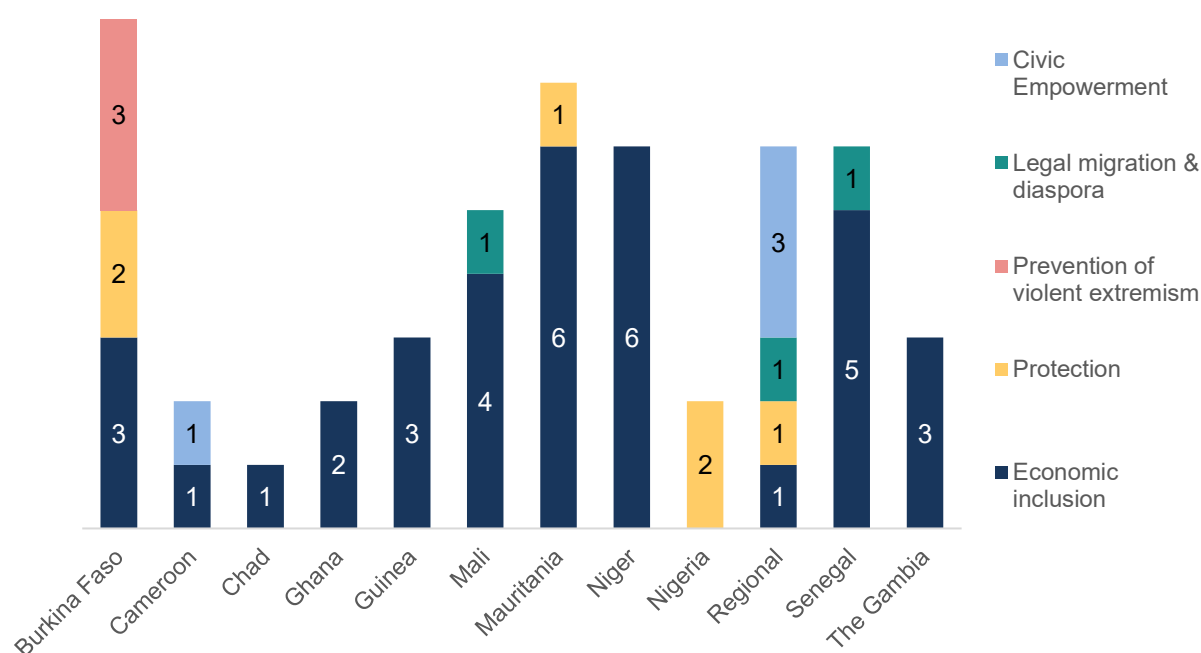
other initiatives. These projects rely mainly on human resources, such as trained facilitators, community organisers, and educators and often involve interactive workshops, group discussions, and community outreach programmes, requiring investment in personnel and training. This focus on human capital, rather than tangible capital (e.g. infrastructure, training equipment, facilities), often results in lower overall financial investment.

Distribution of youth programming by thematic area

The four EUTF SOs cover numerous thematic areas. The 51 youth projects identified by Altai within the EUTF portfolio revolve around five key thematic areas (shown in Figure 5).

- **Civic empowerment:** These projects aim to promote social cohesion and stability by promoting youth as actors of their communities and creating links between youth and other groups (older people, security forces, local authorities). Implemented activities include (1) trainings on peaceful conflict and resource management, citizens' rights and duties, and the culture of peace; (2) support for youth associations; and (3) the promotion of dialogue with authorities and security forces.
- **Prevention of violent extremism (PVE):** These projects aimed to prevent violence and radicalisation in areas prone to multifactorial conflicts and the presence of armed and/or extremist groups. This goal was pursued through various actions, such as the implementation of monitoring and alert mechanisms, citizen monitoring cells for accountability and transparency in the management of local affairs, the creation and strengthening of intra- and inter-community and religious dialogue frameworks, and the promotion of political decision-makers, local authorities, media, and civil society engagement.
- **Legal migration and diaspora:** These projects aim to facilitate legal mobility opportunities for youth and to reinforce the links between diaspora members and local micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and entrepreneurs through investment opportunities.
- **Support to economic inclusion:** These projects promote socioeconomic integration and employability for youth through job creation, entrepreneurship support and vocational training.
- **Protection:** These projects focus on protecting children and young people, both along the migration routes and in insecurity-prone areas. They aim to protect and facilitate access to basic social services for young and child migrants and improve the socio-economic living conditions of young girls and boys to reduce the risks of radicalisation, exploitation and violence.

Figure 5: Thematic area distribution by location



Over half (32) of the 51 youth projects fall under the thematic area, ‘Support to economic inclusion’. The 20 remaining projects cover the four other thematic areas. This is in line with the findings on the distribution of youth projects by SO. Most of the youth budget is directed towards projects that promote job creation, entrepreneurship, and vocational training in all countries. A few exceptions can be noted: in Nigeria for example, the only youth projects implemented are protection projects. At the regional level, thematic areas are more evenly distributed and are all represented except for PVE: all projects working towards PVE are located in Burkina Faso, which is interesting to highlight as it is not the only country facing challenges associated with violent extremism in the SLC region. Legal migration and diaspora as well as civic empowerment are mainly addressed regionally and were not addressed as a priority for country-level youth projects. Figure 5 also suggests that thematic synergies may not have been systematically prioritised.

Distribution of youth programming by IP

Five main IPs (AFD, GIZ, ITC, SNV and Enabel), which implemented two or more youth projects each, accounted for 59% of the EUTF budget mobilised to support youth in the region. They implemented 18 projects amounting to EUR 236.3M, or EUR 13.1M on average per contract. GIZ was the largest implementer, accounting for 22% of the overall youth budget with seven projects implemented in Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and The Gambia.

3.3. SELECTION OF PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE CROSS-CUTTING ANALYSIS

For the purpose of this learning exercise, Altai selected a pool of 30 projects within the sample of 51 youth projects. This framing/reduction of the scope was essential in order to perform an in-depth review of selected projects, feeding into the cross-cutting analysis examining, in the context of each country and at the regional level, the lessons learned regarding the coherence of EUTF-funded programmes, their architecture, and their content, to derive strategic recommendations for future programming.

To better capture the diversity of approaches funded as part of the EUTF youth portfolio, it was decided to overrepresent underrepresented thematic areas⁴, by including all projects falling under categories other than support to economic inclusion.⁵ This represents 14 projects related to civic empowerment, PVE, protection and legal migration and diaspora. To complete this list, Altai then proceeded to select projects providing support to economic inclusion. Projects were analysed and chosen to represent the diversity of geographical scopes⁶, type of IP, range of beneficiaries and budgets within this thematic area. As most projects include support to job creation and training activities, particular attention was paid to sub-thematic or innovative approaches: involvement of the private sector in trainings, through the provision of development support to upgrade companies and economic sectors to international standards, and in activities related to financial management and microfinance, etc.

The list of the 30 projects selected for in-depth review to feed into the cross-cutting analysis (outlined in Section 4) is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: List of projects selected for in-depth analysis

| Thematic areas | Project short name | Project long name | Country |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Civic Empowerment | La Voix des Jeunes II | <i>La voix des jeunes du Sahel - Dialogue entre jeunes et institutions au Sahel (phase II)</i> | Regional |
| | PARSE | <i>Projet d'Appui à la Résilience Socio-Économique des Jeunes Vulnérables (Extrême-Nord, Nord et Adamaoua)</i> | Cameroon |
| | Radio Jeunesse Sahel | <i>Radio Jeunesse Sahel – Appui européen à la phase de démarrage de la radio</i> | Regional |
| Legal migration & diaspora | Erasmus+ West Africa | Erasmus+ in West Africa | Regional |
| | Diaspora Mali FIDA | <i>Investissement de la diaspora dans l'entrepreneuriat durable des jeunes ruraux au Mali</i> | Mali |
| Prevention of Violent Extremism | PEV KEOOGO | <i>Projet intégré de monitoring, suivi et de prévention de la radicalisation et de l'extrémisme violent au Burkina Faso</i> | Burkina Faso |
| | PEV MLAL 2 | <i>Sur les chemins du dialogue – Prévention de l'extrémisme violent autochtone à travers la promotion du dialogue interreligieux et intercommunautaire, de la base aux institutions publiques</i> | Burkina Faso |
| | PEV SEMFILM | <i>Des ambassadeurs de la jeunesse pour le renforcement du dialogue et de la cohésion sociale dans la région de l'Est du Burkina Faso touchée par l'extrémisme violent</i> | Burkina Faso |
| Protection | AFIA | <i>Renforcement des capacités pour une meilleure gestion de la migration afin de protéger l'enfance migrante contre l'exploitation et la traite</i> | Mauritania |
| | Protection WA Save the Children | <i>Amélioration de la protection des enfants et jeunes migrant(e)s dans les principales routes migratoires de l'Afrique de l'Ouest</i> | Regional |
| | Protection Diakonia | <i>Amélioration de l'inclusion sociale des apprenants des Foyers coraniques par l'éducation et le dialogue – 'Dialogue changement social'</i> | Burkina Faso |
| | Protection PREFA | <i>Appui à la modernisation de l'enseignement Franco arabe au Burkina Faso</i> | Burkina Faso |

⁴ This approach was presented to and agreed upon with DG INTPA in early September 2024.

