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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX 3**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Federal Republic of Somalia for 2025

**Action Document for Strengthening Somali Migration Management (SSMM)**

**ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23(2) of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

**1 SYNOPSIS**

**1.1 Action Summary Table**

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Strengthening Somali Migration Management (SSMM) OPSYS number: ACT-63038 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)/ Overseas Association Decision/European Instrument for International Nuclear Safety Cooperation Regulation
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	Yes Team Europe Initiative on the Central Mediterranean Route, covering Somalia
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	Federal Republic of Somalia
<b>4. Programming document</b>	Multi-annual Indicative Programme (2021-2027), Federal Republic of Somalia
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	Specific objective 2: To enhance durable solutions to displacement, improve migration management, promote inclusive, disaster-resilient and sustainable urban development and expand access to basic services and social protection Expected Result b): Management of mixed migration flows is strengthened
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	Migration and Forced Displacement – Migration, DAC Code 151
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG (1 only): Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries. Particularly sub-goal 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. Other SDGs: - SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

	<p>Particularly sub-goal 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking in human beings and sexual and other types of exploitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Particularly sub-goal 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and trafficking in human beings and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.</li> <li>- SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Particularly sub-goals 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children; 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime; 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.</li> </ul>			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	DAC-code 15190 Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility – 100%			
<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	Pillar Assessed Entity(ies)			
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	digital governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Migration @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line: 14020121 Total estimated cost: EUR 12 000 000 The total amount of the EU budget contribution: EUR 12 000 000 A Team Europe Initiative on Central Mediterranean migration route, co-led by France and Italy. Participating MS are AT, BE, CZ, DE, DK, ES, FR, NL, IT, MT and CH, with several others as observers. There are no EU MS indicative contributions available.			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Implementation modality</b>	<b>Indirect management</b> with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.4.1			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Somalia is a country of origin, transit and, to a lesser extent, destination for migrants, who are exposed to protection risks such as violence and exploitation, along routes towards the Middle East, Europe, and Southern Africa. Institutional capacities and systems to manage migration and returns are limited.

The Overall Objective of this action is to **“Strengthen Somali migration management through improved institutional capacities, assistance, and reintegration services.”**

The Specific Objectives of this action are to:

1. Provide safe and rights-based assistance and services to vulnerable migrants and returnees, focusing on addressing the specific needs of women and people with disabilities.
2. Strengthen duty-bearer capacities to manage migration, ensuring gender-responsive, disability inclusive and rights-based approaches to protection and reintegration.

The objectives and activities of the action are designed to improve stability of the partner country and support the management of migration flows, thus overall expanding possibilities for improved EU-Somalia partnership. The Action will directly benefit vulnerable migrants and improve migration governance. The project strongly emphasises strengthening the capacities of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), Federal Member States (FMS) and district/municipal level as well as non-state actors to manage migration, particularly reintegration assistance, improving Somalia's migration governance framework. Ultimately, this action will allow to gradually transition away from individual reintegration packages provided via implementing partners towards a sustainable, inclusive and effective national-owned referral system for reintegration.

This Action contributes to Priority Area 3 of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme, “Resilience building and social inclusion,” within Specific Objective 2: “To enhance durable solutions to displacement; improve migration management; promote inclusive, disaster-resilient and sustainable urban development; and expand access to basic services and social protection.” This project also aligns with the socio-economic pillar (third pillar) of the EU-Somalia Joint Operational Roadmap of 2023.

Since 2015, the eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) and the fight against the Smuggling of Migrants (SoM) have been two of the main EU-Africa migration management cooperation areas<sup>1</sup>. The commitment to the fight against THB and SoM is prominent in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, as well as in the EU-led Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling and the G7 Apulia Leaders' Communiqué. European Commission President von der Leyen indicated it will remain a key area of work for the Commission for 2024-2029.

The Action contributes to the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 10: “Reduce inequality within and among countries” and target 10.7 (Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people), as well as to SDG targets 5.2, 8.7, 16.2, 16.4, and 16.a.

This action contributes to implementing the Team Europe Initiative on the Central Mediterranean migration route (TEI/CMED), of which Somalia is part. The initiative is relevant for at least three of the five thematic components of the TEI/CMED, namely: “Protection and asylum”, “Preventing irregular migration, combating SoM and THB”, and “Return, readmission and reintegration”. It has been designed to allow either co-financing by EU MS or modular additions by EU MS to allow for enhanced Team Europe implementation at the local level.

The action aims to enhance the protection and assistance of all returning and vulnerable migrants. In this regard, it will ensure complementarity and avoid duplication of services with relevant programmes such as *Better Migration Management* (BMM), the *Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa* (MPRR-SSA), the Regional Operational Centre in support of the Khartoum Process (ROCK), the Migration and Mobility Dialogue Support (MMD), the EU Reintegration Programme of Frontex, and others.

