

Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration in Northern Africa

Key results:

- Vulnerable and stranded migrants in North Africa return home safely, voluntarily and in dignity to their respective countries of origin
- Returning migrants are reintegrated in North Africa and selected countries of origin.
- partner countries and relevant stakeholders in North Africa increasingly exercise responsibility for and manage migrant return, readmission, and sustainable reintegration.

Justification for support:

- Augment DK support in Northern Africa in accordance with DK priorities on supporting the external dimension of migration in this region thereby also promoting a new asylum system.
- Support national and regional actions of the European Union-International Organization for Migration Joint Initiative (EU-IOM Joint Initiative) in North Africa funded by the EU Trust Fund for Africa.

Major risks and challenges:

- i) Risk: Data, research and some publications might include findings which can be sensitive or misinterpreted by authorities of the host countries or the countries of origin.
- i) Mitigation: Close coordination and inclusion (as much as possible) with relevant authorities
- ii) Risk: Changes in political setting and context.
- ii) Mitigation: A communication strategy will be implemented to ensure that partner countries and the general public (both in Europe and in Africa) has a clear understanding of the activities under the MPRR, in particular as regards a human-rights centred approach and the provision of protection and other services to vulnerable migrants.

File No.	23/30555					
Country	Algeria, Libya and Morocco					
Responsible Unit	Migration Task Force					
Sector	Migration					
Partner	IOM					
	DKK million	2023	2024	2025	Total	
Commitment	20				20	
Projected disbursement	20				20	
Duration	1 January 2024 – 31 December 2025					
Previous grants	N/A					
Finance Act code	§06.32.10.13					
Head of unit	Nicolaj A. Hejberg Petersen					
Desk officer	Christian P. Arnesen					
Reviewed by CFO	YES: Andreas Stabursvik					
Relevant SDGs	[Maximum 1 – highlight with grey]					
	 No Poverty	 No Hunger	 Good Health, Wellbeing	 Quality Education	 Gender Equality	 Clean Water, Sanitation
	 Affordable Clean Energy	 Decent Jobs, Econ. Growth	 Industry, Innovation, Infrastructure	 Reduced Inequalities	 Sustainable Cities, Communities	 Responsible Consumption & Production
	 Climate Action	 Life below Water	 Life on Land	 Peace & Justice, strong Inst.	 Partnerships for Goals	

Strategic objectives

The overall objective is that vulnerable and stranded migrants from North Africa safely and voluntarily return to and from North Africa, and that returnees sustainably re-integrate into their countries of origin. Furthermore, the programme aims to facilitate and promote that partner countries and relevant stakeholders in North Africa increasingly exercise responsibility for and manage migrant return, readmission, and sustainable reintegration.

Environment and climate targeting - Principal objective (100%); Significant objective (50%)

	Climate adaptation	Climate mitigation	Biodiversity	Other green/environment
Indicate 0, 50% or 100%	0	0	0	0
Total green budget (DKK)	0	0	0	0

Justification for choice of partner:

IOM is the leading UN organization in the field of migration including assistance to voluntary return and reintegration. IOM has a strong presence in Northern Africa and is a strategic actor of the EU-Africa partnership on the enhancement of migration governance between Europe and Africa, specifically on protection, return and reintegration.

Summary:

The main aim of the Danish support is that vulnerable and stranded migrants from North Africa safely and voluntarily return to and from North Africa, and returnees sustainably re-integrate into their countries of origin. The Danish support provides a top-up to the programme funded by the EU Commission based in requests from DG NEAR for bilateral support from EU member states.

Budget (engagement as defined in FMI):

Subtotal operations	DKK 12,294,465.22
Subtotal Staff, travel, office and other costs	DKK 6,397,123.57
Remuneration (maximum 7% of 7, subtotal of direct eligible costs of the Action)	DKK 1,308,411.21
Total	DKK 20.000.000



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

Description of the Action:

MIGRANT PROTECTION, RETURN AND REINTEGRATION IN NORTH AFRICA (MPRR-NA)

Danish contribution to the MPRR-NA programme

Project type:	Return and Reintegration Assistance for Migrants and Governments (RR)
Secondary project type:	Protection and Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants (PX)
Geographical Coverage:	The Action shall be carried out in North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia. The Danish contribution will be supporting activities in Algeria, Libya and Morocco.
Executing agency:	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Beneficiaries:	Returnees, stranded migrants, host and transit communities in the target countries of the Action, national stakeholders
Partner(s):	Algeria: Private sector, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, local collectivities, and Territory planning, Ministry of Health, international and local NGOs/Civil Society, UN (members of UN Migration Network, UNICEF, UNHCR), Embassies, EU Delegation in Algiers. Egypt: Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity, Ministry of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriate's Affairs, The National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons, Egyptian National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, Egyptian Red Crescent, GIZ Egypt and Embassies in Egypt. Libya: UNCHR, UNICEF, Embassies, <u>consulates</u> , local and International NGOs and civil society Morocco: Ministry of Interior of Morocco, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity, Diplomatic representations of the countries of return of the beneficiaries, Entraide Nationale, Office de la Formation Professionnelle et de la Promotion du Travail (OFFPT), Agence

	Nationale de Promotion de l'Emploi et des Compétences (ANAPEC), and Agence de Développement Social (ADS), and local and international CSO and agencies in Morocco (MS2, ASTICUDE and AMPF), the Ministry of Youth, GIZ. Tunisia: MoFA , MoI – Ministry of social affairs – Ministry of Women, Family and Elderly – MoH- Office des Tunisiens à l'Etranger (OTE) – National Observatory for Migrations – Governors of Tunis, Sfax, Medenine and Tataouine – Office National de la Famille et de la Population, and Civil Society and International Organizations : UNHCR-UNICEF- UNFPA- Terre d'Asile Tunisie – Caritas- Beity – Amal- Avocats sans frontières- Médecins du Monde – CEFA – Save the Children – Association Tunisienne des droits de l'enfants – GIZ – OFII – Psychologues du Monde – Tunisian Red Crescent – UNODC – Instance Nationale de Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes (INLTP).
Management site:	IOM Regional Office for MENA based in Cairo, Egypt
Duration:	48 Months, including 24 months supported by the Danish contribution.
Budget:	<p>Total estimated cost: EUR 70 6600002</p> <p>Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 68 000 000</p> <p>Total amount of Danish Government contribution: 20 000 000 Danish Krone (equivalent EUR 2 660000 end October 2023)</p>

1. Summary

The **Overall Objective** of this Action is that vulnerable and stranded migrants from North Africa safely and voluntarily return to and from North Africa, and returnees sustainably reintegrate into their countries of origin.

The **Outcomes** of the Action are:

Outcome 1: Vulnerable and stranded migrants in North Africa return home safely, voluntarily and in dignity to their respective countries of origin;

Outcome 2: Returning migrants are reintegrated in North Africa and selected countries of origin¹;

Outcome 3: Partner countries and relevant stakeholders in North Africa increasingly exercise responsibility for and manage migrant return, readmission, and sustainable reintegration.

The present funding contribution from Denmark will directly contribute to outcomes 1 and 2.

The Action responds to one of the key priority areas of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum's (the New Pact)² external dimension on "fostering cooperation on readmission and reintegration" and its comprehensive EU strategy on voluntary return and reintegration³.

It is aligned with the partnership approach of the Joint Communication on a Renewed Partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood⁴, adopted on 9 February 2021, where migration and mobility are indicated as a priority area.

This Action also feeds into the Strategy for Denmark's engagement with the International Organization for Migration 2023-2026 and Objective 2 of Denmark's policy for development cooperation 2021-2025, The World We Share: "Fight irregular migration and help more people better along key migration routes", in particular its components related to cooperation with North African countries and helping more people along key migration routes.

The Action also builds on the national and regional actions of the European Union-International Organization for Migration Joint Initiative (EU-IOM Joint Initiative) in North Africa funded by the EU Trust Fund for Africa, and is guided by the principles of ownership, aid effectiveness, sustainability, complementarity, comprehensiveness, coherence, and responsibility-sharing, particularly with partners working in the fields of migrant protection, return and reintegration.

IOM is a strategic actor of the EU-Africa partnership on the enhancement of migration governance between Europe and Africa, specifically on protection, return and reintegration. Proposed interventions are in line with IOM's Policy on the Full Spectrum of Return, Readmission and Reintegration (2021)⁵, 2) The IOM Regional Strategy for the Middle East and North Africa (2020-2024)⁶, 3) IOM's Integrated approach to Reintegration and IOMs approach to protection which builds

¹ Return migration: In the context of international migration, the movement of persons returning to their country of origin after having moved away from their place of habitual residence and crossed an international border. In the context of internal migration, the movement of persons returning to their place of habitual residence after having moved away from it. [iml_34_glossary.pdf \(iom.int\)](#)

on good practices, lessons learnt and gains from current programming on both policy and operational levels,

Specifically, proposed interventions on reintegration are in line with 1) The Regional Integrated Reintegration Approach for North Africa (Annex 1), and 2) IOM Country Level Reintegration Approach for Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. (Annexes 2 a,b,c)

The Action also aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which refers to "the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship" and the obligations of States "to ensure that their returning nationals are duly received" and their commitment to ensure, including through international cooperation, "safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons" (goal 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goal 10 on migration policies). It further supports the objectives of the Global Compact on Migration, notably by contributing to "facilitating dignified and sustainable return, readmission and reintegration", as laid out in the Final Draft.

The Action will envisage leveraging and supporting the trilateral partnership between the AU, the EU and the UN on migration and protection interventions, to promote a balanced approach aligned with shared migration priorities. To support migration governance at regional and cross-regional levels, IOM will also act as a convener, linking with and facilitating migration policy dialogue between the EU and partner countries (including the AU and relevant RECs, Academia/experts).

The Action is also in line with African Member States priorities outlined in relevant National Migration Policies, as well as other reintegration policies. The Action will take into account the African Union Guidelines on Reintegration, supported under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, once they will be finalised.

Finally, the Action is in line with the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) Objective 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration of migrants. Return, readmission, and reintegration have gained prominence within the migration governance and development strategies of many governments worldwide since the adoption of the GCM. In May 2022, during the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), Member States recognized the difficulties and complexities of reaching Objective 21 of the GCM. They noted that some of the challenges that remain are insufficient data on returnees and indicators that measure successful reintegration. The Progress Declaration stated that limited progress has been made in enhancing bilateral and international cooperation to determine clear and mutually agreed procedures that uphold procedural safeguards, guarantee individual assessments and legal certainty.

In response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, some States adapted the provision of assistance (including reintegration) to migrants, while others have temporarily suspended forced returns and provided visa and work permit extensions, temporary residence or other forms of regular status; as well as releasing people from immigration detention and finding safe, noncustodial alternative accommodations for them in the community rather than seeking their deportation. IOM has adapted its response by advocating for and ensuring continued access to protection services, including voluntary return, and reintegration assistance with different modalities such as cash-based interventions when needed. IOM also scaled up its capacity to respond to arising needs through existing programmes and new programmes, including EU-funded.

At the same time, however, return and reintegration processes continue to sometimes be de-linked, reintegration support varies greatly from country to country, and is sometimes unavailable or insufficient to address the specific rights and needs of migrants and their communities, which can also open the path for re-migration of some of them. How returns take place, and how individually adapted reintegration support is provided, will determine whether reintegration is sustainable - especially in the case of children.

This Action will build on IOM's extensive experience in design and delivery of Migrant Protection and Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes and Voluntary Humanitarian Returns (VHR) in Libya and the accumulated experience including achievements, best practices, lessons learned and insights gained from current programmes, such as IOM-EU Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, Cooperation on Migration and Partnerships to Achieve Sustainable Solutions (COMPASS) programme⁷, and the Regional Response to COVID-19 in North African Countries⁸. All assistance is provided according to IOM policies and guidelines; specifically responding to the RRR, DPP, AVM, counselling and Reintegration handbook.

The proposed Action will focus on the following areas:

- Protection and direct assistance to vulnerable migrants stranded in North Africa. This area will be supported through the funding from Denmark in Algeria.
- Assisted Voluntary Return under this Action will only take place from Northern African countries (i.e., migrants returning from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia to their respective countries of origin). This area will be supported through the funding from Denmark in Algeria and Morocco.
- Voluntary Humanitarian Return will only take place from Libya.
- Complementary reintegration activities will be open to North African nationals returning to their respective country of origin in North Africa (i.e., returning to and receiving reintegration assistance in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia), only where gaps are identified and when not sufficiently covered by other reintegration programs (including EU or EU MS-funded initiatives) and partners. The action will especially target those who are in vulnerable situations such as unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs), potential and/or victims of trafficking (VoTs), victims of gender-based violence, single parents, pregnant women or with young children, migrants in need of medical and/or psychological assistance. This area will be supported through the funding from Denmark in Morocco.
- Reintegration activities for migrants wishing to return home from North African countries to other regions will be provided either through the existing or future EU-funded programmes supporting reintegration in the Sahel/Lake Chad and Horn of Africa' regions, including the Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration programme in Sub-Saharan Africa (MPRR-SSA), or other regions, or through this Action for nationals of countries where such an EU-funded reintegration Initiative is non-existent. This area will be supported through the funding from Denmark in Algeria, Morocco and Libya.
- Capacity building of national counterparts including regional, national and local authorities, and civil society organizations.

2. Rationale

Overall Context

In September 2016, the 193 United Nations Member States adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, recognizing the need for a comprehensive approach to human mobility and enhanced cooperation at the global level. It paved the way for the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in December 2018 a non-binding agreement which contains numerous commitments on protection and assistance for migrants in situations of vulnerability, including addressing and reducing vulnerabilities in migration; preventing human trafficking; strengthening screening, assessment and referral; enhancing consular protection and assistance; providing access to basic services; and safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration. It provides a more concrete roadmap to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development targets related to migration and migrant vulnerability, in particular target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

In parallel, in November 2015, in the wake of the migration crisis, the Valletta Summit on migration brought together European and African heads of state and government to strengthen cooperation and address the challenges. The EU emergency trust fund (EUTF) for Africa was launched to address the root causes of forced displacement and irregular migration and to contribute to better migration management. In August 2018, in response to the increasing demand for protection services, in particular voluntary and humanitarian return from North Africa, as well as the needs to improve reintegration opportunities for North African returnees, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration regional contract in North Africa was launched. The programme aimed to contribute to the strengthening of migrant protection and sustainable reintegration systems in North Africa, in line with GCM Objective 21 in particular: "Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration". The importance of the GCM objective was stressed during the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in May 2022 as participating governments committed to strengthening their efforts to cooperate for safe and dignified return, as well as, ensuring that their nationals are duly received and readmitted, in full respect for the human right to return to one's own country and the obligation of States to readmit their own nationals, and accelerating those efforts so that returning migrants are assisted in their sustainable reintegration process through effective partnerships.

Three years and a global pandemic later, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in North Africa had supported almost 13,000 migrants to meet their immediate protection needs, and 22,645 migrants to voluntarily return from North Africa to their countries of origin, where IOM supported with the provision of reintegration services². In North Africa, IOM made significant headway in building its partnership with North African governments towards systems and capacity strengthening for sustainable reintegration, notably through regional and national fora as well as agreements with relevant authorities. This has enabled the provision of reintegration assistance to 400 North African returnees by May 2022. In addition, close to 3,000 migrants returning from North Africa to countries where no EU-funded

² Numbers from the EU-IOM JI in North Africa Third interim report, up to August 2021. Overall, by May 2022, IOM had supported the return of more than 49,000 migrants from North Africa since 2017 under the EU-IOM Joint initiative.

reintegration Programme is in place have received reintegration support from the EU-IOM Joint Initiative North Africa over the same period.

While significant progress has been made in the provision of protection services, including safe and dignified return and sustainable reintegration, the COVID-19 pandemic increased the drivers of irregular migration. Socio-economic conditions worsened in many countries, including North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, and opportunities to move through regular pathways have reduced. Therefore, while travel restrictions were lifted and regular mobility patterns returned to their pre-pandemic levels, irregular and unsafe movements along the Central and Western Mediterranean and West African routes increased in 2021³. IOM estimates that more than 600 migrants have gone missing or lost their lives trying to cross the Western and Central Mediterranean in the first 4 months of 2022, a higher number than during the same period of 2021⁴. This has also led to worsening the conditions of migrants in North African countries, increased vulnerabilities and protection risks⁵. In addition, younger people now embark on migration journeys, often on their own. According to a joint IOM, UNHCR and UNICEF report, in 2021, some 24,100 children arrived in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain, and 71% of them were unaccompanied or separated. Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia figure among the main countries of origin of those Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASCs)⁶. Tunisia has also experienced record high arrivals on UASCs by land from Algeria. As evidenced largely for children and youth on the move via the Mediterranean Sea routes to Europe, the journey is marked by high levels of abuse, trafficking, and exploitation⁷.

Additionally, the increased number of migrants in country led to an intensification of controls of migrants' status in migrant neighborhoods and workplaces. In July tensions arose in Sfax city after the murder of a Tunisian man by a group of migrants leading to several security incidents and protests from host communities against migrants present in Sfax.

In **Egypt**, the Sudan crisis that started in April 2023 has led IOM Egypt to complement the planned activities with responding to humanitarian immediate needs as the main receiving mission for IOM Egypt is Sudan with a total number of 474 Sudanese returnees since January 2022 until end of March 2023. The IOM returns to Sudan have been suspended after the crisis which is affecting the number of returns under the project. However, IOM is the leading agency in Egypt with regard to returns of Third Country Nationalities (TCNs) from Sudan to their country of origin. Despite this, the overall returns number has decreased in 2023 compared to 2022. Additionally, the demand for direct assistance in Egypt has increased since the beginning of the crisis. Until end of August 2023, 59,458

³ Benton, Meghan, Samuel Davidoff-Gore, Jeanne Batalova, Lawrence Huang and Jie Zong. 2022. [COVID-19 and the State of Global Mobility in 2021](#). Washington, D.C., and Geneva: Migration Policy Institute and International Organization for Migration. p.2, p.33

⁴ <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/region/mediterranean>, accessed on May 25th, 2022.

⁵ IOM, May 2021, [Assessing the Socio-Economic Impact of Covid-19 on Migrants and Displaced Populations in the MENA Region](#).

⁶ [Europe — Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe - Overview of Trends \(January — December 2021\) | Flow Monitoring \(iom.int\)](#)

⁷ IOM and UNICEF, 2017: [Harrowing Journeys: Children and youth on the move across the Mediterranean Sea, at risk of trafficking and exploitation | IOM Publications Platform](#)

Sudanese (17,096 families) have registered for IOM direct assistance services such as multipurpose cash, education assistance for their children, housing assistance and medical assistance.

Driven by these factors, the demand for protection assistance, in particular for voluntary return, has increased over the past three years in all North African countries. Return and reintegration is widely recognized as the sustainable solutions for stranded irregular migrants and is a vital alternative to otherwise dangerous and often inhumane attempts at further irregular migration⁸. It provides an efficient and safe mobility pathway for migrants and ensures that they can return home in a safe and humane manner.

North African countries have reiterated the need to boost efforts on this regard during the IMRF discussions. **Algeria** said it is working with the UN Network on Migration on developing a cooperation mechanism for the voluntary return of migrants and creating economic development projects, strengthening cooperation to ensure addressing local needs. **Morocco** voiced the need to accelerate the process of integration and cooperation and increase the role of data and information that are reliable and can inform policies to eliminate discriminatory discourses. **Egypt** expressed the need to prioritize the question of protection taking in consideration the situation with COVID-19 and economic situation globally. **Tunisia** also said it is working on reducing the structural factors that lead migrants to take irregular pathways.

The EU stated that it is working on stepping up returns and paving the way for safe, orderly, and regular migration, including by launching Talent Partnerships with key third countries, as well as providing opportunities at home, especially jobs for young people and supporting partners to build capacity on migration.

Among those attempting the crossing in the Central and Western Mediterranean routes, Algerians, Egyptians, Tunisians, and Moroccans were in the first 10 nationalities of arrival to Europe in the first half of 2022⁹, reflecting the impact of COVID-19 on unemployment and socio-economic conditions in North Africa. 22.13% of unaccompanied migrant children arriving in Italy were Egyptians in August 2023. In the first five months of 2022 alone, IOM facilitated the return of 670 North Africans to their countries of origin, indicating a return to pre-pandemic return rates. In addition, North Africans are among the top nationalities likely to seek return support. According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), North African migrants (mainly Egyptians and Sudanese nationals) represented 35% of the total migrant stock in Libya, and Egyptians remained the second largest migrant group in Libya at the beginning of 2022¹⁰. Algerians and Moroccans were the first two nationalities of non-EU citizens ordered to leave the EU in 2021. The effect of return migration on North African countries was compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in Egypt, the estimated return of 1 million migrants (mainly from Gulf countries) due to COVID-19 to an already strained labor market also led to

⁸ United Nations General Assembly Resolution (2016) [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#); United Nations General Assembly Resolution (2018) [Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration](#); UN Migration Position Paper (2021) [Ensuring Safe and Dignified Return and Sustainable Reintegration](#); European Commission COM (2020) 609 [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#); European Commission COM/2021/120 final - [The EU strategy on voluntary return and reintegration](#); International Organization for Migration (IOM) [Policy on the Full Spectrum of Return, Readmission and Reintegration](#) (2021)

⁹ <https://migration.iom.int/europe/arrivals>, accessed on July 26th, 2022.

¹⁰ [DTM Libya R40 Migrant Report FINAL.pdf \(iom.int\)](#)

a decrease in remittances¹¹. Creating conducive conditions for the sustainable reintegration of North African returnees into community life and the contribution of returnees to local development objectives is key for North African economies. Although government engagement on reintegration in the region remains tinted by legal obstacles and competing political priorities, it is evident that North African governments value the development potential of well governed return and reintegration processes that benefit migrants, return communities and overall national economies, while also acknowledging international obligations and commitments to the protection of vulnerable returning nationals¹².

Through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, in complementarity with other IOM efforts, IOM has built capacity to facilitate safe and dignified returns, and sustainable reintegration, through an increasingly strong partnership with national authorities. Throughout the programme, learning exercises have enabled IOM to improve its programming, and feed into this Action. In January 2021, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative organized a remote learning review to discuss progress, challenges and analysis of the data collected. In the spring and summer of 2021, a Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) review commissioned by DG NEAR led to a management response to orient the last 18 months of the programme. In Spring 2022, the Regional Coordination Unit organized an internal Programme Diagnosis exercise to gather evidence and supporting information to shape and strengthen future funding opportunities with robust regional programme design, contribute to the design of a contextualized reintegration strategy in each North African country, and feed into the planning of M&E capacity strengthening strategy across the region. In addition to the routine collection of monitoring data, these exercises have highlighted a number of best practices and lessons learned upon which this Action is built. Across all countries, this Action will seek to ensure lessons learned are addressed and best practices are replicated wherever possible, such as:

- The use of innovative solutions for outreach, in addition to highlighting the role of communication activities in informing potential beneficiaries and their communities, as well as bringing return and reintegration issues to the media and policy agenda.
- Enhanced preparations for reintegration with training and virtual counseling.
- Leveraging governments' high-level commitments in the context of the GCM and IMRF, as well as emulation among North African governments, to advocate for capacity building plans at the technical level.

Algeria

Context

Strategically positioned between the Sahel and Europe, Algeria is an important transit and destination country for Sub-Saharan migrants, mostly from Niger, Mali, and other West and Central African countries. Continued instability in Libya and in the Sahel region have particularly intensified migration flows to Algeria in the last few years. The long and perilous journey across the desert, coupled with the difficulties in access to regular work opportunities, leaves many migrants stranded in Algeria, often

¹¹ [Forced Returns: COVID-19 Puts International Labor Migrants at Risk – The Cairo Review of Global Affairs](#)

¹² IOM Regional Integrated Reintegration Strategy for North Africa. 2022

in vulnerable conditions and unable to continue their journey onwards, or return to their Country of Origin (CoO) in a safe and dignified way.