⁵ Few exceptions are to be noted: *La Voix des Jeunes I* was excluded from the selected projects because *La Voix des Jeunes II*, which implements similar activities, was already included in the list; DES Tekki-fii 2 represented only the communications component of the DES programme and, therefore, was also not included.

⁶ Except for Côte d'Ivoire, which is the only SLC country with no youth project in its portfolio, and Benin, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Togo which, although having benefited from EUTF-funded projects did not benefit from actions specifically targeting young people.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--------------|
| | ISING | Investing in the Safety and Integrity of Nigerian Girls (I-Sing) | Nigeria |
| | PSS | UNICEF – Strengthening Psychosocial Support, Mental Health, Reintegration and Protection Services for children in Borno, including children associated with Boko Haram | Nigeria |
| Support to economic inclusion | ARCHIPELAGO | ARCHIPELAGO: an African-European TVET initiative | Regional |
| | DES AFD | <i>Développer l'emploi au Sénégal : renforcement de la compétitivité des entreprises et de l'employabilité dans les zones de départ</i> | Senegal |
| | DES GRET | <i>Accompagnement des jeunes vers l'emploi au Sud du Sénégal (AjeSud)</i> | Senegal |
| | DURAZINDER | <i>DURAZINDER – Programme de création d'emplois et d'opportunités économiques à travers une gestion durable de l'environnement dans les zones de départ et de transit du Niger</i> | Niger |
| | Emploi BF | <i>Programme d'appui à l'Emploi dans les zones frontalières et périphériques au Burkina Faso</i> | Burkina Faso |
| | GrEEen UNCDF | Boosting green employment and enterprise opportunities in Ghana | Ghana |
| | HIMO CM | <i>Projet d'investissement en appui au développement économique local dans l'Extrême-Nord, favorisant l'emploi et l'insertion des jeunes (approche HIMO)</i> | Cameroon |
| | INTEGRA Enabel | <i>Programme d'appui à l'intégration socio-économique des jeunes en République de Guinée – INTEGRA Enabel</i> | Guinea |
| | IPDEV2 | <i>I&P accélération au Sahel (en appui à l'initiative IPDEV-2)</i> | Regional |
| | PAIERA EPPA | <i>Projet d'intégration économique et sociale des jeunes : Emploi pour le patrimoine d'Agadez (EPPA)</i> | Niger |
| | PAIERA PASSERAZ | <i>Projet d'Appui à la Stabilité Socioéconomique dans la Région d'Agadez/PASSERAZ</i> | Niger |
| | Promopêche GIZ | <i>GIZ – Création d'emplois décents et consolidation de l'emploi pour les jeunes et potentiels migrants dans le secteur de la pêche artisanale</i> | Mauritania |
| | SAFIRE OXFAM | <i>Résilience Communautaire et Institutionnelle pour l'Insertion Economique et Sociale des Jeunes et des Femmes à Nouakchott, au Hodh El Chargui et Hodh El Gharbi, en Mauritanie (SAFIRE OXFAM)</i> | Mauritania |
| | TUUMA | <i>TUUMA – Appui à la compétence professionnelle, l'entrepreneuriat et l'emploi des jeunes en milieu rural dans des régions rurales du Burkina Faso</i> | Burkina Faso |
| | YEP | Youth Empowerment Project | The Gambia |
| Bab Al Amal | <i>Projet de soutien à l'insertion socio-professionnelle des jeunes tchadiens en situation de vulnérabilité</i> | Chad | |

4. CROSS-CUTTING ANALYSIS

4.1. RELEVANCE OF EUTF YOUTH PROGRAMMING: CONSTRUCTION AND ARCHITECTURE OF PROGRAMMES

Youth projects from the EUTF portfolio addressed existing needs. Most projects (25 out of 30) conducted needs assessments and diagnoses or collaborated with local actors aware of local needs to ensure the activities designed and implemented responded to the challenges faced by the targeted beneficiaries. This approach was adopted across all thematic areas. Some projects continued to assess beneficiary needs during the implementation phase to adapt their activities and ensure the most appropriate response possible. For instance, 'Protection West Africa', implemented by Save the Children and Terre des Hommes in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Senegal and The Gambia, conducted rapid needs assessments throughout its implementation phase. This enabled the swift identification of new migration trends and areas where young people required support.

The involvement of beneficiaries in the design and implementation of activities helped ensure the relevance of EUTF-funded actions. Under '*La Voix des Jeunes II*', which aimed to support the inclusive and participatory development of action plans and national strategies for young people in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Tchad, young people in Niger were involved at all stages of the design and validation of the National Youth Entrepreneurship Promotion Strategy (2020–2029). Their active involvement ensured that the tool developed, with the support of the project, was relevant and effectively tailored to the needs of the youth. In civic empowerment and PVE initiatives, youth and their communities were also at the centre of activities. In Burkina Faso, young people engaged in creating multimedia content to raise awareness in their communities and among authorities were able to choose the issues that mattered most to them and that they wanted to highlight through the 'PEV SEMFILM' project.⁷ In projects, like I-SING in Nigeria, beneficiaries became agents of change and of protection themselves within their communities: local mentors were trained on various topics (related to education, health and life skills), allowing them to subsequently train adolescents, and local and religious leaders, forming a network of individuals providing psychosocial support within their communities.

Finally, EUTF youth projects overall were aligned with sectoral and national strategies and priorities, ensuring relevance to locally identified needs (section 4.2.)

Content segmentation for different youth age groups is key to successful training and mentorship. EUTF projects defined youth mostly according to their age category. Most project documents analysed by Altai described youth as 18–35-year-olds,⁸ with some including those as young as 15 years, or as old as 40 years. In SLC countries, a very significant portion of the population falls within this age category,^{viii} making this age criteria possibly too broad. In addition, five⁹ of the 30 projects selected as part of this study targeted children and teenagers (3–19 years old), which can constitute very different audiences depending on the type of content and activities implemented. In Nigeria, local mentors involved in I-SING thus had to adapt the content of the training they provided to youth based on their age category, in order to avoid topics they were not ready for or not mature enough to handle. The project's tailored curriculum was initially adapted to gender but not for children versus teenagers.

While most EUTF projects under study targeted youth as particularly vulnerable to certain threats or challenges, they missed the opportunity to demonstrate greater relevance by

⁷ PEV refers to "*prévention de l'extrémisme violent*" and serves here as a project name. PEV differs from PVE, which refers to the approach/concept of preventing violent extremism.

⁸ Most of the time, youth were part of a larger category including 'youth and women'.

⁹ PSS, I-SING, Protection West Africa, Protection DIAKONIA, Protection PREFA.

differentiating beneficiaries based on additional socio-economic factors. Youth encompass diverse realities in terms of their respective economic status, education level, employment situation and history, rural or urban living, and social and marital status. These factors can highly impact young people's living conditions and therefore be relevant to consider in the design of needs-tailored projects:

- For instance, in the three PEV projects implemented in Burkina Faso, activities concentrated around youth centres primarily engaged individuals who attended these establishments. These participants tended to be better educated, more integrated into local communities, and less prone to violent extremism.^{ix} One informant¹⁰ noted that recognising diverse socio-economic youth groups would have improved targeting and, in this case, allowed the project to better reach vulnerable rural youth, who are more exposed to violent extremism. This suggests that the vulnerability criteria was relevant but not well executed in practice.
- The importance of taking into account the level of youths' economic vulnerability was better reflected in the HIMO¹¹ project implemented by AFD in the Extreme North region of Cameroon, afflicted by the presence of Boko Haram, which aimed to provide young people with employment opportunities to prevent enrolment in non-state armed groups.
- The final evaluation of the I-SING project in Nigeria^x suggested that future planning could consider how to better integrate out-of-school teenagers according to their understanding of gender-based violence issues and level of education.