On 23 July 2024, noting that Somalia's cooperation on the readmission of its nationals who are illegally staying in the EU is insufficient, the Commission, following Article 25a of the Visa Code, submitted a proposal for a Council implementing decision suspending the application of specific provisions of the Visa Code in respect of Somali nationals. Given the possible implementing decision, the action will build structured engagement with the FGS to improve cooperation on readmission, return and reintegration. The FGS has expressly sought such engagement.

### 1.3 Zone Benefitting from the Action

The Action shall be carried out in the Federal Republic of Somalia, which is included in the list of ODA recipients.

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<sup>1</sup> The fight against THB/SOM is one of the pillars of the Joint Valletta Action Plan (JVAP), also known as Valetta Summit Action Plan that was adopted at the Valletta Summit on 11-12 November 2015. The JVAP marked the beginning of an intensified partnership between Africa and the European Union in regard to all aspects of migration. The five priority domains of the JVAP are: development benefits of migration and addressing root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement; legal migration and mobility; protection and asylum; prevention of and fight against irregular migration, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings; return, readmission and reintegration.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.1 Context

Somalia is a crucial origin, transit, and, to a lesser extent, host country for migrants heading to and back from, respectively: (i) the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) through the Eastern Corridor, which is the busiest and most dangerous migratory corridor, (ii) Europe, via the so-called Northern Route, encompassing both the Central Mediterranean (CMED) and Eastern Mediterranean Routes, and (iii) South Africa, via the Southern Route. These routes are characterised by extreme weather conditions, legal and regulatory barriers, financial constraints, xenophobia, and limited access to protection services. Due to these challenges, migrants are frequently targeted by organised criminal networks and/or individuals offering false promises of safe and quick passage across international borders. Smuggling and trafficking networks also expose migrants to potential violence, exploitation, and human rights abuses. Furthermore, Al-Shabaab keeps perpetrating Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) in many of the rural areas under its control.

The number of stranded migrants in Somalia increased by 18% between January 2024 (7,450) and February (8 800) 2024. Stranded women, in particular, have increased by 82% in the past month (from 1 680 to 3 050). While in January they represented around one-quarter of the stranded migrants (23%), in February, they represented more than a third (35%)<sup>2</sup>.

According to the IOM **Eastern route** report in November 2024, there were 52 824 entries to Somalia<sup>3</sup>. Due to heightened restrictions, migrants are exposed to human rights abuses and travel in dire situations through humanitarian catastrophes and recurrent conflicts along the routes connecting Somaliland and Puntland. In 2024, over 68% of migrants transiting through Somalia relied on buses, 25% travelled in trucks or taxis, and 7% moved by foot or used donkeys. These limited and often dangerous transportation options expose migrants to heightened risks of exploitation, detention, and discrimination. Ethiopian nationals make up most of the Eastern Corridor's traffic and are particularly vulnerable<sup>4</sup>. These individuals face long, arduous journeys through Somalia with minimal access to services or protection. The situation is exacerbated by the presence of smuggling networks in transit areas. Moreover, Somali migrants continue to be deported in large numbers from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with nearly 20 000 Somali migrants forcibly returned from Saudi Arabia each year. Spontaneous returns from Yemen represent another critical category despite being relatively low in number. Within the first eight months of 2023, 11 090 forced returnees were recorded, of which 30% were women and children<sup>5</sup>. Coupled with victims of trafficking, these migrants do not receive comprehensive services to address vulnerabilities or information on risks associated with irregular migration and options/services available to return to their communities of origin voluntarily. In addition, the capacities and services available for irregular migrants and victims of trafficking are limited. Increasingly, migrants are being detained for illegal entry into host countries along the main migration routes, often for indefinite periods. According to IOM's Regional Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), a regional framework focusing on movements along the eastern and southern routes, irregular journeys negatively affect communities along the active routes across Somalia. While host communities are supportive mechanisms for irregular migrants, they are exposed to the effects of climate change and conflicts in Sool and Sanaag regions linking Somaliland and Puntland.

