
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
MULTI-ANNUAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME 2021-2027

1. The overall lines of the EU international cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa

1.1. Basis for programming

New prospects and challenges are emerging in Africa resulting from economic, political social, technological, climate and environmental changes, health crises as well as evolving security threats. The European Union (EU), in reinforcing its geopolitical profile, calls for a strategic partnership with Africa to tackle together these emerging challenges and to pursue common priorities and interests. It represents a renewed partnership encompassing core priorities to best support the process of sustainable and inclusive recovery in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The policy framework for the EU's development cooperation was laid out in the European Consensus on Development, which sets the political vision underlying the financial proposals of the Multi-Annual Financial Framework (2021-2027). The core objective remains the eradication of poverty and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations' (UN) 2030 Agenda. In that vein, the EU will continue to tackle challenges related to human development, inclusive and sustainable growth, climate change, environmental degradation, migration and mobility, as well as promote governance, democracy and human rights. The objectives of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (regional MIP) are well aligned with the SDGs and the main components of the UN's 2030 agenda. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed several global challenges and new important political priorities have emerged in 2020, as expressed in the Joint Communication on the global EU response to COVID-19¹ and the Communication establishing a European Health Union².

The political and policy objectives are captured in the five partnerships proposed in the Joint Communication "Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa"³, as well as in the subsequent Council conclusions of 30 June 2020⁴ that emphasise the need (i) to deepen the partnership to promote, adapt, and, where necessary, reform the multilateral order; (ii) to promote democracy, good governance, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and inclusive and participative societies; (iii) to step up our efforts to ensure peace, security and stability; (iv) to promote mutually beneficial trade and investment; (v) to keep investing in people and empowering them, including through ensuring access to inclusive and equitable quality education for all, in particular young people, women and girls; (vi) to support a green transition; (vii) to pursue a vision of an inclusive digital economy and society; (viii) to strengthen the human dimension of the partnership through a people-centred approach; and (ix) to develop a balanced, coherent and comprehensive approach to migration and mobility. Moreover, the European Council conclusions of 16 October 2020⁵ further commit to strengthening EU support to health systems in Africa.

¹ JOIN(2020) 11 final of 8.4.2020.

² COM(2020) 724 final of 11.11.2020.

³ JOIN(2020)4 of 9.3.2020: (i) a partnership for green transition and energy access; (ii) a partnership for digital transformation; (iii) a partnership for sustainable growth and jobs; (iv) a partnership for peace & governance, and (v) a partnership on migration and mobility.

⁴ "Africa" – Council conclusions 9265/20 of 30.6.2020. These Council conclusions have been further developed at sub-regional level with the adoption of Council conclusions on the EU's Integrated Strategy in the Sahel (7723/21 of 16.4.2021) and the Horn of Africa (8135/21 of 10.5.2021) that outline EU's priorities in both sub-regions.

⁵ European Council conclusions EUCO 15/20 of 16.10.2020.

The African, Caribbean and Pacific states and the EU have negotiated a successor to the Cotonou Agreement, which contains a specific Africa Protocol. Once it enters into force, it will provide a legally binding framework for cooperation between the EU and the sub-Saharan Africa countries on ‘inclusive, sustainable economic growth and development’, ‘human and social development’, environment, natural resource management and climate change’, ‘peace and security’, ‘human rights, democracy and governance’ as well as ‘migration and mobility’.

The priorities negotiated in the Cotonou successor agreement as well as the EU’s policy documents are fully in line with Africa’s Agenda 2063⁶ ensuring a mutually beneficial partnership and contributing towards attaining the UN SDGs 2030, reducing poverty and addressing inequalities by building democratic inclusive and sustainable societies. In light of the EU’s unique history of successful regional integration, the EU brings a very distinctive added value to the African integration stories that are being written: sharing this experience is an important part of the continental/regional programming action.

The basis for programming is a set of policy or strategic documents above detailed. The Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa (regional MIP) covers the EU’s partnership with Sub-Saharan Africa in a comprehensive manner and reflects the guiding principles of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument-Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe) of “simplification”, “subsidiarity”, “geographisation” and “policy first” in our interaction with key stakeholders. The complementarity of the NDICI-Global Europe’s thematic components needs to be ensured with the geographic programmes (geographisation principle). Actions are envisaged at three levels: country, multi-country/(sub-)regional/trans-regional, and continental (“whole of Africa” approach).⁷ Actions will be implemented in line with the Team Europe approach (see section 1.2) through close consultations between the European Commission and EU Member States.

In defining the regional programming priorities, the country dimension constitutes the departure point. In other words, the regional MIP’s priorities are anchored into priorities established in the country MIPs, which in turn are further complemented with actions articulated at the regional/continental level, as appropriate. All actions funded under the regional MIP, whether implemented at country level or at regional/continental level, will demonstrate a clear added-value to address an issue from a regional perspective (subsidiarity principle).

Specific geographic approaches that call for a common multi-sectoral response will be developed for specific (sub-) regions, including North Africa, as and if appropriate, in articulation with Neighbourhood South regional programming. This could, for instance, include support to integrated cross-border programmes around the Sudan/South Sudan border, an integrated response to instability in G5 Sahel and around Lake Chad, including the Accra Initiative; an integrated programme for the Blue Nile, an integrated programme for the Red Sea or cover areas such as the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes, the Gulf of Guinea, the Western Indian Ocean. Along the same line, initiatives bringing together countries with similar cultural and linguistic identities, as well as shared government structures and institutions, such as the PALOP-TL (Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa e Timor Leste)–African Portuguese speaking countries and East Timor) grouping, should be further developed also as a way to maintain this special political and policy dialogue. The Sub-Saharan African region also includes six insular states, most of them being small island developing states (SIDS). These SIDS have different degrees of economic development but they are all prone to climate change consequences and

⁶ African Union: “Agenda 2063 – The Africa We Want”, Final Edition, April 2015.

⁷ Actions at multi-country level are implemented in two or more countries which can, but do not necessarily belong to the same (sub-)regional group of countries. Actions at regional level cover all countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. Actions at sub-regional level cover groups of countries, which cooperate within an institutional or policy framework or mandate (either as Regional Economic Communities or other types of regional organisations), or which are part of a broadly defined geographic space (i.e. Sahel, Horn of Africa, Gulf of Guinea, West Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, Southern Africa, Indian Ocean, etc.). Actions at continental level cover all countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa. Actions at trans-regional level cover any number of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and any number of countries in other neighbouring regions (i.e. Northern Africa, the Gulf region, etc.).

share the common high vulnerability to environmental disasters due to their insular status. The regional MIP will therefore give due consideration to the specificity of SIDS.

The regional MIP also caters for the Africa continental dimension and will contribute substantially to the supporting the priorities of the EU-AU summit of 2022. To this end, it will contribute to addressing a number of continental priorities, for instance with regard to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) as a game changer to increase intra-continental trade and continue boosting economic and trading partnership with Europe.

In addition, while alignment with the priorities of the African Union (AU) and the regional organisations in Africa will continue to be ensured, including through a stepped up policy dialogue, the priorities and envelopes in this regional MIP do not follow an institutional logic. The partnership with regional organisations and the AU will be guided by joint objectives and will emphasise the added value of joint cooperation in a number of priority areas (policy first principle).

Where a trans-regional action includes the territories or outermost regions of a Member State, the relevant services of the Commission shall discuss the implementing modalities and specific interventions for implementation, pursuant to the NDICI-Global Europe regulation (article 43), the Overseas Association Decision (articles 72(c) and 82(4)) and the European Territorial Cooperation (article 55), which will be reflected as appropriate in the relevant Annual Action Plans/measures and within the Interreg programme(s).

A geopolitical Commission implies linking up the internal and external dimension of EU policy priorities. In light of the flexibility conferred by the NDICI-Global Europe, specific approaches and actions will be developed involving areas outside Sub-Saharan Africa, where there is a specific need for joint action at continental or trans-regional level (e.g. on the African Continental Free Trade Area, on migration routes, strategic corridors, health, water management, ocean governance including on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, Red Sea, etc.).

The adoption of revised EU strategies for the Sahel and the Horn of Africa regions⁸ are important elements in strengthening and deepening the EU's strategic partnership with these regions with the aim of contributing to their stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development. In Western Africa, the specific focus on the Sahel region is a key element in the framework of the Sahel Coalition established in 2020. The EU revised its Sahel strategy⁹ underlining the political dimension of its engagement with Sahel partners, making governance and human rights a central element, relying upon mutual commitments and enhanced accountability. The EU foresees stepping up its efforts for a political and civilian response in parallel to pursuing its security commitments in the region. The geostrategic perspective of the EU engagement in the Indo Pacific region is also relevant especially when considering regional activities in the Western Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. The EU expressed the ambition to reinforce the strategic focus, presence and ambition in the Indian Ocean region in April 2021.

Funding for the regional MIP and its individual actions will be sourced from the three sub-regional budget lines for respectively West Africa, Eastern and Central Africa and Southern Africa on the basis of a pro-rata funding arrangement reflecting the distribution of funds envisaged for the three regions: 40% for West Africa, 39% for Eastern and Central Africa and 21% for Southern Africa. Actions of a continental nature, thus covering North Africa, may be funded via the Sub-Saharan Africa and Neighbourhood budget line of the NDICI-Global Europe.

⁸ EU Council conclusions on the EU's Integrated Strategy in the Sahel (7723/21 of 16.4.2021) and the Horn of Africa (8135/21 of 10.5.2021).

⁹ EU Council conclusions, 7723/21, 16.4.2021.

All actions taken under this programming exercise shall comply with EU legislation, in particular EU restrictive measures (sanctions) adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

1.2. Status of joint programming

Joint programming is not feasible from a regional perspective since EU Member States (MS) mainly focus their bilateral cooperation at the country level, according to their respective external priorities. However, a close coordination with Member States, their national development finance institutions, and development/implementation agencies, as well as European financial institutions, will be established to work closer together in implementing EU external policy and development cooperation, including through the “Team Europe” approach. The MIP indicates a number of potential areas in which to develop “Team Europe” initiatives, to be funded and implemented in cooperation with EU Member States. This approach will leverage the EU’s collective influence and leadership at the global level, as well as enhance the solidarity with partner countries.

In line with the Joint Communication on Strengthening the EU’s contribution to rules-based multilateralism¹⁰ calling on the EU to ‘deliver as one’ to ‘succeed as one’, the regional MIP will promote efficient coordination mechanisms around joint priorities and initiatives. The regional MIP will contribute to reinforce cooperation with multilateral and regional organisations, support partner countries in engaging more effectively in the multilateral system and engage with civil society, local authorities as appropriate in line with the regional value added and subsidiarity principle, as well as the private sector, social and other stakeholders on shaping the multilateral landscape.

1.3. Priority areas of the EU's cooperation in Sub-Saharan Africa

The regional MIP will focus on the following six priority areas:

Priority Area 1: Human Development

- Health
- Education and Skills

Priority Area2: Governance, Peace and Security, Culture

- Democratic Governance, Rule of Law, Inclusive Participation
- Peace and Security
- Culture

Priority Area 3: Green Transition

- Climate Mitigation and Resilience
- Sustainable Energy
- Sustainable Agri-food Systems
- Biodiversity and Environment
- Water and Oceans

Priority Area 4: Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation

- Digital transformation
- Science, Technology and Innovation

Priority Area 5: Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs

¹⁰ JOIN(2021) 3 final of 17.2.2021.

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Integration, Trade |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Connectivity |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable finance, Investment climate and Private Sector Development |
| <p>Priority Area 6: Migration and Forced Displacement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration • Forced Displacement |

The regional MIP and future programmes will reflect a “people-centred approach” that focuses on improving local communities’ self-reliance, social justice and participatory decision-making, recognising that that economic growth does not inherently contribute to human development but rather that this requires changes in social, political, and environmental values and practices. This also requires integrating the principles of “leaving no one behind” and “do no harm” and addressing inequalities in partner countries.

The EU has committed to fight inequalities by building inclusive and sustainable societies across a wide spectrum of policy areas. To this end, the EU will work to enable people and ensure equal opportunities for all: investing in education; facilitating access to services and assets; addressing gender inequalities and ensuring non-discrimination for all; investing in democratic governance and inclusive participation; supporting sustainable and inclusive growth as well as maximizing the employment potential of investment and trade.

Promoting gender equality, inclusion and a human rights-based approach as well as investing in women and youth will underpin all actions and will be either addressed through targeted actions or mainstreamed as crosscutting issues throughout all the priorities areas in the regional MIP. This people-centred approach will receive an important emphasis through a dedicated priority area for human development as well as in all other priority areas of the MIP (i.e. sustainable growth and jobs, green transition, migration and forced displacement, governance, peace and security and culture).

The Communication on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum¹¹ put a strong emphasis on migration and forced displacement in the EU relations with countries of origin, transit and destination in Africa. The regional MIP will complement activities funded through country MIPs and will as such provide flexible and incentive-based funding. In various sectors considered for programming at country or regional level, e.g. education, health, food security and nutrition, disaster preparedness and response, migration and forced displacement, governance, climate adaptation, etc., the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus approach will be systematically applied.

The regional MIP mainstreams environment and climate change to make use of opportunities under the different priority areas to promote transformational change towards environmental sustainability, low carbon development and climate and disaster resilience, as well as to minimise the impact of human activity on the environment.

The regional MIP is structured according to the enumerated six priority areas and their respective components with the understanding that appropriate inter-linkages will be established both in the programming provisions and notably in the identification and formulation of actions. A number of these inter-linkages are considered in further detail in the next section (“EU support per priority area and Team Europe Initiatives”). For example, actions under the Science, Technology and Innovation component would target the areas of green transition and health (i.e. use of applied research and digital surveillance tools). Other issues that call for such an approach include the development of sustainable value chains, the promotion of a circular economy, the responsible sourcing and trading of minerals and development of minerals based value chains, the development of skills, addressing challenges in

¹¹ COM/2020/609 of 23.9.2020.

borderlands, etc. The regional MIP will be implemented in accordance with the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III).

1.4. Justification and context

Africa has been recording a steady economic growth. However, a number of challenges persist including political instability, conflicts and security issues, recurrent and protracted food crises, climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss, the socio-economic impact of COVID-19. Almost 400 million people live below the poverty line and lack access to basic services, while inequality and governance challenges have not allowed for an inclusive growth and rapid population growth puts additional pressure on natural resources, the labour market and service delivery.

The priority areas for cooperation reflect the five partnerships proposed in the Joint Communication “Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa”¹²: i) a partnership for green transition and energy access; (ii) a partnership for digital transformation; (iii) a partnership for sustainable growth and jobs; (iv) a partnership for peace & governance; and (v) a partnership on migration and mobility, as well as a partnership for health triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the priorities of African partners. In addition, the regional MIP puts a strong emphasis on human development with a dedicated priority area to that effect.

The regional MIP will support the Africa Investment Plan requested by the European Council in October 2020 and expected to be endorsed at the 2022 EU-AU Summit.

The choice of the priority areas is the result of the substantive work conducted through consultations with key partners (civil society, private sector, regional organisations, development financial institutions, multilateral institutions, etc.) and work on the Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs). The outcome evaluation of past country and regional programmes and lessons learned from a number of initiatives and/or thematic programmes such as the Pan-African Programme (PANAF), the African Peace Facility (APF) and the EU Trust Fund (EUTF) for Africa have also informed the choice and outline of priorities in this regional MIP.

The programming of the EU’s external budget aims to project the EU’s values and interests through international partnerships based on its political priorities. The EU’s engagement with regional organisations, partner countries, civil society, local authorities’ platforms, youth, private sector, etc., should therefore be both politically and policy-driven, and based on mutual commitments.

In order to achieve tangible and sustainable results in all of the above-mentioned priority areas, policy reforms will be required and environmental, social, economic, political or security-related governance issues will need to be addressed and mainstreamed in all actions. The regional MIP sets out a framework which will (i) ensure a close cooperation with regional and multilateral institutions, wherever there is alignment with EU priorities; (ii) promote the building of alliances with partner countries and key non-governmental stakeholders around identified joint priorities; (iii) underpin global initiatives that are relevant for the EU’s political priorities and objectives at sub-national, country and regional level.

To deliver on the EU political orientations and achieve visible results in the region, key issues have been identified to the extent possible for each country or group(s) of countries, where the EU will have a transformative impact and become the partner of reference for the countries of the region, if it combines its forces with that of the EU Member States through the Team Europe approach and a number of Team Europe Initiatives in key areas, including human development (access to health products and services and education services), business development and other relevant sectors. This has informed the programming exercise.

¹² JOIN(2020)4 of 9.3.2020.

Moreover, actions in the area of peace and security under the regional MIP will be complemented by trans-regional and global actions funded under the Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention Thematic Programme. The integrated EU approach to responding to external conflict and crisis will be pursued.

Complementarity will be ensured also with actions financed under the Global Challenges, Civil Society Organisation and the Human Rights thematic programmes and under the Rapid Response pillar, designed to allow for quick responses contributing to stability and conflict prevention in situations of crisis and emergency, as well as strengthening resilience of states and communities and linking humanitarian aid and development actions.

Under the 2021-27 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the nexus between internal and external policies, especially in priority areas, will be reinforced. This will lead to increased cooperation among different DGs and services of the Commission in a number of areas of interest for the SSA region.

The regional MIP will also build on the experience of the Partnership Instrument (PI) under the previous MFF in advancing and promoting EU interests abroad by supporting the external dimension of EU policies.

The EU's continued engagement with regional organisations, partner countries (including their competent institutions, including at sub-national level, civil society at large and notably youth and private sector) as well as European stakeholders (civil society and private sector) and international partners will be key in the articulation of the priorities outlined below and in their successful implementation.

The EU will reinforce its strategic communication and public diplomacy activities to engage with new audiences through campaigns on the EU's values and political priorities while also building sustainable networks with existing stakeholders.

1.5. Duration of the MIP

The regional MIP will have a 7-year duration, from 2021-2027, with a mid-term review foreseen for 2024.

2. EU support per priority area and proposals of Team Europe Initiatives

2.1. Priority area 1 – Human Development

Human development is at the core of our multilateral commitment towards achieving the SDGs by 2030 and a key vehicle for achieving the geopolitical priorities of the Commission. Investing in “human capital” is the smartest long term economic and political investment in sustainable development, stability and multilateralism based on shared rules and values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charters on Human and Peoples’ Rights and on Democracy, Elections and Governance. Within the framework of this MIP, the priority area on human development focuses on health, education and skills, whilst recognising that the manifold dimensions of human development will be addressed throughout a number of other priority areas as well.

COVID-19 has transformed health into a global, European and African priority. The pandemic, regular outbreaks of infectious (and often deadly) diseases such as Ebola, cholera, measles, yellow fever, and the endemic nature of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, as well as the double burden scenario (the coexistence of communicable and non-communicable diseases), underline the urgent need to strengthen Africa’s public health and social protection systems. The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the interconnectedness between human health, animal health and the environment that also needs to be recognised through the “One Health” approach.

Access to quality health services is not only a basic human right, but also a prerequisite for sustainable development. Strong and resilient health systems ensure equitable access to quality, affordable healthcare services, and are the cornerstone of health security. At continental level, the AU has long had political traction and convening power, and it now also has, with the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the soon to be established African Medicines Agency, a vision for a new public health order in Africa and growing operational capacity to advance this vision, coordinate continental and sub-regional responses and turn health systems strengthening (HSS), local manufacturing, distribution and licencing/certification, of vaccines and therapeutics, health workforce development, into a pillar of the EU-Africa partnership. This includes, among others, essential vaccines, drugs and products for sexual and reproductive health.

In order to reconfirm the EU’s strong solidarity with Africa in the fight against COVID-19, focusing on equitable healthcare access and societal infrastructure, concrete deliverables are envisaged on the basis of the proposed Team Europe Initiative on manufacturing of health products in Africa.

In this light, the need to harmonize regulatory frameworks for the pharmaceutical products where there is high potential for regional/continental added value, as well as the operationalisation of the Africa Medicines Agency remains a priority, considering among others, that the HIV infection rate is not decreasing as expected. Increased funding from domestic resources is also paramount.

The trends in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) indicators vary in Africa. In the past decade urban centres have seen significant decline in fertility and maternal and child mortality, closing the gap to the global average. In rural areas, where there is insufficient access to SRHR services and information, maternal and child mortality as well as fertility remain far higher. Women and girls and particularly women and girls with disabilities carry a heavier burden in terms of these inequalities. In order for Africa to fully enjoy the demographic dividend, a firmer emphasis on reducing gender inequalities and advancing access to sexual and reproductive intervention including joint education and health sector responses for SRHR outcomes is needed.

Investing in inclusive and equitable quality education and skills development, by providing youth with education, training, skills (including digital skills), and preparing them to seize opportunities from the future labour market and changing societies is a central strategic priority in our partnership with Africa.¹³

However, progress towards SDG 4 (Quality education for all) has been slow, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa where large numbers of learners still lack foundational reading and mathematics skills. More than 20% of primary school aged children are deprived of the right to education, and less than 10% of African 18-24 years old are enrolled in some form of post-secondary education or training. There are also significant gaps in learning achievements within and across countries, with very significant gender disparities in some countries regarding secondary school enrolment and drop-out rates. As access to free quality education is a key element for reducing child labour related to domestic supply chains and work on family farms, access to education also in rural areas should be high on the agenda of policy makers. An estimated 53% of children in low and middle-income countries cannot read and understand a simple text by age 10. The highest levels of learning poverty are in Sub Saharan Africa (87%). The COVID 19 pandemic has aggravated this pre-existing learning crisis with particular set-backs for women's and girl's access to education. Recognizing that girls and women have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, the MIP is promoting gender equality in and through education to avoid losing the gains in girls' education made over the last decades.