Although EUTF-funded youth projects addressed existing needs, the results achieved were sometimes limited by various factors, such as insufficient consideration of contextual and structural constraints, overly short implementation periods, and a focus on short-term outcomes.

- **Some projects targeted real needs but insufficiently considered structural limiting factors.** The Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), implemented by ITC in The Gambia, adopted a comprehensive approach, linking support to value chains in promising sectors and technical and vocational education and training (TVET), all while observing market-led and youth-led approaches, building on existing infrastructure, and aiming for both short-term gains and long-term benefits. However, the national economic landscape and the limited number of companies able to create employment opportunities and absorb the youth arriving each year on the job market emerged as limitations: an informant noted that YEP faced challenges integrating youth into the labour market due to the country's fragile economy and limited job prospects.^{xi} While IPs do not have control over such structural limitations, the link between ambitions, context and means is key to designing relevant projects. This challenge is echoed in I-SING's experience: according to the project's final evaluation, the lack of 'safe' employment prospects post-training meant that some beneficiaries engaged in work defined as 'unsafe',¹² as it was their only available option to earn a living. This example underscores the importance of the national and local environments, as well as the labour market and prospects available to beneficiaries, to ensure that training and skills development provided by IPs can reliably translate into decent economic opportunities.

¹⁰ All findings, including those explicitly stated by single informants, were consistently corroborated by other sources, including information drawn from the document review.

¹¹ HIMO, which stands for High Intensity of Labor Force (*Haute Intensité de Main-d'Œuvre*), is an approach that involves utilising local labour force to construct infrastructure within a reduced timeframe. 'HIMO' also serves as the project name.

¹² According to the 'Mercy Corps' Guidance on Safe and Decent Work', ensuring safe work includes improving safety related to transportation, sanitation facilities, and the inclusion of female mentors and/or staff in the workplace. The final evaluation indicates: 'The fact that there were more boys engaged in some works defined as unsafe could be read as the only alternative they currently find to pursue these mentioned goals, maybe because the enterprises they built in the safe spaces were not fruitful enough in the Northeast restrictive context.'

- **Humanitarian and development interventions should complement each other to guarantee sustained engagement and relevance.** Certain informants suggested that, in particularly fragile contexts, initiatives aiming to address structural issues may appear irrelevant as they do not focus on urgent and priority needs. In such situations, it is essential to ensure that basic needs are met before – or in parallel of – engaging in activities targeting what may be perceived as ‘secondary’ needs by beneficiaries. This can be the case of PVE approaches: in crisis-affected areas, populations facing a deteriorating security environment and surges of violence may express more fundamental needs (i.e. access to basic services, security, etc.) before engaging in activities aimed at fostering social cohesion and dialogue. A local informant noted that the approaches used in PEV projects may no longer be considered relevant today in their intervention areas, given the marked deterioration in the security context since the projects ended. In such contexts, ensuring complementarity between EU(TF)-funded initiatives – as well as with other donors’ programmes – is essential to promote integrated approaches that can both meet basic needs and address other, more structural issues. (See Section 4.2.)
- **Some activities were also hindered by the insufficient time allocated to their implementation.** The ‘Protection DIAKONIA’ project, which aimed to improve the social and economic living conditions of young people in Qur’anic schools in order to prevent the risk of radicalisation in Burkina Faso, implemented self-employment support activities. However, the short follow-up period dedicated to check on beneficiaries after the activities had ended did not allow them to stabilise and produce the expected results. Beneficiaries interviewed as part of the final evaluation^{xii} expressed that this project, which generated genuine interest, would have needed more time to enable real ownership of the activities and to build sufficient capacities among beneficiaries in order to foster autonomy and ultimately produce the expected ‘social change’. This aligns with experiences from other projects, such as YEP: one informant stated that longer-term interventions were deemed necessary to foster deeper impact through skills development.

Projects implemented over short periods of time or focused on short-term results offer fewer prospects of addressing the needs of the youth. Although short-term outcomes can be relevant in urgent circumstances, they are less likely to foster systemic changes and lasting improvements in the living conditions of beneficiaries. Cash-for-work (CfW) activities, implemented by HIMO for example, provide immediate income to beneficiaries but are not long-term solutions and may foster dependency on the project if alternative strategies for sustainable income generation are not developed concurrently. To address this challenge, the project aimed to assist beneficiaries in establishing savings from the revenues generated by CfW activities to support the launch of micro-projects at the end of the project. However, HIMO’s final report^{xiii} pointed that, for some beneficiaries, the savings generated were insufficient for initiating the planned post-project activities.

4.2. COHERENCE OF EU(TF) PROGRAMMING ACROSS THE SLC REGION: COMPLEMENTARITY AND SYNERGIES WITHIN THE EUTF YOUTH PORTFOLIO

4.2.1. COHERENCE WITH EU YOUTH STRATEGIES

The EUTF youth portfolio aligns with the overarching EU strategy on migration with Africa, as set out in the Valletta Action Plan of 2015. Established at the Valletta Summit, the plan framed EU-Africa cooperation on migration by identifying priority countries and emphasising the need to better manage migration flows. It aimed to address the root causes of migration through targeted development initiatives. The design of the EUTF portfolio was informed by the Valletta Action Plan of 2015, which outlined the EU-Africa strategy on managing migration flows through targeted development initiatives. As a result, the objectives of the EUTF are well aligned with the priorities established in the Valletta

Action Plan. EUTF youth projects integrated migration within wider poverty reduction and development interventions, focusing on labour markets, employment opportunities and private sector growth, particularly in areas from which migrants originate or through which they transit. Economic inclusion initiatives represent the largest share of budget allocation, and the largest number of youth projects funded by the EUTF in the SLC region. The Valletta Action Plan also highlighted the importance of projects facilitating civic participation by youth and tackling violent extremism, areas explored by several EUTF-funded initiatives: for instance, three PVE projects were implemented in Burkina Faso; and the project, *'La Voix des Jeunes II'*, supported civic empowerment. Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) is also an important focus in the 2015–2020 Regional Action Plan for the Sahel, adopted by the European Council on 20 April 2015.

Although the Valletta Action Plan promotes the development of legal migration opportunities for youth, the EUTF made modest efforts towards this area. The Plan mentions facilitating job placements in Europe for African nationals. However, only the Erasmus+ programme directly contributed to EUTF indicator 3.10 measuring the 'Number of people benefitting from legal migration and mobility programmes', and Erasmus+ was not an initiative designed under the EUTF itself; rather, EUTF provided supplementary support to the existing Erasmus+ programme. Additionally, Erasmus+ focused solely on student and teacher exchanges, not job placements as proposed under the Valletta Action Plan.

The EUTF youth portfolio, designed when the 2014-2020 EU-West Africa Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs) were in effect, aligned with their recognition of youth as a vulnerable group. Youth projects encompass 90 of 213 projects and 36% of the portfolio value. The portfolio's emphasis on youth reflects the priorities set by these MIPs, which consistently recognised youth as a vulnerable group in need of targeted support, particularly in the area of economic inclusion. This focus is also visible in the portfolio's thematic priorities, where economic inclusion emerged as the issue with the most focus, representing 63 out of the 90 youth-focused projects and 88% of the budget allocated to youth programming. The MIPs' recognition of youth as a priority group is consistent across the SLC countries, albeit with varied approaches. For instance, Chad's MIP prioritised direct support to youth economic inclusion, particularly in underserved areas, aligning this with national development plans. Mali's MIP integrated youth initiatives into broader development goals like education and vocational training, while Burkina Faso's MIP addressed youth indirectly through education-focused programs. This variation reflects the diverse challenges and priorities across nations, influencing the prominence of youth-specific strategies within their overall development frameworks.