**The Northern Route**, through which 787,326 migrants moved in August-October 2024<sup>6</sup>, also accounts for one of the most complex migratory routes facilitating irregular journeys of migrants departing from Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa (including Somalia) to Europe. Departing primarily from Libya and Tunisia, migrants undertake treacherous sea crossings in overcrowded and unseaworthy vessels, often resulting in shipwrecks and fatalities. After

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<sup>2</sup>[https://dtm.iom.int/reports/migration-along-eastern-corridor-february-2024?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://dtm.iom.int/reports/migration-along-eastern-corridor-february-2024?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>3</sup><https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/resources/eastern-route-report-november-2024>

<sup>4</sup> IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) – Somalia Cross Border Movements, August 2024. [IOM DTM Somalia Cross-Border Movements August 2024.pdf](#)

<sup>5</sup> ICA 2023

<sup>6</sup><https://dtm.iom.int/fr/node/47051>

a peak in 2023 (with 281 924 irregular border crossings), in 2024, Frontex reports the lowest number of irregular crossings since 2021, with 239 000 irregular crossings into the EU detected.<sup>7,8</sup> This route is marked by extreme human suffering involving violations of the rights of migrants, abduction, arbitrary detention, murder, discrimination against girls and boys and massive exploitation and abuse, increasing risk factors contributing to overall vulnerability associated with dire climatic and security conditions along the corridor. As of July 2024, IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) reported that thousands of Somali migrants were transiting through Sudan, Tunisia, Niger, and Algeria, while over 1 500 remained stranded in Libya—many in urgent need of protection and return assistance, including several hundred held in detention centres under dire conditions. The number of Somali migrants embarking on irregular migration might further increase as a result of the continued conflict in Sudan and its effects on the sub-region. Somalis are highly exploited and continue to attract trafficking networks.

**Female migrants** represent a smaller share of the overall migrant population but face distinct and heightened vulnerabilities. Many migrate seeking better opportunities, family reunification, or to escape conflict and gender-based violence, yet face increased risks of exploitation, SGBV, and trafficking. Young women (mainly aged 17–25) are particularly vulnerable to abuse, forced labour, and arbitrary detention without legal aid or humanitarian support, often experiencing torture and inhumane treatment.

Women face further barriers to accessing return and reintegration support due to limited gender-sensitive services and social stigma, making it difficult to report abuse or seek help. Returnee women, especially SGBV survivors, need specialised psychosocial care, medical support, and economic opportunities—needs that are often unmet, leaving them in cycles of vulnerability.

Upon return, most migrants and victims of trafficking lack comprehensive reintegration support, preventing their economic and social reintegration. There are also no community-level efforts promoting cohesion between returnees and at-risk youth. According to the 2021 EU Strategy on Voluntary Return and Reintegration, sustainable reintegration must involve national and local authorities, communities, and civil society, aligning with broader development goals to address root causes of irregular migration and offer tangible prospects for returnees.

Currently, programmes and frameworks are designed to provide protection support and assist vulnerable migrants along the Eastern Corridor and Northern Route, though both are experiencing some limitations due to budget constraints. IOM is implementing a SIDA-funded programme along Somalia's Eastern Corridor, offering lifesaving and protection support to Ethiopian migrants and forced Somali returnees, building on EU Trust Fund support under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. This includes assistance to Migration Response Centres (MRCs) in Hargeisa, Bosaso, and Burao. Since 2022, IOM has also been running the EU-funded MPRR-SSA programme along the Central Mediterranean Route, providing returnees post-arrival and limited reintegration assistance. FRONTEX supports safe and dignified returns, complementing EU migration management efforts.

At national and regional levels, GIZ, IOM and UNODC provide support under the Better Migration Management (BMM) and other programmes. Throughout BMM's three phases, Somalia benefitted strongly from promoting a whole-of-government approach to migration management, fight against trafficking and smuggling and support to protection and referral services. This was possible through local, state and federal capacity development, which this national action will further strengthen.

## 2.2 Lessons learnt

This Action draws on insights from previous EU-funded projects in Somalia, including the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, MPRR-SSA, and BMM. Key lessons include:

### Migration Governance:

- Reintegration must be embedded in national frameworks and prioritised by Somali authorities. Support is still needed to implement migration policies and mentoring programmes.

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<sup>7</sup> [Nearly 40% fewer irregular arrivals in the EU in 2024 | EMN](#)

<sup>8</sup> See UNHCR-IOM Joint Annual Overview for 2023. Available at: [Migrant and refugee movements through the Central Mediterranean Sea in 2023 - Joint Annual Overview for 2023 - Tunisia | ReliefWeb](#)

- Institutional coordination remains weak; stronger collaboration is essential across federal, state, and local levels.
- Effective national and local referral systems are key to inclusive, sustainable migration services.

#### Migrant Protection:

- Structural support is needed to make protection services sustainable and accessible to all citizens.
- Early-stage protection at key transit hubs (e.g., Bosaso, Hargeisa) mitigates risks. MRCs provide critical assistance and referrals.
- Legal pathways and advocacy are effective in reducing rights violations.