With an estimated migrant population of around 100,000 (according to some sources up to 500,000), Algeria is considered both a transit and destination country for mainly sub-Saharan migrants. There are two main routes that are commonly used for migrants to arrive in Algeria, through its southern borders with Mali and Niger. During their journey, many migrants face significant risks along the routes, including violence, exploitation, and abuse at the hands of smugglers, traffickers, and others. Migrants from Sub Saharan countries often end up stranded in Algeria and find themselves with limited resources and options. These migrants are particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, including forced labour and sex trafficking. Undocumented sub-Saharan migrants, primarily from Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, Liberia, and Nigeria are most vulnerable to labor and sex trafficking in Algeria, mainly due to their irregular migration status, poverty, and in some cases language barriers¹³.

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)

During 2021, a total of 1,967 migrants were assisted to voluntarily return to their countries of origin. Among the 1,967 individuals, 88% were men, 6% were women, 4% were boys, 3% were girls, and 0.2% have identified themselves as LGBTQ+.

Since its establishment in 2016, IOM's office in Algeria has provided AVRR support to a growing number of migrants, assisting them to voluntarily return to their CoO and providing the basis for sustainable reintegration. With a decrease in COVID-19 infection and milder variants of the virus, the number of requests for protection services and Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) from Algeria is increasing. The average number of calls to the IOM Algeria hotline is 150 per day. It comes in addition to 250 migrants visiting the IOM office in average per week and up to 7,053 registrations for AVRR per year. Learning exercises from the EU-IOM Joint Initiative have highlighted best practices such as IOM's outreach programme, which allowed to identify important needs in the country, as well as the government's interest and good coordination for the AVR programme. This Action will enable IOM Algeria to scale up its protection and AVR programmes and capitalize on its good referral network. IOM Algeria will continue working closely with the Ministry of Health while sensitizing the government of Algeria to the question of reintegration of Algerians and providing individual reintegration assistance based on needs.

Gender / Year	Returns from Algeria to Country of Origin							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan - Aug)	Grand Total
Female	10	38	85	89	160	93	122	597
Male	36	180	740	673	1,807	1,213	963	5,612
Grand Total	46	218	825	762	1,967	1,306	1,085	6,209

¹³ Le trafic illicite de migrants le long de la route de la méditerranée centrale: enjeux, défis et perspectives.

Egypt

Context

Egypt's positioning between the Middle East, East Africa and Europe makes the country a key destination and a common transit route in terms of migration movements. According to IOM study "Triangulation of Migrants stock in Egypt Report" – July 2022, Egypt is currently hosting more than nine million international migrants¹⁴ with a diverse population originating from 133 different countries, including Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and other countries across MENA and countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. This statistic is used by the government of Egypt and the Prime minister of Egypt Mostafa Madbouly at several occasions.¹⁵

Egypt is itself an origin country for irregular migration, with recent strategic challenges in the country leaving many facing a lack of socioeconomic opportunities, driving increased irregular migration from the country. These challenges include demographic growth, large youth population, high unemployment rates, a workforce that is mostly dependent on the informal sector, the interrelated consequences of climate change, and the ongoing, devastating consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. These factors not only act as drivers of onward migration, but also increase the vulnerability of settled and reintegrating migrants in Egypt.

IOM has witnessed a sharp increase in demand for its protection services since the onset of the pandemic, with more migrants registering for assistance and many of those currently registered exhibiting additional vulnerabilities. In addition, the demand for support has dramatically increased after the Sudanese crisis in April 2023, and due to the inflation. In terms of direct assistance (DA), IOM Egypt registered 59,458 vulnerable migrants in need of assistance in 2023 versus 1604 in 2022 from January to August (an increase of almost 3700%).

Migrants in Egypt often face discrimination, as well as geographical, language and other barriers when accessing national services such as health and education. The recent economic situation is worsening for many migrants in Egypt, driven by factors such as the impact of COVID-19 on the informal job market, the devaluation of the Egyptian pound, the rollback of subsidies on basic goods and food staples, as well as rising inflation due to disruptions in the supply chain and the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The result of these factors is a sharp increase in the number of highly vulnerable cases approaching and relying upon assistance from IOM Egypt.

AVRR

In addition to direct assistance, there is a significant backlog of cases awaiting AVRR. The economic impact of the pandemic has increased the number of migrants that are stranded in Egypt and are looking to return home, whilst international travel restrictions have significantly limited IOM's ability to facilitate migrant returns. As the backlog of cases grew sharply, IOM was required to close registration of new cases for over 12 months across 2020 and 2021. Of the 1,699 individuals that registered for AVRR in 2021, IOM could only provide return assistance to 1,038. The remaining backlog of 661 does not include those who are eligible for AVRR but have been unable to register due to the closure of registration; IOM estimates the true number of eligible individuals awaiting AVRR to be around 2,000. Between January and August 2022 IOM has registered 790 individuals versus 844 for

¹⁴ [migration-stock-in-egypt-june-2022_v4_eng.pdf \(iom.int\)](https://migration-stock-in-egypt-june-2022_v4_eng.pdf (iom.int))

¹⁵ [Migrants and Refugees Represent 8% of Egypt's Population: PM Madbouly | Egyptian Streets](https://www.egyptianstreets.com/migrants-and-refugees-represent-8-of-egypt-s-population-pm-madbouly/)

the same reporting period in 2023. This number has not increased as expected as the main country of return for IOM Egypt was Sudan. Since the returns to Sudan are suspended, the number did not reach the expected number of registrations for 2023. IOM has already started outreach activities with the communities with the highest number of returns after Sudan, such as Guinea to register more requests for vulnerable migrants in needs of AVRR to their Country of Origin. IOM is planning more outreach activities with communities and their embassies to reach out to more vulnerable migrants. In addition to the above, IOM is working on activating a hotline number for AVRR requests, which will facilitate reaching more beneficiaries. IOM is also planning to conduct a return campaign in coordination with NCCTIP and PIM, community leaders, and different CSOs, aiming to increase information provision on AVRR and provide a better understanding of actual safe options of return. At the same time, IOM will keep monitoring the situation in Sudan, to resume the return programme there should the situation allow. Egypt has also seen an exponential increase in the number of returns of stranded Egyptians from abroad. During the EU-IOM Joint Initiative North Africa contract, the initial foreseen target number of returnees to Egypt was around 80 although this number has been gradually increased throughout the project's lifetime to 300. Increased number of returns from Libya and Tunisia seem to fit a larger pattern of migration that started in 2021, as confirmed by the Egyptian Ministry of Defence who reported 27,000 attempts of irregular entry of Egyptian nationals to Libya. IOM has worked in coordination with the Libyan and Egyptian governments to facilitate charter flights of stranded migrants back to Egypt, although the number of stranded Egyptians across North Africa is only expected to continue increasing for the foreseeable future. IOM Italy is also reporting Egypt to be the country of most unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs) arrivals since Q3 2021 and the second most overall irregular arrivals into the country.

Migrants in Egypt face additional legal and financial barriers to accessing formal employment and essential services, increasing their vulnerabilities and risks of becoming exploited, trafficked, or stranded in Egypt. IOM identified 519 VoTs in 2021, including cases of adult and child sex trafficking, domestic servitude, labour exploitation, organ trafficking and forced marriages. Most VoTs are exposed to severe and enduring health risks before, during, and even after their exploitation, including trauma and other severe mental illnesses. Enduring mental and physical health risks as a result of trafficking, and reliance upon often underpaying and exploitative informal employment, causes many VoTs in Egypt to become stranded, unable to return home safely and at greater risk of additional exploitation.

Under this Action, IOM will implement activities that further its commitment to the strategic priorities outlined in the Egypt Country Strategy 2021 – 2025¹⁶. Direct assistance will increase the resilience of beneficiaries and increase their capacity to prepare for, mitigate and respond to risks and shocks, whilst AVRR and the provision of effective reintegration support to returning migrants will provide beneficiaries with a safe alternative to further irregular migration, alongside enhancing government ownership of return and reintegration governance in Egypt.

Building on lessons from the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, this Action will leverage IOM AVRR-Direct Assistance strong capacity and footprint to feed into and be supported by a protection technical building strategy with the relevant authorities. It will also seek to address some of the identified gaps in communication with migrants and timeliness of the assistance. The Regional Programme Diagnosis

¹⁶ [IOM Strategy for Egypt \(2021–2025\) | IOM Publications Platform](#)

exercise has highlighted that the collaboration with the government and partners had increased significantly. This Action will respond to the interest expressed by the Egyptian Ministry of Social Solidarity, IOM's technical counterpart on the Protection, Return and Reintegration portfolio, to strengthen reintegration of Egyptian returnees, implement community reintegration activities, and build the capacity of the MOSS staff and partners to take increasing responsibility in the reintegration process in coordination with GIZ.

Gender / Year	Returns from Egypt to Countries of Origin							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan –Aug)	Grand Total
Female	230	222	461	284	280	345	190	2012
Male	237	270	443	213	260	393	176	1992
Grand Total	467	492	904	497	540	738	366	4004

Libya

Context

In **Libya**, migrant dynamics remain complex and dynamic, with many migrants confronting significant challenges and protection concerns, linked to their status in the country and the vulnerable situations in which many find themselves. Migrants experience acute challenges to their safety and well-being and are the most vulnerable to harm due to limited coping capacity, loss of assets, and the risk of exploitation and discrimination. Women and girls face the threat of gender-based violence and many fear moving outside their communities alone. Migrant children are particularly at risk of trafficking and kidnapping.

Migrants often enter Libya along smuggling routes after paying smuggling rings in an attempt to reach Europe. These irregular migrants are unable to get to their intended destination through regular channels, owing to a dearth of legal pathways, restrictive entry policies and a lack of documentation, and thus remain stranded in Libya.

The irregular status of the vast majority of migrants in Libya substantially increases their vulnerabilities including the risk of becoming subject to trafficking, as well as limiting their access to protection and assistance. Undocumented migrants relying on informal labour arrangements are at high risk of labour exploitation, without any possibility for minimum labour standards enforcement, or access to recourse.

Many migrants often find themselves in detention centres, either run by the Directorate of Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM), an official authority under the Ministry of Interior (MoI), or by other less regulated parties, exposing them to the additional risks associated with the lack of accountability and oversight over the detaining parties. There are reports of abuse and exploitation of migrants in detention centres such as ill treatment, xenophobia, sexual violence and invasive strip-searches. While women represent a small minority in DCIM-run detention centres, they are especially vulnerable to ill-treatment and abuse. Recourse for action or mechanisms for reporting abuses which are vital in a context where GBV against migrant women and girls and other types of exploitation are

rife are absent. Constant changes of management and power shuffling within the DCIM ranks has contributed to the impunity of those within the DCIM apparatus of other actors running unofficial detention facilities making any regular concrete engagement by the UN challenging.

The climate of impunity extends well into other parts of life for migrants in Libya. Local militia groups control areas of territory and perpetrate a litany of abuses and human rights violations against migrants including trafficking in persons with complete impunity. Both non-State and state-affiliated groups responsible for human rights violations, including trafficking in persons, rarely are arrested or face justice. Libya lacks a comprehensive legal framework to address trafficking in persons or other human rights violations against migrants. The legislation that is in place is rarely enforced. The judicial system is not fully functioning, as courts in major cities throughout the country have not been operational since 2014, affecting both Libyans and non-Libyans alike.

Many stranded, vulnerable, or detained migrants find the conditions in Libya so precarious, that regardless of the reason they started their migration journey, they wish to halt it and to return to their country of origin.

Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) and Reintegration

IOM Libya has been providing an alternative to this situation, through the Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) Programme. IOM has provided one of the few humane solutions to their plight in Libya by supporting vulnerable stranded migrants' desire to return home with dignity and by fostering their sustainable reintegration to their communities. Since 2015, IOM Libya has assisted more than 60,000 migrants to return to over 53 countries of origin across Africa and Asia.

Under this Action IOM Libya will continue to offer a humane option for stranded and detained migrants to return home and benefit from reintegration assistance when needed. Under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, IOM has reinforced its outreach activities, efficiency of return processes as well as the Protection approach to VHR, which improved the response to beneficiaries' specific needs and led to significant improvements in beneficiaries' satisfaction levels. The programme has also demonstrated the importance of continuous cooperation with national and consular authorities, particularly when the COVID-19 pandemic led to a suspension of movements, which resumed rapidly because of IOM's continuous engagement. These activities will be strengthened under this Action.

Gender / Year	Returns from Libya to Countries of Origin							Grand Total
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan – Aug)	
Female	3,861	2,847	2,376	423	987	2,669	1,268	14,431
Male	15,508	13,608	7,402	2,968	3,345	8,531	3,729	55,091
Grand Total	19,369	16,455	9,778	3,391	4,332	11,200	4,997	69,522

Morocco

Context

Located between Africa and Europe, Morocco faces a complex and varied situation in terms of migration. Morocco continues to be a country of origin, transit and destination which migration profile

is characterized by mixed flows which include migrants and refugees. Migrants fleeing poverty, lack of opportunities and increasing violence in their countries of origin (CoO) continue to arrive in large numbers to Morocco on their perilous attempts to migrate irregularly to Europe, notably along the Western Mediterranean Route, stretching across the sea between Spain, Morocco, and Algeria, which has increased significantly. The number of arrivals to Europe via the Western Mediterranean route increased slightly in 2021 as 18,466 cases were reported. However, in recent years, the majority of migrants detected on this route were of Algerian nationality, while Moroccans continued to account for the second most detected nationality¹⁷.

For many migrants, Morocco is the last step before an attempt to reach Europe. As a result, they are concentrated in northern Morocco: in Tangier, Oujda, Nador. The phenomenon of irregular migration in Morocco has been exacerbated by the strict control of borders, exposing migrants to situations of insecurity and vulnerability. Finding no employment in their home country, migrants in an irregular situation are increasingly desperate to secure employment in Morocco (to either remain in Morocco or pay for their travel to Europe) and are willing to take risks which could lead them to become potential victims of trafficking (PVoTs). Alongside transnational trafficking, internal trafficking also represents a challenge in Morocco for children in the informal work sector and forced begging in the streets. Given events in Morocco with the migrant urban camp of Ouled Zian in Casablanca catching fire in August 2023 and the El Haouz Earthquake in September 2023, IOM has observed an increased number of migrants who have seen a deterioration of their living conditions.

For others, Morocco is a country of destination as the Kingdom of Morocco has embarked on a major overhaul of its national migration policies. In particular, the Moroccan government continues to deploy, particularly since the adoption of the SNIA (National Strategy on Immigration and Asylum) in December 2014, major efforts to implement a comprehensive, rights-based migration policy, and, in this context, the Kingdom launched a wide range of measures, including two regularization campaigns in 2014 and 2017, which has seen the regularization of approximately 50,000 migrants. Thus, large Moroccan cities such as Rabat, Casablanca and Fès host a high concentration of sub-Saharan communities. These migrants travelled to Morocco with the initial purpose of studying or working in sectors such as domestic work, construction sites or call centers. Despite the Moroccan Government's inclusive policies to ensure access of migrant populations to basic services and assist those who are in a vulnerable situation (particularly migrants fleeing poverty, lack of opportunities and increasing violence in their countries of origin), various studies and consultation processes¹⁸ led by UN agencies, civil society and governmental actors, have shown that several barriers such as language, lack of or non-tailored information, administrative status, misinformation on their rights and obligations, or just the migratory situation and discriminatory perceptions may limit access to shelter, education, health, protection and assistance services and their effective use. Due to their irregular administrative situation, the job search remains very difficult, which increases their vulnerability.

¹⁷ <https://frontex.europa.eu/we-know/migratory-routes/western-mediterranean-route/>

¹⁸ Needs assessment from the RDPP NA programme (2016) / UNHCR participative assessment and consultative processes (2019) / UNICEF Situation analysis (2019) / IOM field research through participatory processes with CSOs and migrants / Online HCR participatory assessment during the COVID (2020) / UNICEF 2019 Situation analysis (published in May 2020) / UNHCR participatory assessment, led in 2018 among 1 015 refugees / IOM 2016 study from the regional development and protection programme (RDPP) / UNFPA Arab States Regional Office and Middle East North Africa Health Policy Forum (2016)

Due to the impossibility of crossing to Europe, finding work, and the difficult living conditions, thousands of migrants end up being stranded in Morocco and the voluntary return through the IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme offers them a humane and dignified solution. AVRR is an indispensable part of a comprehensive approach to migration management aiming at orderly and humane return and reintegration of migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host or transit countries and wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin.

AVRR

The number of applications for return from Morocco remained high in the last years, with a yearly average of 3,500 migrants applying to return to their country of origin for a wide range of reasons under IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return programme, making the existence of a voluntary return programme even more relevant and necessary within the existing national migration management measures. In close cooperation with the Government of Morocco, over 5200 stranded migrants benefitted from AVRR from Morocco since 2019. Despite the mobility restrictions and closure of borders due to COVID-19, in 2021 and 2022, IOM organized the highest number of yearly returns since the implementation of the AVRR programme in Morocco since 2005 (2,377 voluntary returns in 2021 and 2,457 in 2022) and 1,279 voluntary returns have been facilitated from Morocco in 2023 until the end of August.

Gender / Year	Returns from Morocco to Countries of Origin							Grand Total
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan-Aug)	
Female	403	349	336	192	611	807	430	3,128
Male	1,329	1,159	1,034	604	1,766	1,650	849	8,391
Grand Total	1,732	1,508	1,370	796	2,377	2,457	1,279	11,519

The number of Moroccans returning voluntarily and assisted with reintegration assistance in Morocco has been low in 2020 and 2021 due to a reduced number of migrants assisted by IOM to return to North Africa due to COVID-19. On average, 140 voluntary returns per year have taken place over the past three years where more than 85% of returning Moroccans return from European Union countries. However, with the socio-economic crisis in Europe as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and other current events such as the war in Ukraine, coupled with the relaxation of the COVID-19 measures in Morocco and the lifting of the movement restrictions, IOM observed an increase in voluntary return requests (304 migrants have voluntary returned to Morocco until mid-September 2022) and that, 332 until September 2023) and from Tunisia (from 25 returns in 2021 to 65 in 2022,), and believes that this upward trend will continue over the next years. Returnees from those countries have very limited access to reintegration support from the host country and can present significant vulnerabilities. Additionally, given the improvement of Morocco's relations with European countries and the Western Balkans, an increase in the number of forced returns to Morocco may be expected.

Under this Action, IOM will cover the post arrival assistance and the reintegration assistance in Morocco through individual and community approaches to respond to the recent change of needs and where no other contribution, such as the EU-funded contribution to the GIZ, is sufficiently available. This will be implemented in close coordination and complementarity with GIZ and its partners and mainly limited to the provision of social and psychosocial assistance to returnees with specific vulnerabilities such as UASC, VoTs, Medical Cases and other vulnerable returnees. This will be done in parallel to the implementation of an effective referral mechanism with other EU-funded programs to ensure continuity of care and sustainable reintegration. During the past years, the Government of Morocco has reiterated the support and commitment to the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme in Morocco. However, the fact that authorities consider that Moroccan returnees should be treated as the rest of Moroccan citizens after their return and do not prioritize their reintegration translated into some delays of government engagement towards their reintegration.

However, IOM has continued to ensure continuous efforts and advocacy with government counterparts by holding roundtables, regular consultations and discussions on possibilities for cooperation in the field of reintegration assistance to Moroccan returnees with Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family (MoSSF), Ministry of Interior (MoI) as well as with national institutions such as Entraide Nationale, Office de la Formation Professionnelle et de la Promotion du Travail (OFFPT), the Agence Nationale de Promotion de l'Emploi et des Compétences (ANAPC), and the Agence de Développement Social (ADS) on possibilities for cooperation in the field of reintegration assistance to beneficiaries, focusing mostly on economic reintegration, employability, professional training and social protection. These institutions have shown new interest and implication on this topic and agreed on the need of a comprehensive assessment of available opportunities in the field of reintegration.

In this context, IOM Morocco undertook a mapping on the provision of social and psychosocial available services in five main cities of return: Casablanca, Oujda, Tangier, Khouribga, Beni-Mellal, and Agadir. The consultation has allowed to identify the main actors who can offer social services (access to health, education, housing, legal assistance, etc.) and psychosocial for Moroccans in vulnerable situations, including Moroccans returnees. The results of this mapping were shared with all key stakeholders and will be of great benefit to the future implementation of reintegration assistance by IOM and all other relevant actors and to ensure effective referrals among the identified relevant actors in Morocco. This mapping serves also as a diagnosis of the challenges that Moroccan returnees are facing when approaching national structures for the provision of social and psychosocial support towards their reintegration in the communities of return and will serve as the base for the discussions to take place under Outcome 3.

In parallel, IOM has sought to establish partnerships with national and international agencies that are operational on reintegration, to ensure all the above listed efforts are in line and complementary to the progress being made by other partners and stakeholders in the field of reintegration in Morocco such as the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Comité Européen pour la Formation et l'Agriculture (CEFA), Progettomondo, Fondation Orient Occident (FOO) or Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration (OFII). However, the existence of a wide variety of actors in Morocco

working for the reintegration of Moroccans, returning from different regions, and operating with different methods in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation, can present challenges and potential duplications on the provision of reintegration assistance (Annex 3).¹⁹ Thus, IOM has taken the coordination lead of a national working group on reintegration, which held its first meeting on 20 May 2022²⁰ and including all the above-mentioned stakeholders and partners²¹, aiming at ensuring a coordinated approach towards reintegration assistance for Moroccan returnees and use the available resources in a better and more coordinated manner and avoid duplication of assistance, guarantee support to a holistic and sustainable reintegration, as well as to exchange on the good practices and lessons learned. This coordination in the provision of return and reintegration assistance was identified as a key strength of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in Morocco, and an important factor in the ability of IOM to deliver comprehensive tailored services catering to various needs such as UASCs, VoTs and migrants with special health needs. This Action aims to build further through continued engagement, as well as to reinforce partners through its capacity building programme.

Tunisia

Context

In 2021, IOM Tunisia saw a drastic increase of requests for assistance to vulnerable migrants. In total, IOM Tunisia assisted 3,166 migrants rescued at sea including 1,542 beneficiaries assisted with shelter. In its offices, 2,060 new screenings were facilitated, 6,670 medical assistances and 2,462 social assistances provided, which represents an increase of more than 150% from the precedent year. Over the past few years, Tunisia experienced a rapid increase in rescue at sea operations, and with this a significant increase in the need for shelter and other assistance to meet immediate humanitarian needs of rescued and stranded migrants, as well as other protection needs and enrolment in AVRR programmes from Tunisia to countries of origin as one of the sustainable solutions. With the increase, three IOM-operated shelters in southern Tunisia for vulnerable migrants currently operate at maximum capacity.

On 21 February, the President of Tunisia issued a statement calling for urgent action to halt the phenomenon of irregular migration. The following day the Ministry of Social Affairs stated, that “most African foreign workers work outside the legal framework” and that “employers are obliged to immediately dismiss and report them.” The intensification of control of migrants status led to many of them losing their source of income and therefore attempting to cross to leave Tunisia. In parallel, the port of Sfax became the main city where smuggling networks organized their activities for migrants to cross to Europe. As such, an increased number of migrants started transiting through the city; creating tensions with host community. As of 22 September 2023, 132,867²² individuals reached Italian shores including more than half from Tunisia. Trend in nationalities also shifted with nationals from Guinea, Ivory Coast and Tunisian being in the highest numbers (respectively 15,240; 14,402 and 12,213).

¹⁹ See Annex 3 Results of the internal survey launched by IOM in April 2022 among the national and international agencies that are operational on reintegration in Morocco (IOM, GIZ, CEFA, Progettomondo and FOO).

²⁰ This initiative has been coordinated with the EU Delegation in Morocco.

²¹ Mostly EU-funded actors working in the field of reintegration, including Frontex and their implementing partners.