Teachers are at the heart of the education system since they can greatly influence learning outcomes, but they are yet short in supply and lack proper training and continuous professional development to provide effective teaching and learning. In Sub Saharan Africa, only 65% of primary teachers and 51% of secondary teachers have the minimum qualifications to teach (UIS, 2020). There is therefore a need for policy initiatives for teachers capable of teaching foundational literacy, numeracy and essential life skills, and a broader range of knowledge and skills including digital competencies for managing environmental and climate changes challenges and other society's transitions.

There are some 375 million young people expected to reach the working age in Africa within the next 15 years, and according to the current trajectory, the labour market does not have the capacity to absorb the vast number of them. This imbalance is exacerbated by the persistent mismatch between the job requirements and the skills offered by the education and the vocational and training systems. More harmonization, alignment, and coherence is needed within these systems to improve quality of education and increase youth employability.

The envisaged regional interventions on education and skills development are expected to complement and reinforce the country-level programmes, which continue to be the main channel of support in these sectors. They will cover the needs for integration, better harmonisation, alignment and coordination at regional and continental levels, as well promoting students and teachers' mobility within Africa, improving skills and opportunities for youth and facilitate regional labour mobility. The regional MIP will also have targeted support to develop appropriate, innovative and scalable approaches for addressing some of the most pressing challenges faced by the education workforce in Sub Saharan Africa. Actions in this field will also harness the full potential of online teachers' trainings and be coordinated closely with interventions in the field of digital transformation, as digital skills and access to digital technologies is an essential part of a modern education system, in particular in the post-COVID-19 context. Efforts on digital transformation both with respect to access to education and educational content will improve access to education for girls.

The actions funded through this MIP will furthermore be complemented by the Erasmus+ programme, which will be funded through a separate MIP and resourced from the geographic pillar of the NDICI-Global Europe.

UN Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), SDG4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Industry), SDG 17 (Partnerships). Health and education contribute to all SDGs.

¹³ *Towards a comprehensive strategy with Africa*, Joint Communication to the European Parliament and EU Council, JOIN(2020) 4 final, Brussels, 9 March 2020.

DAC codes: 121 (General Health), 122 (Basic health and infectious diseases), 123 (Non-communicable diseases), 130 (Population polices/programmes and reproductive health), 31195 (Livestock/veterinary services), 32168 (Pharmaceutical production), 110 (Education), 111 (Education, Level Unspecified), 11110 (Education policy and administrative management), 11120 (Education facilities and training), 11182 (educational research); 11330 (Vocational training), 113 (Secondary Education), 11130 (Teacher training), 114 (Post-Secondary Education), 11420 (Higher Education), 11430 (Professional-level vocational training programmes and in-service trainings), 112 (Basic Education), 11220 (Primary Education), 11231 (Basic Life Skills for Youth), 11240 (Early Childhood Education), 11260 (Lower Secondary Education).

Civil society engagement/participation: Civil society organisations (CSOs) are essential actors in the health and education sectors. They are an important lever in service delivery and for the inclusion of women and young people and play a crucial advocacy role. CSOs will be regularly consulted and involved in the programme design and implementation. Specific monitoring indicators related to their involvement will be included in the design of individual actions. The involvement of CSOs is particularly relevant for the implementation of actions related to health security and pandemic preparedness as well on promoting the rights and gender equality perspective of education and SRHR initiatives. Specific policy dialogue initiatives and actions to promote equal access to inclusive and quality education and youth learning mobility will be also included, in particular by supporting teacher’s trade unions, women’s and youth organizations and networks active in the field. The involvement of CSO is particularly relevant for the implementation of actions under results 1.1 and 1.4 as well as results 2.1 and 2.3, possibly through dedicated financial envelopes.

Risks and mitigating measures:

Risks	Mitigating measures
Numerous, insufficiently coordinated initiatives (ongoing or planned) in health, as well as overlapping institutional mandates (between AU and other regional organisations, Africa CDC and WHO etc.), can lead to fragmentation, duplication and inefficiencies in the support provided.	Promoting strong coordination of European initiatives, ideally leading to a Team Europe approach; information sharing – and to the extent possible - coordination mechanisms with the other Commission services and key donors (e.g. US, World Bank, UK, Gates Foundation); Strategic dialogue organised alongside the capacity building work to mitigate issue of overlapping mandates. Alignment around the continental strategies will prevent a narrow sub-regional or project focus. EU to leverage the political/strategic dialogue platforms to champion the establishment of the Africa CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) partners’ forum.
Risk aversion of private sector and financial institutions limiting investments in health and the pharmaceutical sector.	Use of blending and guarantees to reduce financial risks on lending and use of technical assistance tools.
Limited commitment/opposition to activities related to SRHR.	Advocacy, involvement of CSOs and policy dialogue.
Limited commitment of partner countries in the policy dialogue on health, education and skills.	Structured political dialogue with partner countries, including through a flexible boosting approach.

Weak capacities of organisations to manage mobility programmes.	Increased capacity building support and development of networks.
Gender imbalance in terms of participation to youth mobility programmes.	Support and communication measures to ensure girls and women's participation. Advocacy and involvement of CSOs.
Difficulties to reach disadvantaged youth.	Targeted support measures.

2.1.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

Specific Objective 1: Strengthen the African health security architecture, pharmaceutical systems and public health capacity, contributing to stronger health systems and improved health, including sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) outcomes.

Specific Objective 2: Enhance regional and continental (Intra-Africa) integration for improved quality of education and skills development; and EU-Africa policy dialogue and cooperation in the fields of education, skills development, youth learning mobility, and teacher governance, leadership, training and professional development.

2.1.2. Expected results per specific objective

Health

The health actions intend to address four structural, interconnected areas which, tackled at continental, regional and multi-country level, can contribute to advance Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Primary Health Care (PHC) and preparedness against health threats through regional networks and key blocks of health systems. Such actions require initiating or expanding partnerships with various African stakeholders, leveraging EU expertise (from both the EU and MS) and expanding collaboration with UN agencies. Furthermore, they entail engaging in a strategic dialogue on various governance, policy and financing matters with African institutions. Their transformative value lies in their mutual reinforcement across EU political priorities and across other priority areas of the regional MIP. Linkages will be established with those country MIPs that in various degrees include health among their priorities.

Result 1.1: The African architecture for health security and pandemic preparedness is strengthened sustainably.

Interventions under this result will focus on contributing to sustainably improve pandemic preparedness and response, thus increasing global health security and reducing the risk of future epidemics on the continent. Investments in risk assessment, early detection (including of mutations in SARS-CoV-2), effective surveillance and control of zoonotic diseases, and providing basic information for new vaccines development, as well as successful collaboration between health, veterinary and other sectors following a One Health approach, will also strengthen partner countries' compliance with the International Health Regulations (IHR). Strengthening IHR implementation is a crucial tool to enhance pandemic preparedness and response. The focus will be put on strengthening durably the African health security architecture structured around the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its Regional Collaborating Centres. The first level of this architecture, National Public Health Institutes, will form a connector in the approach. Careful coordination with other players will be needed to create synergistic effects and ensure complementarity.

Result 1.2: The African pharmaceutical systems and the regional manufacturing capacity for vaccines and other medical products and technologies are strengthened to increase quality, safe and equitable access.

This result will contribute to lay the foundation of a pharmaceutical and health care industrial sector in Africa which is integrated into the global health architecture. A new industrial era in Africa moving beyond exploiting and processing natural resources, leapfrogging into sustainable innovation, will underpin the health and well-being of future generations. It represents an opportunity to target several development objectives and geo-political priorities, stimulate growth and jobs, facilitate trade, diversify global value chains, engage with the private sector, and reinforce our scientific and diplomatic ties with partner countries while advancing UHC and human development.

This area will cover continental, regional and multi-country efforts. It will encompass support to 1) regional manufacturing hubs for vaccines, medicines or other health technologies, including SRHR commodities/medicines (e.g. through technology transfer, effective Intellectual Property management, business plans, and removal of supply and demand-side obstacles), 2) regulatory frameworks (e.g. harmonisation, reliance mechanisms), 3) skills in the sector for better science, technology and innovation (STI) across Africa, and 4) boost solutions for enhanced delivery of pharmaceutical and biotech goods and services across borders.

Result 1.3: The Africa-based public health capacity is enhanced.

Establishing or strengthening the performance of African Public Health Institutes (PHIs) able to provide training, research and context-specific policy advice to the health authorities is a priority. Interventions under this result will strengthen PHIs' capacity and will aim to foster evidence-based policy development within the current diverse landscape of public health capacities. The regional approach will aim to foster South-South and North-South triangular cooperation, and strengthen capacities to support the generation of context-specific data and evidence on risks and threats on key public health issues including malnutrition, enabling the development of specialist health care, as well as improving the functioning of the local communities' health centres and developing the early warning and response systems and manage health risks. Interventions will balance support to deliver up-to-standards life and social science content and to building robust institutional environments and strong networks. Synergies will be promoted with result 1.1 (risks and threats), result 1.2 (safety and quality of medical products), priority area 4 (in particular the STI component) and a similar approach to networking as under result 1 will be pursued. Activities will ensure complementarity between programmes funded from different Commission services¹⁴ and international partners.

Result 1.4: The legal, political and societal environment for SRHR is enabled.

Africa has adopted SRHR policy frameworks, but the political commitment for their implementation and their enforcement mechanisms are weak. Interventions under this result will support regional actions having an impact at country level: policy dialogue for increased political commitment and accountability (including, among others, the UNFPA role in the SRHR domain), support to movement building, social accountability, advocacy and watchdog activities, evidence and knowledge generation. In addition, interventions will ensure synergies with results 1.2 (pharmaceutical systems) and 1.3 (Public Health Institutes). Enabling the environment and transforming values and social norms will require engaging with various key stakeholders (including regional institutions, national authorities, opinion leaders and civil society which will play a central role). It is also envisaged to provide targeted technical support to review key regional policy processes and ensure transparency, accountability and participation. There will be a specific focus on adolescent girls and other vulnerable adolescents.

Education

Result 2.1: Improved teacher governance, training and professional development in basic education

¹⁴ For example between the ARISE programme managed by the DG for International Partnership and the EDCTP programme (and its networks of excellence) supported by the DG for Research.

This Teacher Initiative aims to increase quality of teacher training and professional development, and better teacher governance, management and leadership for improved teacher motivation and performance as a means to improve learning.

It will complement and reinforce EU interventions at the country level by fostering regional initiatives to identify common challenges that affect teachers and to foster innovative solutions and context-adapted approaches to teacher training and collaborative continuous professional development. EU support will also consider the broader context of teacher policy and governance frameworks for teacher recruitment, deployment, career management and leadership. Actions will explore the potential of online teachers' trainings and improving teachers' digital competences and literacy. Children' rights will be considered as a cross-cutting issue in the teachers training action (e.g. guidance on child labourers back into the school system). Links with the European Education Area in the area of teachers and blended learning, the Erasmus+ programme, and EU MS expertise and initiatives targeting teachers will be explored.

Result 2.2: Enhanced regional and continental (Intra-Africa) integration and EU-Africa policy development and coordination in the field of education and skills development.

To address the key challenges facing education and training systems (learning innovation, digital platforms and skills, gender equality), and improving learning outcomes, actions under this result will support the reforms of education and VET policies and systems in SSA through a platform of demand-driven EU expertise, networks and tools that can be mobilised in the context of the European Education Area and the Digital Education Action Plan. Initiatives will promote policy dialogue and coordination, support the design and implementation of education and VET public policies and programmes to reinforce the capacities and networks of institutions at regional level through peer learning activities, exchange of experiences and best practices, and technical assistance.

Such activities will also promote the participation of other stakeholders, including civil society and business and social partner organisations in order to foster the policy dialogue on education and in particular the relevance of curricula and employability of learners. Actions will promote innovative approaches on North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

Result 2.3: Regional and continental integration mechanisms to contribute to a more inclusive knowledge-based society and economy are promoted.

Under this component support is envisaged to frameworks and partnerships for the recognition, comparability and portability of skills and of qualifications at regional and continental level, including: the referencing of national and continental qualifications frameworks; the recognition of skills from non-formal and informal contexts; digital skills and actions to promote fair labour mobility at regional level. Other initiatives will focus on: quality assurance and accreditation systems of African higher education at regional and continental level; internationalisation and harmonisation of programmes and curricula among African universities; quality of teaching, including with respect to eliminating gender inequalities, digital and innovative teaching practices based on a peer to peer approach. These activities, aiming at reinforcing regional cooperation in the field of education and skills, should be supported through twinning experiences between education and research institutions, training and labour market institutions, national qualifications frameworks agencies, recognition and quality assurance bodies, foundations and think tanks.

Result 2.4: Skills and competences are increased through learning mobility opportunities at regional and continental level, with a special focus on youth.

Working or studying abroad enhances individual employability and encourages future next generations to think beyond national borders, while developing effective skills among tomorrow's practitioners and decision-makers. Under this component and in complementary with the activities supported under Erasmus +, Intra-Africa and North-South learning mobility of learners and staff

will be promoted as a tool to increase youth employability and contribute to innovation. Specific attention will be paid to reinforce mechanisms to guarantee a more equal and inclusive learning mobility for all. Youth leadership skills exchange programmes (for students and researchers, young entrepreneurs and innovators, youth leaders in civil society, in politics, in the media, in think tanks, in the cultural sector) will also be included to increase youth empowerment and participation: this action will be realized in coordination with the youth initiatives foreseen under the Governance component of priority area 2 of the MIP.

2.1.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

See framework of intervention in Attachment 1.

2.1.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

Under EU and AU leadership, in partnership with the private sector (including private banks and investment funds), European, African and International financing institutions, European development finance institutions, jointly or individually, it is proposed to nurture financing opportunities and vehicles to fund the establishment or expansion of companies and entrepreneurs in the biotech, pharma or health care technology sectors. The EFSD+ will therefore contribute to the overarching goal of strengthening health systems and pursuing universal health coverage, including by supporting investment projects and public private partnerships in the health sector.

2.2. Priority area 2 – Democratic Governance Peace and Security, and Culture

Within the global policy framework for development provided by the SDGs, SDG 16 aims at the establishment of just, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Stepping up cooperation on democratic governance and the Rule of Law is one of the priorities set by the EU Comprehensive Strategy with Africa. The EU also seeks to continue supporting credible, inclusive and transparent representative and participatory democratic processes in particular in view of technological opportunities and challenges.

A continental and regional approach to democratic governance allows to harmonise progress, deepen synergies, and cooperation among the AU, its Member States, and regional organisations. In addition, addressing emerging challenges to human rights and democracy through a multi-country approach contributes to tackle regional specificities and allows the EU to support initiatives that are complementary to and could foster national initiatives. Moreover, this offers an opening for initiatives that would be challenging to implement at country level because of difficulties to establish dialogues with national authorities. These challenges are multiple and include the shrinking of civic space, democratic backsliding and increasing digital threats to human rights defenders and civil society.

The sources of instability and insecurity in Africa are often linked to local and/or national factors, such as shrinking democratic space and increasing pressure on finite natural resources, however their dynamics and impacts can rarely be limited to the boundaries of individual states. This is the case of national conflicts that spill over into regional ones, and even more so of cross-border security challenges, such as transnational organised crime and transboundary violent extremist groups, which are regional by nature. From this perspective, the adequate level of the EU response depends not only on the geographic scope of the challenge or conflict at hand, but also on its nature. The prevention, management or resolution of inter- and intra-state conflict often requires the intervention of a regional organisation acting within the remit of the mandate given by its member states. Challenges that span across boundaries, and to which no country alone can offer efficient or sufficient responses, call for collective responses at multi-country, regional and sometimes continental level, guided by robust cooperation-driven strategies. Recognizing the close link between climate change and peace and security, and the fact that the former has a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups, the formulation

of actions addressing conflict under this regional MIP will take into account the results of ongoing and planned country climate sensitive analysis.

In its Global Strategy for European Foreign and Security Policy, the EU alongside its Member States recognises that sustainable peace can only be achieved through comprehensive agreements rooted in broad, deep and durable regional and international partnerships, and developed with the participation of the population, including the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the inclusion of youth. Cooperation of the EU and its Member States with the African Union and African regional organisations will therefore be key to contribute to the achievement of SDG 16 in SSA. Working with relevant ad hoc structures, multi-country settings, cross-regional organizations, an inclusive and diverse civil society, and international organisations will be required to provide innovative and impactful support in promoting African solutions to African problems.

Regional and multi-country peace and security actions under this programme will apply the Humanitarian, Development and Peace nexus approach. Synergies will be sought with actions launched under other areas of this MIP (e.g. ocean governance), EU external instruments beyond NDICI-Global Europe and those of EU agencies (e.g. Frontex, Europol etc.). Activities under this priority area may in particular be complemented by trans-regional and global actions under the Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention Thematic Programme and must be closely coordinated with actions in the area of security and defence funded through, inter alia, the Common Foreign and Security Policy budget and the European Peace Facility.

The comprehensive Strategy with Africa recognised that “*Stronger political, economic and cultural ties between Europe and Africa are crucial in a multipolar world*”, noting that “*stepping up cooperation in the cultural sector holds great potential for job creation and closer people-to-people contacts*”. Culture is also a core element of the AU’s Agenda 2063 which includes aspiration 5: “*an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics*”.

While culture is deeply anchored in the country level, it has an undeniable cross-border dimension. Cultural activity is increasingly reliant on regional/cross-border structures and networks. By building on regional ecosystems, markets and audiences, the cultural sector can generate economies of scale along the value chain (from production to distribution) and thus fulfil their jobs and sustainable growth potential. The digital transformation reinforces this dynamic by changing dissemination and consumption patterns and offering new opportunities. Cultural heritage also often transgresses national boundaries, connecting ethnic groups/people across countries, ultimately contributing to improve social cohesion and dialogue.

UN Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality; SDG 10: Reduce inequality; SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities; SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; SDG 17: Partnership for the goals.

DAC codes: 15150 to 15180 (governance), 15111 (PFM), 15113 (anti-corruption organisations and institutions), 15130 (legal and judicial development) 15210 (maritime security, trafficking), 15220 (conflict prevention/management), 16066 (culture).

Civil Society Organisations will be heavily involved in the formulation and implementation of actions under this priority area including among others the monitoring of the implementation of continental and regional legal frameworks; supporting the electoral cycle; strengthening the rule of law; protecting civic space; fighting corruption and illicit financial flows and promoting integrity; strengthen transparent, accountable and inclusive institutions; promoting gender equality and youth inclusion; upholding freedom of expression and access to media and to the open internet; carrying out initiatives to prevent conflict and facilitate peace building; and creating spaces for people-to-people cultural exchange and co-creation. Local authorities will be involved in actions related democratic governance and peace and security, including in particular electoral support, citizen participation, conflict prevention and support to borderlands.

Risks and mitigating measures:

Risks	Mitigating measures
Institutional weaknesses or insufficient commitment in beneficiary continental/regional institutions/bodies.	Early identification of weaknesses during programme formulation with proper attention for responsibilities, strengths and weaknesses of the public and private parties involved. Targeted capacity building and monitoring actions. Selection of beneficiary institutions based on added value and motivation. Focus on non-state actors, if there is insufficient commitment by Institutions.
Participation of African individuals and CSOs in actions financed by the regional MIP obstructed by repressive/non-democratic systems and/or non-inclusive law.	Early identification of obstacles through close consultation with CSOs during programming phase. Advocacy through continental, regional and country political dialogue for an inclusive society where civil society actors can play their role.
Risk of dilution of capacity building efforts among a large number of countries/agencies and individual beneficiaries, without sustainable impact at the institutional level.	Future actions to put particular emphasis on sustainable capacity-building approaches, including Training-of-Trainer modalities. Implementing partners to adopt a tailored-made approach to tackle specific needs of individual countries and beneficiary Institutions. Officials benefiting from capacity-building activities to be carefully identified and selected based on the required skillset in the different areas of expertise and on their type of contract (medium to long term).
Political instability/insecurity in selected regions/beneficiary countries.	Monitor, consider and include risks and pertinent/concrete mitigating measures during the identification, formulation and implementation of future actions. Implementing partners to prepare security and risk mitigating strategies and ensure close links with the EU Delegations in countries of operation to receive latest information on security situation and keep these strategies updated. In case of suspension of activities due to insecurity, focus implementation of regional programmes on non-affected countries.

2.2.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

Specific objective 1: Promote democratic governance, equality, the rule of law, the respect for human rights and international humanitarian law in Africa, and the engagement and inclusive participation of African citizens.

Specific objective 2: Reduce the incidence, duration and intensity of violent conflicts in Africa and contribute to effective prevention, protection against and response to transnational security threats, including organized crime, across the continent.

Specific objective 3: Enhance cultural co-creation and intercultural dialogue between the EU and Africa and among African countries, and facilitate greater cooperation to protect and promote cultural heritage.