#### Vulnerable Groups:

- Women, minors, and persons with disabilities face higher risks and require tailored, inclusive services.
- Gender- and child-sensitive referral systems, safe spaces, and targeted support must be expanded.
- Improved data is essential to inform targeted responses.

#### Reintegration Support:

- Countries of origin are best placed to support returning nationals.
- Reintegration must be holistic—addressing economic, social, psychosocial, and community needs.
- Community-based reintegration strengthens social cohesion and reduces tensions.
- Skills development aligned with market demand promotes sustainability.
- Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) is critical, especially for vulnerable returnees.

#### Public Awareness:

- Tailored messaging on risks and opportunities resonates more with target audiences.
- Local influencers, youth leaders, and returnees enhance credibility; multi-channel outreach increases impact.
- National messaging combined with local formats ensures relevance and relatability.

#### Data and Adaptability:

- Continuous monitoring and improved data sharing enable responsive programming.
- Digital tools help assess returnee needs and track outcomes.
- National ownership, flexible funding, and local partnerships are key to sustainable migration governance.

## 2.3 Problem Analysis

Somalia faces acute migration challenges, with thousands exposed to rights violations, limited reintegration, and growing vulnerability due to conflict, climate shocks, and economic hardship. By August 2024, the Displacement Tracking Matrix recorded 23 314 migration movements (74% outbound, 26% inbound), while nearly 20 000 Somalis are forcibly returned from Saudi Arabia annually—most arriving without basic resources. Returnees from Europe and North Africa do receive some assistance. The country remains a key transit hub, especially for Ethiopian migrants to the Gulf, with high exposure to trafficking, extortion, and violence, particularly along the Eastern Corridor.

Returnees face fragmented support: 57% require urgent services, and 93% in Bosaso lack assistance. High youth unemployment (34%) and limited pre-migration employment (only 17%) despite 91% having primary education further drive irregular migration. Women and girls face heightened risks, including GBV, trafficking, and discrimination, with few gender-sensitive services. Gender gaps in education, economic participation, and decision-making persist, especially for women-led returnee households. Persons with disabilities, comprising 11.7% of adults (12.6% of women, 10.5% of men), are often excluded from services, rights, and opportunities.

A coordinated, rights-based approach is needed to strengthen governance, expand inclusive reintegration, and ensure access to gender- and disability-responsive services. This action addresses these gaps by institutionalising migration management and promoting sustainable reintegration pathways.

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The Overall Objective of this action is to **“Strengthen Somali migration management through improved institutional capacities, assistance, and reintegration services.”**

The Specific Objectives of this action are to:

1. Provide safe and rights-based assistance and services to vulnerable migrants and returnees, focusing on addressing the specific needs of women and people with disabilities.
2. Strengthen duty-bearer capacities to manage migration, ensuring gender-responsive disability inclusive and rights-based approaches to protection and reintegration.

The Outputs to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives are:

- 1.1 Contributing to Specific Objective 1: Improved protection and essential services (including access and quality) for vulnerable migrants and Victims of Trafficking (VoTs), with a particular focus on women and people with disabilities;
- 1.2 Contributing to Specific Objective 1: Provision of gender-responsive and inclusive post-arrival, reintegration and community-based support to returnees and host communities;
- 1.3 Contributing to Specific Objective 1: Strengthen service delivery for migrant protection and reintegration through capacity building of state and non-state actors;
- 1.1 Contributing to Specific Objective 2: Support authorities to engage in rights-based, comprehensive, regular and structured dialogue around migration;
- 1.2 Contributing to Specific Objective 2: Support authorities in developing and implementing an effective referral system to coordinate assistance for returnees;
- 2.3 Contributing to Specific Objective 2: Support local state and non-state actors in raising awareness on the risks of irregular migration and on pathways for regular migration<sup>9</sup>.

The action's objectives and activities are designed to benefit vulnerable migrants and improve migration governance equally. All objectives apply a rights-based approach, focusing on gender equality and disability inclusion.

### 3.2 Indicative Activities

#### **Output 1.1 – Protection and Short-Term Support:**

- Conduct risk and vulnerability assessments (gender, age, disability) and analyse return patterns and service accessibility.
- Equip state and non-state actors at points of arrival and transit to provide temporary shelter, health services (including SRH and MHPSS), NFIs, dignity kits, psychosocial support, and onward transportation ensuring that support considers local resource constraints, promotes water and energy efficiency, and minimizes environmental impact.
- Establish screening facilities at ports of entry to identify and refer vulnerable returnees using disaggregated data.
- Support actions to identify, refer, and protect vulnerable migrants and VoTs, including police-prosecutor cooperation and cross-border coordination.
- Strengthen human rights institutions to document violations and inform evidence-based policies.