²² Data from the Italian Ministry of Interior

The migration situation continued to be tense, especially in Sfax region, with recurrent clashes between the Tunisian and migrant population. On 10 June 2023, the situation further deteriorated after President Kais Saied made a visit to the city. Tensions between migrants and local communities increased and several security incidents occurred due to clashes between migrants and Tunisians in several residential areas of the city. On 25 June, hundreds of demonstrators protested against the presence of nationals of migrants “illegally established in Tunisia.” The following day, President Kais Saied held a meeting with the Minister of Interior and security officials about the situation in Sfax. Tensions further escalated on Sunday 2 July and Monday 3 July, when a Tunisian man was stabbed to death allegedly by a group of migrants. Without sufficient access to emergency assistance and information about their rights and options available to them, migrants stranded in Tunisia are at higher risk of exploitation, abuse and loss of life in the context of onward movement by sea under precarious conditions. Over the past years, IOM has worked closely with its partners to ensure vulnerable migrants in Tunisia have access to essential services and support, to respond to the growing need for emergency assistance and individual case management support to migrants in vulnerable situations. This includes direct assistance to migrants rescued at sea provided upon disembarkation, referral to specialized services and psychosocial well-being interventions, as well as provision of shelter, referrals to the competent authorities or other partner for protection and AVRR to countries of origin. The Government of Tunisia relies on IOM to provide this assistance particularly as the number of disembarkations continues to increase.

Following current programmes set up with Tunisian authorities for IOM assistance, the proposed Action will support the Tunisian authorities and local civil society organisations, in the continued provision of assistance to and protection of stranded migrants, including to further increase the availability of AVRR to those unable or unwilling to remain in Tunisia. The Action will bring added value by strengthening the provision of shelter, direct assistance in the form of food and non-food items (NFIs), other individualized services or referrals for protection and assistance, and/or AVRR as one of the sustainable solutions, in response to the increase in rescue at sea operations in Tunisian waters. The assistance provided will adhere to IOM policies and guidelines including the RRR policy. In 2021, in response to requests from Tunisian authorities, IOM provided assistance to 3,166 migrants rescued at sea, mainly from Bangladesh, Egypt and Morocco, over ten times more than during the entire year of 2020, when IOM assisted 293 migrants rescued at sea. The migrants assisted had majorly left from Zwara in Libya, fleeing violence, conflict, and seeking economic and/or educational opportunities in Europe.

Meanwhile, in Tunisia, the economic situation, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic made the Government focused on other priorities rather than reviving the migration policy and legal framework, offers limited opportunities for the employment and local integration of migrants. This combined with the increase of rescue at sea operations in southern Tunisia, with vessels departing from Libya and entering Tunisian waters in distress, has resulted in an increase both in need for shelter as part of IOM’s emergency and immediate assistance as well as an increase in demand for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) from Tunisia to countries of origin.

AVRR

Since September 2020, IOM Tunisia received an increased demand for voluntary return as a consequence to the Covid-19 pandemic and the deterioration of the economic situation in Tunisia. The change on migration flows also impacted the demand with new arrivals from Algeria of

nationalities with little information on Tunisia and almost no diaspora within the country (e.g., Sudan, Chad, Sierra Leone, Guinée Conakry). Therefore, these migrants are often left without means and turn to IOM for voluntary return. In 2022, IOM Tunisia facilitated 1,614 returns compared to 975 in 2021, 230 in 2020 and 630 in 2019. From January to September 2023, 1,724 returns were facilitated by IOM from Tunisia. In the meantime, IOM worked on strengthening its process for AVRR, from fast tracking issuance of travel documents with Embassies and consular authorities to informal procedures with airport police to facilitate exit procedures to allow bigger numbers to travel at once. Additionally, in March 2023, the Government of Tunisia waived the penalties for irregular stay for any migrants who wished to voluntary return to his/her country of origin. Consequently, the overall process for AVRR was reduced from 4 months to 6 weeks on average.

However, IOM continues to experience challenges mainly due to the political situation in Tunisia:

- Increased number of migrants in vulnerable conditions, including increased levels of homelessness, with no phone, resulting in more difficult AVRR process. IOM has suggested on many occasions to the authorities to approve the opening of transit centres to ensure process can be centralized and additional needs can be addressed accordingly.
- The Government of Tunisia engagement on streamlining AVRR processes remains challenging including providing an effective enabling environment. For example, IOM has been advocating with authorities to gather stakeholders in the field of return to jointly map processes, identify bottlenecks and solutions for enhanced AVRR programming, but has not, to date received authorisation. The mission will continue its advocacy and follow up with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior on the latter.

IOM remains a strong partner of the Government of Tunisia through its support to respond to the increased number of disembarkations, including the provision of shelter, direct assistance (such as food and NFIs), referrals to specialized services and/or AVRR from Tunisia to the migrants' countries of origin. As per the SoPs between the Maritime Guard, IOM and UNHCR, the Maritime Guard calls IOM when an operation takes place in order to proceed with humanitarian assistance alongside the Tunisian Red Crescent. Transfer is then done to IOM shelters. Depending on the nationalities (e.g Erythreans, Ethiopians, Yemenis, Somalis, Sudanese) being rescued, Garde Maritime also calls UNHCR to transfer the caseload as per triage criteria set up in the SOPs.

Together with civil society partners, in particular organizations of the consortium Promitad (Save The Children, Terre d'Asile Tunisie, Avocats Sans Frontières, Médecins du Monde), local associations (such as Nebras, Beity, Amal, etc.) and UN agencies (UNHCR, UNICEF), and in coordination with Tunisian authorities, IOM Tunisia has established Migrant Resource and Response Mechanisms (MRRM) in three regions of Tunisia: Tunis, Zarzis and Sfax, to ensure a coordinated response to the protection and assistance needs of the target group. Together with its partners, IOM provides migrants in vulnerable situations, including the ones who have been rescued at sea, with protection and assistance that includes the provision of shelter, food and NFIs, health support, legal assistance, referral to specialized services, and information on their rights and available services within country. The Action will bring added value by further increasing the availability of this emergency assistance, which has been highlighted in learning exercises (ROM report and Regional Programme Diagnosis) as key activities to support migrants' protection at disembarkation points and afterwards, while ensuring

the protection of the most vulnerable cases, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, offering opportunities for return and reintegration support.

In the framework of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), the Action will aim at supporting activities designed by the government's working group²³ in order to enhance migration management and proposed a better coordinated protection response to migrants in Tunisia. It will also strengthen the ownership of authorities in migration management matters through increased coordination amongst stakeholders, better mapping of services and design protection response to assist migrants in vulnerable situation in Tunisia.

Learning from the EU-IOM Joint Initiative has shown that strategic focus for IOM in Tunisia lies in its strong Protection expertise and ability to respond in Tunisia, recognized by the Government of Tunisia as well as by IOM's partners and enabling IOM Tunisia to respond to important needs in a comprehensive and tailored manner. This Action will continue building on this by ensuring IOM can most effectively complement existing mechanisms such as the Dispositif National de Reintegration through increased engagement with partners, notably to build their Protection capacity, and continued provision of Protection assistance, in particular to address the specific needs of UASCs, VoTs and other very vulnerable migrants, be they third country nationals or returnees to Tunisia.

Gender / Year	Returns from Tunisia to Countries of Origin							Grand Total
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Jan – Aug)	
Female	206	258	207	71	265	428	381	1,816
Male	367	351	422	123	708	1,179	1,171	4,321

²³ The working group was put in place for the implementation of the GCM and is in charge of elaborating and monitoring the work plan for implementation of the GCM, support the dissemination of the PMM and capacity building of governmental and non-governmental actors, formulate recommendations and propose amendments to the planned activities, ensure regular information exchanges regarding all activities linked to the GCM implementation, elaborate and validate reports on the GCM implementation, promote the links between the GCM and the SDGs, identify possible synergies with other coordination structures in the area of migration. The working group is composed of the following entities: the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Tunisian Observatory on Migration, the Office of Tunisians Abroad, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration and Tunisians Abroad, the General Directorate for multilateral cooperation on global issues, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Ministry of Economy, Finance and support to Investment, the General institution for the sectoral and regional development, the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mines, the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Maritime Fishing, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Women, Family and Senior citizens, The National Institution for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings, the Tunisian Central Bank, the General Union of Workers, the Tunisian Union of Industry, Commerce and Handicraft.

The working group is headed by the National Observatory on Migration, which has become the technical focal point responsible for the technical monitoring of the GCM implementation following the abolition of the General Directorate for International Cooperation on Migration at the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Grand Total	573	609	629	194	973	1,607	1,552	6,137
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3. Project Description

OVERALL OBJECTIVE: VULNERABLE AND STRANDED MIGRANTS FROM NORTH AFRICA SAFELY AND VOLUNTARILY RETURN, AND SUSTAINABLY REINTEGRATE INTO THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

The Action aims at contributing to the safe and dignified return of vulnerable and stranded migrants from North Africa, and the sustainable reintegration into their countries of origin.

IOM's protection, return and reintegration programming is conceived as a rights-based intervention which aims at actively protecting and upholding the rights of migrants. This means anchoring programs in gender-responsive, child- and vulnerability-sensitive perspectives, with an essential emphasis on migrant agency and a rigorous mainstreaming of humanitarian principles such as Do-No-Harm, accountability and Confidentiality. All assistance is provided according to IOM policies and guidelines; specifically responding to the RRR, DPP, AVM, counselling and Reintegration handbook

At all levels of intervention, partnership and cooperation with best placed actors will not only ensure that respective expertise is leveraged in the best interest of beneficiaries, but also that sustainability of interventions is maximized.

Capacity building will aim to strengthen government ownership (whether central or local) – as primary duty bearers – and promote a multidisciplinary - whole-of-government - approach.

The **Overall Objective** of this Action is that vulnerable and stranded migrants from North Africa safely and voluntarily return to their countries of origin and sustainably reintegrate.

To contribute to this Overall Objective, the Action will enable migrants in North Africa to access protection services based on needs, in particular enabling them to return to their countries of origin safely, voluntarily and in dignity. IOM aims at all migrants supported through the programme declaring that they have been able to return in a safe manner. **Outcome 1 (SO1):** Vulnerable and stranded migrants in North Africa return home safely, voluntarily and in dignity to their countries of origin.

It will support returnees sustainably reintegrate in their environment and reach a level of self-sufficiency, social stability, and psychosocial well-being that make their further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity. IOM aims that 90% of the returnees report sufficient levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability, and psychosocial wellbeing in their community of return. **Outcome 2 (SO2):** Returning migrants are reintegrated in North Africa and in their countries of origin.

Finally, and closely linked to the above Outcomes, under Outcome 3 the Action will seek to support governments in increasingly exercising responsibility for and managing migrant returns, and sustainable reintegration. As a consequence, all States where the programme is implemented are expected to have developed/implemented laws, strategies, policies and plans for strengthening migration governance of voluntary return and sustainable reintegration at the end of the programme.

Outcome 3 (SO3): Partner countries and relevant stakeholders in North Africa increasingly exercise responsibility for and manage migrant return, readmission, and sustainable reintegration.

These Outcomes will be reached by actioning national reintegration programs that are Protection-anchored, Development-oriented, Government-owned and Partnership-based.

The Action builds on the evidence from the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in North Africa, and in particular the lessons learned from its Learning Review (January 2020), the Result-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) report in August 2021, and IOM's internal Regional Programme Diagnosis completed in June 2022.

As a consequence, the methodology of this Action was reviewed, in particular the approach to government and partners' engagement in North Africa. Efforts to engage at the policy level continue, through this Action as well as other IOM Migration Management programmes and through the national and regional United Nations Network on Migration (UNNM)²⁴. The focus of this Action will however be more technical, as IOM will target specific institutions or networks which have been identified as operational counterparts and shown stronger engagement on Return and Reintegration questions in the past, such as the Ministry of Social Solidarity in Egypt. The Action will combine close coordination with these institutions and capitalize on commitments made by North African government in the May 2022 IMRF. Formal partnerships and strengthened technical working groups will be engaged to propose a more systematic and strategic approach to capacity building activities, enhance their direct links to assistance provision, and ensure the sustainability of results achieved. Regional events will gather technical staff from government institutions and partners in North Africa to discuss return and reintegration processes and key achievements. This is expected to enhance cross-country learning and sustain the emulation observed in the GCM and IMRF processes in the region²⁵. Finally, more emphasis will be put on the role of the media, both traditional and social networks, to bring the issues of return and reintegration on the agenda, in order to encourage improved information, public awareness and policy attention.

Previous media trainings have demonstrated tangible changes in how media handles the issues of migration in terms of frequency and quality. Participating journalists usually maintain a strong relationship with IOM and come back to it as a reference on stories and for advice on how to handle stories – for example those on human trafficking-, use words or choose angles. Communication groups were established in which journalists share their stories on migration and ask questions and it has been noted an increase in the number of stories and a better narrative as much as the editorial policy and the political context allows. For example, the term irregular migration is now more popular than

²⁴ [UN Network on Migration Terms of Reference](#)

²⁵ This proposed approach is based on the Regional Programme Diagnostic conclusion that no regional forum exists for North African countries to engage on the GCM Objective 21, while government partners expressed interest in dialogue through the UN Networks on Migration. It is supported notably by EUROMESCO's recommendation that Maghreb countries "redesign innovative dialogue mechanisms for orchestrating more efficient policy frameworks. [...]" at the regional level. In other areas of IOM's work in North Africa, such as Migration Health and Migration Data, technical level exchanges of good practices have shown promising results. Evaluations conducted for other programmes, such as the EU-funded "[Strengthening Regional Multi-National Coordination for Increased Protection of Vulnerable and Trafficked Migrant Children Travelling Through the Gulf of Aden Migration Route](#)" project have shown the contribution of regional dialogue to agenda-setting and cross-country learning.

before. Trainings have also allowed IOM to expand its media reach to outlets beyond those who attended trainings as journalists share contacts with their networks and refer them to us allowing IOM to further extend its points of view and knowledge to a wider public.

The EU-IOM Joint Initiative's final evaluation and ex-ante evaluation of this MPRR-NA Action, completed in the first half of 2023, inform the Action's Theory of Change as needed and ensure it is fit for purpose (Annex 4).

In light of the importance of the pre-departure – post-arrival continuum of assistance along migration routes, the Action will be very closely coordinated with the Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration (MPRR) in Sub-Saharan Africa Programme funded by DG INTPA, under which migrants assisted in their voluntary return from North Africa (Outcome 1 under this Action) will receive reintegration assistance. Close links and synergies with the MPRR Programme in Sub-Saharan Africa, including participation in its core management structure, will also ensure coherence and allow for cross-regional dialogue on return and reintegration and support the achievement of Outcome 3 on capacity building to national authorities and relevant stakeholders. In addition, IOM will ensure complementarity and cross-fertilization of results with relevant national, regional, and global programmes such as the Dutch-funded COMPASS programme and the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in North Africa, funded by DG HOME under AMIF.

OUTCOME 1: VULNERABLE AND STRANDED MIGRANTS IN NORTH AFRICA RETURN HOME SAFELY, VOLUNTARILY AND IN DIGNITY TO THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.

Through the Action, vulnerable and stranded migrants in North Africa will be better informed about the services available, have access to protection and assistance services, and benefit from a safe and dignified return assistance. Consequently, those who wish to return home will do so safely, voluntarily and in dignity. This will be in line with IOM's commitment to reduce protection risks, address the needs, as well as to promote and uphold the rights of migrants including displaced persons, and leaving no one behind.

Indeed, the Action will strengthen communication with migrants, thereby addressing some of the key access barriers to assistance, by leveraging expertise within IOM, combining both traditional and digital solutions to communicating with beneficiaries, and improving contextualized and gender-responsive communication methods (**Output 1.1 Migrants are informed and sensitized on the possibility to receive voluntary return assistance**).

For those who need assistance and wish to receive IOM support, assistance will be provided in priority through referral networks, and civil society organizations involved in protection will be empowered to better respond to migrants' needs (through activities under Outcome 3). Whenever needed and in response to migrants' specific needs and vulnerabilities identified during case management, IOM will also be able to provide direct assistance in the form of shelter, food, non-food items, medical and psychosocial support or legal aid, in accordance with IOM's Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants guidance. (**Output 1.2 Vulnerable and stranded migrants or migrants in transit receive protection and assistance services**)

Among the migrants registered with IOM, and in compliance with IOM standards, those who wish to return to their countries of origin will be provided with pre-departure and return assistance (**Output**

1.3 Migrants benefit from safe and dignified voluntary return assistance). Building on best practices from previous programmes, activities implemented under **Outcome 2** will support preparations for sustainable reintegration and provide reintegration assistance where needed. (**Outcome 2**)

Output 1.1: Migrants are informed and sensitized on the possibility to receive voluntary return assistance.

The present funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will directly contribute to the implementation of this output, with particular focus on Algeria.

The funding contribution from the European Union (DG NEAR – through the Neighbourhood, Development and Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe – NDICI-Global Europe) will also contribute to this output, with particular focus on all North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia).

The Action will result in migrants having improved information and access to the services available. This will be achieved through the delivery of in-person and online information, the continuation and expansion of digital solutions to facilitate registration and information-sharing, as well as strengthening two-way communication channels with beneficiaries and community engagement activities. Communication campaigns through social media channels (both those managed by IOM and EU and those managed by NGOs/migrant communities, expats groups and migrants-focused and migrants-managed media) will target migrants and their families to inform them of the possibilities of voluntary return assistance and how to receive them. The online campaign will include both information on the process and the numbers of migrants who previously benefited from it, in addition to stories of migrants who went through the return assistance that potential beneficiaries can relate to and can increase their confidence and trust. Online campaigns will also ensure that information on the programme's website is up to date and accessible.

Online campaigns will be complemented with media outreach through op-eds, interviews, press releases highlighting activities and services related to voluntary return assistance, to increase awareness and initiate public discourse over the return services which will help reach more beneficiaries. Where relevant, online campaigns will be designed and disseminated in coordination with national communication initiatives in the countries of implementation.

In addition, the Action will support and expand the use of relevant digital tools developed to encourage referrals from governmental and non-governmental partners and self-referrals of migrants. Based on lessons learned from the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in North Africa²⁶, specific attention will be paid to gender-responsive communication²⁷, through activities conducted under Outcome 3.

²⁶ During the programme's mid-point webinar, the differentials in access to assistance among men and women were acknowledged, but no resources could be dedicated to exploring the issue further.

²⁷ [Gender responsive comms. toolkit may 14.pdf \(iom.int\)](http://Gender responsive comms. toolkit may 14.pdf (iom.int))

Algeria

In Algeria, IOM will combine in-person information sessions in migrant-dense areas and online information, particularly through social media. IOM will inform migrants of the possibility of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration to their country of origin. IOM Algeria also operates a hotline aimed at communicating with stranded and vulnerable migrants. This hotline serves as a mechanism for direct communication with IOM staff where beneficiaries can ask questions, lodge complaints and/or obtain information about AVR services. Migrants will be reached, either through online/digital communication and outreach or in-person information sessions.

Egypt

In Egypt, the outreach team will conduct outreach and awareness raising activities with migrant communities across Egypt. These regular field missions provide IOM with a clear picture of the current needs of migrant communities and individuals across Egypt and enable IOM to engage directly with migrants who might otherwise be unable or unwilling to travel to IOM's office for information and assistance.

In over 30 years, IOM has developed a strong, trusting relationship with migrant community leaders. These individuals play a vital role in assisting IOM with the dissemination of information amongst migrant communities and in identifying vulnerable migrants who are potential beneficiaries for direct assistance and AVRR. To maximise the effectiveness of these partnerships, IOM will continue to inform and build the capacities of community leaders, ensuring that they are well equipped to identify migrants living with a wide range of vulnerabilities, and provide an appropriate response, including referrals to IOM for direct assistance, AVRR, and other services.

To increase the mission's ability to ensure more timely registration and screening of cases, IOM started the digitalization and the automation of several processes of its intake and case management systems. This includes setting up of a call center and automated hotline that can handle and cater to the extremely large volume of calls and inquiries that the current systems have proved largely unable to handle. This will also reduce registration barriers for migrants who live far away from IOM's office in Cairo or who may struggle to travel across Cairo due to vulnerabilities and is therefore an important step towards IOM's commitment to the 2030 Agenda to ensure that "no one will be left behind". IOM Egypt has already started the process. The value for cost for this activity will be related to the maintenance of the system and this is crucial to ensure that IOM can respond to a larger portion of its target population under this Action. IOM is negotiating with the government the possibility of opening other IOM offices in Egypt. Simultaneously, IOM is organizing regular outreach sessions by visiting beneficiaries in other governorates where there is high number of beneficiaries, such as Alexandria, Dakahela and Aswan.

Libya

In Libya, the VHR outreach team works through a network of community mobilizers and sister agencies to spread its messages on the services available for migrants interested in being supported to return home. The outreach team also undertakes regular field visits to reach out to migrant communities and spread awareness among the most vulnerable stranded migrants in order to inform them of the support IOM can provide to return home and share with them detailed step by step information of

the pre-departure, return and upon arrival process. Thus, through outreach in detention centres and in urban city centres, migrants seeking to voluntarily return to their countries of origin are identified and undergo a protection screening to identify those who would require more specialized services. The VHR team also operates a hotline system which has proven crucial in its efforts to reach out to and receive requests for assistance by migrants interested in receiving IOM assistance not only for VHR but also other assistance arising from their vulnerabilities. Under this Output, the Action will develop the hotline system into a fully functional call center to address and reach out to migrants in need. This will add an additional tool and asset for the team's efforts to reach out to stranded migrants in Libya through an improved online presence. Outreach teams will also work to further inform migrants interested in IOM return assistance on the reintegration assistance options they can benefit from. To this end the Action will produce brochures, leaflets, audio visual products etc to help convey its messages in various languages to reflect the diverse nationalities benefitting from the Action. The outreach methodology is described in detail in IOM Libya's VHR draft SOPs²⁸.

Morocco

Local authorities, NGOs and migrant communities will be engaged in the provision of assistance and referral of potential AVRR beneficiaries to IOM focal points in these cities. IOM attends the meetings of the Protection Cluster²⁹ in Oujda, Casablanca, Tangier and Fès and works closely with partner organizations in these cities to ensure the identification and orientation of potential beneficiaries to the existing protection services, including the AVRR programme. This Action will coordinate its efforts with existing projects working on protection, such as the EU-funded Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP), the EU-funded project "Assistance aux personnes migrantes en situation de vulnérabilité au Maroc" and national institutions to the full extent possible.

Experience showed that UASCs, and potential victims of trafficking and other categories of migrants in vulnerable situations lack access to information on the possibility of a voluntary return and might not be able to contact IOM staff in the MOP located in Rabat, Oujda, Casablanca. This situation is aggravated by their irregular administrative situation in Morocco, and the approach towards migrants existing in some Moroccan cities and regions.

In order to ensure the identification of migrants for assisted voluntary return, IOM Morocco will continue to reinforce its work in the main regions where migrants are located. This will be possible through the three existing MOPs and AVRR focal points in Rabat, Oujda, Casablanca, and by organizing online and face-to face information and awareness raising sessions on IOM's different protection and assistance programmes, including the AVRR programme, with Moroccan and international organizations working with migrant population in different regions. IOM will develop, update, and ensure dissemination of at least one information material on AVRR especially the procedure to receive assistance, and the contact of IOM centers.

In order to ensure a broad distribution, this information will be disseminated through social media and distributed during outreach events and other platforms. Moreover, for those migrants wishing to

²⁸ Mission level draft SoPs for operational purposes – available upon request.

²⁹ A UNHCR-IOM-OMDH coordinated cluster called Groupe Thématique de Protection (GTP) gathering several CSO working with migrants in a vulnerable situation in Casablanca, Oujda, and Tangier.

enroll in the voluntary return programme, IOM will put into place several mechanisms to give them the possibility to contact IOM through one hotline and instant messaging apps.

As part of the national reference system for the identification and care of migrants and refugees established in 2020 by the Kingdom of Morocco, IOM will also continue to work closely with local authorities, diplomatic representations of the countries of origin, Civil Society Organisations (CSO) and migrants' associations in diverse cities to ensure the identification and orientation of potential AVRR beneficiaries.