2.2.2.Expected results per specific objective

Result 1.1: Continental and regional frameworks for democratic governance, the rule of law, human rights, accountability, and inclusive and equal societies are strengthened and implemented.

Actions may include support to:

The African Governance Architecture (AGA) and in particular activities strengthening coherence with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA); accelerating the ratification, domestication and implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) and its monitoring by institutional and civic actors; and reinforcing regional and continental human rights institutions including the African Court on Human and People's Rights. The use of digital technologies may also be applied to promote e-governance.

The *AU Roadmap for the Implementation of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy*. The Roadmap consolidates all AU related transitional justice provisions into one framework; it strengthens the AU's leadership role and supports Member States in implementing their transitional justice agendas, including the fight against serious violations of Human Rights and sexual and gender-based violence.

Legal frameworks and strategies in line with international standards to prevent and fight against illicit financial flows (IFF) and corruption across the continent, as well as countries' accountability architectures and transparency of public finance management (PFM) frameworks, notably using digital technologies, and strengthening Open Government Partnerships. Actions may facilitate the contribution of civil society, through advocacy and monitoring, in promoting the transparency and accountability of targeted institutions.

Training for the judiciary to foster the rule of law in Africa. Activities may build on European expertise to ensure that judicial training focusing on strengthening independent, impartial and effective justice is operational in selected African countries.

Result 1.2: The inclusiveness, transparency and credibility of elections in Africa are improved.

Activities may reinforce the capacities of the AU to support electoral cycle processes, including civic and voter registration, deployment of long-term electoral observation missions and following up on their recommendations. The EU may also support regional organizations, CSOs networks and Local Authorities' Associations specialised in electoral matters, including through the deployment of credible domestic observation organisations.

Result 1.3: Youth inclusion and gender equality are ensured across the Africa-EU Partnership.

The Programme may promote gender equality in Africa by strengthening the capacities of the AUC to ensure that (i) the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) is ratified, domesticated and implemented; (ii) the AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment is implemented and that gender is mainstreamed in all continental, regional and sub-regional programmes. Activities may support, among others, the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in politics, including in electoral processes both as candidates and as voters, and public life; the economic empowerment of girls and women; Women, Peace and Security; the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights and the fight against gender-based violence against women and girls, including harmful practices (female genital mutilations and child marriages).

The programme could ensure that young women and men as well as boys and girls, have a say and their opinions and ideas are effectively integrated in public policies/decision making processes and programmes in Africa. It may support the transition from the AU-EU Youth Hub into an AU-EU Youth Lab, as a major drive towards youth inclusion in the Africa-EU Partnership, as well as the launching of innovative youth-led initiatives and exchanges and the continuation of current youth led initiatives at sub-regional level. Particular attention could be paid to promote youth consultation, ensuring gender balanced participation, and involvement in EU cooperation activities by supporting youth organisations, platforms and networks at regional/multi-country level and by building their capacities. African youth could be enabled to better inform EU cooperation activities and policies.

Result 1.4: The engagement and participation of African citizens is supported and increased.

The Programme may support civil society including CSO multi-country networks and platforms and local authorities' associations. A specific support to United Cities and Local Governments – Africa (UCLG-A) may be mobilised. It may aim at increasing accountability and transparency and at strengthening trust of citizens in public administrations including by facilitating meaningful consultation with and participation by civil society. The latter may require investing in digital skills and access to ensure citizens can participate safely online as well. Support to the implementation of the CSO roadmap at continental level will be also implemented. Activities could support models of participatory democracy in partnership with national and local authorities including financing pilot initiatives and the exchange of best practices between the EU and African countries. Activities will pay attention to safeguarding gender balanced participation of citizens of all ages, thus ensuring that perspectives and experiences of women and men, as well as girls and boys are included. A particular emphasis will be put on freedom of expression and access to information, media literacy, and critical thinking education. Activities could reinforce the dialogue between media, audio-visual councils, media regulators and social networks, and increase the capacity of national and local authorities, independent media, and civil society in Africa to engage in dialogues, protect civic freedoms, detect and respond to disinformation and foreign influence operations. They could also promote the rule of law, human rights, inclusion and equality in the digital realm, based on an open, free and democratic Internet. These activities would complement the implementation of the rights-protecting regulatory frameworks and the strategic financing of digital infrastructures in Africa planned under priority area 4.

Peace and Security

Result 2.1: African-led conflict prevention, management and resolution initiatives are effectively and efficiently carried out.

The Programme may provide quick and flexible funding for African-led non-military initiatives proposed by the African Union or by African (sub-)regional organisations. These activities could be also be conducted with other relevant non-regional organisations or partners. Initiatives may include activities on preventive diplomacy, mediation, confidence building, reconciliation, support to implementation of peace and security provisions of peace agreements, and support to civilian peace missions (including aspects of peace support operations not having military or defence implications and pursuing development policy objectives) in close coordination with the European Peace Facility (EPF). Activities should integrate gender equality aspects, ensuring gender-responsive design and implementation in line with UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Actions may also address climate change related risks to peace and security. Special attention will be paid to the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and the inclusion of youth, including gender balanced representation of youth and children in line with UNSC Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. Whenever relevant, the programme could associate EU Member State public Institutions, African and/or international civil society organisations, community-based organisations, and African associations of local authorities to the implementation of initiatives.

Result 2.2: African organisations active in the area of peace and security are able to carry out their tasks and to deliver on their mandate.

Actions under this result could develop specific capacities within the AU and targeted African regional organisations with a peace and security mandate. Applying lessons learned from the African Peace Facility, the actions may be structured around the development of capacities on specific issues which are of interest to the EU, such as fighting against hybrid threats, enhancing early warning systems and their relation to early response, conflict prevention, mediation tools, and civilian crisis response.

Result 2.3. African law enforcement agencies, judiciary institutions and relevant non-state actors are capacitated and able to carry out their tasks to effectively prevent, repress, counter and prosecute transnational threats in full respect of fundamental values, human rights and international humanitarian law.

The transnational threats addressed under this result could include fight against terrorism and violent extremism, piracy and armed robbery at sea, and against transnational organized crime dedicated to the smuggling and/or trafficking of human beings, drugs, minerals, cultural goods and other commodities, small arms and light weapons, cybercrime, money laundering, asset recovery terrorism financing, counterfeiting and fraud (travel and ID documents). At the same time, improved governance and due diligence are to be encouraged along key supply chains, which cross borders and extend beyond Africa. Particular efforts to disrupt the funding networks of terrorist groups operating in and from Africa and should be geared towards dismantling existing links between terrorism and transnational organised crime. Likewise, particular attention will be given to reinforce all sectors of the criminal judicial chain (from police forces to prosecutors and judges) and strengthen the cooperation between law enforcement and justice bodies at different levels (national, regional, international).

The MIP may draw resources from its different components under several priority areas to provide a suitable coverage of supporting measures on mineral resources to break the link between illegal exploitation and violence, corruption and human rights abuses, recognising that violent conflict can be fuelled by illegal minerals trade, illegal taxes and protection fees. Working for improved governance and due diligence across mineral supply chains will be a priority. This will take account of the specific provisions of the EU Responsible Minerals Regulation 2017/821 and the need for appropriate accompanying measures and capacity building. It will also consider the need for support for public-private partnerships relating to responsible minerals where these have a regional or Pan-African dimension and encourage actions at regional or Pan-African level contributing to evidence-based policy making and decision-making.

In line with EU and African regional strategies for the Horn and the Sahel, activities could seek to engage pertinent stakeholders in neighbouring regions, such as North Africa, the Persian Gulf, and the Red Sea. Women, youth, CSOs, local authorities, and, whenever possible, the private sector and media, academic/ research centres should be actively engaged in these actions to enhance their impact/effectiveness and fight against disinformation.

To address the prevention/fight against terrorism and violent extremism, actions should complement national initiatives and focus, inter alia, on facilitating the exchange of information and good practices, developing common policies and strategies, and supporting capacity building activities. Regarding the smuggling and/or trafficking of different goods as well as trafficking of human beings, and other forms of transnational organised crime, future actions will bring together countries/regions facing similar trends and smuggling/trafficking routes. Activities concerning trafficking of human beings will complement actions included under the migration priority area of this MIP. They should reflect the priorities identified under the EU Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025. Complementarity with actions under the Human Rights and Democracy Thematic Programme will also be sought.

Result 2.4: Maritime and port security and safety of navigation are improved in African maritime zones.

Actions may continue strengthening the existing regional maritime security and law enforcement architectures, while leveraging country-specific needs, notably in areas such as legal, governance and management frameworks; exchange and analysis of maritime information; improving law enforcement and judicial capacities and technical regional cooperation; and strengthening international cooperation, as well as linkages between maritime security and safety with the blue economy and the fight against environmental criminality.

Result 2.5: Capacities of pertinent/specialised institutions and frameworks for the prevention of and combat against illicit financial flows, money laundering and the financing of terrorism are enhanced.

Actions could focus on providing technical support to national law enforcement bodies, judicial institutions and their regional networks, integrating country-specific and regional capacity building activities to improve financial investigations techniques and prosecution skills, asset recovery, and enhance (trans-)regional cooperation on anti-money laundering/combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). Actions will complement existing national and global initiatives and take into account international standards set by relevant institutions (such as the Financial Action Task Force, and pertinent FATF Regional Bodies)

Result 2.6: Harmonization, domestication and compliance of national legislations with regional/continental/international norms and standards are improved, and regional/multi-country dialogue, coordination and cooperation capacities to address common security threats are enhanced.

Actions could aim at improving harmonisation of legal instruments and supporting capacity building through mentoring mechanisms to enhance prosecutorial and judicial cooperation against transnational organised crime. A technical support component could contribute strengthening the exchange of transnational crime information, focusing on beneficiary countries that have showed strong political buy-in.

Result 2.7: Improved prevention and mitigation of the impact of local conflict in borderland areas.

In a logic of stabilization, the MIP may draw resources from its different priority areas and components to support the return of the state and its functioning administration to borderland areas affected by conflict or other security threats. Actions may provide an integrated response to central and local governments, communities and the private sector on all sides of the borders with opportunities to cooperate more effectively through a combination of dialogue and investment in conflict prevention, management and resolution capacities; cross-border trade and private sector development; improved basic service delivery; improved and diversified livelihoods; and transparent and inclusive management and governance of shared natural resources (land, water). Activities under this result may contribute to the integrated response through mediation, conflict prevention and mitigation activities targeting cross-border areas with similar inter-linked contexts, economic development trajectories, and shared climatic pressures.

Any actions related to the above result areas will be defined in complementarity and close coordination with existing and on-going global and trans-regional actions operating in Africa and with regions beyond Africa (e.g. the Global Illicit Flows Programme) and global and trans-regional facilities. Close coordination with the European Peace Facility and actions funded under the Common Foreign and Security budget will also be ensured.

Culture

Result 3.1: EU-Africa and intra-Africa cultural cooperation is strengthened, and intercultural dialogue and the cultural diversity are promoted across the continent.

Initiatives could be developed to foster creativity and innovation and create spaces for people-to-people exchange and co-creation, such as “Euro-African houses/spaces of culture”. Actions under this regional programme could also support the creation of large-scale platforms for cultural cooperation between the EU and Africa, strengthen cultural policies involving public and private cultural practitioners of different sectors, as well as African and European cultural institutions/bodies. Similarly, future initiatives to enhance intra-Africa dialogue and cultural exchange could also be foreseen, supporting for instance cultural cooperation among countries that share similar cultural and/or linguistic background (e.g. PALOP-TL). Ultimately, these actions would have a societal relevance by encouraging knowledge transfers, access to culture, participation and inclusion of individuals and communities.

Result 3.2: African cultural heritage is protected and promoted, becoming a vector for social cohesion, stability, cultural tourism, jobs and sustainable growth.

To achieve this result, actions to be financed by the regional MIP may focus on developing cross-border cultural heritage protection and promotion in specific geographic areas and/or themes, including as a tool to promote African cultural identity, awareness about planetary emergencies (climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution), tolerance, peace dialogue and to build trust. EU and international partners would implement these actions in partnership with African cultural institutions and networks. Twinning between the EU and partner countries’ cultural and research institutions could be used to enhance peer-to-peer learning in pertinent areas.

2.2.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

See framework of intervention in Attachment 1

2.2.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

The use of blending and guarantees is not envisaged under this priority.

2.3. Priority area 3 – Green transition

Africa is home to vast natural capital, unique biodiversity and ecosystems. Population growth, linked with unsustainable economic growth and climate change are putting increasing pressure on already strained resources and causing more frequent natural hazards-related disasters, social unrest, conflict, displacement and migration. The three planetary crises, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are interlinked and inseparable. With the COVID-19 pandemic, these tensions and fragilities are further impacting African economies and societies. The green transition and the fight against climate change and environmental degradation are therefore essential dimension to stability.

Actions related to the green transition, as diverse as they will likely be, will all require systemic and sustainable change in the fields of climate mitigation and resilience, energy, agri-food systems, sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, environmental governance, sustainable raw materials value chains, sustainable water and land management, ocean governance, including sustainable fisheries, combatting IUU fishing and the blue economy. These sectors¹⁵ are able to generate transformation towards a low emissions and resilient growth path and towards a circular economy, thus contributing to green recovery. The EU support, across the different areas of the regional programme, will foster a growth path that works for all people (in line with the rights-based approach, the principle of leaving no one

¹⁵ This priority area covers a broad range of **DAC sectors**: 140 Water supply and sanitation; 230 energy; 311 Agriculture; 312 Forestry; 313 Fishing; 410 General Environment Protection; 41030 Biodiversity management; 430 Other multi-sectors (inclusive of: 43040 Rural development, 43060 Disaster risk reduction; 43073 food safety and quality; 43082 research/scientific institutions); 740 Disaster Prevention and Preparedness.

behind and goal of reducing inequality) and respects the planet's ecological boundaries. These sectors also present a strong gender dimension that will be fully integrated at both strategic and operational level. Youth also needs to receive specific attention, not only as beneficiaries but also as key change actors.

Climate mitigation and resilience

While climate change mitigation and adaptation are mainstreamed throughout all the regional MIP priorities, the regional MIP also includes a dedicated specific objective that would accompany various continental processes and initiatives on this topic. Climate change is an increasing threat in Africa as evidenced by rising temperatures, extreme weather events, rising sea levels and coastal erosion. It dramatically impacts food security, health and the economy as a whole, with vulnerable groups most at risk of being negatively affected. At the same time, African countries are in a position to opt out from carbon intensive economies and fully attain the objectives of the Paris Agreement. African governments, together with regional organisations and the African Union have identified their own transition strategies that ultimately form the basis of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Long-Term emission reduction Strategies (LTS). Support to the upgrade and implementation of such policies will be pivotal in the coming years to ensure effective mitigation and adaptation on the continent.

EU climate actions will contribute to implementing decisions of the EU-AU Summit and will be done in cooperation with relevant African institutions such as the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and African regional organisations.

Africa-wide, regional and sub-regional EU funded programmes will focus on the following themes:
Adaptation and Resilience - Mitigation – Climate Diplomacy

Sustainable Energy

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the world's region with the largest "access to energy" deficit: about 600 million people are lacking access to electricity and 850 million do not have access to clean cooking facilities. The potential of Africa's renewable energy sources (wind, solar, hydropower, etc.) is high and largely underexploited. Deforestation, forest degradation, and indoor air pollution due to wood-fuel cooking needs are major concerns and need to be simultaneously addressed by providing alternative energy solutions for cooking. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and efficient energy services is a prerequisite and an enabler for Africa's economic and social development. Fighting energy poverty is key to address inequalities, poverty eradication and sustainable development. Decentralised renewable energy solutions, such as mini-grids, off-grid solar and clean cooking, are an important driver of energy access on the continent, especially in rural areas. In addition, electricity grids of African countries need to be better interconnected at national and supra-national levels to improve energy security, affordability, and energy markets integration.

Considering that a harmonized approach within and across countries is indispensable to scale-up transformative investments, this component embraces a multi-tier perspective, cascading action on the continental level down to African regions and individual countries, using regional actions in order to complement and support in-country efforts by addressing cross-border challenges that are recurrent and non-country specific.

Under this component, the EU will support fight against energy poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa by contributing to enhanced renewable energy production (including decentralised solutions), energy systems and standards harmonisation, in particular through the African Power Pools, trans-border energy interconnectivity, energy efficiency, storage, and distribution. Actions will include support to investments (blending, de-risking) supporting key regional energy projects for energy production based on renewable energy sources (hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal, etc.) and regional transmission

corridors and interconnections. In addition, the EU will support regional actions addressing the challenge of clean cooking. The support to sustainable energy is instrumental to enabling sustainable growth and job creation alongside digitalisation, agriculture/irrigation/water-, environment, transport, health, industrialisation, etc. The potential of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures will be exploited to develop a sustainable industrialisation of the continent, this could translate into supporting the development of renewable hydrogen production and applications.

Sustainable Agri-food systems

Agriculture contributes to 23 percent of the continent's GDP. It provides work for nearly 60 percent of the economically active population, with a significant proportion of women. Smallholders constitute the largest share of the 60 million farms on the continent. While there is a large potential for job creation, young people do not always perceive agriculture as a profitable opportunity for livelihood. In 2019 there were more than 250 million undernourished people (more than 19 percent of the total population - up from 17.6 percent in 2014 and more than twice the world average, and 675 million people living in food insecurity in Africa). Overall, and without considering the effects of COVID-19, projected trends in undernourishment would change the geographic distribution of world hunger dramatically. Africa would overtake Asia to become the region with the highest number of undernourished people (433 million), accounting for 51.5 percent of the total" (SOFI, FAO 2020). The performance of the agri-food sector is hindered by the lack of access to inputs and credit as well as land and water issues. Productivity is also affected by plant and animal diseases, climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters. This has a major impact on rural incomes, on the ability to meet an increasing domestic demand (notably in cities), and on exports. Recurrent shocks are likely to become more frequent due to climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss and exacerbate the fragility of Sub-Saharan economies and societies. These countries will likely continue to be confronted with the increasing tensions between current agricultural development strategies (that do not yet take regional climate change sufficiently into account), forest conservation and restoration policies. Similar tensions are likely to occur between aquaculture/fisheries development strategies and unsustainable practices, increased competition among sea uses and weak ocean governance. Fisheries and aquaculture also offer opportunities for climate change adaptation. At the same time, agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture offer a number of entry points for climate adaptation. Under this component, the EU will contribute to developing a more sustainable agri-food system, inclusive of aquatic food systems, notably in line with the external dimension of the Farm to Fork Strategy and possibly the future the EU-Africa Ocean Agenda that recognises the close links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet.

Biodiversity and Environment

Africa is facing unprecedented biodiversity loss and depletion of natural resources due to overexploitation and illegal extraction, land use change, habitat loss and degradation, agricultural extension and intensification, pollution and climate change. This leads to desertification, deforestation, soil degradation, soil salinization, coastal erosion, sea level rise, ocean acidification, species extinction, altered net primary production, water scarcity and increases the risk of pandemics. This essentially amounts to a loss of natural capital and related ecosystem services, which will ultimately lead to increasing poverty and economic collapse. Biodiversity in food and agriculture production systems is decreasing as well, owing to the fact that the global diet becomes increasingly homogenized around a small number of crops and few varieties. Compounded by climate change, these developments can also lead to growing tension over scarce resources, instability, insecurity and migration. It is estimated that by 2100, climate change alone could cause the loss of over half of African bird and mammal species, as well as trigger a 20% to 30% decline in lake productivity, and a significant loss of plant species and coral reefs.

Biodiversity conservation, protected areas and surrounding landscapes have a strong capacity to mitigate climate change and to enhance (synergies with) climate and disaster resilience, hence the necessity to pursue integrated landscape approaches for sustainable development and nature-based

solutions. Biodiversity is not only an environmental issue, it is essential to human life and socioeconomic development, in particular for the most vulnerable population groups, including in cities, which all depend on ecosystems for a variety of essential services. Improving governance of natural resources with a view to establishing regional partnerships will be absolutely essential to ensure a socio-economic development based on green value chains.

Water and Oceans

Water and oceans are vital for life, health, food, biodiversity, climate, societal resilience, economy and trade. Africa has abundant water resources but is the second driest continent in the world. Lack of access to clean, safe and affordable water is especially a challenge in rural areas. Eight out of 10 people without basic water services live in rural areas. Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing the slowest rate of progress in meeting SDG6 in the world. By 2025, nearly 50% of Africa's population will face water stress or scarcity. Access to piped water in many Sub-Saharan African cities has decreased in the last 20 years. At the same time, more than 80 of Africa's river and lake basins are shared by two or more countries and many countries depend on water flowing from outside their national boundaries.

Furthermore, out of 54 states, Africa has 38 coastal states and several Small Island Developing States. Fisheries is an important source of nutrition and food security in Africa. Many millions rely on the ocean for their livelihoods and approximately 200 million people in Africa derive high-quality and low-cost proteins from fish. In terms of jobs, the sector provides employment to over 12 million people (58% in the fishing and 42% in the processing sector) with 59% of women; and high multiplier effects.

Population growth, inefficient use and unsustainable management of these natural resources as well as climate change are putting increasing pressure on these already limited resources and causing biodiversity decline and more frequent natural hazards, social unrest, conflict and displacement/migration.