#### **Output 1.2 – Reintegration Services:**

- Support operations and sustainability planning for Migration Response Centres (MRCs).
- Deliver holistic reintegration assistance (social, economic, psychosocial), including gender- and disability-responsive services.

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<sup>9</sup> In line with national competences.

- Expand Community-Based Reintegration (CBR) initiatives and action planning with inclusive community participation.

### **Output 1.3 – Service Systems and Information Tools:**

- Enforcement of Draft National Migration policy and draft Return and Reintegration policy.
- Support implementation of the National Migration Policy, CTiP Bill, and ICA strategy.
- Strengthen the Office of the Special Envoy and the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration.
- Support border and local authorities with human rights training and improve coordination at key IBMCs.
- Promote inclusive policy dialogue and civic engagement on migration governance.

### **Output 2.1 – Migration Governance:**

- Support finalisation and implementation of Draft National Migration policy and draft Return and Reintegration policy, CTiP Bill, and ICA strategy.
- Strengthen the National Coordination Mechanism on Migration, the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy on Migration and other relevant migration governance bodies, including capacity to address the environmental drivers and impacts of migration.
- Support border and local authorities with human rights training and improve coordination at key IBMCs.
- Promote inclusive policy dialogue and civic engagement on migration governance.

### **Output 2.2 – National Reintegration Systems:**

- Advocate for reintegration in national planning and budgeting, mainstreaming climate adaptation and environmental sustainability in reintegration strategies.
- Develop and roll out inclusive national referral systems backed by participatory needs assessments (considering environmental and climate risks) and targeted training.
- Empower institutions and local actors to deliver gender-, age-, and disability-responsive reintegration services, including post-arrival assistance, climate-smart livelihood support, social cohesion, MHPSS and community-based environmental restoration.

### **Output 2.3 – Awareness and Behaviour Change:**

- Conduct perception surveys and risk analyses – including on climate and environmental drivers of migration - to guide awareness campaigns.
- Equip local actors to run communication campaigns via media, social platforms, and community dialogues on irregular migration risks and reintegration opportunities.

The commitment of the EU’s contribution to the Team Europe Initiative to which this action refers, will be complemented by other contributions from Team Europe members. It is subject to the formal confirmation of each respective member’s meaningful contribution as early as possible. In the event that the TEIs and/or these contributions do not materialise, the EU action may continue outside a TEI framework.

## **3.3 Mainstreaming**

### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

The root causes of irregular migration include environmental degradation and climate change both of which are recognized as major challenges in Somalia’s National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and National Climate Change Policy, and other relevant national adaptation and climate programmes and policies. Moreover, resource scarcity and other impacts of environmental degradation and climate change in countries of origin and transit make the situation more difficult for vulnerable migrants, leading to increased tensions with host communities. Therefore, community development and reintegration activities will duly consider ongoing environmental changes and promote community projects that support soil degradation prevention, reforestation and waste management. These activities will seek to build resilience and promote climate-adaptive livelihoods, in line with the National Development Plan’s resilience and environmental sustainability pillar. Reintegration in some areas particularly vulnerable to climate change can be problematic, causing re-emigration. In those cases, returning to areas other than

communities of origin will be envisaged as a more sustainable strategy, while ensuring that relocation options are informed by environmental risk assessments and support long-term adaptation and sustainability for both returnees and host communities. Any small-scale infrastructure activities (e.g., reintegration centres, NFI distribution) will follow sustainable construction guidelines, and technical assistance will promote environmentally responsible practices.

### **Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening**

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment). Environmental factors and their impact on and by migration will be taken into consideration in the action.

### **Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening**

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is at risk; climate risk will be addressed as part of the action wherever relevant .

### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled G1. This implies that gender equality is a significant objective of the action. Despite not having so far ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, this action aims to support Somali authorities and non-state actors in providing a gender-responsive, rights-based, and disability-inclusive response to the needs of Somali and international migrants and their host/return communities, addressing their specific needs and capacities. In addition to gender-tailored and conflict-sensitive assistance and protection, counselling, mental health and psychosocial support services, targeted solutions will be proposed to address gender-specific challenges and stigma posing barriers to the reintegration of women and girls, in alignment with the EU Gender Action Plan III<sup>10</sup> 2021-2025 (notably the thematic areas “ Integrating the women, peace and security agenda” and “Ensuring freedom from all forms of gender-based violence”). The HRBA principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination, equality, empowerment, and legality will be mainstreamed.