Tunisia

With the change of political dynamics for migrants in Tunisia, IOM encountered the drastic need to increase its outreach activities to access migrants and inform them on risks/alternatives to irregular migration and IOM and partners' programming. Therefore, IOM Tunisia will aim to constitute an outreach team to conduct outreach and awareness raising activities with migrant communities across Tunisia. Three teams will be composed in Tunis, Sfax and Zarzis. They will also rove to the border areas and other Governorates to ensure access to migrants. These community mobilizers will conduct regular visits to transit points and locations with high concentration of migrants. Each team will be trained in detection of vulnerabilities/needs in order to be able to facilitate referrals to IOM or its partners (such as UNHCR). Information sessions on IOM's programming will be held including on assisted voluntary return processes.

Additionally, the proposed action will promote referrals to existing legal pathways opportunities, as an alternative to irregular migration. IOM, in Sfax, will conduct a series of awareness raising sessions, both in-person and online, to promote schemes such as the planned mobility scheme between Tunisia and Italy (under THAMM+) – currently under discussion with DG NEAR – as well as other mobility schemes implemented by bilateral agencies (e.g. GIZ, OFII, Swiss Contact). In cases where mobility schemes exist, Sfaxian youth will be provided with a full package of support, including training, pre-departure orientation, and travel support. In the cases where legal instruments to promote labour mobility exist, but no accompanying projects are being implemented, IOM will raise awareness and will provide individualized support to Tunisian youth to navigate the, often complex and cumbersome, application procedures.

Output 1.2: Vulnerable and stranded migrants or migrants in transit receive protection and assistance services.

The present funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will directly contribute to the implementation of this output, with particular focus on Algeria.

The funding contribution from the European Union (DG NEAR – through the Neighbourhood, Development and Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe – NDICI-Global Europe) will also contribute to this output, with particular focus on all North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia).

The Action will result in vulnerable and stranded migrants or migrants in transit having better access to quality protection and assistance services through IOM and its partners.

Direct assistance will be provided on a humanitarian basis to mitigate threats of abuse, exploitation and harm faced by migrants stranded in North Africa. This assistance is needs-based and temporary, with the end point being referral to more sustainable solutions, including through governmental or non-governmental protection schemes (such as asylum where relevant) or provision of return and reintegration solutions where appropriate. Offering such assistance will contribute to ensuring minimum protection is available for migrants along the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes, based on lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. IOM will continue strengthening its partnerships with other protection actors and encourage referrals whenever available.

The Action will enable IOM to provide migrants with the needed support identified during the management of their case, in accordance with IOM guidance as outlined in IOM's Handbook on Protection and Assistance to Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse and following a vulnerability assessment in accordance with IOM's Determinants of Migrant Vulnerability model³⁰, and benefiting from strengthened case management tools developed through the Dutch-funded COMPASS programme, which contributes to ensuring that migrants of all gender and diversity groups have access to protection sensitive pathways and are empowered to contribute to sustainable development of their communities. The COMPASS programme is implemented in 14 countries and is built on an ecological approach which frames its overall response at the individual/household, community, and structural levels, contributing to improving the protection and assistance of people on the move, sustainable reintegration of returnees, environments that are more conducive to the protection of migrant's rights, prevention of unsafe and irregular migration, and awareness raising on available alternatives.

Eligibility for assistance under the Action will be based on an evaluation of existing referral opportunities (both within and outside of IOM) and urgency of the needs. Referral pathways for specialized support and follow up on special needs (such as international protection concerns, health, child protection, gender-based violence, human trafficking, mental health and well-being) are in place both internally and with external partners. Where referral options are exhausted or where IOM is the best placed actor, assistance will be provided by IOM. All services will be provided following a rights-based approach and of age, gender, and diversity considerations. Whenever possible, the Action will establish synergies (including case referrals, but also capacity building complementarity) with other initiatives, such as the EU-funded Regional Development and Protection Programme in North Africa, to cater for the specific needs of very vulnerable migrants, particularly children on the move and victims of trafficking and victims of sexual gender-based violence.

To strengthen the availability of protection services, complementarity of actors, and sustainability of the response, the Action will strengthen the capacities of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) involved in the provision of protection and direct assistance services to migrants in North Africa (SO3).

The Action will ensure the assistance is provided in an inclusive, gender-sensitive, and age-appropriate manner.

³⁰ [IOM Handbook on Protection and Assistance to Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse | IOM Publications Platform](#)

Algeria

IOM Algeria provides protection and direct assistance to vulnerable and stranded migrants, or migrants in transit at the *Dispositif d'Accueil pour le Retour Volontaire* (DARV) and other migrants' shelters. Stranded or vulnerable migrants and those registered for return will be accommodated at the DARV, based on availability and subject to an evaluation of their vulnerability and needs. Registered migrants have access to immediate assistance in the form of accommodation, food, and non-food items (NFI) including dignity kits, COVID-19 prevention equipment and hygiene materials, as well as health and psychosocial assistance. Very vulnerable migrants (in particular Victims of Trafficking, UASCs and migrants with health needs) will be provided with specialized case management services and support in line with their specific needs, including accommodation in the El-Harrach facility, dedicated specifically to host vulnerable migrants.

In Algeria, beneficiaries accommodated in the DARV will be offered trainings in personal development to optimize the pre-departure waiting period. The trainings are voluntary and provide both skills as well as past time activities to the migrants. Trainings can vary from health sessions and inter-cultural communication training, to tailoring, artisanal soap and candle making, frame making, bottle decorations, production of COVID-19 masks, notebook and tote making, production of fabric flowers, sports activities, etc. Migrants will be provided with certificates of participation as well as the products to take to their country of origin.

Egypt

IOM will provide Direct Assistance (DA) to highly vulnerable migrants, including on needs-basis cash (via cash and money transfer modality), education, legal, MHPSS and other medical assistance, including the provision of emergency life-saving medical interventions. Additionally, IOM will provide NFI and FI vouchers to migrants to further ensure that the immediate needs of beneficiaries are met in a safe and dignified manner. Eligibility for NFIs will be determined through a needs assessment conducted by IOM during the case management process. NFIs include dignity kits containing hygiene products for women and girls, winter kits (including blankets and warm clothes), and post-natal kits for women who have recently given birth. Food assistance can be an essential lifeline for some beneficiaries, and IOM is finalizing an agreement with two major supermarket chains to provide food vouchers as an efficient, flexible alternative to food boxes.³¹ To address needs related to impacts of the Sudan crisis in Egypt, IOM is working with a wide number of actors to support with the provision of assistance to reach out to more beneficiaries. IOM is collaborating with sister agencies such as World Food Programme to distribute multi-purpose cash to migrants in needs to cover their immediate needs. IOM is also collaborating with different non-governmental organizations for the distribution of non-food items such as CARITAS Egypt, Egyptian Red Crescent and PLAN International. Under other protection programme (RDPP), IOM is also cooperating with civil society organization such as TADAMON Egypt to set a shelter for the most vulnerable migrants in need of immediate shelter. IOM will be referring homeless migrants or in need of immediate protection support. IOM is cooperating with private sector such as IMPACT Egypt to provide educational and livelihood capacity

³¹ Based on UNHCR's [2021 Minimum Expenditure Basket](#), in line with [IOM's approach to Social Protection: Linkages between Cash-based Interventions and Social Protection in Humanitarian and Non-humanitarian Settings](#) and with the European Commission's [10 Common principles for multi-purpose cash-based assistance to respond to humanitarian needs](#) – March 2015.

building to teachers in community schools and also livelihood learning activities for migrants in Egypt. IOM will also ensure the complementary of this project with the Joint Platform (JP) project funded by the EU and to be implemented jointly with UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO to support the health and education systems in Egypt and will ensure referral and best value of these fund, and ensure non duplication of assistance. All the above-mentioned referrals and protection activities will be covered under MPRR North Africa and other IOM funded project such as COMPASS and RDPP. Specific details on complementarity and referrals to existing mechanisms will be presented throughout monitoring reports. If need be, coordination meetings with the EU, development partners and other partners involved in similar types of activities, will be organised regularly, to enhance complementarity, synergy and avoid any type of duplication.

Libya

In Libya, IOM will provide specialized protection assistance to the migrants in VHR process, as needed, based on individualized vulnerability assessments. This includes temporary case management and support to migrants within the VHR pipeline through provision of direct support as per identified vulnerabilities including temporary shelter within the IOM host family programme, facilitation of Joint counselling with UNHCR and referrals for migrants identified with possible international protection considerations, and other targeted individualized assistance to the most vulnerable migrants while they await their support to return.

IOM Libya will also support the establishment/rehabilitation of dedicated spaces for the safe and dignified facilitation of return large groups of migrants, including at borders. Under this activity IOM Libya will provide support to maintain and establish spaces for safe and dignified facilitation of return. Currently such locations include the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) clinic in Benghazi and Zwara, The Airport Tents and reception sections in Mitiga in Tripoli and Benina Airport in Benghazi. The team provides regular clean up and fumigation of such places after each charter flight as per the existing COVID-19 prevention modalities to reduce the administrative burden the Action has on the facilities. Under the activity IOM Libya also aims to provide minimal rehabilitation and renovations to the various locations where the team works and provides predeparture assistance for large groups of beneficiaries to ensure a minimum quality of service assuring of safe and dignified assistance.

Morocco

In response to the increased demand for assistance to migrants in a vulnerable situation in Morocco, IOM will continue to strengthen the referral system to facilitate a coordinated provision of protection services through the existing IOM Migrant Orientation Points (MOP)³²,

Where necessary, IOM will provide direct assistance to stranded migrants to respond to their needs. One partnership with selected CSO will be established for the identification and protection of vulnerable and stranded migrants living in extreme conditions in different regions in Morocco (in the forest, streets, etc.), including potential victims of trafficking, smuggled migrants with identified

³² The MOP in Rabat is hosted within IOM premises and in Oujda and Casablanca, an agreement was reached with Entraide Nationale and Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF) respectively and the MOP are hosted within their premises.

protection needs, stranded migrants, migrants who have experienced or are at risk of rights violations, violence, exploitation and/or abuse, and vulnerable migrant children. Direct assistance will be provided in the form of accommodation, food, and necessary non-food items and/or health and MHPSS assistance, to highly vulnerable migrants through a case management approach.

The partner CSO, will be identified among the partner CSOs working in priority regions and having a good access to the migrant population. They will be selected based on previous experience on the field and capacity in key regions not sufficiently covered by other existing protection actions and programmes while ensuring synergies and avoiding duplications with EU-financed programmes, in particular RDPP programme and the actions within the EU-funded project “Assistance aux personnes migrantes en situation de vulnérabilité au Maroc”

Referral partners will also be provided with guidelines and trainings in the provision of protection assistance through a case management approach, including on interviewing UASCs and VoTs, SOPs for the identification and referral of cases, PSEA and implementation of Minimum standards for urgent shelter for VoTs and UASCs. At least 10 CSO working on migrant protection in Morocco will participate to these trainings as part of the CSO capacity strengthening activities that will be implemented under SO3.

During vulnerability screenings, IOM has observed an increase in the need of specific assistance among migrants applying for voluntary return before the return can safely occur. This is due to incidents on their migratory routes, exploitation, the poor hygiene conditions in which they live, in addition to the impact of COVID-19 on their mental and physical health. Thus, IOM will ensure provision of needs-based assistance in the form of medical assistance, housing, distribution of food and non-food items to ensure that the return can safely occur.

Tunisia

IOM in Tunisia will closely liaise with the Tunisian authorities, local civil society, and private sector partners to provide short-term emergency assistance to vulnerable migrants through service provision or referral for protection and assistance services. Where services are unavailable or untimely, IOM will provide needs-based support through food and non-food items, medical and/or legal assistance, psychosocial support and shelter to migrants. Shelter assistance will be delivered through accommodation in one of the 3 facilities in southern Tunisia managed by IOM and providing emergency accommodation and services to migrants in vulnerable situations, including migrants rescued at sea, prioritizing the most vulnerable and within the limits of the shelter capacity of IOM. As experienced in July and August 2023, IOM will continue to closely work with local authorities and the Tunisian Red Crescent in Medenine and Tataouine regions to ensure referrals from borders to its shelters. Each individual will be provided with information on the Tunisian context including access to services and direct assistance including medical and psychosocial. The Action will contribute to supporting the running costs and maintenance of the 3 facilities in southern Tunisia managed by IOM, in complementarity with other funds. In the meantime, IOM will aim at continuing its advocacy to the Government to open transit centres in Tunis and Sfax to facilitate voluntary return processes providing a safe place to migrants in need. Additionally, through its referral mechanism to civil society or governmental institution, IOM Tunisia has developed a network for accommodation of unaccompanied and separated children, women in vulnerable condition and migrants from LGTBIQ community. IOM is working to strengthen the capacity of its referral partners for sustainable

reinforcement of protection systems under the Dutch-funded COMPASS programme. If the referral system is saturated, IOM proceeds through a private partner or exceptional cash-based assistance through thorough criteria for eligibility.

Once the immediate needs of beneficiaries are met, IOM will counsel the beneficiaries on the long-term options available to them, including but not limited to seeking asylum or applying for AVR assistance.

Output 1.3: Migrants benefit from safe and dignified voluntary return assistance.

The present funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will directly contribute to the implementation of this output, with particular focus on Algeria, Libya and Morocco.

The funding contribution from the European Union (DG NEAR – through the Neighbourhood, Development and Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe – NDICI-Global Europe) will also contribute to this output, with particular focus on all North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia).

The Action will result in vulnerable and stranded migrants or migrants in transit having access to safe and dignified voluntary return assistance.

Assisted Voluntary Return will be provided following individualized counselling and upon confirmation that return is voluntary and safe. IOM screenings are done by trained counsellors using IOM's institutionally standardized Rapid Screening Form (RSF), adjusted to the local context. Return counsellors will benefit from the return counselling toolkit developed through the Danish-funded project "Support to Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration from the Western Balkans"³³. The screening forms are aimed at detecting potential vulnerabilities and protection risks including potential signs of international protection needs, allowing for internal or external referrals (including UNHCR for those with international protection concerns in compliance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) on mutual referrals established between IOM and UNHCR and the Joint Framework on Developing Standard Operating Procedures to Facilitate the Identification and Protection of Victims of Trafficking.) as well as suitable assistance according to immediate needs and development of care plans where relevant. Based on their specific needs, migrants in the voluntary return process will be able to access medical and psychosocial services, legal and administrative assistance, shelter, food, and non-food items depending on countries of intervention (see **Output 1.2**).

Return assistance for particularly vulnerable cases, such as unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs), victims of trafficking (VoTs), and persons with mental or physical health needs will be carried based on IOM internal regulations and safeguards taking into account specific needs and rights and adapted to the prevailing operational context.

Return of UASC will be based on Best Interest Assessment (BIA) and Best Interest Determination (BID) procedures (in line with national SOPs and in coordination with UNICEF as per national SOPs). Returns shall be carried out only where return is found to be the durable solution in the best interest of the child. Family tracings and assessments will be carried out as necessary in cooperation with IOM Missions in the countries of origin, and local authorities or partners. Outcomes of the family

33 [Return Counselling Toolkit | Return and Reintegration Platform \(iom.int\)](http://Return Counselling Toolkit | Return and Reintegration Platform (iom.int))

assessment will be part of the BIA and will feed into BID. In case the BID shows that return is not the best option, children will be referred to relevant national authorities or other care providers in line with guidance of General Comment No. 6 (2005) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children outside their country of origin.

Joint counselling with UNHCR and other internal safeguards will be undertaken prior to return implemented with regards to those identified as possible persons of concern to the UNHCR prior to return assistance processing.

Prior to voluntary return, IOM will assess the potential risks linked to the return and develop a risk mitigation plan. The return of migrants in vulnerable situations especially Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), single women head of households, those having medical conditions requires the collection of detailed information in the countries of origin to ensure that the return can take place in a safe manner. This initiative will allow IOM to conduct family assessment to assess the feasibility of the return of a UASC or ensure enquiries on the availability of specific treatments or health facilities for migrants having serious health conditions. Other migrants who consider returning voluntarily but have concerns on important questions such as the validity of acquired diplomas or job opportunities might also be assisted under this activity. If at any point during the return process concerns for protection risks arise, IOM will look into other solutions including relocation of the beneficiary in another part of the country, a third country or refer to UNHCR for international protection. Further risk assessment procedures are carried out for particularly vulnerable cases such as victims of trafficking or victims of gender-based violence (GBV).

All beneficiaries will be provided with fit-to-travel checks to ensure that travel does not pose any danger for them or others travelling with them, and that any needed follow-up care is available and accessible in the CoO. Any significant medical conditions will be referred to IOM Missions in the CoO to facilitate the continuity of care. In this regard, all measures are adopted in compliance with IOM Data Protection principles to protect the privacy of the beneficiary. According to entry requirements in the Country of Origin or the departure requirements for exit, fit-to-travel checks may include PCR/COVID-19 testing. IOM will coordinate the testing for COVID-19 (PCR and serology tests) and other compulsory vaccines, when necessary and requested. Where necessary, IOM will provide operational and/or medical escorts to accompany migrants in their return flights, as well as pocket money in order to be able to cover immediate needs during the return journey (in transit for example) and upon return in terms of secondary transportation from the city of the entry point or a temporary accommodation for instance to their final destination.

Where possible, IOM will integrate best practices into this Action by replicating the successful experiences of the German funded “FORAS - Enhancing reintegration opportunities” project implemented in Morocco since 2017 through expansion or piloting of activities aimed at preparing migrants for sustainable reintegration. The proposed approach is described under Outcome 2, Output 2.3 - Migrants in North Africa have access to reintegration support when needed, including orientation, training services, and reintegration assistance.

Algeria

In light of the increasing demand for AVRR among vulnerable stranded migrants in Algeria, IOM will provide AVRR assistance to migrants in Algeria, supporting them to voluntarily return to their Country

of Origin (CoO) and providing the basis for sustainable reintegration. Pre-departure assistance will be provided to migrants prior to their return to their countries of origin; in particular, pre-return counselling, including remote/virtual counselling, on conditions in country of origin as well as on reintegration support available in country of origin will be made available to beneficiaries so that they are better apt at making an informed decision on returns Individual case management support will be provided on case-by-case bases and will include vulnerability screening, temporary shelter, medical assistance and stabilization, provision of dignity kits, consular support, specialized case management for VoTs and UASC.

In case of special flights for voluntary return, an IOM operational escort will accompany the migrants until the final destination. Domestic escort services are also provided to migrants residing outside Algiers or surrounding wilayas in view of movement restrictions during COVID-19 and/or absence of valid travel documents.

Egypt

In Egypt, IOM will continue facilitating the assisted voluntary return of migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in host or transit countries. IOM has an average of 1,000 registered cases per year, therefore, IOM estimates around 3,000 stranded migrants in Egypt for AVRR registration or assistance. This number might increase dramatically, once the suspension of return to Sudan is lifted.

Based on the above needs, IOM Egypt proposes to provide pre-departure assistance to vulnerable migrants under the Action. This would entail the provision of registration, screening, and pre-departure assistance to stranded migrants including medical stabilization, consular support, payment of overstay penalties, coordination with embassies and countries of origin, as well as housing and limited cash assistance if deemed necessary prior to flight date.

Libya

In Libya, IOM will continue to offer voluntary humanitarian return solutions through its voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) programme. The VHR programme provides assistance that is comprehensive and holistic in consideration of the IOM Protection standards and mainstreaming principles in order to facilitate the return of migrants, voluntarily to their countries of origin in a humane and dignified manner.

IOM Libya coordinates its VHR programme with national counterparts such as the Ministry of Interior, Department for Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Passport authority, embassy representatives and community leaders of third country nationals, sister agencies and various INGOs. IOM works with DCIM to that IOM staff can access Detention Centers and ensure migrants in detention centres can be registered in readiness for the return assistance. IOM also works with Passport authorities for the issuance of exit visa permits for departing migrants, while the ministry of Foreign Affairs provides necessary oversight.

Migrants often enter Libya along smuggling routes after paying smuggling rings to reach Europe. These irregular migrants are unable to get to their intended destination through regular channels, owing to a dearth of legal pathways, restrictive entry policies and a lack of documentation, and thus remain stranded in Libya.

Many migrants often find themselves in detention centres, either run by the Directorate of Combating Illegal Migration (DCIM), an official authority under the Ministry of Interior (MoI), or by other less regulated, unscrupulous parties, exposing them to the additional risks associated with the lack of accountability and oversight over the detaining parties. There are reports of abuse and exploitation of migrants in detention centres such as ill treatment, xenophobia, sexual violence and invasive strip-searches. While women represent a small minority in DCIM-run detention, they are especially vulnerable to ill-treatment and abuse. Recourse for action or mechanisms for reporting abuses which are vital in a context where GBV against migrant women and girls and other types of exploitation are rife are absent. Constant changes of management and power shuffling within the DCIM ranks has contributed to the impunity of those within the DCIM apparatus of other actors running unofficial detention facilities making any regular concrete engagement by the UN challenging.

The climate of impunity extends well into other parts of life for migrants in Libya. Local militia groups control areas of territory and perpetrate trafficking crimes with complete impunity. Both non-State and state-affiliated groups responsible for human rights violations, including trafficking in persons, are rarely arrested or face justice. Libya lacks a comprehensive legal framework to address trafficking in persons or other human rights violations against migrants. The legislation that is in place is hardly enforced. The judicial system is not fully functioning, as courts in major cities throughout the country have not been operational since 2014, affecting both Libyans and non-Libyans alike.

IOM has fostered necessary relationships with all relevant actors through regular meetings and hosting periodic workshops bringing relevant Authorities and selected Embassy representatives in Libya to discuss pending challenges and to foster better coordination.

IOM will continue to work with UNHCR to provide pre-return counselling as part of the initial screening and induction to the VHR programme for nationalities highlighted as being of specific concern by UNHCR or as per identified vulnerabilities following IOM screenings. Migrants identified to have possible international protection concerns will be referred to relevant colleagues within the unit to be referred to UNHCR and undergo joint counselling sessions as necessary.

IOM will provide briefings on reintegration support available in country origin to all migrants supported under the VHR programme. The team will work with the relevant receiving missions to ensure coherence and streamlining of messaging.

The VHR process is organized in several steps, as illustrated in the IOM Libya VHR SOP.

Morocco

As outlined above, in Morocco, an average of 3,500 migrants registers every year to assist the voluntarily return to their countries of origin with IOM. AVRR registrations, vulnerability screenings and direct assistance are provided in IOM Migrant Orientation Points (MOP) in Rabat, Casablanca, and Oujda. For migrants living in areas where IOM has no presence, or for those who cannot reach an IOM counsellor, IOM will provide remote registration and vulnerability screenings through partners or by using IOM's available registration online tools, in order to start the preparation of the return.

IOM in close cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and diplomatic representations of the countries of origin of the beneficiaries, may explore the possibility of organizing charter flights from Morocco to expedite the pace of returns in case mobility restrictions are applied in Morocco.

The cost of return flight tickets from Morocco will be partially covered by the Government of Morocco who has been one of the biggest donors to the AVRR programme since its start in 2005. Moreover, since November 2021, IOM and the Moroccan Ministry of Interior (MoI) have worked together within a pilot initiative to ensure the organisation of joint voluntary returns where the MoI refers migrants willing to return voluntarily to their CoO and the MoI covers the costs of the return ticket and the compulsory medical check while IOM ensures the rest of the pre-departure assistance package (pocket money and distribution of NFI). Specific SOPs have been created to ensure coordination and respect of IOM key principles and procedures between the two parties. This contribution will support the achievement of this overall objective by allowing beneficiaries to benefit from IOM assistance to safely return to their countries of origin. Additionally, the Government of Morocco will contribute with the purchase of a minimum of 200 flight tickets. Other active contributions from different donors to the national AVRR programme in Morocco will also be used to cover part of the costs of the pre-departure and return activities and ensure that the yearly demand can be met.