The EUTF youth portfolio adopted approaches that sometimes went beyond the MIPs' scope. Themes beyond employment and training were largely absent in these MIPs¹³; PVE, for instance, is not mentioned while increased civic participation of youth is only highlighted as an objective in Nigeria's MIP, reflecting the differing contexts at the time of drafting. Nonetheless, EUTF projects demonstrated context-specific adaptation, notably including PVE as an important thematic area in Burkina Faso following the deterioration of the security situation, going beyond the MIP's initial scope. Civic empowerment projects like *Radio Jeunesse Sahel* or *La Voix des Jeunes* also addressed issues not covered in the respective countries' MIPs.¹⁴

The EUTF youth portfolio aligned with national priorities related to the development of economic opportunities in countries of intervention. Many EUTF youth projects were designed to align with

¹³ The new (2021-2027) MIPs place increased emphasis on critical themes such as PVE and civic empowerment, particularly in the Sahel countries, in response to escalating conflicts and complex political transitions. While addressing these challenges, these MIPs continue to prioritise initiatives that promote job creation and vocational training. In this regard, the EUTF youth programmes remain aligned with these strategies. The 2021-2027 MIPs also introduce new dimensions, notably highlighting youth as catalysts for economic digitalisation and environmental sustainability in countries like Nigeria, The Gambia, and Niger. These approaches were not addressed by the EUTF youth portfolio.

¹⁴ *Radio Jeunesse Sahel & La Voix des Jeunes*: Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.

the development plans of West African nations seeking to address youth employment challenges. Most prioritise youth in their development strategies, as their populations are predominantly young (with 65% of the population in the ECOWAS region under 25 years old^{xiv}). Key national strategies were cited in the DoAs of the projects/programmes under study. For instance, Senegal's *Plan Sénégal Emergent (PSE)*^{xv} is quoted in the DES AFD DoA, which aligns with the PSE's objective of reducing unemployment and skills gaps in the country. Similarly, Niger's *Plan de Développement Economique et Social*^{xvi} is referenced in the DoA of DURAZINDER, which falls under the objective of supporting TVET, job creation and entrepreneurial support. Burkina Faso's *Plan National de Développement Economique et Social*,^{xvii} which aimed to strengthen the private sector and foster job creation, is also cited in the DoA of the *Emploi BF* project.

EUTF-funded actions supporting youth remain aligned with the strategic pillars of the more recent (late 2022) EU YAP. The YAP revolves around three main pillars: Engage; Empower; and Connect.^{xviii} The 'partnership to engage' pillar promotes the inclusion of youth in decision-making processes, which the EUTF supported through civic participation initiatives seeking the voices of young people, like *La Voix des Jeunes II*. The 'partnership to empower' pillar aims to reduce inequalities through skills development and training opportunities, which was the focus of several EUTF projects supporting TVET as well as private sector growth, like GrEEn UNCDF. The 'partnership to connect' seeks opportunities for international networking among youth. Although less represented in initial EUTF programming, its objective of facilitating cross-border exchange is consistent with the funding of the Erasmus+ programme.

4.2.2. COHERENCE WITHIN THE EUTF YOUTH PORTFOLIO

EUTF youth projects covering the same thematic area generally functioned without significant coordination or alignment of approaches among them. For example, the three PEV projects in our sample were implemented by organisations with different areas of expertise: KEOOGO specialised in child protection; SEMFILM in audiovisual content; and Progetto Mondo in human rights advocacy and poverty reduction. While all three projects were components of the same programme,¹⁵ each implementer delivered their own standalone approach as synergies were not sufficiently integrated into the project designs and formulations. Whilst a coordination cell existed, its role was unclear from the onset as the need for coordination was not sufficiently outlined in project descriptions. Therefore, the cell had little operational influence over activities, although it did facilitate information-sharing. The projects essentially functioned in silo, without incorporating synergies into intervention planning or design. Opportunities for more joint, complementary delivery between specialised partners were overlooked as a result of the limited focus on collaboration during the planning phase. Similarly, a missed opportunity for synergy between Protection West Africa and INTEGRA in Guinea was observed as INTEGRA finalised its beneficiary list before coordinating with Protection West Africa. This prevented the inclusion of beneficiaries in both programmes, limiting the potential for multi-dimensional support. A more coordinated approach from the onset could have resulted in a more comprehensive service for the targeted youth beneficiaries in need of reintegration assistance.

Nonetheless, some cases of successful collaboration were observed between EUTF youth projects covering similar themes, with the EUD playing a steering role. The EUD in Burkina Faso directly encouraged synergies between the projects, *Emploi BF* (providing training to enhance employability) and TUUMA (aiming to integrate youth into the job market), by facilitating the exchange of best practices and challenges through regular meetings for knowledge-sharing. Each project fed into the other's programming with lessons learned and best practices.

¹⁵ *Rebâtir une cohésion sociale au Nord du Burkina à travers un meilleur suivi de la radicalisation, la promotion du dialogue et la valorisation de l'économie pastoraliste.*

Synergies across EUTF youth projects covering different thematic areas were also limited. Most youth projects funded under EUTF sought to address specific needs or issues. While this approach allowed the EU to capitalise on the expertise of implementers, the lack of collaboration between initiatives meant that interventions often addressed only one aspect of the needs of beneficiaries, without adopting holistic approaches. Stakeholders interviewed by Altai suggested that multi-faceted, complementary approaches could have resulted in significantly better outcomes for beneficiaries. For example, TVET and job creation components may have strengthened outcomes of PVE initiatives. However, the three PEV projects included in our sample did not embed these economic inclusion aspects within their results framework, and no other EUTF projects were designed to directly complement them in their areas of intervention. While some PEV beneficiaries ultimately benefited from EUTF-funded economic inclusion activities (under the TUUMA and *Emploi BF* projects), this was coincidental and not by design. Opportunities were missed to purposefully integrate complementary expertise and resources from different but related thematic areas into programming. In that regard, the time required to establish proper coordination mechanisms between implementers at the design phase may have been lacking at the beginning of EUTF, given its emergency nature.

Some instances of collaboration between such projects occurred with no specific guidance from EUDs. The ARCHIPELAGO¹⁶ project team took proactive steps by including collaboration with IOM in its DoA and in the mandate of its steering group, from the project design stage. ARCHIPELAGO assessed enterprise needs upstream to ensure sufficient opportunities for youth trained under the project, which gave project managers a precise understanding of enterprise requirements in intervention areas. Leveraging this knowledge, ARCHIPELAGO was able to share information on labour market needs in its regions of intervention with IOM in order to see if returnees with suitable profiles could be referred for subsequent training and integration into select companies. This partnership was driven by ARCHIPELAGO's governance initiative and its engagement, without specific facilitation by EUDs or EUTF focal points reported to Altai.

In instances where implementers shared similar approaches or possessed comparable expertise, effective collaboration and synergies within consortia were reported. The 'Protection West Africa' project, implemented by Save the Children and Terre des Hommes, aimed to create a protective environment for migrant children and youth through adapted social services and on the migration roads of West Africa. Save the Children and Terre des Hommes were able to deliver an integrated regional response, drawing upon the proven expertise of both organisations on child and youth protection. A geographic split of focus areas was implemented, with Terre des Hommes responsible for Guinea and Save the Children responsible for Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia and Guinea Bissau. This allowed cross-border coordination mechanisms to be established, permitting cross-border activities and the tracking of beneficiaries throughout migration journeys. It also facilitated shared learning, and the adaptation of activities informed by each partner's feedback. This was made possible thanks to a good knowledge of each other's expertise, a close collaboration as well as a regular communication between implementing partners since the design phase of the project.

4.3. MAGNITUDE/REACH AND PROPORTIONALITY OF THE EFFORT

The overall reach of the EUTF's youth portfolio, in terms of direct beneficiaries, can be contextualised relative to the extent of the targeted population group. Combined, the 30 projects analysed as part of this study aimed to provide direct support to around 342,743¹⁷ young people. According to the UNFPA, young people aged 15 to 24 account for an average of 20% of the population

¹⁶ ARCHIPELAGO was implemented in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal.

¹⁷ Estimated calculation based on project documents.

in SLC countries^{xix}, which represents a total of 91.7 million people^{18,xx}. Overall, the 30 projects analysed as part of this study thus targeted less than 0.4% (0.37%) of the population aged 15 to 24, and an even smaller percentage when including youth up to 35 years old.