Both age and gender considerations will be mainstreamed in all project activities, with gender and age-sensitive information campaigns, centre implementation and running, equal participation in training, and sex/age disaggregated data. Unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking will be provided with specialised, gender-specific, and child-sensitive assistance and protection, including separate accommodation (e.g., shelters).

### **Human rights**

The implementation of the action will follow a rights-based approach. Protecting human rights and due process will be an integral part of the activities carried out under this Action. Protection of human rights of particularly vulnerable categories of migrants, such as children, either accompanied, unaccompanied, or separated; elderly and persons with disabilities; victims of trafficking; or vulnerable smuggled migrants, will be mainstreamed across all activities.

The action will focus on the well-being and personal development of persons of concern, migrants, and their families and communities, with full respect for their human rights. Protection and assistance mechanisms taking into account the specific situation and vulnerability of the refugees and migrants, such as ensuring the child's best interest, will be at the forefront of considerations. In particular, assistance and protection for victims of trafficking (VoT) will take into account the gender and age of the victims and the consequences of the specific type of exploitation suffered.

### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes and in alignment with the EU Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities, 2021-2030 and Somalia's commitments under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified in 2019, this will be a D1 Action and will integrate disability inclusion into direct humanitarian and protection services through the support systems including services delivered via the Migration Response Centres (MRCs) in significant areas of migration or return. Through these structures, migrants and returnees with different disabilities will benefit from medical, psychosocial, and individual protection items, as well as temporary shelter, onward transportation and

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<sup>10</sup> The Gender Action Plan III is a Joint communication by the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy which was welcomed through EU Presidency Conclusions of 16 December 2020 endorsed by 24 Member States

voluntary return options. Furthermore, returning migrants with disability will receive complementary assistance to better reintegrate into communities of origin. At the community level, migrants with a disability will benefit from the community-based reintegration projects in the areas of origin and/or high outward migration. Disability inclusion analysis and disaggregated data will also be promoted.

### Reduction of inequalities

As per the Inequality Marker, this action is not considered relevant for inequality reduction; it is labelled as I-1. This action supports migrants and returnees as members of vulnerable and excluded groups facing challenges and barriers to accessing basic services and rights. In particular, the action targets Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries, particularly sub-goal 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including implementing planned and well-managed migration policies.

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### Democracy

The Action will be based on non-discrimination principles, the self-determination and participation of migrants and refugees, confidentiality, and the right to privacy. It will seek to build the capacity of duty-bearers, even in the context of a fragile situation.

### Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

Peaceful coexistence with local populations is a cross-cutting issue that will be considered across all elements of the implementation of this action. Efforts must be made to maintain dialogue with the local population and ensure sensitisation of the community of returns. Conflict analysis (existing or ad hoc) will be used when relevant. The action will put the “do not harm” principle at the centre of implementing all its activities, also considering the fragility of certain countries of departure, transit, and origin.

### Disaster Risk Reduction

Migrants are considered as a group that is more vulnerable in case of a disaster given their inherent vulnerabilities and limited access to information. This action will aim at integrating strategies to reduce migrants’ vulnerability and exposure to risks.

### Other considerations if relevant

The action will heavily focus on capacity building in the fragile context of Somalia. It will therefore seek to build central (FGS) and devolved (FMS) government systems and processes, while also strengthening local capacities of CSOs and local authorities at the district level as providers of essential services to migrants and communities.

## 3.4 Risks

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)	Impact (High/Medium/Low)	Mitigating measures
Security & Political Stability	Threats and attacks from armed groups such as Al-Shabaab, can hinder the safe movement and operation of implementing organizations.	High	High	The action foresees analysing the situation on the ground and making flexible arrangements to allow working in stable areas.
Political Will	The actual political dialogue on the migration system can impact the program’s implementation.	Medium	Medium	Communication will be implemented to ensure a clear understanding of the activities under this action. A specific action component is dedicated to improving cooperation and minimising this risk.
Coordination	Fragmented landscape of development partners and lack of	Medium	Low	Allocation of significant resources for development

	government coordination may lead to inefficiencies and duplications			partner & government coordination. Continued policy dialogue at EU Head of Delegation level.
Migration flows	Changes in migration flows or management mechanisms during the project implementation significantly increase or reduce the number of migrants.	Medium	High	The Action will include a needs assessment and constant monitoring of migratory flows to allow for early detection of modified migration patterns. A flexible approach will be applied to respond to such changes.
Persistence of discriminatory attitudes at the community level	Discriminatory community attitudes and resistance towards integration of vulnerable migrants and returnees such as SGBV women survivors, persons with disabilities, etc	Medium	High	The action will support key organisations in the provision of gender, age and disability responsive reintegration services not only returnees but also to host communities to address potential resistances and discriminatory reactions.