Tunisia

The Action will allow beneficiaries to benefit from IOM assistance to return to their countries of origin voluntarily. As of 22 September 2023, IOM Tunisia assisted 4,225 individuals with protection assistance including 1,726 with assisted voluntary return. This is an increase from the previous year where IOM Tunisia had assisted 4,106 people including 1,614 for voluntary return for the whole year. Overall, IOM sees increased development of acute vulnerabilities linked to opening of new migration routes but also to the situation in the country. As such, IOM saw its caseload for mental health support double and drastic increase of migrants in need of shelter (over 1,000 in Tunis and 800 in Southern Tunisia). Furthermore, the expulsions led to separation of families including separation of very young children (between 2 to 5 years old). IOM Tunisia will plan to strengthen protection response through additional staff recruitments, draft of standard operational procedures for referrals to public structures (including psychiatric hospitals), identification of gaps in capacity building (to be addressed through bilateral fundings) and formalization of IP agreements with civil society actors. In parallel, IOM Tunisia will continue advocating to the Government for enhanced access to basic services for migrants in need.

The assistance will include vulnerability screening, counselling to foster an informed decision, referral to partners for specialized assistance in all three locations including Sfax, pre-departure assistance, including in response to any health measures imposed by authorities in Tunisia or countries of origin, the travel arrangements, airport assistance, as well as provision of escorts for those requiring it, including unaccompanied migrant children, migrants with health needs, victims of trafficking and elderly migrants. The MPRR-NA targets are detailed in the logframe (Annex 1) and set in complementarity with bilateral fundings³⁴.

OUTCOME 2: RETURNING MIGRANTS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES ARE EMPOWERED TO PURSUE SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION IN NORTH AFRICA AND SELECTED COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.

In line with its mandate and multisectoral expertise, IOM advocates for the adoption of an integrated approach towards reintegration that responds to economic, social and psychosocial needs while at

³⁴ In Tunisia, an additional 700 people will be covered p.a. by bilateral funding from EU Member States. Potential support from France and Italy on AVRR Programme in Tunisia is also under discussion.

the same time addressing cross-cutting issues such as migrant rights, partnerships and cooperation as well as data collection, monitoring and evaluation of reintegration. Such an approach typically falls under the responsibility of a variety of different stakeholders, having different roles in the subsequent interventions.

Through the Action, migrants returning from and to North Africa will have access to reintegration assistance services responding to individual needs and delivered by IOM. Such assistance aims to ensure that returning migrants reach a level of self-sufficiency, social stability, and psychosocial well-being that make their further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity.

Among the migrants who benefitted from return assistance with IOM (**Output 1.2**), many return to countries outside of North Africa where no EU-funded assistance is available to support their reintegration process and until effective referral mechanisms are in place with other EU-funded programmes to ensure continuity of care through the provision of adequate information prior to departure. The Action will provide them access to reintegration assistance in their countries of origin in the form of post arrival assistance and reintegration packages. (**Output 2.1 - Migrants returning from North Africa have access to reintegration support when needed, including orientation, training services, and reintegration assistance.**). Building on best practices from previous programmes, a reinforced pre-return counselling approach will be implemented where possible. Selected migrants will be receiving dedicated reintegration information, virtual counselling from IOM in their countries of origin, and/or skills trainings, thus enhancing their ownership of the return process and capabilities to reintegrate sustainably upon return.

Through the Action, migrants returning to North Africa and their communities will be better informed about reintegration services available through other actors, and where none are available through IOM, and returnees will have access to protection and reintegration assistance services responding to individual and community needs and delivered by IOM's referral partners, or in their absence by IOM. Consequently, returning migrants will reach a level of self-sufficiency, social stability, and psychosocial well-being that make their further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity.

To do so, IOM will refer migrants for reintegration support to other actors providing such services, or in their absence will complement with the provision of relevant reintegration services. The Action will ensure migrants and their communities in North Africa are well informed by IOM and relevant stakeholders engaged in the scope of reintegration interventions including embassies, governments and local partners.

IOM's response to returnees' needs, in accordance with IOM guidance as outlined in its Reintegration Handbook³⁵, are grounded on individualized vulnerability assessments and reintegration plans, allowing for reinforced protection and reintegration assistance for the most vulnerable, while returnees with no immediate protection needs are referred to available services for social inclusion and economic empowerment, particularly provided by government institutions, other agencies, IOM, CSO and NGO programmes, as well as the private sector, hereby looking to maximize the development potential of reintegration. Community-based reintegration interventions contribute to the latter by

³⁵ IOM - [Reintegration Handbook: Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance](#) (2019)

building on local development needs and opportunities. IOM's direct provision of individual reintegration assistance to returnees in North Africa through this Action will only be provided to complement existing services and target those whose needs cannot be covered by referral to partners, particularly migrants with vulnerabilities (UASCs, in need of medical or mental health and psychosocial support, Victims of Trafficking, etc.), and those who do not match the criteria established by other partners (**Output 2.2 - Reintegration measures and services are set up and implemented to support returning migrants in their country of origin in a sustainable way**).

In addition, to ensure reintegration activities are embedded in community processes and local development initiatives, the Action will support IOM's work with local authorities in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco to empower local communities, returnees and migrants where possible through community-based initiatives or support to local facilities serving the community. Through this support, community members, returnees and migrants where possible will have enhanced access to socio-economic services and opportunities. (**Output 2.3 Returnees and non-migrant community members have access to socio-economic services and opportunities**)

The Action will seek to ensure that key institutional partners are fully engaged in identifying needs and opportunities where capacity needs to be strengthened, and that CSOs are empowered to implement localized reintegration support projects with activities described under **Outcome 3**, with the aim to gradually hand over the provision of reintegration support to national authorities in NA countries.

Output 2.1 Migrants returning from North Africa to their countries of origin have access to reintegration support when needed, including orientation, training services, and reintegration assistance.

The present funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will directly contribute to the implementation of this output, with particular focus on Algeria, Libya, and Morocco.

The funding contribution from the European Union (DG NEAR – through the Neighbourhood, Development and Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe – NDICI-Global Europe) will also contribute to this output, with particular focus on all North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia).

A. Reintegration support to third country nationals (TCNs)

Under this Output, IOM will provide reintegration support to third country nationals (TCNs) enrolled in IOM's assisted voluntary return (AVR) to countries where there is no ongoing EU-funded reintegration assistance programme, and who do not benefit from reintegration support through other EU-funded programmes, based on individual screenings and needs. The targets established under this activity are in line with indicative funding availability from the EU, while ensuring the increasing number of migrants returning to countries with no ongoing EU-funded reintegration programme, especially the most vulnerable, can be supported.

Returnees to countries where there is no ongoing IOM reintegration support programme, such as Congo-Brazzaville, will receive an additional reintegration assistance. This additional assistance,

provided by IOM before departure under this contribution, will allow returnees to cover basic needs at their arrival and initiate their reintegration projects.

Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia will all implement this project component.

B. Support preparedness for sustainable reintegration

Where possible, IOM will also integrate best practices into this Action by replicating where possible the successful experiences of the German funded “FORAS - Enhancing reintegration opportunities” project implemented in Morocco since 2017. The different evaluations and data collected throughout the implementation³⁶ showed that the comprehensive orientation and training component, especially on life and soft skills and entrepreneurship, is one of the key preconditions for a sustainable socio-economic and psychosocial reintegration upon return as it equips returnees with knowledge, skills, confidence, and motivation to be the agents of their own success once they have returned home.

The proposed approach will be threefold:

1. Provision of country-specific sessions on available reintegration opportunities in Countries of Origin.
2. Provision of Virtual counselling sessions³⁷.
3. Provision of short pre-departure trainings in personal development (life and soft skills) and basic skills in business creation and management (entrepreneurship and commercialization).³⁸

Morocco

Building on IOM Morocco’s success in this area since 2017, the Action will propose reinforced preparations for reintegration as follows:

1. Provision of **country-specific sessions on available reintegration opportunities in Countries of Origin (CoO)**. IOM will use the information collected in countries of origin to update the information and awareness-raising materials, such as country-specific brochures on available reintegration opportunities, informative videos on the reintegration process, and a website to support pre-phase of orientation and guidance. These information materials will improve the AVRR outreach mechanisms and provide beneficiaries with more detailed information related to the AVRR process and the challenges and opportunities they may encounter during the reintegration process in their countries of origin (developed under SO1, Output 1.1).
2. Provision of virtual counselling sessions between eligible beneficiaries and IOM reintegration officers in CoO for at least four of the main countries of return from Morocco (Guinea, Mali, Senegal, and Côte d’Ivoire). IOM staff in CoO will complement the information shared during country-specific counselling orientation sessions by sharing reliable up-to-date information and advice adjusted to the local reality and IOM’s reintegration approach, while building trust

³⁶ Included in the Capitalization handbook on Pre-departure capacity building activities for AVRR beneficiaries, available [here](#)

³⁷ [Migrant Protection and Assistance during COVID-19: Promising Practices | Return and Reintegration Platform \(iom.int\)](#) AND [Virtual Return and Reintegration Counselling: an online tool supporting informed decisions | Return and Reintegration Platform \(iom.int\)](#)

³⁸ [Reintegration good practices #7 - Pre-departure reintegration assistance in Morocco: orientation, counselling and training | Return and Reintegration Platform \(iom.int\)](#)

in IOM missions and partners including government counterparts in CoO. This allows the migrant to make an informed decision about their return and take ownership of the voluntary return and reintegration process.

Egypt

To further strengthen the prospective returnee's chances of ensuring a sustainable reintegration project upon their return, IOM Egypt will offer vocational and basic soft skills training sessions in Egypt who are expected to depart, in line with an individual needs assessment. This will be implemented by referring the eligible cases to the partners or directly by IOM where no such referrals are possible through other agencies including GIZ. Pre-departure counselling sessions with countries of origin will be provided to all expected returns from the country. Moreover, returnees to countries not covered by this funding will receive post-arrival and reintegration assistance along with two community-based reintegration projects in countries that will be identified based on needs assessment during the project life cycle.

Based on the success of community-based reintegration activities IOM Egypt implemented in countries of origin of returned third country nationals under the Dutch and German funded projects PROTECT and CARE, the mission would like to build on these achievements and provide 2 community-based reintegration projects in countries to be identified during the project lifetime.

Tunisia

In order to better access sustainable reintegration, IOM Tunisia will provide specific counselling to returnees referring them to tailored soft skills and /or short-term business management and vocational training through identified partners. Although the trainings will take place in Tunis, AVRR beneficiaries from all regions responding the specific criteria will be able to access the activity. Where possible and with the approval of local authorities, migrants may be referred to the facilities supported by IOM under output 2.3 activities.

Output 2.2: Reintegration measures and services are set up and implemented to support returning migrants in their country of origin in North Africa in a sustainable way.

The present funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will directly contribute to the implementation of this output, with particular focus on Algeria and Morocco.

The funding contribution from the European Union (DG NEAR – through the Neighbourhood, Development and Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe – NDICI-Global Europe) will also contribute to this output, with particular focus on Egypt and Tunisia.

Activities under this **Output** will only be implemented in response to identified gaps and where reintegration services are not already provided by other implementing partners or national partners (such as UASCs or the most vulnerable cases). Where other actors already provide such services, IOM will refer cases to such actors as relevant, in compliance with its policies on personal data protection. Activities will be implemented in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

When possible and prior to migrants' return to their North African country of origin, IOM will establish the contact, when possible, with IOM sending mission and/or Member States' partners to carry out an in-depth risk assessment to determine any additional individual needs or vulnerabilities, as well as any additional risks of returning to the receiving community (e.g. unpaid debts, hostility from family,

history of sex and gender-based violence, etc.) and ensure to discuss with returnees what to expect upon arrival and the various assistances they are entitled to, within operational national systems or through IOM where needed. Virtual counselling sessions with IOM reintegration teams in North African countries could also be organized prior to the return.

Under this Action, with an approach aiming to cover identified gaps and only where such services are not already provided by other actors, IOM will support migrants with post arrival reception assistance in form of pocket money to be able to cover immediate needs upon return when needed and not sufficiently provided for by another reintegration project, in line with IOM standard practices in the field of return migration. Depending on the case and needs and vulnerabilities, additional support can be provided for housing assistance for up to one month after the return takes place. Where such services are already provided by other actors, IOM will refer cases to relevant actors.

Beneficiaries in Algeria, **Egypt, and Morocco** will go through an individual vulnerability screening interview with an IOM trained staff member aiming to identify or confirm the vulnerability factors and provide an adequate response to the immediate needs based on the profile of the beneficiary and family structure. Those returning, especially those who are in vulnerable situations such as unaccompanied and separated children (UASCs), potential and/or victims of trafficking (VoTs), victims of gender-based violence, single women, pregnant or with children, migrants in need of medical and/or psychological assistance and the elderly, will have immediate needs that will need to be covered before the provision of the full reintegration assistance. These needs will be covered in priority through immediate referrals or direct IOM support during the first 3 months after return.

As part of the initial counselling session, IOM may work with returnees to develop an Individual Reintegration Plan (IRP) to cover existing gaps not covered by other actors. The IRP is developed on an individual basis between IOM reintegration counsellors and returnees and ensures a holistic approach towards sustainable reintegration that goes beyond the economic reintegration and includes the provision of social and psychosocial reintegration assistance considering the specific gender and age needs, with guidance from IOM's Reintegration Handbook and internal policies. Moreover, the IRP presents key information on referrals to partners.

Moreover, In Algeria with less engagement from the government side and few partnerships in place to support reintegration assistance, IOM Algeria continues its efforts to ensure the provision of post-arrival and reintegration support to cover the needs of Algerian returnees. Nevertheless, Over the past years, IOM Algeria found it challenging to implement in-kind reintegration assistance due to the local context. The large informal economy, the lack of suppliers who comply with United Nations agencies' procurement rules, and the immensity of the territory are some of the reasons, among others. Considering the context, IOM Algeria came to the conclusion that cash-based intervention may be more appropriate weather for in-kind or post arrival assistance in certain circumstances. This standardized mechanism has been applied over the past years and have proved their success.

In **Tunisia**, following its pilot phase with the Dispositive Tounesna under the Joint Initiative, IOM met with the Office for Tunisians Abroad (OTE) and OFII to discuss lessons learnt and future joint programming. One of the items discussed was the need for tailored, social reintegration assistance for

vulnerable returnees including readmitted ones. IOM Tunisia stressed the need to continue supporting vulnerable returnees through its long-standing expertise. Therefore, the Action will support a second phase with the National Dispositive for reintegration, Tounesna, focusing on social reintegration to 90 eligible returnees. IOM will work jointly with the eligibility committee including ANETI, OTE and General Direction of Social promotion (DGPS) and the regional delegates.

Given the existence of a wide variety of actors working for the reintegration of North African nationals and capable of providing social protection, psychosocial services, and economic inclusion, particularly employability assistance and to avoid duplications, IOM counsellors will refer returnees, when and where possible, to these identified partners³⁹. The main referral partners will include national institutions working on social protection and other EU-funded reintegration actors. To this end, IOM's intervention will seek the collaboration of the following institutions throughout the process:

- In **Egypt**, IOM will work in particular with the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS), including whenever possible to conduct joint monitoring of reintegration processes, as well as with other EU-funded reintegration actors in Egypt, such as Lifemakers foundation and GIZ.⁴⁰
- In **Morocco**, IOM will work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates, the Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development, the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC), the Ministry of Youth, the Entraide Nationale, GIZ and local civil society organizations.
- In **Tunisia**, IOM will work with the Ministry of Social Affairs through the Office of Tunisians abroad (OTE), under the Dispositive Tounesna.

These institutions will also be actively associated with capacity building activities described under Outcome 3.

Only where and when partners cannot provide reintegration assistance, IOM will ensure the provision of reintegration assistance to cover social and psychosocial needs of returnees, including shelter solutions, long term accommodation solutions, health and legal assistance, access to education, psychosocial assistance (individual or collective, including at community level through dialogue or other activities promoting social cohesion). IOM will also be involved if there is a specific need for

³⁹ In Morocco, IOM will ensure referrals for the provision of economic reintegration, if needed and applicable, to other available contributions, such as the EU-funded contribution to the GIZ and its partners. To this end, IOM's intervention will seek the collaboration of GIZ and its partners as well as the one of the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC), The Ministry of Family and Social Affairs, Ministry of Youth, Entraide Nationale (EN) and local civil society organizations, to encourage sustainability and avoid any double funding.

⁴⁰ During the implementation of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in North Africa, IOM and the MoSS have conducted four visits to El Dakahlia (eight returnees), Fayoum (nine returnees), Sharkeya (10 returnees) and Sohag (four returnees). The monitoring missions were conducted in each Governorate Directorate with the presence of IOM caseworker, Associate Minister for Civil Society Support and Health Affairs in MoSS, Senior Affairs Specialist in MoSS and a representative from NCCTIP and PIM who joined in the last two visits. In addition, Caseworkers from the directorates who already received IOM training in May 2022 were present and supported IOM Caseworkers. A total of 31 returnees were successfully monitored from 24 May 2022 until 29 June 2022. IOM had planned a fifth visit to Kafr El Sheikh, but it was cancelled due to the unwillingness or unavailability of the returnees to participate to the monitoring mission on that day.

mediation between the returnees, the families, and their communities of return. The Action will provide economic reintegration assistance to returnees for whom no other economic empowerment solution is available to respond to the specific needs outlined in the Individual Reintegration Plan (IRP). This assistance will be provided by IOM in-kind or through cash-based interventions.

All the information of the assistance provided by IOM and its partners will be included in the case's IRP, which will guide the joint implementation and monitoring of the reintegration strategy plan. IOM counsellors will ensure the close monitoring and follow-up of the cases. To this end, this action will consolidate wherever possible the mentoring approach to reintegration⁴¹: the existing community workers (or mentors) will provide individualized psychosocial support and ensure close monitoring and reintegration support to returnees and their communities in the covered regions. This approach has proved fundamental for the past years to ensure an integrated approach to reintegration for those returnees in a vulnerable situation. These mentors will provide closely targeted psychosocial support on a personalized level, including family mediation, administrative support and effective referral to key partners in the field.

In a cross-cutting manner and in close partnership with other actors, IOM's assistance will contribute to ensuring sustainable and holistic reintegration where the social and psychosocial needs of returning North African nationals will be covered and where coordination, referral and structural care mechanisms between key stakeholders will be strengthened to improve the sustainable reintegration of returning North Africans, through the individual, community, and structural levels.

Activities under this **Output** will be implemented in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

Output 2.3: Returnees and non-migrant community members have access to socio-economic services and opportunities.

The present funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will directly contribute to the implementation of this output, with particular focus on Morocco.

The funding contribution from the European Union (DG NEAR – through the Neighbourhood, Development and Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe – NDICI-Global Europe) will also contribute to this output, with particular focus on Egypt and Tunisia).

There is increasing momentum in most North African countries to support the implementation of community-based reintegration interventions. The Action will engage the institutions and partners strengthened in activities described under **Outcome 3 (Partner countries and relevant stakeholders in North Africa increasingly exercise responsibility for and manage migrant return, readmission and sustainable reintegration)** in the definition of preferred community-based projects, notably through joint localized needs-assessments in high return areas.

IOM in **Egypt** has received a position paper (Annex 4) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs outlining in detail the government's support for such activities among many others. Egyptian authorities have expressed their interest in supporting community-based reintegration projects in localities witnessing high numbers of return to strengthen the sustainability prospects of their individual reintegration plans but also to mitigate the socio-economic drivers that could otherwise lead to increased attempts

⁴¹ Successfully implemented in Morocco since 2018 through the ORION project and the EU-IOM Joint Initiative

of irregular migration for Egyptians residing in these localities. The Government of Egypt's (GoE) interest in such activities was further emphasized in several meetings such as the latest held between IOM and the Egyptian Ministry for Social Solidarity (MoSS) in April 2022 (Annex 5). In conjunction, the mission is also seeking to conduct a joint mapping exercise with the GoE that aims to identify key service providers and stakeholders currently providing reintegration and other social services that can complement and bolster the success and sustainability of this reintegration assistance (Output 3.3). This includes all potential national social services, micro-business opportunities, national development programs and initiatives, employment schemes, other CSOs and NGOs, as well as ensuring stronger synergies with other EU or MS funded initiatives in the country, in particular actions implemented by GIZ and the Lifemakers Foundation.

In **Morocco**, beside the overall increase in the number of returns from non-EU Member States in 2022 and 2023, IOM has observed an increase in the demand of voluntary returns to Morocco following the El Haouz earthquake in September 2023⁴² that killed more than 3.000 persons and affected mainly the cities of Marrakech, El Haouz, Chichaoua, Taroudant and Ouarzazate. Under this contribution, IOM will implement community-based reintegration projects in the affected region. These community projects will aim at creating conducive conditions for the sustainable reintegration of Moroccan returnees into community life, promote community cohesion through livelihoods opportunities for the community and enhance the contribution of returnees to local development objectives in the affected region. Based on the different needs assessment that are being conducted by local actors in the affected regions, IOM will identify in coordination with local authorities and all relevant actors tailored community-based relevant initiatives to be supported.

Within this Action, IOM will continue to identify opportunities to involve returnees and host communities in the development of community-based projects in the main regions of return. Community development and reintegration projects contributing to environmental rehabilitation, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction such as recycling, waste collection, agroecology farming, rainwater harvesting, among others, will be encouraged. The involvement of institutional partners at local level will be fundamental to ensure the sustainability of the actions and maximize the development potential of reintegration. These initiatives will seek to mitigate the socio-economic drivers that could otherwise lead to increased attempts of irregular migration for Moroccans' residing in these localities and will be coupled with awareness-raising activities to inform potential migrants in main communities of origin, on the risks of irregular migration and the available regular pathways, including circular migration opportunities.

Moreover, as part of this Action, IOM in **Morocco** will strengthen the existing social protection networks and services by supporting the dissemination of available opportunities in Morocco (information on business and training opportunities, job vacancies, and long-term skills development opportunities and social services provided by the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC), the Ministry of Solidarity, Social Integration and Family, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Entraide Nationale (EN) and other active civil society organizations. To this end, IOM will

⁴² Returns to the affected region has increased in 20% since September 2023 compared to the returns in the first semester of the year.

support the development and dissemination of information documents to support orientation towards available services and support IOM referrals where necessary and appropriate.

IOM in Morocco will conduct awareness-raising activities to inform potential migrants in main communities of origin, on the risks of irregular migration and the available regular pathways, including circular migration opportunities. These activities will bring returnees and community members, mostly youth population, to the table. These initiatives will be set up by IOM, ensuring the contribution of other similar programmes (EU-funded programmes, such as the EU-funded Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) and the Programme Towards a Holistic Approach to Labour Migration Governance and Labour Mobility in North Africa (THAMM) with the support of structures working in the social sector such as CSOs or government actors such as the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs, Ministry of Youth, Entraide Nationale and ANAPEC.

In **Tunisia**, the Action will build on the successes of the – Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded – Youth Empowerment/Helma project by supporting local authorities to provide empowerment services to youth in need in key areas, including the Sfax region. IOM Tunisia will support local authorities' capacity to provide empowerment services to youth and institutionalizing initiatives in the forthcoming National Youth Policy. Specifically, the Action will strengthen the capacities of local youth-related services (Youth centers, Centre de Défense et d'Intégration Sociale (CDIS), schools, Technical Vocational and Education Training (TVET) institutions, Ministry of Education) through trainings of youth counselors, equipment provision and support to cultural and sports community-based activities. The facilities supported will then be better able to provide educational, career orientation, training, job search and orientation services to young Tunisians at risk of irregular migration to increase their employability, and potentially migrants if conditions allow.

Youth facilities supported by IOM Tunisia will support the identification of vulnerable youth, in particular those who attempted to migrate irregularly or are at risk of doing so, for the provision of direct financial support (scholarships and grants) to pursue concrete alternatives, including Technical and Vocational Training, back-to-school support, and entrepreneurship support.