The EUTF engaged a total budget of €206M through these 30 projects. The average cost per beneficiary varies according to the thematic area, as exposed in Table 3 below. The highest cost per beneficiary appears in the Legal migration & Diaspora thematic area, as its activities covered expenses for students under the Erasmus+ program and the support to SMEs in collaboration with the Malian diaspora. The average cost per beneficiary is also high in the Protection and the Support to economic inclusion thematic areas, as these involved concrete and significant material costs for training, launching activities, as well as covering food, healthcare, and daily needs for young people in need of protection. Peacebuilding and PVE activities generally imply lower costs, as they mainly rely on awareness raising, education, and community engagement activities, which require fewer material resources. This explains why PVE has the lowest average cost per beneficiary. The case of the Civic Empowerment thematic area in our study is somewhat particular, as one of the projects aimed at directly strengthening youth participation in decision-making processes and bodies, which involved structural costs beyond awareness raising and training-related expenses.

¹⁸ Estimated calculation based on UNFPA figures. Together, the 12 SLC countries have a total population of 458,3M.

Table 3: Breakdown of average cost per beneficiary by thematic area^{19,20,21}

| Thematic areas | Projects | Targeted direct beneficiaries | Budget | Average budget per beneficiary by thematic area |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Civic Empowerment | La Voix des Jeunes II | 1 350 | 5 000 000 € | 661 € |
| | PARSE | 10 000 | 2 500 000 € | |
| | Radio Jeunesse Sahel | 81 000 000 | 2 000 000 € | |
| | Total | 11 350 | 7 500 000 € | |
| Prevention of Violent Extremism | PEV KEOOGO | 1 612 | 463 212 € | 224 € |
| | PEV MLAL 2 | 2 854 | 1 000 000 € | |
| | PEV SEMFILM | 5 156 | 695 625 € | |
| | Total | 9 622 | 2 158 837 € | |
| Legal migration & diaspora | Erasmus+ West Africa | 3 983 | 6 000 000 € | 1 654 € |
| | Diaspora Mali FIDA | 250 | 1 000 000 € | |
| | Total | 4 233 | 7 000 000 € | |
| Protection | AFIA | 1 985 | 2 905 772 € | 574 € |
| | Protection WA Save the Children | 11 500 | 5 000 000 € | |
| | Protection Diakonia | 1 800 | 2 000 000 € | |
| | Protection PREFA | 1 600 | 7 000 000 € | |
| | ISING | 18 350 | 3 326 027 € | |
| | PSS | 76 500 | 4 500 000 € | |
| | Total | 35 235 | 20 231 799 € | |
| Support to economic inclusion | ARCHIPELAGO | 21 030 | 15 000 000 € | 793 € |
| | DES AFD | 6 200 | 16 000 000 € | |
| | DES GRET | 2 190 | 2 000 000 € | |
| | DURAZINDER | 6 500 | 6 895 000 € | |
| | GrEEen UNCDF | 74 000 | 9 940 000 € | |
| | HIMO CM | 2 615 | 10 000 000 € | |
| | INTEGRA Enabel | 8 000 | 35 000 000 € | |
| | PAIERA EPPA | 16 538 | 2 707 000 € | |
| | PAIERA PASSERAZ | 8 000 | 3 428 926 € | |
| | Promopêche GIZ | 620 | 2 000 000 € | |
| | SAFIRE OXFAM | 7 400 | 4 000 000 € | |
| | TUUMA | 13 000 | 8 000 000 € | |
| | YEP | 15 060 | 11 000 000 € | |
| | Emploi BF | 10 000 | 6 932 809 € | |
| | Bab Al Amal | 4 700 | 10 300 000 € | |
| | IPDEV2 | 5 000 | 15 500 000 € | |
| PARSE | 4 950 | 4 500 000 € | | |
| Total | 205 803 | 163 203 736 € | | |

According to the data available to Altai, EUTF-funded youth projects managed to reach their targeted direct beneficiaries. Of the 12 projects for which Altai was able to consult final evaluations, all projects reported achieving their initial targets, except for a few activities, often even exceeding them. Projects, such as *Emploi BF*, reportedly exceeded initial objectives, achieving a completion rate of 147.75%, according to its ex-post evaluation.^{xxi} Other activities registered very high achievement rates, such as the training of 3,757 child protection actors compared to the 1,175 initially planned under Protection West Africa, or the creation of 1,759 jobs versus the 1,000 expected under ARCHIPELAGO.

Awareness-raising activities showed significantly high numbers of people reached, often largely exceeding the set targets; however, the actual reach of these activities needs to be assessed critically. In projects, such as ARCHIPELAGO, 35,634 young people were reported as having benefited from awareness-raising activities on TVET opportunities, against an initial target of 11,500. The same dynamic was observed with Protection West Africa, where the target of 56,030 beneficiaries (including children and youth on the move; child protection staff; local, regional and national authorities; community actors; civil society organisations; etc.) sensitised was exceeded, reaching 181,655. These

¹⁹ These calculations are based on the targeted beneficiaries as mentioned in the projects Descriptions of Action. Only direct beneficiaries were taken into account. Calculation could not be based on actual beneficiaries as some projects are still active.

²⁰ For the purpose of this calculation the beneficiaries and budget of PARSE were divided to better match the thematic areas, as the project had two components, one falling under Civic Empowerment, the other one falling under Support to economic inclusion.

²¹ Some projects (highlighted in grey) were excluded from the calculation due to the difficulty of identifying the number of direct beneficiaries targeted: either the number of beneficiaries appeared to be overestimated, or the project adopted a different definition / calculation of direct beneficiaries compared to other similar projects.

activities were carried out through various channels: cartoons; picture boxes and posters distributed in strategic and high-traffic locations; radio spots; awareness-raising workshops and forums; etc. Some of these methods were more direct (e.g. workshops) than others. Although the awareness-raising efforts can indeed reach many, their actual impact in terms of knowledge use, attitudes and, ultimately, behaviour (leading to improved access to training or protection services), is difficult to assess. It is generally hard to know exactly how many people were reached and what impacts were produced, and final evaluations/reports typically provide estimates based on the population or a portion of the population of the targeted regions.

Some projects/programmes targeted overly ambitious geographic intervention areas, which led to a scattering of resources and activities. The three PEV projects analysed as part of this study were implemented across six of Burkina Faso's 13 regions, accounting for almost half of the national population (42%).^{xxii} They aimed to reach approximately 9,622 direct beneficiaries, which represents only 0.11% of the total population in these regions.^{xxiii} The final evaluation of PEV KEOOGO indicated that, while most beneficiaries interviewed felt the project met its objectives and yielded positive outcomes, many also noted that the interventions were brief and had limited geographical coverage and reach.^{xxiv} They suggested that the project could have had a more significant impact had it engaged all communities in a given area. Moreover, these three projects were the only ones focusing on youth among the 11 included in the broader PEV programme, implemented across 80 municipalities in the six regions and targeting a few villages in each municipality. One key informant noted that, while these projects successfully fostered changes at the local level (as detailed below), they fell short of achieving the targeted outcome at the level of the broader intervention.

Nonetheless, certain approaches proved effective in generating results extending beyond direct beneficiaries, expanding their reach in a cascade effect. The I-SING project, which aimed to involve the communities in fostering an enabling and supportive environment for adolescent girls to thrive in Northeast Nigeria, achieved interesting results within its intervention area. According to the final evaluation, Mercy Corps' "efforts, strategies and real results to promote a healthier and supportive environment for girls to thrive, are far beyond the formal log matrix and targets set'. The project adopted a cascading approach, training local coordinators who trained local mentors who, in turn, trained teenagers and local and religious leaders who, subsequently, provided broader sensitisation within the communities.²² In addition to boosting acceptance within communities, engaging local coordinators and mentors allowed them to serve as focal points, providing some measure of psychosocial support locally beyond the implementation period. Through I-SING's direct beneficiaries, the project had a ripple effect on the peers, parents and households of the beneficiaries, as the newly acquired skills were replicated and new initiatives started within the communities. Similarly, PEV projects showcased interesting results on a local scale. According to a key informant, the mentoring of women through PEV KEOOGO rendered the project more effective. Beyond being integrated within their local communities, the 120 women selected by the project took ownership of their roles and formed networks to raise awareness around them, engaging an additional 600 women in the process. Another key informant noted that, by using multimedia support to promote social cohesion and enabling young people to choose the topics addressed, PEV SEMFILM was better able to reach young people, create leverage, and make the project more effective. 30 videos were produced and published on social media during the implementation period. In total, SEMFILM accounts for over a thousand videos produced autonomously by the beneficiaries beyond the project's implementation, thus reaching a much broader audience than expected. These endogenous approaches transformed beneficiaries into agents of change and increased the indirect and long-term reach of the projects.