### 3.5 The Intervention Logic

Under Outcome 1, *if* safe and rights-based assistance and services to vulnerable migrants and returnees are provided *and* this is done through/with local organisations and partners (public or civil society), *then* gradual capacity for rights-based, gender- and disability case management can be developed along key migration routes and returns destinations.

Under Outcome 2, *if* duty-bearers are assisted to build their capacities to manage migration, hold dialogue on migration, and communicate about irregular migration risks, *then* a more structured system for better migration management will be established. In particular, this project seeks to assist the Government of Somalia in establishing and implementing a returns management system. This project will also have a specific component on strengthening partners in communication around irregular migration risks and pathways for regular migration, given the significant problems of Somalis being trafficked for ransom.

*If* local and national partners are strengthened in their ability to both provide direct support to vulnerable migrants and returnees, and to establish and implement gender, age and disability responsive systems for migration management and policy dialogue, *then* vulnerable migrants and returnees can receive better support from duty-bearers

PROJECT and BUDGET SUPPORT MODALITIES

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
<b>Impact</b>	<b>Strengthen Somali migration management through improved institutional capacities, and reintegration services</b>	<p>GERF 2.20 Number of migrants, refugees and internally displaced people or individuals from host communities protected or assisted with EU support, disaggregated by sex, age and disability status</p> <p>GERF 2.21 Number of migration management or forced displacement strategies or policies (a) developed/ revised, or (b) under implementation with EU support, disaggregated by sex, age and disability status [ref. GERF 1.18 SDG 10.7.2 Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people]</p>			<p>1 – project evaluations</p> <p>2 – project evaluations</p>	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>OUTCOMES</b>						
<b>Outcome 1</b>	1. Provide safe and rights-based assistance and services to vulnerable migrants and returnees, focusing on addressing the specific needs of women and people with disabilities.	<p>1a. Number of returning migrants and other vulnerable migrants receiving immediate assistance and protection, disaggregated by sex, age, region, migration status and disability status, type of assistance [ref. GERF 2.39 Number of people directly benefiting from EU supported interventions that aim to reduce social and economic inequality]</p> <p>1b. % of beneficiaries who confirm that they found the delivery of assistance and protection satisfactory, disaggregated by sex, age, region, migration status and disability status</p> <p>1c. Number of migration centres that have incorporated an updated capacity development strategy, disaggregated by sex, age and disability status</p>				
<b>Outcome 2</b>	2. Strengthen duty-bearer capacities to manage migration,	2a.i. % of trained migration management staff that confirm better understanding of				

	<p>ensuring gender-responsive disability inclusive and rights-based approaches to protection and reintegration.</p>	<p>return referral systems, disaggregated by sex and age</p> <p>2a.ii. % of trained migration management staff that demonstrate better understanding of distinct needs of women, children and persons with disabilities.</p> <p>2b. Number of referral cases processed through the returnee referral system, disaggregated by migrant status, region, type of service, sex and age.</p> <p>2c. Percentage of surveyed media consumers who report a change in knowledge or attitudes towards irregular migration risks after exposure to awareness campaigns, disaggregated at least by sex and age.</p>				
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**OUTPUTS (for an action implemented as a project)**

<p><b>Output 1 relating to outcome 1</b></p>	<p>1.1 Improved protection and essential services (including access and quality) for vulnerable migrants and Victims of Trafficking (VoTs), with a particular focus on women and people with disabilities.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Number of vulnerable migrants and victims of trafficking who access specialised services (e.g., psychosocial support, medical support, including sexual and reproductive as well as mental health, etc.) disaggregated by sex, age, region and disability status, type of service.</p> <p>1.1.2 Number of victims/survivors of human trafficking who access support services for socio-economic integration and psycho-social support, disaggregated at least by sex (GAP indicator) [ref. GERF 2.30 Number of victims of human rights violations directly benefiting from assistance funded by the EU]</p> <p>1.1.3 Number of women, men, adolescents, in all their diversity, with increased access to sexual and reproductive health care and services (GAP indicator)</p>				
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<b>Output 2 relating to outcome 1</b>	1.2 Provision of gender-responsive and inclusive post-arrival, reintegration and community-based support to returnees and host communities.	1.2.1 Number of Somali returnees assisted with at least one service, disaggregated by sex, age, region and disability status, type of service.				
<b>Output 3 relating to outcome 1</b>	1.3 Strengthen service delivery for migrant protection and reintegration through capacity building of state and non-state actors.	1.3.1 Number of government officials or key staff trained in rights-based, gender-sensitive migration case managementdisaggregated at least by sex and age				
<b>Output 1 relating to outcome 2</b>	2.1 Support authorities to engage in rights-based, comprehensive, regular and structured dialogue around migration.	2.1.1 Number of key staff trained disaggregated at least by sex and age. 2.1.2 Number of ad-hoc advisory facility requests completed. 2.1.3 Number of dialogue meetings facilitated. 2.1.4 GERF 2.29 Number of government policies developed or revised with civil society organisation participation through EU support				
<b>Output 2 relating to outcome 2</b>	2.2 Support authorities in developing and implementing an effective referral system to coordinate assistance for returnees	2.2.1 Number of institutions in which organizational development measures were undertaken. 2.2.2 Returnee referral system designed and document approved.				
<b>Output 3 relating to outcome 2</b>	2.3 Support local state and non-state actors in raising awareness on the risks of irregular migration and on pathways for regular migration.	2.3.1 Number of contributions aired or posted on radio or social media. 2.3.2 Number of local consultations with risk groups held by campaign ambassadors. 2.3.3. Number of awareness campaigns conducted				