The transboundary nature of water and ocean resources and their ecosystems calls for interventions at regional level through trans-boundary approaches around river basin, lakes, sea basin or coastal areas, interventions that can also address common challenges and ease tensions in already fragile areas sharing limited resources. This is particularly relevant for climate adaptation measures. The EU support under this focal area will be tailored according to the specific socio-economic and ecosystem contexts to ensure the requirements of the various regions (and their populations) are adequately addressed. Focusing regional approaches on research and governance actions, and interventions addressing trans-boundary resources, will favour the added value of establishing partnerships at regional level.

There are very strong interrelations between the above components under this priority area. For example, the energy, environment, agriculture and water components are closely interlinked under the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. There are also interlinkages with other priorities areas of the MIP, notably peace & security, migration, governance, trade, digitalisation and science technology and innovation, job creation, private sector development. The COVID-19 crisis has also shown a clear link between environmental degradation and the emergence of zoonotic diseases (link with the human development focal area).

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): This priority area contributes to the Green Deal and, through it, to the pursuit of several related SDGs, including SDG 2 (Zero hunger); SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing); SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation); SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy); SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure); SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities); SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production); SDG 13 (Climate action); SDG 14 (Life below water); SDG 15 (Life on land). It also contributes significantly to SDG1 (No poverty); SDG 5 (Gender equality); SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities); SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions), SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals).

DAC codes: 140 Water supply and sanitation; 230 Energy 230 Energy (231nn Energy Policy; 232nn Energy generation, renewable sources; 234nn Hybrid energy plants; 236nn Energy distribution); 311 Agriculture; 312 Forestry; 313 Fishing; 410 General Environment Protection; 41030 Biodiversity management; 430 Other multi-sectors (inclusive of: 43040 Rural development, 43060 Disaster risk reduction; 43073 food safety and quality; 43082 research/scientific institutions); 740 Disaster Prevention and Preparedness.

Civil society engagement/participation: Civil society, indigenous peoples, local communities and local authorities are an important lever in advocacy and awareness-raising, policy making, in job creation, as rights defenders, the inclusion of women and young people. They must play a major role, not only in the delivery of activities but also in framing the strategic orientations and definition of programmes in this priority area. This requires empowering civil society not only in their management capacity, but also in their advocacy role. CSOs and local authorities will be consulted and involved in the programme design and implementation. Specific monitoring indicators related to their involvement will be included in the design of individual actions.

Risks and mitigating measures:

Risks	Mitigating measures
Countries' commitment, policy and regulatory frameworks and political instability undermine investment projects.	Policy dialogue, both at country and regional level, also in collaboration with the African Union and EU Special Envoys where applicable.
Risk aversion of private sector and financial institutions limiting investments in infrastructure, agri-food sector and natural capital.	Use of blending tools and guarantees to reduce financial risks on lending.
Countries' electricity and natural capital sectors' performance (including the financial sustainability and operational capacity of the national utilities) undermines the sustainability of investment projects. Low ownership, low capacity and political commitment of government structures and utilities to advance with reforms linked to renewable energy.	Well-coordinated and targeted technical assistance and capacity building would supplement and complement domestic support to the electricity, water and natural capital sectors' sustainability. Advocacy through capacity building and information on new technologies in order to tackle any wrong perception about renewables and energy transformation.
Projects take longer than anticipated to reach viability and to be taken up by financiers.	Thorough selection of projects to ensure that only projects with an actual potential and good likelihood of success get support.
Non conducive policy and regulatory frameworks, in particular relating to security of land tenure or sustainable management and use of natural resources may undermine EU interventions	Action to establish enabling policy and legal environments at both regional and national levels to encourage holistic and long-term sustainability.
Countries fail to make required investments to support regional Environment/Climate Change/Disaster Risk Reduction policy and strategies/action plans.	Engagement with regional organisations to maximise ownership at country level, increase national budget allocations and ensure long-term sustainability. Evidence-based identification/formulation will favour investments in Environment/Climate Change/Disaster Risk Reduction.
Overexploitation of water, ocean and land resources produce depletion and loss of biodiversity.	Engagement with regional African organisations to encourage sustainable and resilient blue and green economy, nature-based solutions and conservation and restoration ecosystems

	initiatives as well as prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
Rapid population growth increases local diffuse pressure on biodiversity and already strained natural resources which impede efforts to sustainable development undermining the long-term results of EU interventions.	Systematic integration of increased education for women, girls and youth, focus on women economic empowerment and tenure rights in projects and programmes.
Water scarcity, problems of access to water, water misuse and mismanagement, pollution, natural hazards exacerbated by climate change resulting in disasters, social unrest, conflict and displacement/migration.	Integrated approach including incentives, nature-based solutions and green infrastructure for flood and drought risk management or environmental flows, promoting watershed conservation and water use efficiency and inclusive opportunities for local communities to address their issues, support to early warning systems and risk assessments. Water diplomacy, policy dialogue and technical solutions to minimize or reduce crises and conflicts.
Instability and displacements further exacerbate natural resources depletion, aggravate tensions between farmers and herders and increase the number of people in food insecurity.	Support and heed regional early detection mechanisms and national early warning systems, regional dialogues on food insecurity, improved land and water management, regional dialogues and mediation on transhumance.

2.3.1 Specific objectives related to the priority area

Specific Objective 1: Strengthen climate resilience at continental level and support African climate action in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement

Specific Objective 2: Support the development of an efficient, sustainable and resilient African energy sector.

Specific Objective 3: Support the transition towards more resilient and sustainable aquatic and agri-food systems (including for more affordable and healthier diets).

Specific Objective 4: Improve biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and governance.

Specific Objective 5: Improve the sustainable use and management of oceans, coastal zones, river basins and lakes.

The EU will promote inclusive, community-based and innovative approaches and ensure the participation of a large spectrum of stakeholders. To this end, it will support capacity/skills development, networking, research & innovation, including the uptake of digital tools and data from EU Space Programmes. A particular focus will be on promoting the development of harmonised legal and regulatory frameworks at regional level towards integration at continental level, thus reinforcing the the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

2.3.2 Expected results per specific objective

A number of results will contribute to one or multiple specific objectives.

Climate mitigation and resilience

Result 1.1: More effective regional policy frameworks, strategies and systems aiming at reducing GHG emissions and enhance resilience vis-à-vis climate change.

Activities under this result would include supporting the upgrade and implementation of NDCs, NAPs and LTS as well as support to economic policies contributing to climate objectives (e.g. phase out of fossil fuel subsidies, carbon pricing, disaster risk financing). A multi-country African climate programme could address capacity building needs on climate policy making and implementation, in close cooperation with relevant African institutions, including the AUC. Activities will also support continental initiatives coordinating actions and sharing knowledge contributing to mitigation and adaptation as well as pollution reduction objectives at local level and particularly in large urban centres, for instance through continued support to the Sub-Saharan Africa Covenant of Mayors for climate and energy initiative.

Support will also focus on building administrative capacity towards adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, including assessing exposure and vulnerabilities, improving data collection and analyses on climate, early warning systems, scaling up climate and disaster risk financing tools and initiatives (e.g. Insuresilience, African Risk Capacity) and fostering continental engagement on adaptation.

The EU will continue to mobilise the Copernicus Emergency Management and Climate Change Services. Climate resilience actions will address specific regional needs and multiple and cascading shocks at sub-regional, national and sub-national (institutional and community) levels. Programmes should link early warning systems, immediate response to recovery and longer-term actions, according to the build back better approach.

Result 1.2: The capacity to anticipate, manage and respond to recurrent shocks (pest outbreak threats, food crises, natural hazards-related disasters) is strengthened

The EU will support information systems on food insecurity (such as the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) in East-Southern Africa; Cadre Harmonisé/food insecurity network in West Africa), linking with national information systems and supporting quality control and harmonisation at the regional level, information sharing, improved coordinated action. Similarly, regional climate and specialized meteorological centres in partnership with the EU and EU Member States will improve the quality of regional climate, water and weather services and products in climate-sensitive sectors (DRR, agriculture and food security, water management, health, and energy) and contribute and complement to the capacities of national centres (National Meteorological and Hydrological Services) e.g. with information on water, climate, crop yields, etc.

Result 1.3: Effective solidarity mechanisms are strengthened, including Disaster Risk Financing (DRF).

Under this result, the following would be supported: Regional food reserves system; the capacity to make informed decisions on DRF through sound financial analysis and comprehensive DRF approaches; support the development of regional risk pooling mechanisms (such as the African Risk Capacity (ARC)) and DRF tools and instruments, as well as promoting the access of countries to offered or off-the-shelf products. It could also include working with the private sector on effective weather and disaster risk insurance solutions and markets and the smart use of insurance-related schemes for people and assets at risk in developing countries.

Sustainable Energy

Result 2.1: Higher share of renewable energy sources in primary energy production in SSA is promoted.

This includes the creation of a coherent continental energy transition framework compatible with the African Single Electricity Market, countries' NDCs (Nationally Determined Contributions), and the Green Deal principles encompassing energy market reforms and regulation towards energy transition and a more conducive business environment, cascading down from the continental to the regional and

country level. EU Space assets (e.g. Copernicus) can have a relevant role supporting EU-African partnerships towards a green transition.

The development of clean generation capacity along strategic corridors, interconnection and energy storage enabling more renewable energy penetration, including through the production and local use of renewable hydrogen as part of a green energy transition planning, will be supported through transformative long-term energy-scenarios and planning, cross-border energy trade and regional energy market integration, support to investments in grid connected renewable power generation and related infrastructure, ancillary services as well through support to private sector investment, regional power pools and renewable energy centres. To replace fossil fuels in industrial processes (fertilizer, refinery, etc.) and in heavy transport applications as well as for exports, the potential of renewable hydrogen and the support to industrial renewable hydrogen hubs will be explored.

Result 2.2: Electricity market integration is improved and resilience of the energy grids is supported with the development of supra-national electricity markets, their decarbonisation and the crowding out of fossil fuels.

This includes collaboration at regional level in terms of supporting standardisation and harmonisation of the regulatory framework in the energy sector, concrete investments on transmission and interconnection grids, smart grids, digital solutions and regional storage hubs and clean energy corridors for example.

Result 2.3: Increased access to affordable, reliable clean and sustainable energy services for households (including for clean cooking), social services and productive uses.

This includes new or improved access to reliable and clean energy for households, businesses and for regional urban and industrial centres, strategic corridors, and rural households. It will support innovative energy solutions in cities, peri-urban and rural areas for household and productive use (including energy for water supply and irrigation). Energy access will be achieved through off-grid, mini-grids and new and improved connections to the existing distribution grids. Support will be provided to regional initiatives on cleaner cooking solutions.

To create local employment opportunities, the regional MIP will consider supporting the development of local value chains in sustainable energy as well as sharing best practices and fostering capacity building and learning for the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the private sector. Institutional support, including to the transformation and reforms of electricity utilities and the strengthening of national energy regulators, will be provided as well as to private sector and transmission and distribution system operators to help them to become consolidated reliable service providers.

Result 2.4: Energy efficiency is improved to save on resources for the energy production and to decouple resource and energy use from economic growth.

Energy efficiency measures, production, and distribution regulation will be promoted. The support of regional harmonisation of primary and secondary legislation for electricity appliance markets and for building energy performance is foreseen (e.g. energy efficiency standards and labelling, electricity appliances, standards for greener cooling, lighting and transformers, building performance, building materials, building codes, energy audits, etc.) as well as the regional promotion of proven energy efficient business models, technology and industrial applications, in particular in energy intensive industries such as cement, steel, etc. Actions having a regional added value and aiming to reduce the unsustainable use of biomass as source of energy will be also supported.

Sustainable Agri-food systems

Result 3.1: Agricultural research-action lead to innovation, supporting the agro-ecological transition for climate resilient and sustainable agri-food systems; monitoring and learning is shared.

The EU will support testing, scaling and sharing innovation in support to the agro-ecological transition and to sustainable aquatic systems, towards healthier diets by working with key regional networks and centres of excellence such as the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and global networks based in Africa (CGIAR centres - Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research including CORAF - Conseil ouest et centre africain pour la recherche et le développement agricoles, ASARECA - Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa, CCARDESA - Center for the Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa, to name only a few). Partnerships will be fostered with international and European research and innovation organisations, farmers' organisations as well as associations in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors and private sector operators in agriculture, fisheries and food value chains. The topics covered would include pests and diseases, pesticides risk reduction, the contribution of forests and fisheries to food security and nutrition, resilient crop varieties, orphan crops (linked to the dedicated consortium), research and monitoring on land use / biodiversity, research, knowledge and data in support of Africa's Great Green Wall. Building on ongoing initiatives such as the EU-Africa Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA-Partnership), there is a strong potential for Team Europe Initiatives.

Result 3.2: Farmers' organisations (FOs) are more prominent actors in promoting the agro-ecological transition and inclusive nutrition-sensitive value-chains (e.g. Farmers to Business and Farmers to Government dialogues).

The EU will put forward a structured partnership with farmers' organisations and networks of small-scale fisheries sector to strengthen their capacity in service delivery and in advocacy. The EU will help FOs in playing a stronger role in research, value chains and business dialogues, in policy debates on sustainable and resilient food systems.

Result 3.3: More sustainable agri-food systems inclusive of food conservation, processing, distribution and agri-food markets are promoted.

More understanding is needed on off-farms systemic issues, on the functioning of agri-food systems and aquatic food systems economy, including political economy analysis and economic policy impact analysis on the functioning of agricultural and fisheries markets such as the PANAP network (Pan-African Network for economic Analysis of Policies), the AU-EU action agenda, the High-Level Policy Dialogue on Agriculture, and possibly the future EU-Africa Ocean agenda. Studies would also cover food processing, distribution channels packaging and food conservation (circular economy-reduction of food losses and re-use of organic waste), drawing from the extensive documentation on food loss and waste. These studies will feed into more informed and better targeted policy dialogues with government and private sector and will also inform investment decisions.

Result 3.4: Services provision to pastoral economies is strengthened.

The EU will support the development of the livestock sector, one of the main regional value-chains, in a sustainable and conflict-sensitive manner. This will include improved services on animal health;livestock management (including animal registration when relevant), forage and improved efficiency of cattle feed; disease control; digital services on animal health, price, safe transhumance corridors and forage location.In most cases, a landscape approach will be adopted notably for the sustainable rangeland and natural resources management, the funding of local cross-border initiatives in support to transhumance, and supporting existing high-level multi-country dialogues on transhumance for policy dialogue, mediation, land and natural resources management. Local authorities will play a key role. Inter-linkages will be sought with the work under results 2.7 of priority area 2.

Result 3.5: African regions are able to address recurring and new plant and animal health diseases and pests (such as the Peste des Petits Ruminants - sheep and goat plague), for improved food security and safety, productivity, rural incomes and safer agricultural exports, favouring agro-ecological approaches and integrated pest management.

This includes supporting sanitary and phytosanitary measures (inclusive of fish and seafood products) with business and public institutions, reducing food contamination from chemical residues, pesticides or toxins as well as the adoption and enforcement of harmonised standards, participation in the elaboration of international standards, and improved understanding of the impact of climate change on pests and disease dynamics. Avoiding overmedication and working against anti-microbial resistance may be considered when relevant. EU support will also include strengthening border controls on agri-food and fish products; and support to African countries with the sound management and trade of pesticides, including the fight against illegal trade in pesticides, and the implementation of the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in support to EU policies.

Biodiversity and Environment

Result 4.1: A network of transboundary landscapes and ecological corridors (NaturAfrica) provides inclusive biodiversity conservation, protection and offers green economy opportunities to surrounding populations.

Under this result, the NaturAfrica initiative will be supported. NaturAfrica tackles biodiversity loss through restoring and protecting a network of protected areas and high value ecosystems and promoting the sustainable management of surrounding landscapes whilst creating decent incomes and jobs in green sectors for local populations. These circular economy activities include renewable energy and sustainable value chains (agriculture, livestock, fisheries, timber/non-timber forest products, ecotourism, ethical fashion and circular industries). The restoration of natural habitats/ecosystems and the sustainable management of landscapes will also enhance ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, soil fertility, water cycle regulation, disaster risk reduction, etc. In addition, and complementary to the NaturAfrica network, overall coordination, monitoring and policy-making for the Great Green Wall (GGW) will be supported. Most Sahel countries spanning from Senegal to Somalia plan to support a mosaic of national sustainable land management activities in line with national and international commitments to the GGW. This regional funding would hence ensure that lessons learnt and knowledge developed at national and local levels is effectively contributing to the achievement of the regional objectives of the initiative.

Result 4.2: Wildlife (flora and fauna) trafficking and sustainable use are addressed through policy reforms, law enforcement and the promotion of alternative livelihoods.

Under this result human-wildlife conflicts will be decreased and the fight against wildlife poaching and trafficking will be supported. This will be done through inclusive, community-based and innovative approaches, both through law enforcement measures and through providing jobs and alternative livelihoods for the local populations. Regional programmes in this area have been critical to link national and regional interventions with global ones. Interlinkages will be sought with actions developed under the trade component of priority area 5.

Result 4.3: Planning, management, monitoring and research of biodiversity is strengthened, as well as on policy harmonization and implementation.

Under this result, better planning, more effective and result-oriented management and monitoring of the conservation and development in key landscapes for conservation and development (KLCDs) will be promoted through a network of regional observatories, including for deforestation, land/coastal/sea use and change also through Copernicus Space data, trade and biodiversity. Support to relevant continental policies and their transposition/implementation at regional/national level and harmonisation of regional/transboundary policies and governance will be improved.

Result 4.4: Partner countries participate effectively in international and regional processes linked to Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and improve their implementation.

Under this result, capacity-building, technical assistance and support related to the implementation of key Multilateral Environment Agreements (such as Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) or to the preparation of implementation of others will be provided.

Oceans and Water

Result 5.1: Ocean and water governance is enhanced in terms of regional cooperation and coordination on policies, monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), research and data sharing for better decision making and sustainable management and inclusive use of ocean and water resources.

Building on synergies with Sustainable Fishery Partnership Agreements (SFPAs), on the EU measures to combat IUU fishing and on existing frameworks under Regional Sea Conventions (RSCs) and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), regional cooperation and coordination on oceans will be enhanced including by promoting coherent policies and implementation plans at regional level. Actions will also focus on the reinforcement of regional cooperation for enhanced implementation of SDG 14, including sustainable management of fisheries and marine aquaculture, combatting IUU fishing, as well as the participation in international and regional ocean processes and seeking synergies between the ERDF and the NDICI within the INTERREG programmes managed by the EU outermost regions off the African coast. In this regard, support could be provided to capacity development contributing to implementing monitoring and enforcing existing ocean related requirements and policies, as well as to initiatives contributing to preparing the implementation of new ones.

Similarly, building on regional water basin organisations, regional cooperation and coordination on transboundary water will be enhanced. Actions will focus on supporting international and regional water governance processes and water diplomacy actions, as well as on the acceleration of the SDG 6 completion to close the investments gap on water access and sanitation while promoting the use of rights-based approaches with civil society and in conjunction with regional education and health initiatives. Further implementation of transboundary water cooperation, as a tool for peace, security and stability is foreseen while increasing in synergies between water, climate and energy diplomacy

In addition, regional cooperation on marine research, observation, data sharing, economic valuation and investment plans as well as control, surveillance and monitoring of water and marine resources under the context of climate change will be enhanced through regional organisations, networks, observatories or centres of expertise and through EU space assets, including the Copernicus Marine Service.

Result 5.2: Integrated water resource management, sustainable blue economy including integrated coastal zone management are promoted and developed through green and innovative integrated regional/transboundary approaches as well as through investments.

In conjunction with other green and climate transition areas and promoting a Blue Africa concept, possibly a future EU-Africa Ocean agenda, priority landscapes will be supported (such as the Lake Chad basin, the Nile Basin and the Orange-Senqu/Okavango basin for water basins, as well as the Atlantic façade, the Gulf of Guinea and Indian Ocean seascapes for oceans and blue economy). The innovative and green initiatives and investments would be focused on sustainable and climate-resilient / adapted blue economy value chains, green infrastructure in coastal zones, water management and water access and sanitation and integrated planning tools, including maritime spatial planning. Special attention will be paid to initiatives around circular economy, sustainable blue economy, payment for ecosystem services, virtual water trade, pollution monitoring and management, regional strategies to fight plastic pollution, ridge-to-reef approaches and nature-based solutions with mitigation, adaptation and risk reduction co-benefits.

Result 5.3: Conservation and restoration of ocean, coastal, transboundary wetlands and inland water ecosystems are reinforced through regional networks and initiatives promoting nature-based solutions.

This result encompasses the identification, design and management of well-managed networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), reserves, rivers ecosystems including those for birdlife, single species, the support of fish stocks restoration and climate resilience initiatives. This can include where relevant Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). Systemic nature-based solutions, mitigation measures and initiatives in transboundary water, coasts and oceans will be promoted as part of DRR, climate change adaptation (erosion control, flood (risk) management) and mitigation (blue carbon sequestration).

2.3.3 Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

See framework of intervention in Attachment 1.

2.3.4 Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

Under EU and AU leadership, in partnership with the private sector (including private banks and investment funds), European, African and International financing institutions, European development finance institutions, jointly or individually, it is proposed to nurture financing opportunities and vehicles to fund investment projects as well as the establishment or expansion of companies and entrepreneurs offering regional or cross-border impact in the four areas under this focal area. The EFSD+ will therefore contribute to the overarching goal of green transition, including by supporting investment projects in the sovereign, sub-sovereign or private sector, as appropriate, as well as and public private partnerships in these areas.