²² Mentors and coordinators were trained on various topics, such as financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills, as well as protection, gender, sexual abuse and referral mechanisms.

4.4. PERSPECTIVES ON SUSTAINABILITY

Among the 30 youth projects under study, Altai had access to 12 final evaluation reports. Two projects (GrEEn UNCDF and IPDEV2) were still ongoing as of October 2024, and some completed projects were not evaluated.

Assessing sustainability is challenging with most (available) project evaluations conducted before or just after the completion of activities – and EUTF youth projects were no exception to this practice. Such timing – which is common among development projects – does not allow for sustainability perspectives to materialise (or subside) over time, with follow-up assessments necessary to gain an effective understanding of sustainability over time. In rare instances, informal follow-up can provide insights on sustainability perspectives. For instance, one informant reported that, after the end of the DES AFD project in Senegal, AFD’s partners²³ continued reporting quarterly updates to the EUD after project completion on a voluntary basis. However, such exceptions rely on goodwill and are not systematically built into programming and associated monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks.

Most projects incorporated sustainability principles into the design of their activities. In most cases, IPs planned to involve local actors to foster appropriation and ownership. For instance, the DoA of the SAFIRE project, implemented by a consortium led by Oxfam in Mauritania, includes a dedicated section on planning sustainability, which mentions that sustainability is ‘at the heart of Oxfam’s and its partners’ strategy’ and will be based upon ‘local resources and knowledge’.^{xxv} Similarly, the Diaspora Mali FIDA project was built upon the premise that it would do so through ‘the establishment of financial mechanisms whose sustainability conditions are integrated from the outset’.^{xxvi} The DoA of the INTEGRA project, implemented by Enabel in Guinea, also notes that the ‘integration process will enable socio-economic sustainability through the significant number of jobs created’ and plans for the infrastructure built during the project’s implementation to be sustained through the establishment of ‘management and maintenance mechanisms such as leasing (for roads) or service delegation (for markets, storage areas, etc)’.^{xxvii}

Nonetheless, some youth projects did not incorporate or anticipate sufficient sustainability in their initial planning, which can be partly explained by the emergency nature of their design. For example, the HIMO initiative started in 2016 to respond to the crisis caused by the rise of Boko Haram in northern Cameroon. While one of its objectives was to ‘increase economic resources and access to basic services, thereby sustainably empowering vulnerable populations’, its initial duration (18 months) was insufficient to achieve this in practice. Recognising this limitation, the EU and AFD implemented contract amendments extending the project timeline to 33 months, and subsequently to 42 months. One informant interviewed by confirmed the necessity of this adjustment, citing the initial timeframe’s inadequacy. The informant also attributed the initial short project duration and insufficient consideration of sustainability to the urgency of the situation, highlighting the inherent challenges of integrating long-term sustainability into crisis response projects.

Projects demonstrating strong institutional anchorage and ownership, as well as consistent stakeholder strengthening, showed promising signs of sustainability. ARCHIPELAGO’s enduring collaboration with various stakeholders allows for perspectives of sustainability. From its inception, the project integrated its activities into existing business support networks, including chambers of commerce and agriculture, such as CPCCAF²⁴, EuroCham, Business Europe and EBCAM.²⁵ In Chad, ARCHIPELAGO’s collaboration with the French Chamber of Agriculture of Saone-et-Loire strengthened the Chadian Chamber of Agriculture, enabling it to pursue local activities in new regions. In Cameroon, ARCHIPELAGO involved the government during the implementation of dual training programmes. As

²³ Agence de Développement et d’Encadrement des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (ADFPE) and Bureau de Mise à Niveau (BMN).

²⁴ Conférence permanente des chambres consulaires et organisations intermédiaires africaines et francophones.

²⁵ European Business Council for Africa.

the project demonstrated tangible successes, the government elected to continue funding the approach independently. The PREFA protection project, implemented between 2018 and 2022, aimed to improve education quality in Franco-Arab schools, living and learning conditions in Qur'anic schools, and community dialogue on education oversight in Burkina Faso. Integrated within the Ministry of Education and Literacy, PREFA fostered the sustainability of its programmes, curricula, and educational materials by developing these in close collaboration with the ministry. One informant reported that stakeholders, including the Ministry of Education, consider the project's achievements to be a sustainable part of educational practice in the country.

Sustainability can also be fostered by creating contextually appropriate, locally led solutions.

The Diaspora Mali project, implemented by FIDA between 2019 and 2024, supported the CIWARA Investment Firm, which invests in innovative African startups and SMEs, partnering with the diaspora to provide technical and financial support, targeting sectors, such as energy, tech, finance and agriculture. It was also used by another EUTF project, IPDEV2, implemented by *Investisseurs & Partenaires* (I&P) to raise funds and support entrepreneurs. This collaboration was facilitated by CIWARA's investment in Zira Capital, a leading Malian fund itself established with the assistance of IPDEV2. The project's ambition was to position CIWARA as a regional leader in this sector, ensuring sustainability beyond the project's duration. According to the IP, CIWARA demonstrates encouraging signs of sustainability, with a confirmed presence and EUR 200,000 raised before the project's closure.

Around half of the 30 youth projects in the sample are receiving or will receive follow-up funding from donors for subsequent phases, suggesting that achieving sustainability through a single initiative is generally difficult within the typical timeframe and budget associated with EUTF-funded projects. An analysis conducted by Altai on the continuity of the EUTF-funded programmes showed that 17 of the 30 EUTF youth projects displayed some form of continuity.

- Among those discontinued, only one project (DES AFD) was deemed to have achieved its goals without further need for consolidation, according to an informant. The two beneficiary structures, BMN and ADEPME, still provide quarterly data to the EUD, suggesting some degree of lasting impact. Reasons for the absence of follow-up projects include shifts in EU strategy (e.g. no more funding for certain types of projects/approaches), perceived ineffectiveness (e.g. *Radio Jeunesse Sahel*²⁶), and external factors (e.g. coup d'état in Mali impacting the Diaspora Mali FIDA project).
- The PARSE project in Cameroon was among the projects that were continued. It was followed by a phase II, self-funded by GIZ, to consolidate initial results, as highlighted in the project's final report.^{xxviii} Another project, *La Voix des Jeunes II*, was a follow-up project to an initial Phase I. One of the objectives of Phase II, as stated in the DoA, was to sustain the local dialogue mechanisms initiated in 2017 during Phase I.

4.5. KEY FINDINGS

This section summarises key findings from the first phase of the study. In February 2025, Altai produced a separate 2-pager formulating general recommendations on this basis for future EU programming. In-depth key findings and lessons learned can be found within the case studies conducted by Altai.

- **All projects in the sample demonstrated relevance by addressing the actual needs of the young individuals in the targeted regions.** Nearly all of the projects carried out needs assessments, which helped IPs gain contextualised insights into the circumstances of the beneficiaries. Some projects took this a step further by conducting phased needs assessments,

²⁶ According to one informant, the *Radio Jeunesse Sahel* project did not reach its intended goals primarily due to inadequacies in the initial design. The project relied on partner states to build the radio station, which faced challenges, and restricting the approach to radio and not incorporating television may also have limited its reach. Consequently, the project was suspended before its scheduled completion date.

leading to adaptive programming based on the results – a practice known as evolutive programming, exemplified by projects, like I-SING implemented in Northeast Nigeria. This approach not only helps teams identify ineffective practices but also facilitates the replication of successful strategies more efficiently.