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 0 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 78 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

### 4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component

Not applicable.

### 4.4 Implementation modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>11</sup>.

#### 4.4.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with one or several entrusted entities, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria: (1) Management and governance structure for the implementation of such a complex program is already in place; (2) Relevance and experience in the areas of government capacity building and systems strengthening particularly in the area of migration management, migrant assistance, and sustainable reintegration in Somalia; (3) Operational capacity in all relevant geographic areas country-wide; (4) Expertise in gender equality, including policy/strategy development, internal processes, and operational capacities.

#### 4.4.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances

Where indirect management cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, this Action may be implemented in direct management through one or several grants.

(a) Purpose of the grant

All objectives of the Action

(b) Type of applicants

Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and/or NGO consortia with operational presence in the areas of intervention and expertise in the relevant sub-sectors of the intervention.

### 4.5 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents.

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<sup>11</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

The Commission’s authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

#### 4.6 Indicative Budget

	2025
<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.4	
<b>Objective 1</b>	
Indirect management with one or several entrusted entity/ies cf. section 4.4.1	6 000 000
<b>Objective 2</b>	
Indirect management with one or several entrusted entity/ies cf. section 4.4.1	6 000 000
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.1 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.2	Will be covered by another Decision
<b>Contingencies</b>	
<b>Totals</b>	12 000 000

#### 4.7 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The Action is envisioned to be governed by a Programme Steering Committee (PSC), comprising relevant Government stakeholders, implementing partners and the EU, as well as other relevant observers if needed. The PSC will provide strategic guidance to the overall action. Technical sub-committees are to be formed as needed to accompany and support the project implementation and may include relevant non-governmental organizations.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

## 5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

### 5.1 Monitoring and reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

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

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

- A global M&E plan will be established by Implementing partner(s) based on the logframe annexed. The M&E plan will detail the M&E strategy, tools and activities to be conducted to monitor and evaluate the programme accordingly. The implementing partner will monitor outputs and measure outcomes through the use of various tools, including, among others, beneficiary monitoring and satisfaction surveys to generate findings at a global level and derive lessons learnt and best practices from comparative analysis. Activity specific tools such as capacity-building stakeholder surveys, referral survey, post-distribution monitoring surveys, and qualitative tools like focus groups and case studies, will be used to provide robust data and monitoring insights. Regular monitoring will be ensured at each level of intervention of the action (activities and outputs) to track programme progress towards achievement. To this end, an internal programme monitoring mechanism, both technical and financial, will be established. Data will be collected regularly to monitor programme implementation. To this end, M&E and project staff will regularly conduct field visits to collect data and for quality assurance. Relevant stakeholders will be engaged in participatory monitoring and accountability approaches to strengthen collaboration, partnership, learning and accountability.
- In-country Project Managers/ Coordinators/ Officers, with the support of the programme team, will have overall responsibility for the action, as well as the implementation and monitoring, reporting of activities, and in terms of financial and administrative follow-up of the action as a whole. The implementing partner will provide the EC with regular quantitative updates informing on the Project progress.
- Data will be disaggregated at least by sex, age and disability, and all monitoring and reporting will assess how the action is considering the principle of gender equality, human rights-based approach and rights of persons with disabilities, including inclusion and diversity.

#### Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, amid-term and a final evaluations will be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants via the implementing partner.

In case a mid-term evaluation is envisaged: It will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the sustainability for the action and the fact that it will be followed-up by reintegration programs developed at country level.

All evaluations shall assess to what extent the action is taking into account the rights based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality, women's rights' protection and disability inclusion. Expertise on human rights, disability and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 1 month in advance of the dates envisaged for any evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the

evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

## 5.2 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

# 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.