2.4. Priority area 4 – Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation

Science, technology – in particular digital and space technologies - and innovation are powerful drivers of sustainable and inclusive development. Harnessing their transformative potential is therefore key to progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and is closely linked to progress in the other priority areas of the regional MIP. Sub-Saharan African countries are actively engaging in those sectors, as shown by the very rapid deployment of digital tools or the growth of African gross domestic expenditure on research and development (R&D) over the last decade. However, digitalisation and science, technology and innovations (STI) also raise new challenges and risks of further deepening scientific and digital divides, knowledge and innovation gaps within and between African countries. As far as women and girls are concerned, those gaps are made even worse by their unequal access to STI and digital technologies and opportunities.

Therefore, under this regional MIP, efforts will be focused on promoting enabling environments for the uptake of digital tools as well as science, technology and innovation in an integrated approach to the interventions at country and sub-national levels. In order to support the African Union Digital Transformation Strategy and the STI Strategy for Africa (STISA 2014-2024) and operationalise the digital transformation partnership between the two continents, under specific objective 1, this MIP will support an inclusive and human-centric digital transformation in Africa in line with the EU's core values and political vision on digitalisation. In particular, this MIP will support the implementation of the EU Global Gateway strategy, which puts forward a global strategy and vision for sustainable and transparent connectivity. With the Global Gateway, the EU aims at strengthening connections between Europe and the world, supporting partners to address the digital divide, and enhancing connectivity. It will do so by promoting the development of harmonised digital legal and regulatory frameworks at regional level towards integration at continental level and by enhancing equitable access to affordable, secure and quality digital infrastructures, both within Africa and between Africa and Europe.

In addition, the regional MIP will also contribute to strengthen STI ecosystems and value chains by tackling several dimensions as reflected in specific objective 2. This priority area will be particularly conducive for multi-stakeholders’ engagement, in particular for the Digital component, through the Digital4Development “D4D Hub”, a coalition of European stakeholders seeking stronger ties and partnerships in the field of digitalisation with African counterparts.

DAC codes: 22020 (Telecommunications), 22040 (ICT) as well as research under thematic sectors.

UN Sustainable Development Goals: Main SDG 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure” but also contribute to SDG (poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 4 (Quality education), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life below water); SDG 15 (Life on land) and SDG17 (Partnerships for the goals).

Civil society engagement/participation: Digital tools have a significant impact on the work of civil society organisations. While they provide them with opportunities to engage in policy debates and mobilise citizens, they may also be used to curtail fundamental freedoms and hinder their activities. The involvement of civil society organisations is therefore essential to advocate for - and monitor - the implementation of inclusive digital legal and regulatory frameworks and policies and to ensure that investments in digital infrastructures contribute to equitable access, including to a free and open Internet, and reduce inequalities in this field. In order to support CSOs in this role, the programme will build or strengthen their capacity related to digital rights. Besides, CSOs will be involved in dialogues between scientists and policy makers to promote knowledge-based societies and an effective STI governance. As the EU is promoting a multi-stakeholders engagement on digital transformation, representatives of civil society organisations and local authorities will be closely involved in policy discussions as well as in the formulation and implementation of actions under this priority area.

Risks and mitigating measures:

Risks	Mitigating measures
Large number of development partners engaged in supporting digitalisation, leading to fragmentation and duplication of interventions and inefficiencies in the support provided.	Engagement under the D4D Hub platform to ensure coordination and regular exchanges of information between EU stakeholders, including private sector operators, as well as coordination with other key international partners. Develop joint initiatives that ensure coherent and coordinated approach.
Lack of local political commitment by authorities to adhere to inclusive and sustainable STI and digital related policies.	Structured political dialogue with partner countries, advocacy and engagement with CSOs and local government authorities. Strengthen the EU-AU STI High Level Policy Dialogue.
Risk <u>limitations</u> of financial institutions and private sector investors, which limit investments in digital and STI infrastructures and services	Use of blending tools, risk-sharing, guarantees and technical assistance to enhance investments in digital/STI sectors Improved regulatory frameworks to promote adapted digital finance solutions
Risk of funding technology deployments that are not in line with the EU’s core values and political vision on digitalisation.	Close coordination with EU stakeholders as part of the D4D Hub to propose and deploy technology solutions that are in line with the European approach

Extensive use of digital solutions can increase substantially demand for natural resources and energy and generate e-waste.	Promote sustainable solutions to mitigate the environment footprint of digital activities, in particular the use of clean electricity for data and digital infrastructure.
Low awareness about the role of STI for sustainable development	Focus on the science / policy interface through strong communication at various levels
Low innovation policy culture and limited capacity of relevant stakeholders to engage in innovation ecosystems	Mechanisms need to be developed to remove barriers that prevent the innovation processes from developing

2.4.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

Specific Objective 1: Support an inclusive and human-centric Digital transformation in Africa.

Specific Objective 2: Enhance the effective use of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for sustainable development in Africa.

2.4.2. Expected results per specific objective

Result 1.1: Secure, human-centric and harmonised digital standards, legal and regulatory frameworks are promoted at regional/continental levels.

The programme will promote the deployment of secure, human-centric and harmonised digital standards, legal and regulatory frameworks, including in the field of connectivity, open internet, data (data protection, privacy, data sharing, cross-border data flows), digital services components (such as e-identity, mobile money) cybersecurity (network security, security standards) and emerging technologies (artificial intelligence, internet of things, etc.) towards a continental African Digital Single Market inspired by the EU's approach to digital transformation. Such activities will seek to improve the regulatory environment which remains an important obstacle to a truly sustainable and profitable digitalisation process. By building on existing Africa-EU joint initiatives, the programme will contribute to create a more transparent, rule-based and interoperable environment that will foster trust and predictability. This will facilitate the exchange of data, support sectoral digital strategies (such as e-health, e-education, e-agriculture), enhance the provision of e-government services and encourage investments. Where relevant, this will include regulatory and policy reforms to eliminate discriminatory laws or practices that limit women's ability to access and use digital assets. The programme will also support capacity building and technical assistance activities, while the establishment of dedicated bodies as well as TAIEX/Twinning activities could also be envisaged.

Result 1.2: Equitable access to affordable, secure and quality digital infrastructures is enhanced.

In order to foster inclusive and equitable access to digital tools and services, the programme will seek to reduce the cost and improve quality of connectivity. To this purpose, efforts at unlocking the potential of the existing connectivity infrastructure will be pursued by addressing issues of interoperability between infrastructures, tackling investment hurdles and market distortions and by facilitating the establishment of regional/continental operators with the support of EU private sector.

In addition, given the strategic importance of digital connectivity and the EU's ambition to become a geopolitical player in this field, the programme will support a coordinated and geopolitical approach to investments in new, resilient and secure connectivity infrastructures as well as in advanced regional data infrastructures such as data centres and content delivery networks. Such strategic investments will be made in partnership with EU private sector actors with a view to contribute to close the digital infrastructure gap. The investments will be guided by the principles and objectives of the Global Gateway strategy, while anchoring African countries onto open digital markets and societies and supporting intra-Africa – as well as EU-Africa - flow and trade of goods, services and data as well as

digital innovations. In this respect, special attention will be given to the provision of adequate and affordable connectivity to Research and Education Networks and to the synergy with other EU leading initiatives (Galileo, Egnos, Copernicus, etc.). Investments will target multi-country and regional interventions as well as national backbones and internet exchange points, which serve a regional approach, with a focus on connecting underserved countries. Moreover, where relevant, investments should strengthen secure digital links between Europe and Africa, in line with the geostrategic interests expressed in the Global Gateways. Investments will build on the opportunities identified under the D4D Hub and pursued through the EFSD+.

Interventions under this result will pay special attention to promote sustainable solutions (clean energy supply, energy and resource efficiency, circularity and e-waste management) to reduce the environment footprint of digital activities. Interlinkages will be sought with the sustainable energy component of priority area 3.

Result 2.1: A scientific knowledge-based and innovation-led society is enhanced in Africa.

Capacities for Science, Technology and Innovation (including EU space data and technologies) are increased in universities, research centres, geological surveys, public and private organisations, regional centres of excellences, to improve policy and decision making processes, contributing to address environmental, economic and societal challenges. Collaboration and knowledge transfer between research institutions and the private sector will be promoted as well as partnerships between African and EU universities, enhancing in particular the research component of tertiary education and the participation of women in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) sectors. Upgrading of equipment and facilities for research and innovation regional centers will be provided while collaboration between EU and African Research Infrastructures will be promoted. Coherence and synergies between existing EU initiatives such as Erasmus+, Marie Skłodowska-Curie and Horizon Europe should be ensured. Support to Open Science will be promoted targeting an African Open Science Cloud and its connection with the European Open Science Cloud. Support to innovation ecosystems, including to benefit digital start-ups, will be provided, also in the context of the foreseen EU-AU Innovation Agenda. Interlinkages will also be sought with the education and skills component of priority area 1.

Result 2.2: Africa cross-sectorial development is improved by making effective use of STI and data driven services.

Support will be provided to boost Africa's STI capacity for risk-informed, evidence-based and inclusive development in the green transition and health sectors, involving collaboration between public sectors, academia and private sector. The use of new technologies and know-how transfers in scientific fields of excellence such as space applications (Copernicus and Galileo/EGNOS) will support Africa's green transition. The potential of Earth Observation to improve monitoring and sustainable management of natural resources, environment and climate change impacts, combined with other geo-referenced socio-demographic and economic data will be supported to provide decision support tools for private sector, policy makers and end users. Support will be provided in coherence with the AU-EU STI High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) policy priorities and related Partnerships. A value chain approach to meet STI and digital tools for public health needs, including support for pandemic preparedness and response will be supported. This would range from early detection, evidence generation and Research & Innovation to capacity development, technical assistance and equipment support, regulatory sciences and regulatory affairs focusing on relevant public health areas and promoting the participation of women researchers in these areas. Interlinkages will be sought with relevant components in priority area 3 as well as the health component of priority area 1.

Result 2.3: Effective STI governance in Africa is promoted.

Actions will support STI policy dialogue, in coherence with the AU-EU African STI High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD), allowing for a meaningful participation of civil society organizations and the private

sector. A strong science-policy interface will be supported by promoting the use of science and research for evidence-based decision-making and implementation providing in particular support to continental and regional networks research organisations and specific EU African/AU platforms. The regional MIP will provide support to develop effective STI ecosystems promoting private sector involvement and will contribute to support the formulation of effective STI policies and strategies. .

2.4.3.Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

See framework of intervention in Attachment 1.

2.4.4.Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

In this priority area, in particular under results1.2 (Equitable access to affordable, secure and quality digital infrastructures is enhanced) the use of blending and guarantees under the EFSD+ is envisaged to support digital infrastructure investments. As far as guarantees are concerned, private and sub-sovereign commercial guarantees, as well as sovereign and sub-sovereign non-commercial guarantees may be considered in order to de-risk investments in connectivity infrastructures. To identify investments opportunities, engagement with the private sector in both Europe and Africa (business development service providers, innovators, hubs, accelerators, etc.), European, African and International financing institutions and European development finance institutions will be pursued under the D4D framework. The use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+ could be envisaged to support Science, Technology and Innovation investments and access to finance. The foreseen EU- AU Innovation Agenda to effectively transform research and innovation outputs into products and services with impact on the ground, forms part of this.

2.5. Priority area 5 – Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs

The Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs and the Agenda 2063, provide a common policy framework and call for strengthened economic integration and structural transformation, to boost job creation in Africa, notably through green investments and sustainable trade.

This priority area focuses on deploying the EU Global Gateway strategy in Africa by strengthening economic integration at regional and continental levels with the aim to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth and decent job creation, as well as, promoting transformative and competitive economies. Support under this priority area builds on the momentum for African integration with the start of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) as a first step to build progressively a Continental Common Market (Abuja Treaty); and on the progress with the sub-regional economic integration processes and with the implementation and deepening and widening of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) as well as on the global commitments such as the WTO trade facilitation agreement.

The European Union, as first trade partner for African products, primary Aid for Trade provider and key partner for sustainable and green investment in Africa is the strategic partner to support the African economic integration agenda and stands ready to share its own experience and lessons learnt on the building of the customs union, the European single market and the EU internal labour mobility. The EU will ensure maximum policy coherence so that its actions under political dialogue, trade policy and cooperation are mutually reinforcing. This increased integration and facilitation of trade will require improvement of sustainable, smart, resilient, secure and safe mobility. In this respect, the MIP will support the development of multimodal sustainable strategic corridors and the strengthening of key transport regulatory framework.

In addition, the economic integration of African markets and macro-economic reforms requires a stronger emphasis on economic governance and on strengthening monetary and fiscal policies, financial (money and capital) markets and labour mobility, by supporting the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks, and providing expertise and capacity building on debt sustainability, fiscal balance and revenue mobilisation, monetary policy, employment policy and fundamental labour standards, trade policy, public investment, as well as by supporting the dialogue with regional and continental institutions and other stakeholders.

This priority area also focuses on supporting the development of an investment climate conducive to private sector development and investments, access to finance and promoting a regional approach to enhanced business capacities of MSMEs with a particular focus on women and youth. Wherever possible this will be complemented by tangible investments, through the mobilisation of the EFSD+. This will also be achieved through support to innovation networks engaged in business incubation and acceleration, linking them to European networks.

Through this priority area and across all its results, the EU will aim at supporting green investments and a transition towards low-carbon, efficient, circular economies, in line with the ambition of the European Green Deal and with the Paris agreement objectives. The EU will also seek to promote opportunities in the digital economy. Particular attention will also be given to provide equal access, sustainable trade and economic opportunities to all, including, women, youth and people with disabilities.

DAC codes: 33100 (Trade policy and regulations) - 33110 Trade policy and administrative management; 33120 Trade facilitation; 33130 Regional trade agreements; 33140 Multilateral trade negotiations; 210000 (Transport) - 21013 Transport regulation; 21020 Road transport; 21030 Rail transport; 21040 Water transport ; 21050 Air transport; 15114 - Domestic Revenue Mobilisation; 15111 - Public finance management; 15142 – Macroeconomic policy; 240 – Banking and Financial Services; 250 – Business and other services.

UN Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 1 – No Poverty, SDG 8 – Decent work and economic growth, SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, SDG 11– Sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 - Sustainable Consumption and Production, SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals.

Civil society engagement/participation will be mainly ensured through the regular involvement and reinforced dialogue with private sector associations and representations at regional or multi-country level. These may include among others, labour unions, women entrepreneurs' associations, chambers of commerce, youth and entrepreneurship associations, representatives of producers/farmers in a specific value chain, representatives of local authorities, logistic and transport stakeholders. Also, important attention will be paid to small-scale cross-border traders particularly women, who are key actors in intra-African trade.

Risks and mitigating measures

Risks	Mitigating measures
Limited capacities of regional organisations and AfCFTA Secretariat to ensure implementation of economic support programs.	Strengthen political partnership and dialogue with regional organisations and AfCFTA Secretariat to ensure their engagement in the economic integration dimension. Specific capacity building actions may be foreseen.
Limited ownership of programs at all levels (continental, regional and country level).	Continue strengthening strategic partnership with AU and ensure ownership and engagement at technical level of the AfCFTA Secretariat. Ensure a coherent approach in engaging on relevant continental or regional matters by integrating it more systematically into bilateral agendas.
Overlapping roles between the AU, regional organisations and AfCFTA Secretariat.	Clarify roles and dialogue channels with each of the relevant stakeholders. Adapting to existing structures established by African partners.
Duplication and overlaps due to large number of development partners engaged in supporting this priority area at different levels and with different partners.	Step up coordination efforts and regular exchanges notably with EU Member States and key development partners both at country level and centrally. Develop Team Europe Initiatives and join initiatives that ensure a coherent and coordinated approach.
Limited political commitment and challenges to engage regional or country authorities.	Ensure engagement and ownership of regional and country authorities in project design and implementation. Strengthening involvement of EU Delegations and other EU member state embassies or offices as interlocutors for policy dialogue and following of national components of projects.
High informality and lack of security of cross-border trading and overall African private sector limits the expected results.	Activities will be adapted to target informal private sector stakeholders and strengthen countries capacities' to ensure adequate customs procedures to this target group.
Fragmented and weak private sector and workers' organisations involvement in policy reforms.	Provision of organizational and institutional capacity building to business association, worker organisation and trade unions and

	encouragement of social and public private dialogue.
Governments and private sector face difficulties in reaping all benefits offered by the AfCFTA and other trade agreements despite the facilitation of trade.	Complementary AfCFTA-related accompanying support in reaping AFCFTA potential in place (i.e. support to infrastructure, support to key value chains, fiscal reforms, etc)

2.5.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

Specific Objective 1: Increase sustainable intra-African trade and mobility, making them safer, cheaper, faster and greener; and strengthening Africa-EU trade.

Specific Objective 2: Increased sustainable integration of African markets and macro-economic reforms.

Specific Objective 3: An investment climate in Sub-Saharan Africa conducive to private sector development and investments, and improved business capacities and access to finance for MSMEs.

2.5.2. Expected results per specific objective

Result 1.1: Country, regional and continental actors have improved capacity to effectively design, manage and implement economic agreements (AfCFTA, regional measures, (i-)EPAs and multilateral agreements) in coherence with the continental economic integration process.

Higher utilisation of the existing and new trade agreements and trade-related measures, is encouraged, and their coherent, complete and harmonised implementation is ensured. Such agreements include key multilateral trade agreements and processes, the AfCFTA, inter-RECs trade agreements and RECs regimes, as well as the existing trade agreements between the EU and Africa. Compliance with environmental and social sustainable trade and economic standards are strengthened under trading initiatives and agreements.

Result 1.2: Trade facilitation is improved and customs administration is strengthened across African countries at continental, regional and cross-border level.

Border procedures and formalities for the multiple trade agreements are harmonized and simplified (including customs clearance for export, import and transit) and in line with multilateral trade facilitation framework (World Trade Organisation Trade Facilitation Agreement); existing African Customs Unions are strengthened to contribute to the Abuja Treaty agenda for a future Continental Customs Union ; customs capacities are reinforced, and the digital connectivity systems are developed, implemented and efficient. Tariff regulations and Rules of Origin norms are well understood and implemented by customs administrations and private sector. Measures to facilitate cross-border trading by small-scale traders, particularly women, are in place and conditions for trade improved.

Result 1.3: Sustainable regional and multi-country infrastructure for land, air, and water transport is reinforced.

Integrated, green, smart and climate resilient multi-modal strategic corridors are supported and strengthened in line with both Africa's and the EU's identified priorities. Africa's PIDA (Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa) framework is reinforced and builds on the EU's expertise in developing connectivity strategies (Trans European Network - Transport) and setting up sustainable, environmentally friendly, biodiversity respectful, climate-proofed and safe connectivity networks for land, inland water, air, and maritime transport. Interventions in this result area takes the form of support to strategic corridors.

Result 1.4: Sustainable, smart, resilient, fair, secure and safe mobility and transport are further promoted and land, air and water transport regulatory frameworks are strengthened.

Continental and regional regulations and measures are strengthened and implemented across Africa and contribute to continental integration. At continental, regional and country level: further market opening and higher sustainability, interoperability, safety and, security standards are promoted in all transport modes (also in international fora such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the International Maritime Organisation) and contribute to further seamless mobility of goods and passengers (including with a focus on women) across the continent and better connectivity with the EU.

More specifically, inter-modality is further strengthened and greener transport alternatives are promoted at continental and regional level. Air transport policies in Africa do contribute to the establishment of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and evolving threats to civil aviation are adequately addressed. Transport safety management and infrastructure is strengthened through a holistic approach. Efforts to pursue maritime security, the fight against forced labour as well as adequate working conditions for cross-border actors and environmental protection are promoted.

Result 1.5: Non-tariff barriers are reduced.

International, continental and regional norms and regulations are harmonized and applied at country level. Quality infrastructure governance is strengthened particularly focused on sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) standards. Development of improved and harmonised product standards (e.g. on circular and low carbon practices) and mutual recognition in priority value chains for the region is promoted. Certification and accreditation bodies as well as laboratories are supported in a coherent manner, digitalization mechanisms are strengthened. Support is ensured in compliance with sustainable trade standards and product safety regulatory frameworks, including fair trade and consumer welfare protection. Customs administrations and private sector actors (producers, service providers, farmers and other associations) are aware of and capable to comply with regulations. Early warning and notification systems for monitoring and reporting barriers to trade are supported and improved in order to eliminate barriers and ensure traceability. Interventions in this results area will follow an institutional structural approach combined with a focus on key value chains.

Result 1.6: Liberalisation of trade in services progresses and digital trade is facilitated.

Regulations at continental and regional level are aligned and simplified, solid domestic regulations are developed. Services cross-border supply and presence is improved at national level (regulatory transposition) and cross border barriers to trade in services are reduced.

Digital trade is enhanced through the promotion of adequate regulatory and policy frameworks ensuring fair competition and consumer protection, improved e-transactions laws and e-commerce taxation and measures to facilitate e-commerce platforms (ePayments, etc.). Harmonised e-commerce policies and regulations will contribute to the creation of the African Digital Single Market.