- **Many projects considered youth as a homogeneous group, and the term ‘youth’ is often used generically.** Only a few exceptions are to be noted, like the SAFIRE project implemented by an Oxfam-led consortium in Mauritania, which differentiated between urban and rural youth. Youth is commonly perceived as a core demographic in Africa, given their significant population representation and thus facing most of the challenges that the continent faces. However, this generalised approach resulted in shortcomings in targeting and lent to responses that did not necessarily correspond effectively with each youth subgroup, as evidenced by examples from the three PEV projects in our sample.
- **The relevance of projects can be jeopardised by contextual and structural limits.** In fragile economic contexts with limited employment opportunities, skills training and job creation initiatives require comprehensive design with long-term implementation periods to adequately address structural factors influencing the abilities of beneficiaries to sustain outcome. In addition, deteriorating security and political contexts can significantly alter the relevance of certain approaches.
- **The EUTF youth portfolio exhibits limited complementarity between initiatives.** Initiatives aimed at supporting youth often operated somewhat independently, with interventions being specialised and not designed to work together seamlessly. Collaborations were sporadic and often coincidental rather than planned. This was primarily due to an oversight in the initial portfolio design, which did not emphasise cooperation and complementarity. Differences in target areas and timelines further hindered the potential for synergies.
- **Cooperation across thematic areas was minimal.** Projects tended to work through single prisms rather than to adopt comprehensive, holistic approaches. For example, there were no projects in our sample that integrated multiple angles, such as combining PVE with access to TVET or business support activities.
- **Numerous projects showcased significant ambition despite facing resource constraints.** This ambition often manifests in targeting expansive regions or a high number of beneficiaries, as exemplified by both DES projects that have overly broad scopes. Many informants expressed that, if given the opportunity to restart these projects, they would opt to focus on a smaller area using an integrated territorial approach to achieve better results.
- **Projects, such as Protection West Africa, underscored the potential relevance of integrating more regional perspectives into programming.** Informants emphasised that regional representations of EUDs or more funds geared towards regional-level migration programming could have been valuable given the regional nature of migration flows and routes.
- **Embracing an endogenous approach that naturally duplicates impact and expands beneficiary reach proved effective in achieving sustainable and widespread positive outcomes.** The effectiveness of this approach was notably observed in the PEV SEMFILM and KEOOGO projects.
- **Projects that effectively engaged local stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, local government and communities, show promising indicators of sustainability and replicability.** For instance, the ARCHIPELAGO project extensively involved a wide range of local, national and international stakeholders (ministries, chambers of commerce, local finance institutions).
- **Projects focused on economic inclusion were more successful when closely collaborating with the private sector.** Initiatives like ARCHIPELAGO and Bab al Amal, showcased the efficiency of engaging with private TVET centres.

5. CASE STUDIES

As part of the second phase of this study, Altai was asked by EUTF to conduct a series of case studies aimed at delving deeper into a few projects/programmes, with the objective of drawing lessons learned from selected initiatives in greater detail.

To narrow down the scope of the possible case studies and ensure a relevant selection of flagship initiatives, the 30 youth projects were filtered by end dates and locations, excluding:

- Projects ending before 2022, which offered limited prospects for reaching the actors directly involved in their implementation and the beneficiaries of their actions.
- Projects implemented in Central Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger), for which primary data collection faced significant obstacles (limited prospects of interviewing national / local authorities, degraded security and political context limiting field missions, etc.).

The following table presents the list of projects resulting from this pre-selection.

- **Highlighted in red**, at the end of the table are the projects for which IP's contact information was unavailable or for which the IP had not been responsive when contacted by Altai as part of this study.
- **Highlighted in grey** are projects for which a final evaluation had already been conducted or for which a capitalisation study was planned, and for which an additional case study did not seem particularly relevant or timely.

| Project | Country | End Date | Comments |
|--|------------|----------|---|
| Erasmus+ WA | Regional | july-22 | Possible contact with national agencies responsible for Erasmus+ (EU), universities (EU and WA) involved in the programme, or even beneficiaries. |
| GrEEn UNCDF | Ghana | dec-24 | In contact with the IP, and possible contact with local actors. |
| Protection WA Save the Children | Regional | july-23 | In contact with the IP, and possible contact with local actors. |
| Bab Al Amal | Chad | july-24 | In contact with the IP and former Chad EUD. Possible contact with local actors / structures involved in the implementation. |
| SAFIRE OXFAM | Mauritania | feb-23 | In contact with the IP, and possible contact with local actors. The IP is responsive and willing to assist. |
| YEP | The Gambia | feb-23 | In contact with the IP. |
| IPDEV2 | Regional | dec-24 | In contact with the IP. Capitalisation study already planned: no additional case study. |
| ARCHIPELAGO | Regional | june-23 | In contact with the IP and possible contact with the involved actors/structures. Final evaluation already conducted. |
| INTEGRA Enabel | Guinea | july-23 | No response from IP. |
| DES AFD | Senegal | sept-22 | No response from IP. |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------|---|
| Radio Jeunesse Sahel | Regional | dec-23 | Late response from IP and project deemed not to be particularly successful. |
| Promopêche GIZ | Mauritania | oct-22 | No contact with IP. |
| DES GRET | Senegal | apr-22 | No contact with IP. |

Following a discussion with INTPA, four projects / programmes were selected for a learning case study: **Erasmus+ WA, GrEEn UNCDF, Bab Al Amal, SAFIRE OXFAM**. Altai conducted the four case studies between February and July 2025. Each case study was presented in a standalone report including an overview of the project, an analysis of its approach and design as well as lessons learned from its main results. The analysis is structured into two phases: (1) analysis of the project design (relevance, coherence, reach, and sustainability, focusing on adaptation to local contexts, alignment with EU and national strategies); and (2) analysis of project results (using the EU Youth Action Plan 2022–2027 as a framework, revolving around three pillars – Engage, Empower, and Connect). Lessons learned and good practices are identified and presented throughout the different sections of each case study report.

The table below presents a few characteristics of the case studies conducted by Altai.

| Project | Country | IP | Date when the case study was conducted | Modalities |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------|--|---|
| GrEEn | Ghana | UNCDF | February-March 2025 | Field data collection in Ghana (Ashanti, Greater Accra regions) |
| SAFIRE | Mauritania | Oxfam | February-March 2025 | Field data collection in Mauritania (Nouakchott, Hodh Ech Chargui wilayas) |
| Bab Al Amal | Chad | AFD | April-May 2025 | Field data collection in Chad (N'Djamena, Moundou, Sarh) |
| Erasmus+ | Regional | National agencies | April-June 2025 | Remote data collection with stakeholders from Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Togo + in-person data collection in Dakar, Senegal |

A summary of lessons learned from these four case studies as well as from the EUTF portfolio mapping and analysis are presented in a separate document.

6. ANNEXES

6.1. LIST OF KEY INFORMANTS INTERVIEWED

This list only covers key informants interviewed as part of phase 1 of the study (EUTF youth portfolio mapping and analysis). The list of key informants interviewed for each case study is presented in the associated case study reports.

| Country | Organisation | Project / Position |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Burkina Faso | ADA (Austrian Development Agency) | Project Manager |
| Burkina Faso | EUD | Programme Officer |
| Burkina Faso | EUD | Youth Focal Point |
| Burkina Faso | MENA | Involved in Protection PREFA |
| Burkina Faso | SEMFILM | Programme Coordinator |
| Burkina Faso | EUD | Programme Manager Social cohesion |
| Burkina Faso | ADA (Austrian Development Agency) | Head of Office |
| Burkina Faso | KEOOGO | Head of Programme |
| Ghana | UNCDF | Technical Specialist |
| Guinea | EUD | Programme Officer |
| Guinea | TdH | Programme Coordinator |
| Guinea | TdH | Regional Coordinator |
| Mauritania | Save the Children | Involved in AFIA |
| Mauritania | EUD | Youth Focal Point |
| Nigeria | UNICEF | Child protection specialist |
| Nigeria | EUD | International Cooperation Officer |
| Regional | Save the Children | Institutional Partnership Advisor |
| Regional | EUD | Programme Officer |
| Regional | EUD | Programme Officer |
| Regional | Save the Children | Regional Programme Manager |
| Regional | Sequa | Project Director - ARCHIPELAGO |
| Regional | Sequa | Team Leader - ARCHIPELAGO |
| Regional | I&P | Investment Director |
| Senegal | EUD | Inclusive Growth Team Leader |
| Tchad | EUD | Programme Manager |
| The Gambia | EUD | Youth Focal point |
| The Gambia | EUD | Programme Officer |
| The Gambia | EUD | Project Officer – YEP tourism and Employment |

6.2. LIST OF PROJECTS DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

This list only covers documents reviewed as part of phase 1 of the study (EUTF youth portfolio mapping and analysis). The list of documents reviewed for each case study is presented in the associated case study reports.