IOM Tunisia will advocate for the inclusion of migrants and Tunisian returnees in the services proposed by the facilities supported and build on the support provided to mainstream migration in the National Youth Policy.

The proposed Action will also promote referrals to existing legal pathways opportunities, as an alternative to irregular migration. IOM will conduct a series of awareness raising sessions, both in-person and online, to promote schemes such as the planned mobility scheme between Tunisia and Italy (under THAMM+) – currently under discussion with DG NEAR – as well as other mobility schemes implemented by bilateral agencies (e.g. GIZ, OFII, Swiss Contact). Complementarities and synergies will be also sought with other EU funded programmes, especially those funded through EDMEJ.

Activities under this **Output** will be implemented in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

**OUTCOME 3: PARTNER COUNTRIES AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS IN NORTH AFRICA
INCREASINGLY EXERCISE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND MANAGE MIGRANT RETURN, READMISSION
AND SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION**

The funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will not directly contribute to this outcome. Activities listed under this outcome will be implemented with the financial support from DG NEAR (from the NDICI-Global Europe funding instrument).

The Outcome will ensure that activities proposed under Outcomes 1 and 2 are supported by strong partnerships, particularly with government institutions, other implementing agencies, and improved capacity of CSOs, and operate with the aim to gradually hand over the provision of reintegration support by national authorities in NA countries. After continuous lobbying and government engagement to bring the issue of Return and Reintegration on the policy agenda of North African governments, the IMRF in 2022 has shown they have the will and commitment to further work on these issues. Interviews with government counterparts during the Regional Programme Diagnosis exercise which the Regional Coordination Unit undertook in Spring 2022 confirmed this development. Technical government counterparts have been identified to engage on R&R processes and start operationalizing commitments made during the GCM & IMRF.

Key actors whose capacities in managing return, readmission and reintegration will be strengthened based on their identified needs (**Output 3.1 and 3.2**). In each country, activities will capitalize and build on existing partnerships with national authorities, thus with different expectations depending on the degree of cooperation. In **Algeria**, it will focus on strengthening the partnership with the Ministry of Health as a key entry point to ensure migrant inclusion in health services. In **Egypt**, activities will follow a roadmap of joint activities established in partnership with the Ministry of Social Solidarity to support the expressed will of the Government of Egypt to move towards establishing and owning its own reintegration management system. In **Morocco**, the Action will support the national reference system for the identification and care of migrants and refugees established in 2020 by the Kingdom of Morocco, as well as the IOM-led national working group on reintegration, in coordination with GIZ. In **Tunisia**, the Action will particularly focus on child protection, in complement to and reinforcing interventions foreseen under the EU-funded Regional Development and Protection Programme

(RDPP) in North Africa, to leverage a strong but insufficiently operationalized legislation to respond to the needs of an increasing number of migrant children in Tunisia, as mentioned in **Outcome 1**.

The African Capacity Building Center (ACBC) was established in 2009 at the request of IOM African Member States with the mandate to enhance African States' migration management capacity, promote comprehensive migration governance and facilitate a diverse range of immigration and border management projects and training courses.

The Centre is hosted by the [Tanzania Regional Immigration Training Academy \(TRITA\)](#), and this unique partnership with the Government has benefited both in terms of joint training programmes, excellent training venues and workshops as well as regional support.

African states seek out the ACBC's support to assist them in establishing sound migration policies, robust administrative and technical structures as well as the all-important human resource base necessary to tackle diverse migration issues. Over the last ten years, ACBC has responded to an increasingly wide range of requests from African States to build their country's capacities and shaped innovative solutions in migration management.

While the 2021 ROM report highlighted the need to address the relatively low levels of government engagement on Return and Reintegration processes in North Africa, the Regional Programme Diagnosis conducted a year later showed significant improvement in this regard, with increasing interest expressed and culminating in the declarations made during the IMRF in May 2022, particularly meaningful as the governments of Egypt and Morocco are both GCM champion countries. There is however no dedicated regional platform to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing on Return and Reintegration among North African stakeholders. In addition, the MPRR-NA evaliability assessment recommended to promote policy dialogue on migrant protection, return and reintegration, notably through stronger linkages between high-

level engagement and technical level engagement. Building on this, the **IOM Regional office for MENA**, with the support of ACBC and in cooperation with other regional and cross-regional programmes, in particular COMPASS and RDPP, will organize government led regional dialogue events for technical government staff to gain a common understanding of the R&R continuum and the multiplicity of areas linked to its operationalization. This is expected to contribute to the operationalization and institutionalization of their commitments with regards to Return and Reintegration at the technical level, while leveraging the work undertaken under other IOM programmes, COMPASS and RDPP in particular, with regards to thematic areas such as legal identity, integrated child protection systems, or case management.

The Action will produce and disseminate evidence to inform programming and policy making. It will coordinate with the Regional Data Hub in RO MENA to develop research and policy papers on migration dynamics in North Africa. (**Output 3.3**).

Capacity building initiatives will also ensure coordination and harmonization with capacity-building activities envisaged under the INTPA-funded Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration (MPRR) in Sub-Saharan Africa Programme and take advantage of already existing tools, such as IOM's reintegration training curriculum and its case management training.

Communication outreach campaigns will also serve to create this sense of responsibility and urgency for governments to take lead on return and reintegration issues. Ensuring that topics of return and

reintegration are discussed in the media and public forums will increase the salience of the issue and create a narrative and public opinion about them which will encourage governments to act.

Whether the planned activities lead to the expected increase in government ownership of the return and reintegration processes will be measured by the percentage of key technical stakeholders surveyed reporting that they are more engaged in the fields of protection, voluntary return OR sustainable reintegration assistance thanks to the support of the project, with a target of 75%. Among those technical stakeholders, the concrete increase of government responsibility will be measured by the percentage of key technical stakeholders reporting their institution has been able to effectively support migrants/returnees through referrals to and from IOM (triangulated by referrals data), with a target of a quarter of the stakeholders surveyed responding positively.

Output 3.1: Capacities of State institutions and of relevant return stakeholders (civil society, national agencies) in return management strengthened.

The present funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will not directly contribute to the implementation of this output.

The funding contribution from the European Union (DG NEAR – through the Neighbourhood, Development and Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe – NDICI-Global Europe) will contribute to this output.

Activities under this Output will increase the knowledge and skills of Government institutions and partner CSOs with regards to protection and return management, in line with their respective mandates and needs.

IOM Regional Office for MENA

Responding to the need to provide regional dialogue fora to support capacity building agenda-setting and cross-country learning opportunities for North African countries in the domain of migrant protection and return management, the IOM Regional Office for MENA will organize regional and cross-regional events to facilitate dialogue and experience sharing on policies, strategies and best practices around selected topics of interest for North African governments and civil society organizations, such as inclusion in social protection systems, the provision of mental health and psychosocial support to migrants, return and reintegration of UASCs, migrant inclusive project management for CSOs, legal identity or other topics. These events will lead to increased knowledge and skills of participants through discussions around international legal frameworks and standards, cross-country knowledge and experience sharing with regards to migrant protection and return processes. All activities implemented under this output will be conducted in synergy with other key regional programmes such as COMPASS and RDPP.

Algeria

At the request of the Ministry of Health, IOM Algeria will work in close coordination with the Ministry to develop a roadmap for collaboration on migrant-related health issues. The request is a significant step forward in the discussion to ensure health services are available for migrants assisted with AVR and an acknowledgement of the growing positive relationship between IOM Algeria and the MoH.

Moreover, in the framework of IOM Algeria's ongoing collaboration with the Ministry of Health and *Constellation*, an international organization based out of Belgium, the present Action will aim to

support the third phase of support to civil society and migrants in Algeria to improve access to health of migrant populations. Within the present Action, IOM Algeria proposes to extend and expand its engagement with the MoH and *Constellation* through the organization of a Knowledge Fair where migrant representatives from cities across Algeria come together to extract common learning, take stock of the experience and draw the lessons with the various actors in the field. The Knowledge Fair will be implemented over three days. It is expected that the workshop creates active, positive interactions between groups of migrants, civil society and local health workers, will lower stigmatization of migrants, will increase demand, and improve access of services for migrants; and finally share and learn from the experience from Algerian organizations within *Constellation* global network.

In addition, IOM will facilitate participation and/or train government officials from various ministries, on migration management and protection topics, as requested by government focal points. IOM will also provide support to UN Network members on the implementation of GCM Objective 21, on cooperation in the facilitation of safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration through developing guidance and tools that will help them implement Objective 21 in line with international human rights law.

Egypt

To help meet the unprecedented increase in demand by CSOs for training assistance, IOM will also arrange activities to train staff and build the capacity of migrant CSOs. IOM will select migrant CSOs with which it already has a strong working relationship, with a view to improving current referral networks and collaborative efforts under other projects. Migrant CSOs will be trained in the provision of protection assistance, case management, PSEA, and other thematic trainings while also receiving material and refurbishment assistance for their premises to expand their capacity to receive referrals and provide protection services. This activity aims to widen the intervention's scope and ensure a stronger continuum of assistance, with the possibility of further trainings in the future, including ToTs, to maximise the sustainability and reach of the activity. These activities will be linked to the awareness-raising campaign that IOM is undertaking under another programme in coordination with NCCTIP and PIM, community leaders, and different CSOs, aiming to increase information provision on AVRR and provide a better understanding of actual safe options of return. CSOs supported under this Action will be directly involved in the campaign and benefit from the capacity building provided to ensure effective support and referrals in this context.

All activities will be undertaken in coordination with the Egyptian authorities and aim at including migrants in the national referral mechanism discussed with MoSS which will be supported under output 3.2 and involving the CSOs trained.

Libya

IOM Libya will provide relevant trainings and workshops with national counterparts at national and local level to ensure relevant capacities and knowledge informs ongoing partnerships. IOM Libya coordinates its VHR programme with national counterparts such as the DCIM, airport authorities and the passport Authority, embassy representatives and community leaders of third country nationals,

sister agencies and various INGOs. Such trainings and workshops are aimed at bringing the necessary protection and rights-based approach of the programming into light with the various actors and to provide partners with necessary skills to support the Action. Trainings will include topics on human rights, international migration law, alternatives to detention, protection mainstreaming, counter trafficking, child protection and migration management. Some basic technical assistance and trainings on computer skills, data security and management, and consular support will also be considered for selected embassies in coordination with relevant programmes in the mission.

IOM Libya will build on the achievements of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative to continue providing support for consular services and consular missions for government representatives. Facilitating access to consular services for stranded and vulnerable migrants is a pre-condition for any voluntary return assistance. Currently, the vast majority of migrants seeking IOM support to return home do not have valid travel documents (more than 90% of migrants assisted in Libya).

IOM has adopted a two-pronged approach to addressing both the immediate and long-term problems related to challenges to the provision of consular services/assistance which are essential to facilitate humanitarian returns from Libya. In the short-term, the aim is to ensure timely access to basic consular services for migrants in need. To this end IOM has established a basic coordination mechanism between the embassies/consular authorities and their capital cities. These activities include providing financial support for consular missions to visit Libya and re-establish their embassies/consulates or appoint representatives, provide basic equipment's, the shipment of travel documents, or the facilitation of video-calls with prospective returnees. IOM is also exploring possibilities to provide more systemic support to reinforce consular procedures, increase coordination between the capitals and the embassies/consulates, and enhance cooperation among Africa Union Member States.

As a result of the joint EU-AU-UN Task Force efforts and joint outreach, IOM has witnessed improvements in access to consular services for stranded migrants as a result of multiple missions to Libya. Time taken to issue travel documents for stranded migrants varies between a few days on average to more than 20 days, when the diplomatic mission is not available in the country of operation (e.g., in Libya). To reduce this, IOM has established an online system that links migrants with their diplomatic representatives. The online consular service pilot developed by IOM is continuing to be utilized and currently, IOM Libya uses this procedure for migrants out of Tripoli with authorities in Niger, Nigeria, the Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Senegal, Ghana, Cameroon, and Mali. The republic of Sudan has also agreed to utilize this system with Chad also undergoing trainings to ensure they utilize the system.

Morocco

In December 2020, the Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco developed a national reference system, called Humanized border management standard procedures for the identification and care of migrants and refugees with the objective of consolidating and sequencing the standardized and systematic regional and local referral system including reception, orientation, transfer, and care. This repository first sets out the common cross-cutting procedures that should be applied, with due respect for the rights and dignity of all migrants in an administrative irregular situation (those rescued, intercepted and disembarked at safe ports and those apprehended at the borders) in terms of reception, screening, preliminary hearings, pre-identification and the compilation of reference files. Then, depending on the migrant's administrative status, it provides specific guidance and referrals to

the appropriate institutional actors as well as to care, protection and support facilities. Finally, the post-orientation institutional care will be based on the administrative, regulatory and legal provisions in force, which structure the sectorial interventions and services provided by each department within the framework of its attributions and may include referral to protection systems for vulnerable cases (including health cases, VoT and UASC, to the national authorities responsible for asylum seekers). The framework also includes the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme as an indispensable element of a comprehensive approach to migration management for migrants in an irregular situation willing to return. Through this Action, and in the framework of this national referral system, IOM proposes to support the request of the Ministry of Interior through a series of activities aiming, on the one hand, to support Morocco in the dissemination of this reference system and the sharing of experiences with key players in Morocco and internationally and, on the other hand, to strengthen the capacities and skills of the operators concerned by the implementation of the said reference system.

Building on the foundation laid by the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (JI) in North Africa, and with a view to strengthen a) identification and needs assessment of migrants, b) availability and quality of services and c) referral options and pathways, technical training for the main institutional actors would be delivered around the following topics: reception and identification of the vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees, case management and support and referencing of profiles in situations of vulnerability (asylum seekers and refugees, unaccompanied and separated children, potential victims of trafficking, medical cases, etc.). Trainings will build on past JI capacity building engagement where appropriate and leverage new IOM (and partner) guidance and training curriculums. Close coordination will be ensured with the European Delegation in Morocco to ensure synergies with the capacity building activities planned within the Direct budgetary support to Morocco.

Referral partners providing protection services will also be supported with guidelines and trainings in the provision of protection assistance through a case management approach, including on interviewing UASCs and VoTs, SOPs for the identification and referral of cases, PSEA and implementation of Minimum standards for urgent shelter for VoTs and UASCs. CSO working on migrant protection in Morocco will participate to these trainings. Moreover, as IOM will continue to strengthen referrals of migrants to IOM, a training to partners and IOM staff on relevant information management systems) will also be organized.

Moreover, in the framework of the above-mentioned national referral system for the identification and care of migrants and refugees, IOM will support the Ministry of Interior in the organization of face-to-face or online exchange meetings with key governmental and non-governmental actors in the MENA Region and West and Central Africa to encourage south-south cooperation on migration management in Africa and to share good practices in voluntary return and reintegration and in humanized border management.

Finally, IOM will continue supporting the functioning and participating in the existing multi-stakeholders' coordination platforms on migrant protection, return and reintegration in different key regions, in order to ensure their effectiveness, sustainability and permanent contextualization, considering changing nature of migration trends, needs and policy priorities in Morocco. The main coordination platforms are:

- The **subcommittee on voluntary return**, a national coordination platform on return and reintegration created by the Government of Morocco under the National Immigration and Asylum Strategy (SNIA) where IOM's participation is requested to ensure the sharing of information on the AVRR programme ensure coordination among actors involved in Return and Reintegration.
- The **Thematic Group of Migration and Asylum** (GTMA), a coordination group co-chaired by IOM and UNHCR, which counts on the participation of all UN agencies working in the field of migration in Morocco as well as the exceptional participation of key national and international actors depending on the thematic treated during the meetings. The main objective of this group is to ensure coordination of actions, avoid duplication and fragmentation of initiatives and strengthen advocacy initiatives on key subjects, such as social protection, health and COVID-19 vaccination/assistance, and socio-professional inclusion of migrant populations.
- At local level, the **protection clusters** mentioned previously, currently active in the main migration hubs around the country (Oujda, Tanger, Fès and Casablanca) and relevant to ensure coordination and referral amongst CSO.

Tunisia

Tunisia participated actively in the development process of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) and held to this end, in collaboration with IOM, an informal high-level dialogue in July 2018 which gathered the main stakeholders in the field of migration: representatives of 17 EU and African Union countries, International Organizations and Civil Society. Following its participation in many regional and cross regional meetings on the GCM, Tunisia created a national working group in charge of the follow-up of the implementation of the GCM within the country. The working group brings together on a biannual basis various ministries in charge of migration management under which a national action plan was developed with a focus on: 1) capacity building of the members of the national working group; 2) popularization and demystification of GCM through the production of materials for practitioners; 3) organization of workshops around priority themes related to the GCM and preparation of national reports on the implementation of the GCM in Tunisia. It is a key mechanism through which migration management coordination between mini, including on AVRR, is strengthened. Eventually, the Action will continue supporting the United Nations Migration Network in Tunisia co-chaired by the Resident Coordinator and the IOM Chief of Mission with the aim of promoting the joint intervention of the United Nations in the field of migration but also to develop a common vision of the system in the country.

Tunisia has a quite advanced legislative framework on child protection. The Child Protection Code, adopted in 1995, following the ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child incorporates well the key principles of the Convention. However, its practical application remains insufficient and the authorities responsible for operationalizing its provisions are not sufficiently resourced and equipped to ensure children at risk are effectively protected against destitution and abuses. Since 2021, Tunisia has been confronted with a stark increase in the number of unaccompanied and separated migrant children arriving to the country from the border with Algeria or being part of rescue at sea operations by the Tunisian authorities of boats departing from Libya (from 53 in 2020 to 431 in 2021). The inclusion of these children in an already dysfunctional child

protection system is putting an additional strain on child protection staff. The foster care system is based on an institution-type approach and the child protection centers do not live up to international standards.

IOM Tunisia will thus support the Government of Tunisia to develop a training curriculum of staff working in government structures in charge of childcare to better integrate a migration perspective in the approach to childcare. It will also aim at training coaches in charge of regular mentoring of child protection staff on migration sensitive childcare. The training will be rolled out afterwards in the different regions. This activity is planned in complementarity to the EU-funded Regional Development and Protection Programme in North Africa which focuses on child protection system level issues (BIA/D, guardianship) and alternative care.

Output 3.2: Capacities of State institutions and of relevant reintegration stakeholders (civil society, national agencies at central and regional levels) in reintegration management strengthened.

The present funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will not directly contribute to the implementation of this output.

The funding contribution from the European Union (DG NEAR – through the Neighbourhood, Development and Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe – NDICI-Global Europe) will contribute to this output.

Activities under this Output will increase the knowledge and skills of Government institutions and partner CSOs with regards to reintegration management, in line with their respective mandates and needs.

Regional level

In a similar fashion as what will be implemented under output 3.1, the IOM Regional Office for MENA will organize regional, cross-regional events and peer-to-peer learning opportunities around selected topics of interest for North African governments and civil society organizations to support agenda-setting and cross-country learning opportunities for in the domain of reintegration, around topics such as community planning for reintegration, monitoring and evaluation of reintegration, linkages between reintegration, private sector engagement and development investment, or other relevant thematics. These events will lead to increased knowledge and skills of participants through discussions around international legal frameworks and standards, cross-country knowledge and experience sharing on reintegration. All activities implemented under this output will be conducted in synergy with other key regional programmes such as COMPASS and RDPP.

Egypt

The Government of Egypt (GoE) has expressed its commitment to working towards establishing and taking full eventual ownership of a national reintegration and returnee assistance system in the country. This has been made clear by the MFA's position paper as the Ministry of Social Solidarity (MoSS) during IOM's most recent meeting with them. A comprehensive state-run return and reintegration process, developed with support and expertise from IOM, will benefit from additional resources and is a sustainable alternative to current processes. Under this Output, and building on activities organized during the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in North Africa, and notably the reintegration workshop organized in May 2022 with the MoSS and with the participation of stakeholders such as

Life Makers Foundation (Frontex partner in Egypt for the implementation of the Joint Reintegration Services - JRS), IOM will host trainings, workshops, and other activities in support of the GoE taking greater control of the return and reintegration process in Egypt IOM Egypt will ensure to coordinate with GIZ the reintegration activities in Egypt.

MoSS is currently witnessing a ministry-wide restructuring exercise and has requested IOM to provide the needed expertise and capacity-building activities so that the ministry will be well-positioned to assume full ownership of the national reintegration system once it is fully developed and put into action. Capacity building activities to strengthen the GOE reintegration programme are as follows:

- Conduct a joint exchange visit in 2023 to a country where a national reintegration system is already in place to collect the necessary data and best practices to kickstart the adaptation of such a model to the context of Egypt.
- Conduct several workshops to work towards establishing national standards of procedures for a national reintegration case management system.

IOM and MoSS also discussed the need to build the capacities and provide material support to different CSOs who are expected to act as reintegration partners within the proposed national reintegration system. MoSS indicated that recent updated legislation affecting its Civil Society Support Fund (CSSF), which is based on Law No.149 for Organizing Civil Society Organizations and its bylaws issued in January 2021, will now allow the fund to work with foreign organizations and entities for the first time. This will act as IOM's entry point into dealing with national civil society organizations working in the field of reintegration which have previously been considered inaccessible prior to this legislative change.

IOM discussed with the GoE the need to develop SOPs and a national referral mechanism, considering all the actors in this area. IOM will support, in close partnership with GIZ, the GOE in mapping the actors and the available services. And in conduct workshops to develop the referral mechanism and the SOPs, and will support in building the actors capacity each in their area. In addition, IOM will support creating a return and reintegration working group to ensure better planning and alignment among the provided assistance.

In line with the above, MoSS asked for IOM's support in providing thematic and technical trainings to several of these CSOs in the governorates of high returns. Therefore, the Egypt mission proposes refurbishment, material support, and capacity building to CSOs to be identified in coordination with the ministry. This activity will prove to be a key step in allowing CSOs, including those working with GIZ and Frontex, to streamline processes and procedures in the field of reintegration.

In line with the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the private sector is critical to achieve sustainable reintegration by supporting in creating employment and building skills for the returnees. Due to the complexity of the process, IOM will start by conducting several workshops to explain the importance of the role of private sector and assist national government in aligning the national strategy with the private investment priorities.

Morocco

In Morocco, IOM will be supporting the identification of gaps and recommendations for national capacity development to improve the overall management of migrants' reintegration. Under this Action, IOM will continue supporting the coordination of the national working group on reintegration, in synergy with GIZ, currently composed of representatives from the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), Comité Européen pour la Formation et l'Agriculture (CEFA), Progettomondo, Fondation Orient Occident (FOO), Association Marocaine de Planification Familiale (AMPF) and Es-Maroc. Building on the achievements at national and regional levels of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in relation to governmental institutions and other relevant stakeholders' involvement in the field of the assistance to Moroccan returnees, IOM is committed to expand and facilitate the engagement with all relevant governmental stakeholders, including Frontex and its partners, involved in return, reintegration, employment, entrepreneurship, education and vocational training, social affairs, health, etc. within this working group on reintegration to promote a whole-of-government approach on reintegration.

Moreover, IOM will host trainings and workshops at national and regional levels and other activities involving the members of the national working group on reintegration and the various government structures of social protection, youth and employment to streamline processes and procedures in the field of reintegration. These trainings will also be delivered to students at the National Institute of Social Action (INSA) to ensure that future social workers in Morocco are already sensitized on the specific needs of Moroccan returnees.

Output 3.3: Evidence-based data collected, analysed, and disseminated to inform programming and policy making on irregular migration flows.

The present funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will not directly contribute to the implementation of this output.

The funding contribution from the European Union (DG NEAR – through the Neighbourhood, Development and Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe – NDICI-Global Europe) will contribute to this output.

Under this Output, IOM will ensure relevant quality information and data is available to support programming and policy making. IOM will first carry out or update Stakeholders' Analysis and Mapping in countries targeted under this Action as a means of engaging key actors, mapping the relationships between them, and assessing needs and levels of readiness for institutional change, in line with IOM's Capacity Development for Migration Management (CD4MM) approach⁴³. This will inform and refine the target audience of activities undertaken under Outputs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4, as well as the referrals mentioned under Outputs 1.1 and 2.2. Other activities in response to information needs will be undertaken as well.