Result 1.7: Accompanying trade related policies are harmonised in order to strengthen the continent's business environment and foster investment.

Africa's competition regime is strengthened, through the establishment of modern competition rules at all levels and independent competition authorities. African's investment framework is improved in particular in the area of investment facilitation and promotion, with an alignment to the continental and regional regulatory frameworks and future agreements with the EU. Competition, investment and intellectual property rights (IPR) policies at continental, regional and country levels are coordinated and harmonized, based on the subsidiarity principles. IPR policies at continental, regional and country level are promoted to ensure an adequate protection and effective enforcement of IPR, enhancing cooperation mechanisms between the African countries, strengthening the existing regional institutions (African

Regional Intellectual Property Organisation and Organisation Africaine de la Propriété Intellectuelle). Private sector is informed and trained on how to apply the existing policies.

Result 1.8: Improved availability of economic and trade statistics to monitor intra- and extra-African trade.

Development of capacities to improve data collection and statistics data on economic, trade and labour market developments at country and regional levels to boost continental coherence and integration. Strengthening of digital related tools. Monitoring and evaluation capacities are enhanced.

Result 2.1: Progress is achieved in movement of capital within a regulated framework.

The regulatory financial framework is strengthened. Coordination among the financial and banking network is reinforced. Cross-national digital payment systems are reliable and available for all and currency exchange systems are cheaper and easier, with the objective of facilitating trade. This will closely link and facilitate trading. National/regional capacities are supported in macroeconomic management.

Result 2.2: Progress is achieved in labour mobility.

The regulatory framework is strengthened and harmonised. Continental and regional protocols are transposed at country level and aligned with international standards (ILO). Accompanying measures, such as standards, frameworks allowing mutual recognition of education, VET qualifications (in complementarity with actions foreseen under priority area 1 – education and skills component), labour markets information and right of establishment/residence need to be further developed at regional and continental level and transposed at country level. Women mobility and the gender dimension will receive a particular focus. This is conceived as a key enabler, among others, for trading services and building opportunities for legal migration and mobility. Better portability of acquired rights across borders is achieved in order to facilitate labour mobility.

Result 2.3: Accelerated monetary and fiscal integration processes.

More economically integrated regions are supported in the process for monetary and fiscal integration as building blocks for the future continental Economic Union vision (Agenda 2063). National/Regional (central) banks' capacities are supported towards meeting compliance criteria. Fiscal reform processes are supported to ensure regional integration coherence and harmonized fiscal systems and promotion of environmental, employment and climate objectives.

Result 2.4: Enhanced expertise and policy dialogue for effective macro-economic reforms.

Policy dialogue and enhanced capacity for expertise at regional and continental level is provided (at the level of regional organisations or the AU in particular), in view of ensuring the continued focus on supporting the harmonisation of regulatory frameworks, debt sustainability, fiscal balance and equitable and transparent revenue mobilisation. Specific interventions could be included in the areas of public finance management, debt data transparency, illicit financial flows (in complementarity with actions envisaged under priority area 2) but also through greening public investment (e.g. via green bonds standards and taxonomies of climate and environment-friendly economic activities). Such support could take the shape of the organisation of summits and high-level events as well as ensuring a capacity for follow-up actions and commitments. Support for regional/continental economic and labour market expertise, research and statistics (including through a possible partnership with Eurostat), the capacity building of think tanks (and their networks) and North-South/South-South exchange programmes is envisaged (in particular for young African economists and other social scientists) is envisaged.

Result 2.5: Enhance sectoral macro-economic policies for transformative economies.

Support to regional/continental initiatives and alliances focusing on sectoral policy reform for the green and climate transition, diversification and increasing domestic demand (in complement to work on value chain development), covering for instance: urban areas, construction, extractive industries, manufacturing, green and circular economy, agribusiness, new technologies, services, and financial services.

Result 3.1: Improved investment climate, regional market intelligence and identification of barriers to investments.

Improve market intelligence at regional level and identify barriers to investment by providing quality data to decision makers on markets and market access including through the further development of business climate indexes particularly with a regional dimension and strengthening and harmonising competitive public procurement. Further strengthen public-private dialogue at regional level to identify the most relevant investment climate improvement reforms, increase capacities of and adherence to (regional) business membership organisations, by consolidating or establish regional platforms of business associations and expert groupings focusing on organisation, advocacy, policy dialogue and improved expertise. Setting up and consolidating networks of EU-Africa Business Forums and (sector specific) business organisations and support to intercontinental partnership initiatives. Undertake financial ecosystem mappings and the creation of networks in order to inform investment decisions and facilitate sustainable investment.

Result 3.2: Regional support measures for MSMEs business capacities are enhanced at continental and regional level.

Support at regional level to improve business services for entrepreneurs and MSMEs. This will be done with a forward-looking perspective, in particular by contributing to the formalisation of the economy and of workers with a special focus on women and youth. This can include support to extend adequate levels of social protection to all members of society. Support to innovative networks engaged in business incubation and business acceleration, for instance in the digital sector, can help in opening or widening new markets and developing further opportunities for quality job creation and decent work. Support is envisaged to business development support measures to improve the productivity and the competitiveness of companies, promote green/circular business practices and eco-innovation and digitalisation, as well as to engaging with regional stakeholders on the informal economy.

Result 3.3: Improved access to finance and investment readiness at the regional/continental level.

In view of boosting business creation and strengthening financial inclusion, for all priority sectors including green and digital entrepreneurship, support to improve access to finance and business services is foreseen (in line with results 3.2 above), in particular through the provision of technical assistance to increase and adapt financial products for businesses and private investment, including upgrading the capacity of intermediaries (local fund managers, private investors) and investee companies/entrepreneurs.

Result 3.4: Improved regional environmental and social standards for responsible business conduct.

As companies are increasingly incorporating social, human rights and environmental concerns into their strategies and operations, the focus increasingly shifts towards ensuring that this is also followed in practice and that irresponsible corporate practices that harm society, damage the environment and have negative impacts on human rights and health are ended. At a regional/continental level support will be provided to work towards the application of internationally set social and environmental standards and providing support to relevant actors (private sector, NGOs, agencies and institutions) in Africa engaged in setting and/or implementing them. Engagement and support will be rooted in a strong commitment to reinforce EU values, the respect of social and environmental, legislation standards and business and human rights principles, the work on sustainable value chains including the aim of eliminating child

labour in international supply chains and accompanying measures, and the implementation of due diligence processes, including on raw materials, deforestation-free supply chains and high standards of data protection.

2.5.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

See framework of intervention in Attachment 1.

2.5.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

The use of blending and guarantees under EFSD+ is envisaged under this priority area. Large regional transport infrastructure investments will be supported through blended finance with the use of blending and guarantees (mainly sovereign and sub-sovereign non-commercial guarantees) and will thus mainly contribute to “expected result 1.3: Sustainable regional and multi-country infrastructure for land, air, and water transport is reinforced”. Other products may be explored to cover risks linked to trading under the AfCFTA and facilitate access to finance for trading operations, as well as to provide access to finance for MSMEs, with a special focus on underserved segments such as women and youth and on sustainable finance.

2.6. Priority area 6 – Migration, mobility, and forced displacement

Further to the political agreement reached between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on NDICI-Global Europe in December 2020, and to complement actions implemented at local and country level, for this priority area, the Commission will propose a comprehensive regional programme for Sub-Saharan Africa, the “SSA Regional Migration Support Programme (RMSP)” to be financed by the regional MIP. Given the transboundary nature of migration and forced displacement, the RMSP will facilitate a balanced, coherent, coordinated and comprehensive approach to support the implementation of the political objectives of the Union. It will allow for maximizing synergies, economies of scale in the delivery, and ensure the necessary flexibility in line with the EU’s policy priorities and commitments. Programmes will, where and when possible, be informed by available research, including on the impact of climate change on migration and forced displacement, and data in line with the Commission’s culture of evidence-based policymaking.

The proposed RMSP will include two main components: (a) country interventions; and (b) multi-country and regional actions. Country specific-actions funded by the RMSP will allow to complement actions under the country MIP and offer to selected partner countries an incentive to go beyond what their country MIP offers, in line with a flexible incitative approach. In parallel, continental, regional, sub-regional and multi-country actions will allow for a better whole-of-route approach, and to address migration and forced displacement challenges shared by several countries in a more efficient manner.

In line with the “policy first” approach, the work on migration and forced displacement will contribute to implementing EU policy priorities, in particular the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the strengthened partnership with Africa, the Communication ‘Lives in Dignity’¹⁶, the on-going dialogues and Action Plans from the EU-AU Continent to Continent dialogue, the Khartoum and Rabat processes, the Joint Valletta Action Plan, and the associated policy documents such as the AU’s Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018 – 2030). As foreseen in the Pact, attention will be given to developing tailor-made, comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnerships on migration and forced displacement, including protecting those in need and supporting host countries/communities, building economic opportunities and addressing root causes of irregular migration, strengthening migration governance and management, fostering cooperation on return and readmission, developing legal pathways, with countries, regions and the continent. In line with the renewed EU action plan against

¹⁶ COM(2016) 234 final of 26.4.2016.

migrant smuggling (2021-2025¹⁷), anti-smuggling operational partnerships should also be envisaged aiming at strengthening legal, policy, operational and strategic frameworks in partner countries.

Actions at continental level will be supported by this RMSP and by the multi-action programme on migration and forced displacement foreseen for North Africa.

Synergies will be sought with actions linked to the external dimension of relevant Commission funding instruments for migration and of EU agencies, such as the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and Europol, EU and international financial institutions, and with initiatives from relevant international organisations. The RMSP will be supportive of continental and regional strategies, policies and institutions, in particular of the AUC and of relevant RECs. In addition to a human-rights based approach, the RMSP will operate in line with the humanitarian-development-peace nexus and reflect the EU commitment to take into account the particular needs of persons in vulnerable situations, including women, children, unaccompanied minors and persons with disabilities. Cross regional cooperation with other regions of transit and destination, including North Africa and the Gulf peninsula, will be encouraged.

The RMSP will have to ensure that actions are designed and implemented in coordination with EU Member States, their agencies and financial institutions under the Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) for (1) a comprehensive migration approach in the Maghreb, Sahel and West African countries in the Atlantic/Western Mediterranean route; and (2) a comprehensive migration approach to countries in the Central Mediterranean route. .

DAC codes: 15190 (Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility), 15136 (immigration), 13096 (population statistics and data, 72010 (Material relief assistance and services for displaced people), 72012(education in emergencies), 72040 (emergency food assistance).

UN Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 10 to reduce inequality within and among countries, specific target (10.7) to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people. Moreover, 10 out of 17 SDGs contain targets and indicators relevant to migration or mobility.

Civil society engagement/participation: The RMSP will support initiatives on migration and development from CSOs and local authorities (LAs), including on engagement with the diaspora. It will also engage with CSOs and LAs on the implementation of actions assisting refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host populations.

Risks and mitigating measures

Risks	Mitigating measures
Limited engagement and ownership of partner countries on migration-related issues, in particular return, readmission and reintegration.	Political dialogue and sustained high-level engagement with partner countries, together with EU MS, including through a flexible, policy-driven incitative approach.
Mobility restrictions due to pandemics.	Flexible approach in reorientation of funds.
Reputational risk in Europe and in Africa.	Effective communication and visibility strategies.
New crisis resulting in a significant increase in forced displacement numbers.	Strengthening of policy coherence with humanitarian assistance, and of forced displacement monitoring, management, and burden sharing; design of flexible funding instrument.

¹⁷ COM(2021)591 final.

Significant drop in resettlement numbers.	Increased advocacy and support for alternative durable solutions.
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2.6.1. Specific objectives related to the priority area

Specific Objective 1: Contribute to strengthening migration management, migration policy, and migration governance in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Specific Objective 2: Address protection and long-term needs and support durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations (refugees and IDPs) and host communities.

Specific Objective 3: Strengthen EU migration partnerships and dialogue with relevant origin, transit, destination and/or host countries of the region through the implementation of a flexible funding mechanism.

The RMSPP will be divided in a regional/multi-country component and a component that will finance country specific actions through a flexible mechanism. The multi-country component will finance actions under specific objectives 1 and 2 through a set of sub-programmes described below. The country specific component will finance actions under specific objective 3.

2.6.2. Expected results per specific objective

Result 1.1: Improved protection and assistance to migrants stranded in destination/transit countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including to returnees, as well as enhanced sustainable reintegration support to returnees (and their host communities) in their countries of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa in line with the EU strategy on voluntary return and reintegration, including by strengthening third countries' national systems and capacities for return, readmission and reintegration, in full respect of fundamental values and human rights.

Actions will be progressively activated in selected Sub-Saharan African countries, to achieve a coherent, cross-regional approach in line with the EU Strategy on Voluntary Return and Reintegration, while ensuring national authorities ownership. On reintegration measures, synergies will be sought with actions financed by country MIPs, under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) or bilaterally by EU Member States.

Result 1.2: Improved evidence-based programming and policy-making on migration based on regional research, data gathering and management.

Actions financed to help achieving this result will build on already existing data and monitoring systems. They will in addition strengthen the capacity of African organisations working in this area.

Result 1.3: Strengthened political dialogues and continued high-level engagement at continental, cross-regional, regional, or sub-regional level on issues of common concern in the field of migration.

Actions will support continental, regional, sub-regional and multi-country political, policy, and operational dialogues. Particular attention will be given to the on-going Khartoum, and Rabat-Processes, the Valletta Joint Action Plan, and other Continent-to-Continent processes. Actions will also support institutions and organisations facilitating dialogues and cooperation. To ensure coherence and in recognition of the fact that mixed migration flows cover both migrants and refugees, this sub-programme will also be the channel used to finance dialogues on forced displacement (Results 2.3 and 2.4 below).

Result 1.4: Improved rights-based and effective migration governance and management, through legal frameworks, enhanced policies, and capacities within Africa, at continental, regional, country, and local

levels – including in migrant protection, improved border management, countering irregular migration, as well as awareness raising of the dangers of and alternatives to irregular migration.

Digital support to migration management in relevant countries, such as readmission case management systems, their interoperability with biometrics databases and strengthened administrative capacity building could also be financed, in synergy with actions funded by country MIPs, under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) or bilaterally by EU Member States.

Result 1.5: Combating trafficking in human beings and fighting against smuggling of migrants within and from the African continent is strengthened.

Actions will include improving early identification, as well as the assistance, support and protection of victims of trafficking in human beings, including victims of trafficking for forced labour¹⁸. In relation to fight against migrant smuggling, specific actions may be part of dedicated Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnerships that aim at strengthening legal, policy, operational and strategic frameworks in partner countries or regions, based on a whole of route approach. In line with ILO fundamental convention No. 29 and its related Protocol P29 which requires strong cross-border cooperation among enforcement authorities and for the support of victims.

Results 1.4 and 1.5 will be achieved through mainly the financing of a set of continental and sub-regional actions supporting a group of countries located in the same region, (and/or) along the same migratory route – with particular focus on the Atlantic, Western, Central and Eastern Mediterranean Routes. At least three actions may be proposed to be financed: Sahel and Western Africa, Horn of Africa, and Southern Africa. These possible actions could include North African countries where synergies will be sought during the design stage. Continental actions will include support to the AUC policies and initiatives and associate local authorities' associations when relevant.

For activities concerning the fight against trafficking of human beings, linkages will be established with the peace and security priority area 2 of the regional MIP, which includes the possible financing of actions to fight criminal organizations engaged in human trafficking and forced labour.

Result 1.6: Legal migration and mobility between Africa and the European Union, as well as within and outside of Africa is well managed and strengthened.

Complementing actions under priority area 5, result 2.2 on labour mobility, the regional MIP may finance a continental action to cover legal migration and mobility issues, notably supporting Talent Partnerships, labour migration projects, free movement protocols adopted by the AU and relevant RECs, Erasmus +, and other actions such as migrant integration or portability within Africa of social protection benefits. As regards the Talent Partnerships and other potential legal migration initiatives, synergies will be sought with the possible actions to be financed under the Global Challenges thematic programme, the AMIF or bilaterally by Member States.

Result 1.7: Strengthened continental, regional, and multi-country networks that support actions related to migration and development, including initiatives of CSOs and LAs.

This result may be achieved through a possible support to diaspora engagement for development and on remittances to reduce their costs and increase their productive use. Activities facilitating diaspora productive investments as well as other productive migration-related aspects may also be included.

¹⁸ In line with ILO fundamental convention No. 29 and its related Protocol P29 which requires strong cross-border cooperation among enforcement authorities and for the support of victims (https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_246549/lang--en/index.htmhttps://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_246549/lang--en/index.htm).

Result 2.1: Refugee and asylum seekers needs and rights are addressed in a balanced, coherent, comprehensive and coordinated manner aiming at the implementation of the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) and its comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF).

The action will identify regional actions for groups of countries facing common or interlinked challenges. It will also identify national or sub-national actions that would be better supported through regional financing as per the principle of burden and responsibility sharing, including to deliver basic services to refugee communities, access to effective protection, strengthen self-reliance, resilience and provide long-term solutions to refugee and host communities (with special attention to the needs of the most vulnerable groups, women and children), and support Government's efforts to integrate refugees in national policies and social services, including education, in line with the EU approach to forced displacement ('Lives in Dignity' Communication). The application of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus will guide the implementation of this action.

Result 2.2: Nationally-owned durable solutions for IDPs and host populations supported in full respect of human rights and principle of complementarity.

The possible action(s) to achieve result 2.1 could also support solutions for IDPs when they cannot be sufficiently addressed through country MIPs or would be better supported as part of a regional or multi-country response. This could include support to safe, dignified and voluntary returns of IDPs in respect of the Kampala Convention, and facilitating access of IDPs to social services such as health and education and skills development as well as the recognition of prior learning across borders.

Result 2.3: Strengthened regional research, evidence and analysis and the improvement of data gathering, collection and analysis on forced displacement disaggregated to reflect the broader sociodemographic profile of displaced populations.

Result 2.4: Stronger political dialogue at continental, cross-regional, regional, or sub-regional level on forced displacement.

Actions financed by the regional MIP to achieve this result will mainly aim at furthering GRF commitments at regional/inter-country level, including those with RECs such as the IGAD Platform for Cooperation and its sub-dialogues on education and livelihood. Research and political dialogue activities on forced displacement will be proposed to be financed mainly through a single regional action (please refer to the explanation under result 1.3 above).

Result 3.1: Partner countries' capacities to tackle migration and/or forced displacement challenges identified in migration dialogues with the EU are strengthened, including at sub-national level.

Result 3.2: EU cooperation with partner countries on migration and forced displacement is enhanced through country and local actions.

Results 3.1 and 3.2 will be achieved mainly through the financing of country-specific actions. The financing will be managed in a flexible way aiming at (1) helping and encouraging relevant origin, transit, destination and/or host countries (both national and subnational governments) to manage their migration and/or forced displacement and address related challenges and opportunities; (2) adopting in these areas innovative policies that would merit further support; and (3) improving or expanding their cooperation with the EU on migration, mobility, and forced displacement, including through decentralised cooperation projects. These proposed country specific actions to be funded by the RMSP would ideally complement and strengthen actions launched through the country MIP and would offer to beneficiary countries an incentive to go beyond what their country MIP offers.

2.6.3. Indicators (including baseline and targets), per expected result

See framework of intervention in Attachment 1.

2.6.4. Possible use of blending and guarantees for investment under EFSD+

The use of blending and/or guarantees under the EFSD+ may be envisaged in this priority area.

2.7. Proposals of multi-country/regional Team Europe Initiatives

The list below is indicative and will evolve during the identification and formulation of Actions under this regional MIP.

Team Europe Initiative proposal	MIP Priority Area	Participating Member States
Health: EU Member States are largely aligned with the health-related specific objectives and expected results and have expressed since September 2020 ¹⁹ strong interest in structuring regional TEIs on the four health priorities (health security/pandemic preparedness, pharmaceutical systems/production public health institutes, SRHR).	1	BE, FR, DE, IT, NL, SE have expressed interest
Education: A large-scale TEI on youth mobility in order to maximize the EU and Member State efforts and visibility in support of regional, continental and EU-Africa learning opportunities and exchange. It will contribute to strengthening the African Higher Education space; fostering Intra-continental and regional integration as well as cooperation between European and African higher education institutions; improving access to study and services for students; facilitating mobility of students, graduates and (academic) staff in Africa and with Europe; supporting cooperation with private and public sector in a perspective of education-to-work and employability; strengthening student's participation and networking; fostering dialogue between the academic world and society. Possible areas of interventions to cover: youth leadership exchanges, learners and trainers' mobility, capacity building to organizations in charge of mobility programmes, information campaigns.	1	TBD.
Energy: A regional TEI on the Africa EU Green Energy Initiative (AEGEI) is envisaged, and considering the 25 January 2021 Council Conclusions on Climate and Energy Diplomacy.	3	TBD (DE and possibly others).
NaturAfrica: Promotion of biodiversity protection and improved management of protected areas (including security and fight against wildlife trafficking) at regional and transboundary level through better linking biodiversity conservation and green economic activities, sustainable use of wildlife, renewable energy generation, and sustainable agriculture value chains in larger landscapes and watersheds	3	TBD
AU-EU D4D Hub: scaling up investments in the digital transformation of partner countries; promoting a comprehensive values-based rulebook for a digital economy and society; and promote a stronger and more strategic EU engagement in international digital partnerships.	1, 4 and 5	DE, FR, BE, EE, LU and FI, LT, NL, PT, ES, SE (TBC).