| Project | Author | Date | Name of Document |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------|---|
| TUUMA | BECRD | 2021 | Final evaluation of the TUUMA Project |
| Protection PREFA | EUTF | 2018 | DoA of the Protection PREFA Project |
| Protection Diakonia | VERONIQUE LENA | 2020 | ROM of the Protection Diakonia Project |
| Protection Diakonia | Cabinet Faso Yiriwa | 2021 | Final evaluation of the Protection Diakonia Project |
| PEV SEMFILM | SEMFILMS | 2021 | Final Report of the PEV SEMFILM Project |
| PEV KEOOGO | KEOOGO | 2021 | Final Report of the PEV KEOOGO Project |
| PEV KEOOGO | CERFODES | 2021 | Final evaluation of the PEV KEOOGO Project |
| GrEEn UNCDF | EUTF | 2019 | DoA of the GrEEn UNCDF Project |
| GrEEn UNCDF | UNCDF | 2023 | GrEEn Progress Report Year 3 |
| Diaspora Mali FIDA | EUTF | 2019 | DoA of the Diaspora Mali FIDA Project |
| Diaspora Mali FIDA | FIDA | 2023 | EUTF Mali Narrative Report_2022-2023 |
| Emploi BF | EUTF | 2017 | DoA of the Emploi BF Project |
| Emploi BF | BECRD | 2021 | Final Evaluation of the Emploi BF Project |
| INTEGRA Enabel | EUTF | 2019 | DoA of the INTEGRA Enabel Project |
| INTEGRA Enabel | ENABEL | 2023 | Final Report of the INTEGRA Enabel Project |
| SAFIRE OXFAM | EUTF | 2019 | DoA of the SAFIRE OXFAM Project |
| SAFIRE OXFAM | DT Global | 2024 | Final Report of the SAFIRE Programme |
| Promopêche GIZ | EUTF | 2018 | DoA of the Promopêche GIZ Project |
| Promopêche GIZ | GIZ | 2023 | Final Report of the Promopêche GIZ Project |
| DURAZINDER | EUTF | 2018 | DoA of the DURAZINDER Project |
| Radio Jeunesse Sahel | EUTF | 2020 | DoA of the Radio Jeunesse Sahel Project |
| PAIERA PASSERAZ | EUTF | 2017 | DoA of the PAIERA PASSERAZ Project |
| PAIERA PASSERAZ | HACP | 2019 | Final Report of the PAIERA PASSERAZ Project |
| PAIERA PASSERAZ | CROP | 2019 | Evaluation finale of the PAIERA PASSERAZ Project |
| Protection WA Save the Children | EUTF | 2019 | DoA of the Protection WA Save the Children Project |
| ARCHIPELAGO | EUTF | 2018 | DoA of the ARCHIPELAGO Project |
| ARCHIPELAGO | STANTEC | 2022 | Evaluation finale of the ARCHIPELAGO Project |
| Erasmus+ West Africa | EUTF | 2017 | DoA of the Erasmus+ West Africa Project |
| La Voix des Jeunes II | EUTF | 2018 | DoA of the La Voix des Jeunes II Project |
| La Voix des Jeunes II | HD | 2022 | Final report of the La Voix des Jeunes II Project |
| DES AFD | EUTF | 2016 | DoA of the DES AFD Project |
| DES AFD | SCE, MBM, EMC | 2021 | Evaluation finale of the DES AFD Project |
| HIMO CM | EUTF | 2016 | DoA of the HIMO CM Project |
| HIMO CM | AFD | 2020 | Final Report of the HIMO CM Project |
| DES GRET | EUTF | 2017 | DoA of the DES GRET Project |
| DES GRET | GRET | 2022 | Final Report of the DES GRET Project |
| DES GRET | MDE | 2022 | Evaluation finale of the DES GRET Project |
| PSS | EUTF | 2017 | DoA of the PSS Project |
| ISING | EUTF | 2016 | DoA of the ISING Project |

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|------|--|
| ISING | Mercy Corps | 2019 | Final Report of the ISING Project |
| ISING | iwords | 2019 | Evaluation finale of the ISING Project |
| IPDEV2 | EUTF | 2019 | DoA of the IPDEV2 Project |
| AFIA | EUTF | 2016 | DoA of the AFIA Project |
| AFIA | Save the Children | 2020 | Final Report of the AFIA Project |
| PARSE | EUTF | 2016 | DoA of the PARSE Project |
| PARSE | GIZ | 2019 | Final Report of the PARSE Project |
| PAIERA EPPA | EUTF | 2016 | DoA of the PAIERA EPPA Project |
| Bab Al Amal | EUTF | 2017 | DoA of the Bab Al Amal Project |
| YEP | EUTF | 2017 | DoA of the YEP Project |
| YEP | ITC | 2024 | Final Report of the YEP Project |

ⁱ UNFPA, 'Rapport sur les adolescents et les jeunes : Afrique de l'Ouest et du CentreAfrica', 12 December 2018. Retrieved [here](#).

ⁱⁱ UNFPA, 'Population mondiale', 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

ⁱⁱⁱ ILO, 'Youth Country Briefs: Senegal', 27 June 2023. Retrieved [here](#).

^{iv} ILO, 'Youth Country Briefs: Nigeria', 27 June 2023. Retrieved [here](#).

^v ILO, Country profiles – Share of informal employment (%), 2022. Retrieved [here](#).

^{vi} European Commission, 'Youth and migration: an overview', 2020. Retrieved [here](#).

^{vii} European Commission, 'Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action 2022 – 2027', 2022. Retrieved [here](#).

^{viii} UNFPA, 'Rapport sur les adolescents et les jeunes: Afrique de l'Ouest et du CentreAfrica', 12 December 2018. Retrieved [here](#).

^{ix} Niras, 'Évaluation finale stratégique et prospective des projets "Prévention de l'extrémisme violent"', June 2022.

^x IWORDS Global, 'Evaluation Report – Investing in the Safety and Integrity of Nigerian Girls (I-SING)', March–April 2019.

^{xi} The [ILO](#) indicates that 84% of young Gambian people (aged 15–35 years) are engaged in informal employment. The unemployment rate among young people is 10.5%, compared to 3.8% for adults.

^{xii} Cabinet Faso Yiriwa, 'Rapport final de l'évaluation finale du programme d'amélioration de l'inclusion sociale des apprenants des foyers coraniques par l'éducation et le dialogue "dialogue & changement social"', December 2021.

^{xiii} AFD, 'Rapport d'exécution finale', 20 November 2020.

^{xiv} ECOWAS, 'Vision 2050, ECOWAS of the Peoples: Peace and Prosperity for All', June 2022. Retrieved [here](#).

^{xv} Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et du Plan, 'Plan Sénégal Emergent', December 2018. Retrieved [here](#).

^{xvi} Ministère du Plan, 'Plan de Développement Economique et Social 2017–2027', January 2017. Retrieved [here](#).

^{xvii} Conseil national de la Statistique, 'Plan National de Développement Economique et Social (PNDES) 2016–2020', January 2016. Retrieved [here](#).

^{xviii} See: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/eu-youth-action-plan_en.

^{xix} UNFPA, "Rapport sur les adolescents et les jeunes: Afrique de l'Ouest et du CentreAfrica", 12 December 2018. Retrieved [here](#).

^{xx} UNFPA, 'Population mondiale', 2024. Retrieved [here](#).

^{xxi} DT GLOBAL Europe SL, 'Rapport Final – Evaluation Ex-Post Projets de Formation Professionnelle et Emploi Délégation de Burkina Faso', September 2022.

^{xxii} Burkina Faso – Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et de la Prospective, 'Cinquième Recensement Général de la Population et de l'Habitation du Burkina Faso', June 2022.

^{xxiii} Ibid: Calculation of the number of targeted beneficiaries compared to the total population of the targeted regions.

^{xxiv} CERFODES, Final evaluation of the PEV KEEOGO ‘Tous pour la cohésion sociale’ project, September 2021.

^{xxv} DoA, SAFIRE project, Oxfam, 2018

^{xxvi} DoA, Diaspora Mali project, FIDA, 2019.

^{xxvii} DoA, INTEGRA project, Enabel, 2018

^{xxviii} GIZ, ‘PARSE – *Rapport Narratif Final*’, June 2020.