Dissemination will also take place through public information campaigns through traditional and social media to widen the audience and raise awareness. By making information available in the public

⁴³ [Capacity Development for Migration Management Guidance Note and Toolbox for country offices.pdf \(iom.int\)](https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/CD4MM_Guidance_Note_and_Toolbox_for_country_offices.pdf)

sphere, complemented with targeted messaging and media campaigns, there are more incentives for governments and other stakeholders to act upon them.

Overall, IOM expects to produce knowledge products and ensure their wide dissemination, including through publication on the IOM's Knowledge Management Hub [Return and Reintegration Platform](#), and that half of the stakeholders reached report having access to the necessary data and knowledge on RRR to inform their advocacy, policy development and programming.

Algeria

In order to strengthen capacity to respond to individual needs and promote reintegration, IOM will develop and regularly update a mapping of services for referral of returnees to protection schemes and partner initiatives (including State services, NGOs and CSOs, and services and projects from the EU, Member States, and other donors). IOM Algeria will also regularly collect, analyze, and disseminate information related to migration trends to support key stakeholders with strategic decision making.

Egypt

In coordination with the National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons, and the Ministry of Social Solidarity, IOM will conduct and regularly update a service mapping exercise that would help identify the complementary assistance different service providers in Egypt. Data resulting from this exercise would allow IOM and the different practitioners to refer and better orient returnees to these additional services that can respond to their individual needs to ensure a broader continuum of assistance and therefore create more conducive socio-economic conditions for these returnees.

In addition, in line with the Egyptian strategic framework for return and reintegration, IOM will support the Ministry of Social Solidarity in conducting research on migrant protection, return and reintegration thematicas as defined in coordination with the Ministry following consultations and information gaps identified during the workshops on the SoPs planned under outputs 3.1 and 3.2. These can include but are not limited to assessments of needs and profiles, labor market studies, etc.

Tunisia

To support the activities implemented under outputs 3.1 and 3.2, and in close coordination with UNICEF and the relevant authorities involved in Child protection, such as Ministry of women and family and Ministry of Social affairs, the Action in Tunisia will support a multi-country quantitative and qualitative study to better understand how the migration routes have changed since 2020, including due to the impact of the COVID 19 crisis. The study will also help understand how criminal networks operate along the routes and the types of abuses children suffer. The study aims to cover the main countries of origin and transit of migration routes to Tunisia upon approval of the relevant governmental authorizations (e.g., Guinea, Ivory Coast, Cameroun, Sierra Leone, Mali, Niger, Tunisia) and consequently help to better frame the Government's protection response to these children. In parallel, IOM Tunisia will implement under bilateral funding from the Netherlands a migrants profiling study of migrants benefitting from IOM services and a mapping of AVRR actors including identification of challenges. This will better inform the Action and implementation of AVRR and protection programs

IOM Regional Office for MENA

To complement this exercise and provide timely data and information on the environment where returns to North Africa take place, the IOM Regional Office for MENA will work with the Regional Data Hub to respond to key information needs, by addressing some of the information gaps identified in previous programmes and by the EU-IOM Joint Initiative Final Evaluation, for example by providing a gender analysis of the programme in North Africa, reinforcing needs and trends assessments, ensuring protection country profiles are supporting vulnerability assessments, and localizing definitions of reintegration sustainability.

INDICATIVE LIST OF DELIVERABLES

The below documents will be produced by the project and annexed to relevant donor reports.

The funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will not directly contribute to these deliverables. Activities listed under this outcome will be implemented with the financial support from DG NEAR (from the NDICI-Global Europe funding instrument).

- M&E Plan (cross-cutting)
- Summary of Programme Diagnosis (cross-cutting)
- Final Evaluation (cross-cutting)
- Communications and Visibility Plan (cross cutting)
- Online information campaign materials and publications' list
- Stakeholders' Mappings (Algeria, Egypt) (output 3.3)
- Study on irregular migration of children to Tunisia (with UNICEF) (output 3.3)
- Gender analysis of access to services for migrants in North Africa (output 3.3)

4. Partnership and Coordination

Governance

The Regional Coordination Unit (RCU) is headed by the Regional Coordinator (RC) who leads the implementation of the Action. The RC is supported by the RCU team that coordinates and ensures the implementation of Action activities and provides guidance and capacity building to implementing Country Offices under its purview to ensure high quality, timely and Action delivery anchored on protection considerations. The RCU ensures implementation of the Action orientations.

The Action's Country Team is headed by the Country Programme Manager under the overall supervision of the Chief of Mission and under the coordination of the Regional Coordinator. Country Teams are responsible for the daily management of the programme at the country level. They design, implement and monitor activities in their respective countries, prepare country-level reports and share data, achievements, challenges and good practices upon request by the RCU. They are in charge of liaising with national and local stakeholders as well as with the local EU Delegation. Each Country Office will define its staffing needs in line with the volume and scope of activities planned, and in line with the Action parameters.

The Action will benefit from support from a number of other offices and teams, including the **RO MENA Regional Data Hub**; the **African Capacity Building Centre** (capacity development support); the **IOM Regional Office in Brussels** (donor liaison functions); the **Special Liaison Office in Addis Ababa** (policy liaison functions with the African Union); and IOM **HQ** units and divisions including (not necessarily limited to) Protect (PXD), Capacity Development for Migration Management (CD4MM), Cash-Based Interventions (CBI), Transition and Recovery Division (TRD), Labour Mobility and Human Development (LHD) (thematic or technical support functions). More specifically regarding IOM 's **Regional Office Brussels**' role, the Office, and in particular its Global Programme Support Unit (GPS) and Financial Liaison Unit, ensures donor liaison and compliance with the EU, in close coordination with the Regional Coordinator. This focuses on donor compliance review functions to ensure compliance with EU rules and procedures and as foreseen in the IOM project handbook, and technical support on EU compliance matter.

The governance of the regional Action in the North of Africa will be supported by bi-annual meetings called upon by DG NEAR and the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs or IOM with the aim to discuss the advancement of the activities and achieved results, discuss possible contractual changes required, and any other issues pertaining to the Action. These meetings will be attended by relevant representatives from DG NEAR, the Danish MFA and IOM.

IOM will actively participate in and share information on the implementation of the Action, and support in the organisation of regular coordination meetings chaired by EU Delegations with other partners implementing activities related to return and reintegration, to complement ongoing efforts and avoid the duplication of efforts with the aim to build a sustainable system for return and reintegration in the targeted countries. The format and frequency of these meetings will be agreed between the IOM office and the EU Delegation in each country.

For the time allocated to the Action, the staff assigned to the Action will be responsible for the following main tasks that can be directly attributed to the Action.

Position	Role
1.1 National staff	
1.1.1 Technical	
1.1.1.1 Country Project Officers - Algeria, Morocco, Libya	The Country Project Officers will be inter alia responsible for the implementation of project activities under the direct supervision of the Project Managers at country level.
1.1.1.2 Country Project Assistants - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Libya, RCU, RDH	The Country and Regional Project Assistant will inter alia support the Country Project Officers and RCU in the day-to-day project implementation and backstopping of project staff functions.
1.1.1.3 Governance and liaison officers - Tunisia, Egypt	The governance and liaison officer will inter alia coordinate with the different units while supporting the implementation of the capacity building initiatives under the Action, including trainings, seminars, conferences and curriculum development.
1.1.1.4 Regional Project Support Officer - RO Cairo	The Regional Project Support Officer will support the Programme Coordinator in project development, implementation and reporting activities, including providing inputs for budgets and project proposals and reviewing and updating reports for the MPRR-NA in coordination with implementing missions
1.1.1.5 Communications Assistants - Morocco	The Communications Assistants will inter alia prepare all the visibility materials in collaboration with the project team, assume the coordination between journalists and the Country Project Coordinators/Project Managers, assist Operational staff in preparation of different communication tools (press releases/Letters of invitation/Info sheets/social media engagement) relating to the project activities.
M&E Officer Egypt	The M&E officer will be inter alia responsible for supporting the implementation of the Action's M&E plan. He/she will assist the overall organization of project related data/information, including data processing and cleaning, and for updating the project database on a routine basis.
1.1.1.6 M&E assistant – Libya, Egypt	The M&E assistants will be inter alia responsible to support the implementation of the project's M&E plan. He/she will assist the overall organization of project related data/information, including data processing and cleaning, and for updating the project database on a routine basis.
1.1.1.7 Medical Officers - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Libya	The Medical Officers will inter alia oversee the medical screening of stranded and in transit migrants for direct assistance, and the provision of medical assistance to those in need, ensure the compilation of disaggregated data on vulnerable populations, manage the development and execution of medical outreach sessions, establish a system of pre-departure medical checks and medical escorts for returnees and enhance the sustainability of psychosocial reintegration. They will be responsible for the provision of pre-departure medical checks and the referral and coordination of

	medical interventions between IOM offices and any surgical or emergent operations. They will be responsible for humanitarian and medical assistance to migrants. They will assist national authorities to better manage the health needs of migrants. They will provide support to governments and civil society to help the most vulnerable people (victims of trafficking, migrant women, single mothers, unaccompanied minors). They will be responsible for coordination with the medical team on the ground performing predeparture medical functions and carrying medical escort trips.
Reintegration assistant – Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco	The reintegration assistant will be inter alia responsible to provide the overall support to the provision of reintegration assistance (individual, collective and community) to returning migrants in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco and coordinate the provision of reintegration assistance to migrants to non MPRR countries.
Case workers - Tunisia	The case workers will be inter alia responsible for providing overall support for the provision of direct assistance to vulnerable beneficiaries including counselling, vulnerability screening and referral to partners.
Protection Assistant - Tunisia	The protection assistant will be inter alia responsible for providing tailored assistance and close follow up of the most vulnerable cases including gender-based violence survivors, unaccompanied migrant children and migrants from detention centers.
Operations Assistants - Tunisia	The operations assistants will be inter alia responsible for providing the overall support for issuance of travel documents with Embassies and Consular authorities, booking and coordination of movements with countries of origin and airport assistance to AVRR beneficiaries.
Shelter Managers - Tunisia	The shelter managers will be inter alia responsible for ensuring the overall management and provision of assistance to vulnerable migrants within the IOM-ran shelters in Southern Tunisia.
1.1.2 Administrative/ support staff	
1.1.2.1 Admin & Finance Officers - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Libya,	Under the overall supervision of the RMOs, the Admin and Finance Officers will inter alia monitor and oversee the financial management of all activities under the Action, including accounting, budgeting and reporting. They will be responsible for overseeing budget control processes, financial monitoring and analysis, statistical and financial reporting and other administrative support functions under this Action, they will ensure compliance with established IOM and Contracting Authority procedures.

1.1.2.2 Admin & Finance Assistants - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Libya,	Under the overall supervision of the RMOs, Admin and Finance Assistants will inter alia support the Admin and Finance Officers to implement the financial and administrative aspects of the Action. The Admin & Finance Assistants will prepare and process all the financial data linked to all project activities, maintain appropriate internal controls to safeguard project assets, ensure correct accounting, assist with checking all project invoices and ascertain that the equipment, supplies or services under the action are duly provided and received.
1.1.2.3 Procurement & Logistic Assistants - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Libya	Procurement & Logistic Assistants inter alia confirm terms of payment and delivery conditions & prepare Purchase Orders. Oversee and conduct purchases for IOM offices. Negotiate with vendors and ensure that goods, services delivered are good value for money. Responsible for maintenance and repair of office facilities, assets, and vehicles. Performs renovation work on office premises. Ensure assets received through procurement are duly registered in the system. Ensure procurement of goods and services comply with established IOM and Contracting Authority procedures.
1.1.2.4 HR assistants - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Libya	HR Assistants will inter alia be responsible for Preparation and follow upon contracts issuance & renewal. Issuing personnel actions. Preparation of monthly staff salaries. Processing and assisting will all recruitment formalities.
1.1.2.5 IT Assistants - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Libya	IT Assistants will be inter alia responsible for maintaining the highest level of IT & computer service. To be on standby as per duty roster system to offer ITC support during non-working hours. Secure the missions' data/information from viruses/worms. Perform virus detection and prevention for all systems in the mission. Assist in the procurement of IT, communications equipment. provides ICT support services to the ICT unit, provides daily technical support to users of information management tools and technology infrastructure.
1.1.2.6 Drivers - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Libya	Responsible for the road worthiness of IOM vehicle and or carrying out driving duties related to the operational activities.
1.1.2.7 Security Assistants - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Libya	The security assistant will inter alia support in arranging the project staff movements, taking relevant security measures to protect the project's personnel and property.
1.1.2.8 Security Guards - Libya	The security guards will inter alia provide protection and monitoring of the office premises and taking relevant security measures to protect the project's personnel and property.
1.1.2.9 EU Liaison Focal Points - RO Brussels	EU liaison focal points (programmatic focal point and financial) located in the IOM Regional Office in Brussels will inter alia ensure liaison with the EU institutions and support to the Steering Committee and other project meetings and events in Brussels. They will provide technical assistance to IOM offices on contracting, monitoring, reporting and visibility in line with EU requirements.
1.2 International staff	
1.2.1 Technical	

1.2.1.1 Regional M&E Officer - RO Cairo	Inter alia responsible for developing and supporting the adoption of standard tools in the region in order to ensure quality and methodological coherence. He/she will exercise functions in close coordination with the information management unit and the monitoring and evaluation unit of the regional office under the supervision of the Regional Programme Coordinator.
1.2.1.2 Regional Programme Coordinator - RO Cairo	Inter alia responsible of coordination and harmonization of different components of the Initiative, including on voluntary return, reintegration and awareness raising, reporting, visibility, and monitoring of activities. He/she will also be responsible to develop, in coordination with the EU, target countries and other counterparts, the strategic direction of the initiative, SOPs and to represent IOM, jointly with Cairo Regional Office, in relevant fora. He/she will also be responsible to supervise the Coordination Unit located at the Regional Office.
1.2.1.3 Regional Protection Officer - RO Cairo	The Regional Protection Officer will be responsible inter alia for mainstreaming and strengthening of protection standards throughout the Action both at regional level and in support to field-based operations as relevant in close coordination with the Program Coordinator and the Regional Thematic Specialists. He/she will also be responsible to develop & ensure roll out of tools that support high protection standards in direct assistance, return and reintegration activities. He/she will also provide protection thematic expertise in capacity building interventions for the benefit of staff and stakeholders of the Action. He/she will support the Action's Regional Coordination Unit located at the IOM Regional Office in Cairo.
1.2.1.4 Regional Information Management Officer - RO Cairo	The Regional Information Management officer will oversee inter-alia the roll-out and compliance of the case management system under the Action, the Migrant Management Operational System Application (MiMOSA), as well as the new self-registration, referral, and remote case management under the Action, though a cloud-based service across IOM's offices in the countries targeted by the Action in North Africa. Working closely with the Regional M&E officer and Coordination team, he/she will support the roll-out of the M&E plan through creation of the online data collection system and reports.
1.2.1.5 Country Program Coordinators - Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco	The Country Program Coordinator's time will be dedicated to the project overall management. The role of the IOM Country Program Coordinator is to ensure the proper conduct of all projects undertaken by the country office. Principal interlocutor with the Government and relevant diplomatic and UN representatives

1.2.1.6 Country Project Coordinators - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Libya	<p>The Country Project Coordinators will be responsible inter alia for the overall supervision of the Action's activities and senior liaison with stakeholders in each of the 5 countries targeted under this Action. The Country Project Coordinators will be responsible for direct relation with the governments in the targeted countries. This role is crucial and necessary for the implementation of the protection, return and reintegration activities under this Action (e.g. in Libya to negotiate the issue of exit visas at the highest political level with national authorities). While the project managers and project officers will be associated to the interface with national authorities at a technical and operational level, the Country Project Coordinators will assume a role of political interface with national authorities at a level which cannot be addressed by other project staff (in countries where migration aspects can be a highly political and sensitive matter), therefore directly contributing to ensure the smooth implementation of project activities. Interim and final reports under this Action will highlight particular aspects of the project that have directly involved Country Project Coordinators.</p>
1.2.1.7 Project Managers - Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco	<p>Inter alia responsible for managing the establishment of referral mechanisms, outreach, the monitoring and evaluation of reintegration schemes, as well as enhancing governmental capacities to forecast labour market and demographic trends, and the development of sustainable post arrival assistance for returnees. Responsible for ensuring the activities under the project follow the overall strategy of the Migrant Assistance Division. They will also supervise the collection and compilation of data on vulnerable populations and ensure robust Institutional Knowledge development and transfer.</p>
1.2.1.8 Project Officers - Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia	<p>Inter alia responsible for ensuring the coordination of case workers and migrant assistance services, the collection of data, and pre-departure consular and bureaucratic requirements. He/she will also be responsible for ensuring coordination between medical and direct assistance services to migrants and manage the screening of migrants and the disbursement of assistance per the recommendations of the screenings. Project Coordinator is responsible for the management of the AVRR Map, communication, outreach related activities, and general coordination support. In Egypt, in addition to child protection officer and counter trafficking officer to assist with the case management of the most vulnerable cases such as victims of trafficking and unaccompanied minors. In Tunisia, the project officers will oversee implementation of case management and movements to countries of origin.</p>
1.2.1.9 Country M&E Officer – Tunisia	<p>The M&E officer will be inter alia responsible for supporting the implementation of the Action's M&E plan. He/she will assist the overall organization of project related data/information, including data processing and cleaning, and for updating the project database on a routine basis.</p>

1.2.1.1010 Medical Officer - Libya	The Medical & MHPSS Officers will be inter alia responsible for managing the medical team performing the pre-departure medical assistance.
1.2.1.11 Research Officer – RO Cairo	The Research Officer will inter alia be responsible for data harvesting and evidence dissemination to inform programming and policymaking regarding migration dynamics in North Africa. The primary objectives of this role are to generate evidence through research activities, collaborate with stakeholders to develop research and policy papers on migration dynamics, and lead research activities such as data collection, analysis, and dissemination. This role will be essential in informing evidence-based programming and policymaking on migration in North Africa.
1.2.1.12 Reporting Officer – RO Cairo	The Reporting Officer will inter alia be responsible for timely reporting for MPRR-NA programme. This will monthly, quarterly and interim reports. They will also participate in internal coordination through monthly monitoring activities and documentation for the programme.
1.2.1.13 PSEA Officer – IOM Libya (Danish funding contributes to this position)	The PSEA officer will inter alia be responsible to strengthen AAP and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse mechanisms in IOM Libya.
1.2.2 Administrative / support staff	
1.2.2.1 Regional Resource Management officer - RO Cairo	The Regional Resource Management Officer (RRMO) will be inter alia responsible and accountable for the finance, administration and resource management and supervision functions under the Action. The RRMO will supervise all accounting and financial management aspects of project implementation and ensure that the staff assigned to the different project activities have the resources and conditions to fulfil their role under the Action. The RRMO will be responsible for coordination with the project manager and other relevant operational staff to ensure coherence of the implementation of the Action between the financial and the operational levels on a day-to-day basis. The RMO will supervise the project tasks of the admin & finance officers, assistants and procurement staff.
1.2.2.2 Resource Management Officers - Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Libya	The Resource Management Officer (RMO) is inter alia responsible of the supervision of administrative staff, including procurement, accounting, HR and IT. The RMO will also provide staff training, monitoring and financial reporting and liaison with the regional office, the administrative centers of IOM in Manila and Panama and the Headquarters. In coordination with the Program manager, the RMO will ensure that monitoring of activities is consistent with budget tracking and compliance with IOM and EU requirements, etc.

1.2.2.3 Procurement & Logistic Officers — Libya, Tunisia	The Procurement & Logistic Officers will inter alia manage and be responsible for all procurement and legal documents processing. They will manage the logistics of the mission related to project activities, Office Logistics, Staff accommodation logistics, Fleet management, etc. The Procurement & Logistic Officers will participate to the processes for the procurement and logistical distribution of items necessary for the implementation of the project activities at the various locations targeted under this Action (e.g. procurement of non-food items, hygiene kits and food items).
1.2.2.4 Finance officers - Algeria, Libya, Tunisia	Under the overall supervision of the RMO, the Finance Officer will inter alia ensure that the financial aspects under this Action are closely monitored and that recruitment of staff, consultants, and trainers, and procurement of goods and services comply with established IOM and Contracting Authority procedures.
1.2.2.5 HR officer — Libya, Tunisia	Under the overall supervision of the RMO, the HR Officer will inter alia ensure that the human resources aspects under this Action are closely monitored, and that recruitment of staff, consultants, and trainers comply with established IOM and Contracting Authority procedures.
1.2.2.6 Project development and Reporting Officer - Libya	The Project development and Reporting Officer will be inter alia responsible for the preparation of donor reports and information requests under this action.
1.2.2.7 Field Security Officer - Libya	The Field Security Officer will inter alia escort staff movements related to project activities and be responsible for staff and assets security and protection.
1.2.2.8 Public information officer - Libya	Under the direct supervision of the Country Project Coordinator, the Public Information Officer will be inter alia responsible in supporting the project with reporting and implementation of internal and external communication and media-related activities for IOM in Libya.
1.2.2.9 Charter Movements Management in Geneva - Libya	Charter flights management and contracting for VHR (open and close bids per charter, signing contracts, coordinating with Libya and receiving missions on departure and arrivals, pay vendors and updating database and etc...)
1.2.2.10 Grants Manager - Morocco	The Grants Manager will be responsible inter alia for supporting the project Manager in the monitoring of all the activities implemented through implementing partners under this Action (Outcome 1). Under this contribution, this include the contractualization process as well as the monitoring of the activities in the field of 1 CSO in charge of delivering Direct Assistance (output 1.2) and overall, he contributes to the management a more than 10 grants between IOM and CSOs in Morocco. The Grant Manager is also responsible for developing a Capacity Building Programme for partner CSO to ensure sustainability of the action.
1.2.2.11 Senior Donor and Partner Liaison Officer - Libya	The Senior Donor and Partner Liaison Officer is inter alia responsible for donor relations and donor strategy.

In order to promote cost efficiency and economies of scale, IOM staff directly working on the project in the project offices will be physically placed in the existing offices and the charging of the actual direct office costs related to their functions (rental of premises, consumables, other office services, etc.), will be based on actual expenditures incurred during the period distributed in proportion to the amount of time spent by the staff on the activities directly linked to the project.

At the strategic level, the direction of the Action will be ensured by the Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa in Cairo, with support from the Regional Thematic Specialist (Migrant Protection Assistance) in the Regional Office in Cairo.

Regional

Achieving sustainable return and reintegration depends on the combined efforts of all stakeholders. Partnerships and cooperation between a variety of actors – governmental and non-governmental – at the international, regional, national and subnational levels are essential to enhance the range of reintegration assistance, avoid duplication of efforts and foster the sustainability of return and reintegration processes. IOM is committed to facilitate this engagement of actors with different mandates and areas of expertise – from national and local governmental institutions to the African Union (AU) and relevant RECs, UN agencies, international and national CSOs, private sector and academia – from the policy level all the way to individual case-management and reintegration provision. This will be supported by promoting nationally-owned robust context analyses and mappings and formalization of referral mechanisms and partnership – including building on the strong partnerships fostered under the [EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration](#). Coordination, synergies and referral to and from other EU or Member States supported initiatives will be strengthened, including with Team Europe-led interventions. Such coordination and synergies will be maximized with the MPRR Programme - to be funded by DG INTPA and to be implemented by IOM in East, Central and West Africa - including through regular and structured coordination spaces among both programmes, as well as the development and use of common tools whenever possible and relevant. IOM also aims to leverage its expertise and convening role to promote regular coordination platforms and offer solutions for streamlining processes and referrals. IOM could explore the use of the Reintegration Assistance Tool (RIAT) through an automated system interface with its global case management system (MiMOSA). The Action will also explore synergies with EU Member States' efforts in managing AVRR in North African countries, including through the Return and Reintegration Facility (RRF) and Frontex JRS.