¹⁹ At CODEV, EU MS health experts' meetings, bilateral meetings with INTPA Management and geographic and thematic units

<p>AfCFTA: A flagship project of the African Union’s Agenda 2063, it is expected to cover a market of 1.2 billion people. The AfCFTA is a key priority in the EU Comprehensive Strategy with Africa. Several Member States are already supporting the AfCFTA process. The support of the EU and its MS can have a significant impact only if properly coordinated, prioritized and implemented at continental/regional level but mainly at national level, allowing countries to be prepared and well equipped to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the AfCFTA.</p>	3, 4 and 5	DK, FR, DE, FI, IE, NL, PT, SE.
<p>Invest in Young Businesses in Africa: A TEI to accelerate the creating of formal MSMEs, by accompanying financially, with advice and technical capacity the initial stages of enterprise creation and growth. The envisaged TEI would cover access to finance, technical support, improvement of the business environment targeted to the small and early stage enterprises, and vocational training programmes.</p>	5, 1 and 3	FR, DE, NL, BE, ES, IT
<p>Comprehensive Migration Approach Atlantic / Western Mediterranean Route: A trans-regional Team Europe Initiative for a Comprehensive Migration Approach in the Maghreb, Sahel and West African Countries along the Atlantic route is to ensure that migration to the EU from priority countries in Maghreb, Sahel and West Africa countries is safe, regular and orderly. It will thus contribute to the partnership approach under the new Pact on Migration and Asylum and will allow to seize the benefits of migration, while addressing related challenges. The TEI covers the five pillars of the Valletta Action Plan.</p>	6	BE, DE, DK, ES, FR, IT, NL + Switzerland
<p>Comprehensive Migration Approach Central Mediterranean Route: A trans-regional Team Europe Initiative for a Comprehensive Migration Approach along the Central Mediterranean route is to ensure that migration to the EU from priority countries in Maghreb, Sahel and Horn of Africa countries is safe, regular and orderly. It will thus contribute to the partnership approach under the new Pact on Migration and Asylum and will allow to seize the benefits of migration, while addressing related challenges. The TEI covers the five pillars of the Valletta Action Plan.</p>	6	BE, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, IT, MT, NL + Switzerland
<p>Transboundary Water Management in Africa: to support development and regional integration. The specific objectives would be: SO 1: The continental policies and strategies, and their supporting knowledge, technology, decision support tools, data, and research are improved and can effectively support transboundary water management for a peaceful development and regional integration in Africa. SO 2: The institutional frameworks (at regional, sub-regional and national level) for transboundary basin cooperation and promotion of peer learning between TBAs and their basin States are in place and effective. SO 3: Holistic IWRM and WEF nexus approaches through multi stakeholder processes and coordination of TEI partner countries for improved transboundary water management, with a clear link to</p>	3	AT, BE, DK, EIB, FR, GE, SW

<p>climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation, as well as ICZM, where applicable, are promoted.</p> <p>SO 4: Key investment projects of transboundary relevance enable economic development and regional integration as well as benefits for biodiversity, health, environment, peace and security.</p>		
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The EU's contribution to TEIs is subject to the confirmation of the Team Europe partners' indicative contribution as early as possible. In the absence thereof, the EU's contribution may be redirected in accordance with the priority areas of the MIP and their allocations. The obligation of the Union and the Member States to coordinate their development policies following initiatives by the Commission to this effect, as per article 210 TFEU, always applies.

3. Support measures

3.1. Measures in favour of civil society

In addition to mainstreamed engagement with civil society in each of the priority areas, the programme will foresee measures in favour of civil society in line with the overarching goals of the NDICI-Global Europe to support inclusive, participatory, empowered, and independent civil society and democratic space in partner countries, and an inclusive and open dialogue with and between civil society. In complementarity with country MIPs, which will target national civil society organisations (CSOs), and the thematic programme, which will target a much broader spectrum of CSOs from the global to the local level, the regional programme will aim at supporting CSOs having a sub-Saharan Africa coverage or a multi-country coverage. Support will be provided to dialogues in the framework of the African Union, Regional Economic Communities or any other relevant multi-country organisation, decision-making process or governance system. The regional programme will aim at increasing participation of the civil society and private sector organisations in regional integration processes. In the context of closing civic space in some countries, the programme may also contribute to develop a regional enabling environment for civil society.

Attention will be given to the capacity development of the full spectrum of CSOs as described in the NDICI-Global Europe, with a specific focus on youth and women led organisations, associations of employer organisations and federations of trade unions, network organisations and linking country, regional and continental networks or organisations.

The programme contribution will support CSO partners in terms of:

- strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of civil society advocacy, internal governance, analysis and their participation in, or contribution to, policymaking and regional integration;
- contributing to an improved regional enabling environment for Civil Society;
- building skills in leadership, programme, project, and financial management;
- promoting knowledge dissemination and capacity building in the area of gender equality, youth policies and digital rights.

3.2. Cooperation facility

A cooperation facility is foreseen to:

(i) Support and facilitate the preparation, implementation, communication, audit and evaluation of EU cooperation under the regional MIP. It will also support stakeholders' engagement and the overall objective of regional integration. This implies technical support to activities such as identification and formulation of new actions as well as audit and evaluation, stakeholder consultations, negotiations, policy dialogue and development. It will be used for:

- supporting capacity development and institutional building, including through technical assistance, exchange and twinning of public expertise;
- supporting policy dialogues: events, conferences, studies, fellowships, exchange platforms to support sector dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with governments and other stakeholders;
- supporting coordination between the EU and its Member States at regional level as well as joint implementation;
- supporting the preparation, implementation and evaluation of the EU's cooperation, including via technical assistance.
- planning and executing strategic communication and public diplomacy actions;
- financing long-term communication, campaigns and visibility actions on EU cooperation and public diplomacy specific interventions to promote EU policies as well as its multilateral agenda at

continental or regional level. These actions at regional level can build synergies among actions held at country level;

- launching outreach activities in view of the preparation of summits and other high level events, the capacity to conduct opinion surveys to understand the perception of the EU in Africa and adapt our communication strategies accordingly;
- launching studies and the organisation of workshops to underpin the political and policy dialogue with African regional organisations, the African Union and other regional institutions beyond what is required in view of the project identification and formulation.

(ii) Provide institutional support to the African Union and African regional organisations including to strengthen and rationalise their vertical (AU/RECs) and horizontal coordination structures and mandates.

Through this cooperation facility, the EU will consider supporting capacity development and institutional building actions, including through technical assistance and regional peer-to-peer exchange of public expertise, for the benefit of the African Union (AU) and African regional organisations. The areas targeted will include the strengthening of the administrative and financial systems, of the strategic and policy coordination role of regional organisations, of the ownership of their member states, and the development of cross-cutting institutional capacities such as monitoring and evaluation systems, gender mainstreaming, climate and environmental mainstreaming, study and research capacities in key regional policies, cooperation with non-state actors, and/or the articulation between continental, regional and national institutions. Support provided through the Cooperation Facility will target in particular the AU and regional organisations which have a key political and institutional role in their regions. It will be results-based and target clear deliverables. Running / functioning costs (including travels, per diems, meetings, etc.) and costs related to core staff (overall management and administrative positions) should only be considered when (1) they are needed to achieve the programme's concrete results; and (2) a clear exit strategy is outlined. In the cases in which the EU contribution is part of a wider support strategy financed as well by other partners, basic operational costs can be accepted if earmarking is not possible, but the EU should work with partners to bring the support down to the minimum necessary in an effort to guarantee long-term sustainability.

(iii) Support the running of the post-Cotonou Institutional Framework.

4. Support to investments under the EFSD+

Sub-Saharan Africa will be a geographic priority for EFSD+ investments. The European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) and the External Action Guarantee will build on experience gained through the European Fund for Sustainable Development. It constitutes an integrated financial package supplying financing capacity in the form of grants, budgetary guarantees and financial instruments. The EFSD+ combines blending and budgetary guarantee operations covered by the External Action Guarantee, including those covering sovereign risks associated with lending operations. In terms of leverage, it aims to attract substantial private investment for viable business proposals designed to respond to sustainable development needs, with limited public funds. The guarantees will contribute to close the investment gap in partner countries, with a particular focus on impactful investments in high-risk areas and sectors.

In line with the provisions of NDICI-Global Europe, when funding EFSD+ operations, priority should be given to operations which have a high impact on job creation and whose cost-benefit ratio enhances the sustainability of investment. The operations supported with the External Action Guarantee should be accompanied by an in-depth ex ante assessment of environmental, financial and social aspects, as appropriate and in line with the better regulation requirements. The External Action Guarantee should not be used to provide essential public services, which remains a government responsibility.

The EFSD+ aims to maximise additionality of funding, address market failures and sub-optimal investment situations, deliver innovative products and ‘crowd-in’ private sector funds. EFSD+ operations can notably complement other forms of support to macro-economic reform, investment climate and private sector development under priority area 5 “Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs”. The regional MIP will cover a proportion of the operations under the EFSD+ in Sub-Saharan Africa, comprising of both blended finance and de-risking products. Investment priorities are identified mainly in the bilateral MIPs and all underlying operations will be part of the comprehensive EFSD+ package that SSA countries will benefit from and of EU political dialogue in-country. A part of the financial allocation under this heading of the regional MIP is to be assigned towards pre-identified priority countries and policies but could be later re-assigned in case investments do not materialise. The regional priorities will in turn seek to support innovative and sustainable financial modalities, such as green bonds, risk capital, etc.

Depending on the type of product, funds will be provisioned (guarantees) or provided in the form of grants or financial instruments (grants for accompanying technical assistance for guarantees and grants/financial instruments in blending operations). The regional allocation will be complemented with funds from the country MIPs. Synergies and coherence between all instruments (i.e. budget support, grants, etc.) will be ensured. Blended finance operations will help leverage resources from public and private institutions, such as, Member State agencies and regional development banks, national and sub-national governments and notably, the private sector. Debt sustainability and fiscal balance as well as an enabling investment climate will be key guiding principles for investment decisions.

A budget of 1.45 billion EUR is foreseen for EFSD+ actions. An indicative amount of 1 billion EUR may be used between 2021 and 2024 to provision EFSD+ guarantee operations complemented by 250 million EUR of technical assistance. Following indicative repartition per type of EFSD+ product and per theme on the basis of priorities reflected in the SSA country MIPs is foreseen:

- a) *Private Sector and Sub sovereign commercial guarantee* (an indicative 80% of total available funds with a provisioning rate of 50%), of which, indicatively
 - Green transition and fight against climate change (green economy, sustainable energy, agriculture, biodiversity, water etc.): 50%;
 - Access to Finance (MSME financing with a focus on women, youth, disadvantaged persons): 20%;
 - Human Capital (health, education, culture): 20%;
 - Sustainable Cities and digitalisation (urban development & infrastructure): 10%.
- b) *Sovereign & Sub sovereign non-commercial guarantee*²⁰ (an indicative 20% of total available funds with a provisioning rate of 9%) in the fields of: (i) Infrastructure (including digital, transport, housing etc.); (ii) Sustainable Energy; (iii) Health; (iv) Water & Sanitation and possible other..
- c) *As regards the technical assistance attached to guarantees*, the allocation will be based on the needs identified by development finance institutions when designing and implementing their operations in Sub-Saharan Africa. This allocation for technical assistance will not exceed 10% of the amount of each supported Proposed Investment Programme (PIP).
- d) *As regards blending, the regional blending interventions* will be identified under each priority area of this regional MIP at the stage of formulation (country-specific blending interventions will be identified in the country MIPs). Main topics of intervention in light of the regional MIP priority areas could notably include: strategic corridors, key regional infrastructure, agriculture,

²⁰ Based on the notion that the majority of sovereign intervention can be identified and provisioned from the bilateral MIPs.

biodiversity, water, energy, digitalisation, research and innovation, financial inclusion, start-ups and venture capital, etc.

5. Financial overview (in € million)

	<i>Million EUR</i>	<i>% of total</i>
<i>Priority area 1 – Human Development</i>	880	8.6%
Health	400	3.9%
Education and Skills	480	4.7%
<i>Priority area 2 – Democratic Governance, Peace and Security, Culture</i>	855	8.3%
Democratic Governance	130	1.3%
Peace and Security	650	6.3%
Culture	75	0.7%
<i>Priority area 3 – Green transition</i>	2100	20.5%
Climate Mitigation and Resilience	300	2.9%
Sustainable Energy	570	5.6%
Sustainable Agri-food Systems	470	4.6%
Biodiversity and Environment	400	3.9%
Water and Oceans	360	3.5%
<i>Priority area 4 – Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation</i>	1240	12.1%
Digital Transformation	940	9.2%
Science, Technology and Innovation	300	2.9%
<i>Priority area 5 – Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs</i>	1830	17.9%
Regional Economic Integration, Trade and Trade Facilitation	630	6.2%
Transport Connectivity	1000	9.8%
Sustainable Finance, Investment Climate and Private Sector Development	200	1.9%

<i>Priority area 6 – Migration and Forced Displacement</i>	<i>1600</i>	<i>15.6%</i>
Migration	500	4.9%
Forced Displacement	500	4.9%
Flexible Funding Mechanism	600	5.9%
<i>EFSD+</i>	<i>1450²¹</i>	<i>14.2%</i>
<i>Support Measures</i>	<i>287</i>	<i>2.8%</i>
Capacity building and institutional support	170	1.7%
Technical Cooperation Facility including Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy	75	0.7%
Contribution to OACPS Framework	42	0.4%
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>10242</i>	<i>100%</i>

Attachment 1_Intervention framework

²¹ Subject to its confirmation through the implementation phase, it is expected that an indicative amount of EUR 1000 million may be used between 2021 and 2024 to provision EFSD+ guarantee operations under this Multi-Annual Indicative programme complemented by 250 million of Technical Assistance.

Attachment 1. Intervention framework

Priority Area 1: Human Development		
Specific objective 1: Strengthen the African health security architecture, pharmaceutical systems and public health capacity, contributing to stronger health systems and improved health, including sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) outcomes.		
Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets
	(All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)	
R 1.1: The African architecture for health security and pandemic preparedness is strengthened sustainably.	1.1.1: International Health Regulations (IHR) capacities and health emergency preparedness (<i>SDG indicator 3.d.1: IHR core capacity index</i>) in countries supported by the regional programme	TBD (SDG Target 3.d: Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national & global health risks)
R 1.2: The African pharmaceutical systems and the regional manufacturing capacity for vaccines and other medical products and technologies are strengthened to increase quality, safe and equitable access	1.2.1 Reduction of the time needed to grant market authorisation to essential health products in countries supported by the regional programme	TBD
R1.3: The Africa-based public health capacity is enhanced.	1.3.1: Number of public health experts trained with EU support. 1.3.2: Number of peer reviewed and policy publications supported by the EU.	TBD (SDG Target 17.9: Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the SDGs, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation)

<p>R.1.4: The legal, political and societal environment for SRHR is enabled</p>	<p>1.4.1: Adolescent birth rate per 1,000 adolescents aged 15-19 years (SDG indicator 3.7.2, also EURF indicator 1.6) in countries targeted by the regional programme</p> <p>1.4.2: Number of countries targeted by the regional programme with laws and regulations that guarantee full and equal access to women and men aged 15 years and older to SRH care, information and education (SDG indicator 5.6.2).</p>	<p>TBD</p> <p>(SDG Target 3.7: ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes)</p> <p>(SDG target 5.6: Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences)</p>
<p>Specific objective 2: Enhance regional and continental (Intra-Africa) integration for improved quality of education and skills development; and EU-Africa policy dialogue and coordination in the field of education, skills development, youth learning mobility, and teacher governance, leadership, training and professional development.</p>		
<p>Expected Results</p>	<p>Indicators</p> <p>(All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)</p>	<p>Baseline & targets</p>
<p>R2.1: Improved teacher governance, training and professional development in basic education</p>	<p>2.1.1: Number of teacher trainers and teachers supported by the EU in their teaching through quality teacher training</p>	<p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: TBD at programme level</p>

R 2.2: Enhanced regional and continental (Intra-Africa) integration and EU-Africa policy development and coordination in the field of education and skills development.	2.2.1: Number of African countries supported by the EU in the process of designing, reforming and implementing public policies through a continental platform for education and skills.	Baseline: 0 Target: 15
R 2.3: Regional and continental integration mechanisms to contribute to a more inclusive knowledge-based society and economy are promoted.	2.3.1: Number of countries which adopted regional or continental EU-funded mechanisms (i.e. frameworks, agencies, standards) to improve quality of curricula and recognition of learning outcomes and qualifications.	Baseline: 0 Target: TBD at programme level
R2.4: Skills and competences are increased through learning mobility opportunities at regional and continental level, with a special focus on youth.	2.4.1: Number of youth and staff involved in Intra-Africa mobility programmes funded by EU (including scholarships, exchanges and job shadowing experiences).	Baseline: 1800 Intra-Africa Mobility scholarships (2021) Target: 6000 Intra-Africa Mobility scholarships

Priority Area 2: Democratic Governance, Peace and Security, and Culture

Specific objective 1: Promote democratic governance, equality, the rule of law, the respect for human rights and international humanitarian law in Africa, and the engagement and inclusive participation of African citizens.

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets
	(All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)	
R1.1: Continental and regional frameworks for democratic governance, the rule of law, human rights, accountability, and inclusive and equal societies are strengthened and implemented.	1.1.1. Number of norms, standards, decision and recommendations of the African Governance Architecture Platform are implemented and complied with AU Member States. 1.1.2: Number of individuals that report paying a bribe when interacting with government officials.	TBD

R.1.2: The transparency and credibility of elections in Africa are improved	1.2.1: Number of elections appraised as credible, peaceful, transparent by domestic and international electoral stakeholders.	Target: Increase by 20% by end 2027
R.1.3. Youth inclusion and gender equality across all areas of the Africa-EU Partnership.	1.3.1: Number of women and girls benefiting from EU-funded programmes in the following areas: - participation and leadership of African women in politics and public life; - economic empowerment and the promotion of women's economic and social rights; - women, peace and security; sexual and reproductive health rights, - fight against sexual and gender-based violence, including harmful practices such as female genital mutilation or child marriages. 1.3.2: Number of young people and youth organizations, platforms and networks benefiting from EU support.	TBD
R.1.4. The engagement and participation of African citizens is supported and increased.	1.4.1: Number of support initiatives to civil society to reinforce their participation in the public debate and decision making.	Target: Increase by 20% by 2027
Specific objective 2: Reduce the incidence, duration and intensity of violent conflicts in Africa and contribute to effective prevention, protection against and response to transnational security threats including organised crime across the continent.		
Expected Results	Indicators (All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)	Baseline & targets

<p>R2.1 African-led conflict prevention, management and resolution initiatives are effectively and efficiently carried out</p> <p>(Source for indicators under 2.1: Annual APSA Impact Report published by IPSS / University of Addis Ababa)</p>	<p>2.1.1: Number of conflict prevention /management/resolution initiatives carried out with the support of the EU compared to the number of conflicts eligible for intervention.</p> <p>2.1.2: Level of effectiveness of these interventions.</p>	<p>Target: Increase the number of conflict prevention/management/ resolution activities supported by 20% by 2027</p> <p>Target: Increase the combined ratio of partly and overall successful interventions by 20% by 2027</p>
<p>R2.2 African organisations active in the area of peace and security are able to carry out their tasks and to deliver on their mandate.</p>	<p>2.2.1: Level of administrative and operational capacities of Regional Organizations beneficiaries of EU support in the area of peace and security.</p>	<p>Target: 75% of targeted Regional Organizations have fully operational administrative and operational capacities in the area of peace and security by end 2027</p>
<p>R2.3 African law enforcement agencies, judiciary institutions and relevant non-state actors are capacitated and able to carry out their tasks to effectively prevent, repress, counter and prosecute transnational threats in full respect of fundamental values, human rights, and international humanitarian law.</p>	<p>2.3.1: Number of state institutions and non-state actors supported on security, border management, countering violent extremism, conflict prevention, protection of civilian population and human rights.</p> <p>2.3.2: Number of individuals directly benefiting from EU supported interventions that specifically aim to support the prevention and fight against transnational security threats.</p>	<p>Target: Increase the number of institutions/actors supported by 20% by end 2027</p> <p>Target: Increase the number of individuals benefiting from EU supported by 40% by end 2027.</p>
<p>R2.4 Maritime and port security and safety of navigation are improved in African maritime zones.</p>	<p>2.4.1: Number of armed attacks reported.</p> <p>2.4.2: Number of cases of crimes committed at sea judged.</p>	<p>Target: Reduce the number of armed attacks by 20% by end 2027</p> <p>Target: increase by 50% the number of crimes committed at sea judged by end 2027</p>

<p>R2.5: Capacities of pertinent/specialised institutions and frameworks for the prevention and combat against illicit financial flows, money-laundering and the financing of terror groups are enhanced.</p>	<p>2.5.1: Volume of illicit financial flows (in region X and/or selected countries).</p> <p>2.5.2: Number of ML, FT, financial cases investigated and prosecuted in selected countries.</p>	<p>Target: Reduce illicit financial flows by 20% by end 2027</p> <p>Target: Increase the number of national investigations on AML/CFT by 50% by end 2027</p>
<p>R2.6 Harmonization, domestication and compliance of national legislations with regional/continental/international norms and standards are improved and regional/multi-country dialogue, coordination and cooperation capacities to effectively address common security threats are enhanced.</p>	<p>2.6.1: Number of regional/government policies developed or revised with civil society organization participation.</p> <p>2.6.2: Number of national/regional/multi-country networks and dialogues newly established or functionally enhanced.</p>	<p>Target: Develop/revise 50 regional/government policies by end 2027</p> <p>Target: Establish 6 new networks and dialogues by end 2027.</p>
<p>R2.7: Improved prevention and mitigation of the impact of local conflict in borderland areas.</p>	<p>2.7.1: Intensity of conflict in targeted areas.</p> <p>2.7.2: Proportion of households affected by security incidents.</p>	<p>Intensity of conflict decreased by 20% at the end of 2027</p> <p>20 % of affected households decreased by end 2027</p>
<p>Specific objective 3: Enhance cultural co-creation and intercultural dialogue between the EU and Africa and among African countries, and facilitate greater cooperation to protect and promote cultural heritage.</p>		
<p>Expected Results</p>	<p>Indicators</p> <p>(All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)</p>	<p>Baseline & targets</p>

<p>R3.1: EU-Africa and intra-Africa cultural cooperation is strengthened, and intercultural dialogue and the cultural diversity are promoted across the continent.</p>	<p>3.1.1: Number of spaces for people-to-people exchange and co-creation created/supported.</p> <p>3.1.2: Number of participants in co-creation activities reporting a better understanding of the other continent (or regions/countries).</p>	<p>Target: increase the number of spaces for people-to-people exchange and co-creation by 50% by 2027.</p> <p>Target: increase levels of inter-cultural understanding in target populations by 50 % by end 2027</p>
<p>R3.2: African cultural heritage is protected and promoted, becoming a vector for social cohesion, stability, cultural tourism, jobs and sustainable growth.</p>	<p>3.2.1: Number of actors trained on cultural heritage protection and promotion, disaggregated by sex.</p> <p>3.2.2: Number of tangible and intangible cultural heritage protected and promoted (in selected countries/region).</p>	<p>Target: Increase the number of trained individuals on cultural protection and promotion in countries/region by 50% by the end of 2027</p> <p>Target: increase by 30% the number of tangible and/or intangible cultural heritage protected and promoted in countries/region by the end of 2027</p>

<p>Priority Area 3 – Green transition</p>		
<p>Specific objective 1: Strengthen climate resilience at continental level and support African climate action in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.</p>		
<p>Expected Results</p>	<p>Indicators (All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)</p>	<p>Baseline & targets</p>
<p>R.1.1: More effective regional policy frameworks, strategies and systems aiming at reducing GHG emissions and enhance</p>	<p>1.1.1. Number of NDCs, NAPs and LTS effectively upgraded and implemented.</p>	<p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>TBD through baseline and endline studies to be funded by the EU</p>

resilience vis-à-vis climate change.		
R.1.2: The capacity to anticipate, manage and respond to recurrent shocks (pest outbreak threats, food crises, natural hazards-related disasters) is strengthened.	1.2.1: The number of countries supported by the EU in applying IPC/CH for assessing the situation of food and nutrition insecurity.	Baseline: 0 TBD in action document
R.1.3: Effective solidarity mechanisms are strengthened, including Disaster Risk Financing (DRF).	1.3.1: Number of people (disaggregated by sex) covered with EU support during natural hazard related disaster or during food crisis.	Baseline: 0 TBD in action document

Specific objective 2: Support the development of an efficient, sustainable and resilient African energy sector.		
R.2.1: Higher share of renewable energy sources in primary energy production in SSA is promoted.	2.1.1: Renewable energy capacity enabled from EU support (in MW). (Indicator 5 EURF)	Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document, Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded intervention
R.2.2: Electricity market integration is improved and resilience of the energy grids is supported with the development of regional electricity markets, their decarbonisation and the crowding out of fossil fuels.	2.2.1: Transboundary energy exchanges and flows in the continent in MWh exchanged per year with EU support (proxy of market integration).	Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document, Means of verification: M&E system of EU-funded intervention
R.2.3: Increased access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services – for households (including for clean cooking) as well as for social services and productive uses.	2.3.1: Number of people with new and improved access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy enabled with EU support	Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document, Means of verification: M&E system of EU-funded intervention.

R.2.4: Energy efficiency is improved to save on resources for the energy production and to decouple resource and energy use from economic growth.	2.4.1: Annual energy savings in MWh (including inferred) because of energy efficiency measures with EU support.	Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document, Means of verification: M&E system of EU-funded intervention.
Specific objective 3: Support the transition towards more resilient and sustainable aquatic and agri-food systems (including for more affordable and healthier diets).		
R.3.1: Agricultural research-action lead to innovation, supporting the agro-ecological transition for climate resilient and sustainable agri-food systems; monitoring and learning is shared.	3.1.1: Number of research programmes supported by the EU for scaling innovation into agro-ecological transition and sustainable fish farms.	Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document. Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded intervention
R.3.2: Farmers organisations (FOs) are more prominent actors in promoting the agro-ecological transition and inclusive nutrition-sensitive value-chains (e.g. Farmers to Business and Farmers to Government dialogues).	3.2.1: Number of CSO networks involved in research and value chain and/or policy dialogues with EU support	Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document. Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded intervention
R.3.3: More sustainable agri-food systems inclusive of food conservation, processing, distribution and agri-food markets are promoted.	3.3.1: Number of studies/policy briefs published with EU support on agri and fisheries markets regulations and on post-harvest/catchment innovations	Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document. Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded intervention
R.3.4: Services provision to pastoral economies is strengthened.	3.4.1: Number of transhumance corridors supported by the EU with services provision.	Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document. Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded intervention

<p>R.3.5: African regions are able to address recurring and new plant and animal health diseases and pests (such as the Peste des Petits Ruminants - sheep and goat plague), for improved food security and safety, productivity, rural incomes and safer agricultural exports, favouring agro-ecological approaches and integrated pest management.</p>	<p>3.5.1: Number of public-private alliances effectively addressing plant and animal health (inclusive fisheries) with EU support</p> <p>3.5.2: Number of countries participating in International and regional processes and commitment thanks to EU support</p>	<p>Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document. Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded intervention</p>
<p>Specific objective 4: Improve biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and governance.</p>		
<p>R.4.1: A network of transboundary landscapes and ecological corridors (NaturAfrica) provides inclusive biodiversity conservation, protection and offers green economy opportunities to surrounding populations.</p>	<p>4.1.1: Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under protection with EU support (ha). (Indicator 9 EURF)</p>	<p>Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document. Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded intervention</p>
<p>R.4.2: Wildlife (flora and fauna) trafficking and sustainable use are better tackled through policy reforms, law enforcement and alternative livelihoods.</p>	<p>4.2.1: Number of trafficking of specimens of the main species of illicitly-traded wildlife from countries of intervention with EU support.</p>	<p>Baseline: 0 Target: decrease in trafficking of specimens of the main species of illicitly-traded wildlife from countries of intervention – TBD in action document Means of verification: public and NGO data from target countries (once identified in action document)</p>
<p>R.4.3: Planning, management, monitoring and research of biodiversity is strengthened, as well as on policy harmonization and implementation.</p>	<p>4.3.1: Number of people (disaggregated by gender) trained or capacitated with EU support on biodiversity, policy harmonization and implementation.</p>	<p>Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded intervention</p>
<p>R.4.4: Partner countries participate effectively in international and regional processes linked to Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) and improve their implementation</p>	<p>4.4.1: Number of countries participating in international and regional processes and commitments with EU support.</p>	<p>Baseline: 0 Target: TBD in action document when countries to be supported are determined Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded intervention</p>
<p>Specific objective 5: Improve the sustainable use and management of oceans, coastal zones, river basins and lakes.</p>		

<p>R.5.1: Ocean and water governance is enhanced in terms of regional cooperation and coordination on policies, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, research and data sharing.</p>	<p>5.1.1: Number of countries supported by the EU to participate and cooperate in international (including regional) mechanisms on ecosystem-based approaches to ocean and water resources management.</p>	<p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: TBD in action document when target countries are identified.</p> <p>Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded interventions</p>
	<p>5.1.3: Number of people with access to improved drinking water source and/or sanitation facility with EU support (Indicator 38 EURF)</p>	<p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: TBD in action document when target countries are identified.</p> <p>Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded interventions</p>
<p>R.5.2: Integrated water resource management, sustainable blue economy including integrated coastal zone management are promoted and developed through green and innovative integrated regional/transboundary approaches as well as through investments.</p>	<p>5.2.1 Number of smallholders reached with EU support interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land. (Indicator 1 EURF)</p> <p>5.2.2 Investments (m EUR/year) by sector (living resources, non-living resources, ocean energy, ports activities, shipbuilding and repair, maritime transport, and coastal tourism) in sustainable blue economy.</p> <p>5.2.3: Marine areas under sustainable management with EU support (km²) (Indicator 8 EURF)</p> <p>5.2.4: Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under sustainable management with EU support (km²)</p>	<p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>TBD in action document when target countries are identified.</p> <p>Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded interventions</p>

	(Indicator 9 EURF)	
R.5.3: Conservation and restoration of ocean, coastal, wetlands and inland water ecosystems are reinforced through regional networks and initiatives promoting nature-based solutions.	<p>5.3.1: Marine, coastal areas, under protection with EU support (km²). (Indicator 8 EURF)</p> <p>5.3.2: Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under protection with EU support (km²) (Indicator 9 EURF)</p>	<p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>Target: TBD in action document when target countries are identified.</p> <p>Means of verification: M&E systems of EU-funded interventions</p>

Priority Area 4 – Digital and Science, Technology and Innovation

Specific objective 1: Support an inclusive and human-centric Digital transformation in Africa.

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets
R.1.1: Secure, human-centric and harmonised digital standards, legal and regulatory frameworks are promoted at regional/continental levels.	<p>1.1.1: ICT Regulatory tracker for Sub-Saharan Africa (ITU) (Average of countries overall scores)</p> <p>1.1.2: Number of countries supported by the EU to a) develop and/or revise, b) implement digital-related policies/strategies/laws/regulations (EURF n°10).</p>	<p>Baseline: Score 2019 Target: increased score</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 15</p>
R.1.2: Equitable access to affordable, secure and quality digital infrastructures is enhanced.	<p>1.2.1: Percentage of individuals using the Internet (ITU).</p> <p>1.2.2: Length of optical fibre cables installed with investment support (Km) (source: ReM)</p>	<p>Baseline: 18,712% (2017 score) Target: increased rate by 25%</p> <p>Baseline: 0 Target: 30.000 km</p>

Specific objective 2: Enhance the effective use of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for sustainable development in Africa.		
R.2.1: A scientific knowledge-based and innovation-led society is enhanced in Africa	Number of STI-related organizations, platforms and networks benefiting from EU support to increase their capacities.	Baseline: 0 Target: 20
R.2.2: Africa cross-sectorial development is improved by making effective use of STI and data driven services	Number of STI and data driven services aimed at meeting green transition and public health needs/challenges developed (and in use) with EU support.	Baseline: 0 Target: 20
R.2.3: Effective STI governance in Africa is promoted	Number of continental / regional initiatives for effective STI governance supported by the EU	Baseline: 0 Target: 5

Priority Area 5 – Sustainable Growth and Decent Jobs

Specific Objective 1: Increase sustainable intra-African trade and mobility, making them safer, cheaper, faster, fairer and greener; and strengthen Africa- EU trade.

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets
	(All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)	
R.1.1: Country, regional and continental actors have improved capacity to effectively manage and implement the existing economic agreements (AfCFTA, regional measures, (i-)EPAs and multilateral agreements) in coherence with the continental economic integration process.	1.1.1: Ind. 16 EURF - Number of processes related to partner country practices on trade, investment and business, or promoting the external dimension of EU internal policies or EU interest, which have been influenced.	Baseline : 0 Target : 100
R.1.2: Trade facilitation is improved and customs administration is strengthened across African countries at continental, regional and cross-border level.	1.2.1: ‘Doing Business Trading across borders’ score of Sub Saharan African countries . (Average) Data source: World Bank.	Baseline: 53.6 (2020) ²² Target: 60

²² <https://www.doingbusiness.org/en/data/exploretopics/trading-across-borders>.

R.1.3: Sustainable regional and multi-country infrastructure for land, air, and water transport is reinforced.	1.3.1: Ind.19 EURF - Total length of transport infrastructure supported by the EU (kms): a) roads; b) railways; c) waterways.	Baseline: 0 Target : 8000 km
R.1.4: Sustainable, smart, resilient, fair, secure and safe mobility and transport are further promoted and land, air and water transport regulatory frameworks are strengthened.	1.4.1: Number of pieces of national legislation on harmonising standards or liberalising services related to transport (road, maritime, aviation, waterways, railways) that transpose continental or regional acts and have been developed or revised with EU support Data source: National reviews	Baseline: 0 Target: 100.
R.1.5: Non-tariff barriers are reduced.	1.5.1: Proportion of companies in Sub Saharan Africa that report facing non-tariff measures related obstacles to trade. Data source: International Trade Centre, non-tariff measures surveys.	Baseline: Average 65% Target : Decrease
R.1.6: Liberalisation of trade in services progresses and digital trade is facilitated.	1.6.1: Number of SSA countries and RECs supported by the EU to a) develop and/or revise, b) implement services liberalisation or digital-trade policies/ strategies/ laws/ regulations. Data source: Program reviews	Baseline: 0 Target: 10
R.1.7: Accompanying trade related policies are harmonised in order to strengthen the continent's business environment and foster investment.	1.7.1: Number of SSA countries supported by the EU to adopt legal frameworks and policies on intellectual property.	Baseline : 0 Target : 10
R.1.8: Improved availability of economic and trade statistics to monitor intra- and extra-African trade.	1.8.1: Number of countries supported by the EU to improve their capacities to collect harmonised trade statistics.	Baseline: 0 Target : 10
Specific Objective 2: Increased sustainable integration of African markets and macro-economic reforms		

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets
	(All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)	
R.2.1: Progress is achieved in movement of capital within a regulated framework.	2.1.1: Number of SSA countries supported by the EU to adopt legal frameworks and policies on cross-border capital flows.	Baseline : 0 Target : 10
R.2.2: Progress is achieved in labour mobility.	2.2.1: Number of SSA countries supported by the EU to adopt legal frameworks and policies on cross-border capital flows. Data source: official government publications and expert analysis as part of the intervention M&E system.	Baseline : 0 Target : 10
R.2.3: Accelerated monetary and fiscal integration processes.	2.3.1: Ind. 20 EURF- Number of countries supported by the EU to strengthen revenue mobilisation, public financial management and/or budget transparency.	Baseline : 0 Target : 10
R.2.4: Enhanced expertise and policy dialogue for effective macro-economic reforms.	2.4.1. Ind.21 EURF- Number of EU funded initiatives supporting the implementation of political economic and social reforms and joint agreements in partner countries.	Baseline: 0 Target: 1
R.2.5: Enhanced sectoral macro-economic policies for transformative economies.	2.5.1: Ind.21 EURF- Number of EU funded initiatives supporting the implementation of political economic and social reforms and joint agreements in partner countries.	Baseline: 0 Target: 1
Specific Objective 3: An investment climate in Sub-Saharan Africa conducive to sustainable private sector development and investments, and improved business capacities and access to finance for MSMEs.		
Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets
	(All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)	

R.3.1: Improved investment climate, regional market intelligence and identification of barriers to investments.	3.1.1: Number of studies, analyses, networks and indexes supported in the field of market intelligence and public-private dialogues	Baseline : 0 Target: 30
R.3.2: Regional support measures for MSMEs business capacities are enhanced at continental and regional level.	3.2.1: Number of business incubators programmes or MSMEs support measures supported.	Baseline: 0 Target: 15
R.3.3: Improved access to finance and investment readiness at the regional/continental level.	3.3.3: Number of programmes in support of the development of bankable projects.	Baseline: 0 Target: 2
R.3.4 Improved regional environmental and social standards for responsible business conduct.	3.4.1: Number of policies/legal frameworks strengthened/adopted/implemented with EU support at regional/continental level targeting responsible business conduct.	Baseline: 0 Target: 10

Priority Area 6 – Migration and forced displacement

Specific objective 1: Contribute to strengthening migration management, migration policy, and migration governance in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets
	(All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)	
R1.1: Improved protection and assistance to migrants stranded in destination/transit countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including to returnees, as well as enhanced sustainable reintegration support to returnees (and their host communities) in their countries of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa in line with the EU strategy of voluntary return and reintegration, including by strengthening third countries' national systems and capacities for return, readmission and reintegration systems of these countries,	<p>1.1.1: Number (and share out of total number of returns) of voluntary returns to countries of origin in Sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <p>1.1.2 Number and reach of reintegration measures adopted in support of returnees and host communities.</p> <p>1.1.3 Number of actions taken to support national systems and capacities in relation to</p>	TBD

<p>in full respect of fundamental values and human rights.</p>	<p>return, readmission and reintegration</p>	
<p>R.1.2: Improved evidence-based programming and policy-making on migration based on regional research, data gathering and management.</p>	<p>1.2.1: Number of sustainable reintegration processes embedded in national development processes and national initiatives.</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>R.1.3: Strengthened political dialogues and continued high-level engagement at continental, cross-regional, regional, or sub-regional level on issues of common concern in the field of migration.</p>	<p>1.3.1: Number of dialogues created or supported to improve migration governance and management.</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>R.1.4: Improved rights-based and effective migration governance and management, through legal frameworks, enhanced policies and capacities within Africa, at continental, regional, country, and local levels – including in migrant protection, improved border management, countering irregular migration, as well as awareness raising of the dangers of and alternatives to irregular migration.</p>	<p>1.4.1: Number of authorities and civil society organisations supported to improve migration governance and management.</p> <p>1.4.2: Number of stranded migrants and displaced persons assisted.</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>R.1.5: Combatting trafficking in human beings and fighting against smuggling of migrants within and from the African continent is strengthened.</p>	<p>1.5.1: Number of victims of trafficking in human beings identified, and referred to assistance, support and protection services</p> <p>1.5.2: Number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions for trafficking in human beings, as well as cross-border and international operational and judicial cooperation</p>	<p>TBD</p>

	<p>1.5.3 Number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions for smuggling of migrants, as well as cross-border and international operational and judicial cooperation</p> <p>1.5.3 Number of institutions supported to prevent and fight migrant smuggling or THB (through capacity building, technical equipment)</p> <p>1.5.4 Number of counter smuggling or THB initiatives (Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnerships, Common Operational Partnerships, joint operations, information and awareness raising campaigns) supported</p> <p>1.5.5 Number of mechanisms for information exchange in relation to migrant smuggling and THB that have been developed and / or implemented</p>	
R.1.6: Legal migration and mobility between Africa and the European Union, as well as within and outside of Africa is well managed and strengthened.	<p>1.6.1: Number of migrants supported to move through legal pathways.</p> <p>1.6.2: Number of initiatives supported to improve labour and legal migration.</p>	TBD
R.1.7: Strengthened continental, regional, and multi-country networks that support actions related to migration and development, including initiatives of CSOs and LAs.	1.7.1: Number of civil society organisations supported in areas related to migration and development.	TBD
Specific objective 2: Address protection and long-term needs and support durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations (refugees and IDPs) and host communities.		
Expected Results	Indicators	Baseline & targets

	(All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)	
R2.1: Refugee and asylum seekers needs and rights are addressed in a balanced, coherent, comprehensive and coordinated manner aiming at the implementation of the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) and its comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF).	2.1.1: Number of refugees, asylum seekers or individuals from host communities provided with basic services. 2.1.2: Number of refugees, asylum seekers or individuals from host communities assisted to become self-reliant.	TBD
R.2.2: Nationally-owned durable solutions for IDPs and host populations supported in full respect of human rights and principle of complementarity.	2.2.1: Number of IDPS voluntarily returned and/or reintegrated.	TBD
R.2.3: Strengthened regional research, evidence and analysis and the improvement of data gathering, collection and analysis on forced displacement disaggregated to reflect the broader sociodemographic profile of displaced populations.	2.3.1: Number of research produced to provide evidence for informed programming on forced displacement	TBD
R.2.4: Stronger political dialogue at continental, cross-regional, regional, or sub-regional level on forced displacement.	2.4.1: Number of dialogues on durable solutions for the forcibly displaced created or supported	TBD
Specific objective 3: Strengthen EU migration partnerships and dialogue with relevant origin, transit, destination and/or host countries of the region through the implementation of a flexible funding mechanism.		
Expected Results	Indicators (All indicators related to individuals will be disaggregated by sex and age)	Baseline & targets

<p>R.3.1: Partner countries capacities to tackle migration and/or forced displacement challenges identified in migration dialogues with the EU are strengthened, including at sub-national level.</p>	<p>3.1.1: Number of actions launched in reaction to new migration and forced displacement crisis.</p>	<p>TBD</p>
<p>R.3.2: EU cooperation with partner countries on migration and forced displacement is enhanced through country and local actions.</p>	<p>3.2.1: Number of country initiatives financed to support outputs of bilateral EU dialogues on migration and forced displacement.</p>	<p>TBD</p>