IOM's extensive expertise and work at national and regional level with emergency response, migrant protection and assistance and work with authorities at the borders, as well as the organization's infrastructure and partnerships in North Africa, position it well to respond to the needs identified.

Algeria

IOM Algeria is coordinating its protection and returns services with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Interior, UNHCR, UNICEF, the EU Delegation in Algiers, CARITAS and other civil society organizations working with returnees and vulnerable migrants. IOM also facilitates dialogue with a wide range of actors to promote dignified solutions and rights-based approaches for the benefit of all.

Egypt

IOM Egypt works closely with the Government of Egypt in the implementation of all activities and will be in regular contact and coordination with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Social Solidarity, and other relevant entities, such as the National Council for Women (NCW), National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM), National Coordinating Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM&TiP) and others to maximize the effectiveness and sustainability of reintegration activities in Egypt.

By assisting in the development of a reintegration coordination mechanism and leading the establishment of a national referral mechanism between service providers, IOM further solidifies its commitment to working collaboratively with the GoE and other organizations. The mechanisms will enable IOM and other service providers to work more effectively and efficiently with each other, resulting in more comprehensive and accessible support for migrants.

IOM is currently in the process of signing its mission-wide MoU with MoSS which includes a workplan of all of the activities proposed under SO1 and SO2 above.

IOM held several bilateral meetings with GIZ Egypt since September 2021, and two recent meetings in July 2022, where this action and its proposed activities were coordinated. The meeting confirmed that the activities IOM is suggesting are complimentary and in full synergy with GIZ ongoing intervention. Discussions stressed on the need to establish a data-sharing agreement that allows for bilateral case referrals between both organizations to ensure that beneficiaries from both sides of the IOM-GIZ cooperation have access to reintegration and employment centers respectively. GIZ also showed interest in taking part of IOM proposed capacity-building activities outlined under SO2 of this action. In addition, Frontex's partner in Egypt, Life Makers Foundation, has participated in the Reintegration workshop organized by IOM in May 2022, and will be included in activities planned under this Action when relevant.

IOM Egypt also co-chairs the UN Mixed Migration Working Group and the Migration and Protection Development Partner Group (DPG), and participates into the Inter-Agency Working Group, the Protection and the Child Protection Working Groups, where regular coordination with other relevant stakeholders and service providers take place, ensuring that the project activities remain cognizant of changing protection and human rights trends in the country.

Libya

IOM Libya is coordinating its VHR programme with national counterparts such as the DCIM, airport authorities and the passport Authority, embassy representatives and community leaders of third country nationals, sister agencies and various INGOs. Regular coordination and work with these counterparts is necessary to ensure a rights-based approach of the programming into light with the various actors and to provide partners with the necessary background to support the Action.

Morocco

This Action will complement the national return and reintegration programme in Morocco closely implemented in coordination with the Moroccan Government, and specially with the Moroccan Ministry of Interior (MoI). IOM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MoI in 2007 setting the

ground for the integration of AVRR within the national migration system and strengthening the partnership with national entities. The technical contribution of the Ministry of Interior is key to this Action as this Ministry will grant exit permits and to all beneficiaries and penalty waivers to all beneficiaries to allow for their return. The Ministry also supports IOM in the boarding procedures at the International Airports in Morocco by allowing facilitated procedures for big groups of returnees.

IOM will also rely on its network of CSO partners to disseminate information on AVRR and refer migrants who wish to return voluntarily to IOM Morocco through the established Migrant Orientation Points (MOPs) and partners associations. These partners include local authorities, UNCHR, HI, Médecins du Monde, Delegación de migraciones, Association de Lutte contre le Sida and the national social institution, the Entraide Nationale, to mention a few. The Embassies and Consulates of the countries of return are key in the issuance of travel documents to beneficiaries. They will regularly be informed of the progress of the Action. They will also be involved in the outreach to the migrants and will provide insights on ways to improve the Action.

Finally, this Action will coordinate its efforts with existing projects working on protection and national institutions to the full extent possible.

Tunisia

The implementation of the Action will benefit from IOM's established partnerships and cooperation with the main actors in Tunisia, relevant to the Action. Relevant government entities that the Action will be implemented in close coordination with include the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Women, Family, Children and Seniors as well as NGOs part of the referral mechanism and service providers working with vulnerable migrants. IOM will also work closely with the local and regional authorities in the regions of Tunis, Medenine, Zarzis, Tataouine and Sfax where the Action will be implemented. Moreover, IOM has established effective communications and coordination mechanisms with relevant UN agencies through the UN Migration Network (e.g., WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, and OHCHR), as well as country of origin embassies of migrants in Tunisia.

5. Monitoring

The funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will not directly contribute to monitoring activities. Activities will be implemented with the financial support from DG NEAR (from the NDICI-Global Europe funding instrument). However, qualitative monitoring of activities will be conducted for all programme activities irrespective of funding contribution and reported on accordingly.

The Action monitoring system will be following IOM's institutional M&E guidance and Accountability to Affected Population commitments and on M&E for return and reintegration programmes. It will rely on a regional M&E plan, and a strong information management (IM) system and data flow based on MiMOSA for case management data and KoBo for M&E data (surveys) and additional relevant systems for qualitative data storage and analysis. The M&E plan and related IM system will be based on the provision of regional tools adaptable to country needs, designed and deployed in coordination with other programmes sharing similar intervention spaces such as COMPASS and MPRR-SSA, with quality control at country level and an additional level of quality control at the regional level with a sample of data collected. The data will feed into live data visualization dashboards.

This system will allow for live monitoring of progress on indicators and other relevant data collected through the Action. This will be complemented with monitoring visits to key activities conducted both by country M&E staff, while regional M&E staff will conduct visits to monitor key Action milestones and provide technical support and capacity building activities. The collection and analysis of qualitative data will be encouraged to complement and enrich findings from quantitative monitoring tools, notably through the set-up of qualitative M&E mechanisms to collect and collaboratively code qualitative data.

The Action will also encourage the development or strengthening of two-way communication systems with beneficiaries and other accountability measures, in line with IOM commitments. This will include notably strong feedback and complaints mechanisms feeding into the monitoring system. The regional M&E staff and activities will focus in particular on monitoring and supporting the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues (gender, age, inclusion, environment, protection, accountability).

The monitoring system of the Action, building in particular on the research on localized definitions of reintegration sustainability (Output 3.3) and strengthened partnerships, will also strive to encourage joint monitoring activities, such as those already ongoing in Egypt, and build the capacity of national authorities to put in place systems for monitoring protection and reintegration which speak to their own development goals and plans.

6. Evaluation

The funding contribution from the Government of Denmark will not directly contribute to evaluation activities. Activities will be implemented with the financial support from DG NEAR (from the NDICI-Global Europe funding instrument). However, the scope of evaluation activities will cover the entire programme and its Theory of change, irrespective of funding contribution.

The Action will be undergoing an evaliability assessment at inception and an internal review at mid-point, to assess performance and gaps following the diagnosis methodology developed by the Regional Office Protection team in 2022. This will serve to inform a Learning review and steer progress in the second half of the Action.

The activities described in the Monitoring section will serve to inform the production of learning digests to present key good practices, highlighted M&E data, M&E practice tips and learning resources.

Finally, the Action will adopt a flexible approach to evaluation and learning, ensuring evaluation activities maximize their use for programmatic adaptation and planning. The Action will contribute to strengthen the evaluation of the impact of Protection, Return and Reintegration programming by contributing to multi-donor impact evaluations where relevant, or ensuring the programme final evaluation covers all Action's components and allows to assess the outcomes of the assistance provided in North Africa for returnees in their countries of origin. Where possible, the evaluation process will be steered by an expert group. The evaluation and research activities conducted by the Action will inform a closing event with all relevant stakeholders during which recommendations and learnings will be discussed and ways forward proposed.

7. Risk Assessment Plan

<i>Risk Factor</i>	<i>Consequence</i>	<i>Likelihood and Timeline</i>	<i>Risk Treatment Plan</i>	
<i>Operational Risk 1:</i> Data, research and some publications might include findings which can be sensitive or misinterpreted by authorities of the host countries or the countries of origin.	Impacting IOM operational status or specific interventions	4	Changing the consequence of the risk	Close coordination and inclusion (as much as possible) with relevant authorities

Risk Factor	Consequence	Likelihood and Timeline	Risk Treatment Plan	
<p><u>Operational Risk 2:</u> Resistance or unwillingness by migrants/beneficiaries to approach or be approached by IOM.</p>	Delays in implementation	4	Changing the consequence of the risk	Adaptation of evidence-based and culturally sensitive approaches. Collaboration and close coordination with relevant stakeholders (Partners, Governments, Embassies) to inform the design and implementation of activities.
<p><u>Operational/External Risk 3:</u> Late delivery of goods, materials and equipment.</p>	Delays in implementation of activities	3	Changing the consequence of the risk	Early coordination with relevant service providers and/or customs
<p><u>External Risk 4:</u> Delays in authorizations - Lengthy process to obtain necessary approvals from Ministries and authorities</p>	Delays in implementation of activities	3	Changing the consequence of the risk	Close coordination with relevant authorities

Risk Factor	Consequence	Likelihood and Timeline	Risk Treatment Plan	
External Risk 5: Changes in political setting/ context	Delays in implementation of activities. Timeframe to adjust to new government structure or changing national priorities may impact on the implementation of activities, resulting in delays	3	Changing the consequence of the risk	Comprehensive and frequent Monitoring and analysis of political context
External Risk 6: The security situation in country and in the region worsens during the Action timeframe.	Access and/or freedom of movement is denied/limited	4	Changing the consequence of the risk	Comprehensive and frequent Monitoring and analysis of political context
External Risk 7: The health situation, particularly linked to the COVID19 pandemic, leads to mobility and access restrictions.	Delays in implementation of activities.	2	Changing the consequence of the risk	Coordination with national authorities to negotiate access, use of lessons learned from the COVID19 pandemic to adapt implementation modalities

Risk Factor	Consequence	Likelihood and Timeline	Risk Treatment Plan	
<i>External Risk 8:</i> <i>Natural disasters</i>	Access to affected areas is denied / limited	2	Changing the consequence of the risk	Assessment of risk in intervention areas, contingency planning and inclusion of preparedness activities

8. List of Annexes

Programme documents

Annex 1b - Logframe

Annex 1c – Work Plan

References

Annex 1 – Final Reintegration Approach for North Africa

Annex 2a – Egypt Integrated Reintegration Approach overview

Annex 2b – Morocco Integrated Reintegration Approach overview

Annex 2c – Tunisia Integrated Reintegration Approach overview

Annex 3 – Results of the survey on available reintegration services in Morocco May 2022

Annex 4 – MFA letter AVRR Egypt

Annex 5 – MoSS-IOM meeting NFF 13APR

Annex 6 – Indicative list of capacity building activities proposed

Partner Assessment of IOM

1. Brief presentation of partners

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. Its mandate is to promote humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all, by providing services and advice to governments and migrants. It supports four broad areas of migration management: migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration and forced migration. In 2016, it became a related organization of the United Nations, formalizing its participation in UN forums such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and giving it a global mandate to advocate on behalf of migrants and their rights. Global developments over the past decade have given greater prominence to IOM's migration mandate. The organization has become a leading provider of humanitarian support in migration crises, including situations of internal displacement. As a consequence, its budget had grown from around USD 1 billion in 2010 to USD 2.99 billion in 2022.

2. Summary of partner capacity assessment

The Action “Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration in North Africa (MPRR-NA)” led by IOM, builds on the national and regional actions of the EUTF-funded “EU-IOM Joint Initiative” in North Africa. More specifically, this action builds on IOM's extensive experience in design and delivery of Migrant Protection and Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes and Voluntary Humanitarian Returns (VHR) in Libya. The Action thus benefit from all accumulated experiences, including achievements, best practices, lessons learned and insights gained from current programmes, such as the previously-mentioned IOM-EU Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, Cooperation on Migration and Partnerships to Achieve Sustainable Solutions (COMPASS) programme, and the Regional Response to COVID-19 in North African Countries.

IOM was selected by the EU Commission (DG NEAR) as the best entity to carry out the proposed activities, taking into account the nature of the action. Notably, the Partner's thematic capacities and expertise in the very sector of return and its logistical and management capacities were considered; as well as its strong and effective mandate within the local context in question. In addition, to its operational capacities, the value added of operating on a complementary/follow-up contract were also taken into consideration. Previous positive implementation capacities in the above-mentioned contracts also made it clear that IOM is the best-placed entity to implement the action.

3. Summary of key partner features

IOM has and is already implementing similar return activities in North Africa and showed to have the requested capacities. IOM has a robust M&E system and manages the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). DTM is a tool, which gathers and analyzes data to disseminate critical multi layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations. It enables decision makers and responders to provide these populations with better context specific assistance.

IOM is a strategic actor of the EU-Africa partnership on the enhancement of migration governance between Europe and Africa, specifically on protection, return and reintegration. Proposed interventions are in line with 1) IOM's Return, Readmission, and Reintegration Policy, 2) IOM's Policy on the Full Spectrum of Return, Readmission and Reintegration (2021), 3) The IOM Regional Strategy for the Middle East and North Africa (2020- 2024), which builds on good practices, lessons learnt and gains from current programming on both policy and operational levels. Specifically, proposed interventions on reintegration are in line with 1) The Regional Integrated Reintegration Approach for North Africa, and 2) IOM Country Level Reintegration Approach for Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

Results Framework – Targets for Danish funding to MPRR – North Africa

Programme	MIGRANT PROTECTION, RETURN AND REINTEGRATION IN NORTH AFRICA (MPRR-NA)		
Programme Objective	Vulnerable and stranded migrants from North Africa safely and voluntarily return to and from North Africa, and returnees sustainably reintegrate into their countries of origin.		
Impact Indicator	# of States that have developed/implemented laws, strategies, policies and plans for strengthening migration governance of voluntary return and sustainable reintegration with support of the programme		
Baseline	1		
Target	4		
Output 1	Vulnerable and stranded migrants in North Africa return home safely, voluntarily and in dignity to their countries of origin.		
Output indicator	# of migrants provided with protection and direct assistance		
Baseline	Year	0	
Target	Year	100	
Output 2	Returning migrants and their communities are empowered to pursue sustainable reintegration in North Africa and selected countries of origin.		
Output indicator	# of migrants provided with pre-departure assistance		
Baseline	Year 2023	0	
Target	Year 2025	353	
Output 3	Returning migrants and their communities are empowered to pursue sustainable reintegration in North Africa and selected countries of origin.		
Output indicator	# of migrants provided with voluntary return assistance		
Baseline	Year 2023	0	
Target	Year 2025	553	
Output 4	Returning migrants and their communities are empowered to pursue sustainable reintegration in North Africa and selected countries of origin.		
Output indicator	# of beneficiaries returning from North Africa who received reintegration assistance in their Country of origin		
Baseline	Year 2023	0	
Target	Year 2025	5267	

Annex: Risk Matrix

Risk Factor	Consequence	Likelihood (1-4)	Risk Treatment Plan	
Financial mismanagement or corruption of DK funds	Loss of funds and impact on activities due to suspension pending investigations.	2	Changing the consequence of the risk	Suspension of funding during investigation
DK political and reputational risk for engagement	Programme is associated with un-appropriateness of aid or appears to support violent/corrupt groups	2	Avoiding the risk	DK support is provided as top-up to EU programme in the form of a top-up small relative to the EU funding to the ongoing project. Hence low political exposure to reputational and political risk. Furthermore, IOM as implementing partner is a trusted organisation with high credibility.
<u>Operational Risk 1:</u> Data, research and some publications might include findings which can be sensitive or misinterpreted by authorities of the host countries or the countries of origin.	Impacting IOM operational status or specific interventions	4	Changing the consequence of the risk	Close coordination and inclusion (as much as possible) with relevant authorities
<u>Operational Risk 2:</u> Resistance or unwillingness by migrants/beneficiaries to approach or be approached by IOM.	Delays in implementation	4	Changing the consequence of the risk	Adaptation of evidence-based and culturally sensitive approaches. Collaboration and close coordination with relevant stakeholders (Partners, Governments, Embassies) to inform the design and implementation of activities.

Risk Factor	Consequence	Likelihood (1-4)	Risk Treatment Plan	
Operational/External Risk 3: Late delivery of goods, materials and equipment.	Delays in implementation of activities	3	Changing the consequence of the risk	
External Risk 4: Delays in authorizations - Lengthy process to obtain necessary approvals from Ministries and authorities	Delays in implementation of activities	3	Changing the consequence of the risk	
External Risk 5: Changes in political setting/ context	Delays in implementation of activities. Timeframe to adjust to new government structure or changing national priorities may impact on the implementation of activities, resulting in delays	3	Changing the consequence of the risk	
External Risk 6: The security situation in country and in the region worsens during the Action timeframe.	Access and/or freedom of movement is denied/limited	4	Changing the consequence of the risk	

Risk Factor	Consequence	Likelihood (1-4)	Risk Treatment Plan	
External Risk 7: The health situation, particularly linked to the COVID19 pandemic, leads to mobility and access restrictions.	Delays in implementation of activities.	2	Changing the consequence of the risk	Coordination with national authorities to negotiate access, use of lessons learned from the COVID19 pandemic to adapt implementation modalities
External Risk 8: Natural disasters	Access to affected areas is denied / limited	2	Changing the consequence of the risk	Assessment of risk in intervention areas, contingency planning and inclusion of preparedness activities

PROCESS ACTION PLAN (PAP)

Action/product	Deadlines	Responsible/involved Person and unit	Comment/status
Submitting the project proposal with relevant annexes	September 2023	IOM and MTF	Including dialogue with DG NEAR
Reviewing the project documents	October 2023	MTF and CFO	
Feedback to partner	October - November 2023	MTF	
Revised project documents and dialogue with partner	November 2023	Partner	
Ministerial approval of the grant	December 2023	MTF/ELK	
Signing of the Grant Agreement	December 2023	Partner and MTF	
Disbursing the first (and total) instalment	December 2023	MTF	

Budget for the Action		Budget per Contract from 01 January 2024 to 30 June 2025				Year 1			
Costs		Unit	Danish			Unit	# of units	Unit value (in DKK)	Total Cost (in DKK)
			# of units	Unit Value (DKK)	Total cost (DKK)				
1. Staff, travel, office and other costs									
1.1 Human Resources	Per month	18.00	281,645.92	5,069,626.61	Per month	12	281,645.92	3,379,751	
1.2 Staff travel and per diem	Per year	1.50	108,761.13	163,141.69	Per year	1	108,761.13	108,761	
1.3 Equipment and supplies	Per item				Per item				
1.4 Local office	Per month	18.00	64,686.40	1,164,355.27	Per month	12	64,686.40	776,237	
1.5 Other costs, services ('Communication, Visibility and Evaluation')	Per year				Per year				0
Subtotal Staff, travel, office and other costs					6,397,123.57				4,264,749.05
2. Others - Operations									
SO 1, Vulnerable and stranded migrants in North Africa return home safely, voluntarily and in dignity to their countries of origin.									
Output 6.1.1:Migrants are informed and sensitised on the possibility to receive voluntary return assistance									
2.1.1.1 Awareness raising activities, including through direct outreach and social media	Per year	0.50	21,900.31	10,950.15	Per year	0.50	21,900.31	10,950	
2.1.1.2 Establishment and running costs of hotlines and Support for VHR Database/Data Management/Call	Per year	0.50	70,080.00	35,040.00	Per year	0.50	70,080.00	35,040	
Output 6.1.2:Vulnerable and stranded migrants or migrants in transit received protection and assistance services.									
2.1.2.1 Direct Assistance to vulnerable migrants (food, NFIs, medical, legal, PSS...)	Per person	100.00	6,284.03	628,403.41	Per person	67	6,284.03	421,030	
2.1.2.2 Support to migrant assistance facilities	Per year	0.50	110,620.18	55,310.09	Per year	0.50	110,620.18	55,310	
2.1.2.3 Workshops and soft skills trainings for vulnerable migrants	Per person	19.00	5,512.39	104,735.40	Per person	13	5,512.39	71,661	
Output 6.1.3: Migrants benefit from a safe and dignified voluntary return assistance.									
2.1.3.1 Pre-departure Assistance	Per person	353.00	1,460.00	515,380.00	Per person	236	1,460.00	344,560	
2.1.3.2 Provision of voluntary return or humanitarian return assistance (air ticket, travel allowance, transit assistance, land transportation)	Per person	553.00	5,300.53	2,931,191.10	Per person	369	5,300.53	1,955,894	
2.1.3.3 Third party contracting for AVR/VHR services including field visits	Per month				Per month				0
SO 2: Returning migrants are reintegrated in selected countries of origin.									
Output 6.2.1:Migrants returning from North Africa to their countries of origin have access to reintegration support when needed, including orientation, training services, and reintegration assistance									
2.2.1.1 Post arrival assistance	Per person	12.00	6,858.61	82,303.31	Per person	8	6,858.61	54,869	
2.2.1.2 Reintegration assistance	Per person	267.00	12,497.17	3,336,743.74	Per person	178	12,497.17	2,224,496	
2.2.1.3 Service Fees	Per person	267.00	2,846.44	760,000.32	Per person	178	2,846.44	506,667	
2.2.1.4 Preparation for reintegration (strengthened counseling, trainings)	Per person				Per person				0
Output 6.2.2 Reintegration measures and services are set up and implemented to support returning migrants in their country of origin in North Africa in a sustainable way.									
2.2.2.1 Post arrival immediate assistance	Per person	449.00	1,526.01	685,180.23	Per person	300.00	1,526.01	457,804	
2.2.2.2 Reintegration assistance	Per person	300.00	8,596.15	2,578,846.16	Per person	200.00	8,596.15	1,719,231	
Output 6.2.3 Returnees and non-migrant community members have access to socio-economic services and opportunities									
2.2.3.1 Community reintegration assistance in NA (Egypt & Morocco)	Per action	2.00	227,498.35	454,996.69	Per action	2.00	227,498.35	454,997	
2.2.3.2 Infrastructure support to community facilities (Refurbishment) - Tunis	Per support				Per support				0
2.2.3.3 Capacity building for local authorities (trainings, equipment, referral mechanism) - Tunis	Per year				Per year				0
2.2.3.4 Direct financial support to at-risk youth - Tunis	Per person				Per person				0
2.2.3.5 Awareness raising activities (addressing stigma and socio-economic opportunities for returnees and communities)		2.00	57,692.31	115,384.62		2.00	57,692.31	115,385	
SO 3: Partner countries and relevant stakeholders in North Africa increasingly exercise responsibility for and manage migrant return, readmission and sustainable reintegration.									
Output 6.3.1Capacities of State institutions and of relevant return stakeholders (civil society, national agencies) in return management strengthened.									
2.3.1.1 Trainings and workshops at national and local level	Per training				Per training				0
2.3.1.2 Support exchange of good practices at regional and cross-regional level through webinars, workshops, study visits and production and dissemination of knowledge material	Per event				Per event				0
2.3.1.3 Establishment or strengthening of community-based protection mechanisms	Per activity				Per activity				0
2.3.1.4 Consular assistance/ Coordination/capacity building/thematic guidance engagements and advocacy with stakeholders and coordination meetings with staff	Per month				Per month				0
Output 6.3.2 Capacities of State institutions and of relevant reintegration stakeholders (civil society, national agencies at central and regional levels) in reintegration management strengthened.									
2.3.2.1 Trainings and workshops at national and local level	Per training				Per training				0
2.3.2.2 Support the refurbishment of governmental and CSO facilities that serve returnees	Per location				Per location				0
2.3.2.3 Support exchange of good practices at regional and cross-regional level through webinars, workshops, study visits and production and dissemination of knowledge material	Per event				Per event				0
Output 6.3.3 Evidence-based data collected, analysed, and disseminated to inform programming and policy making on irregular migration flows									0
2.3.3.1 Data collection and information production	Per year				Per year				0
Subtotal Others - Operations					12,294,465.22				8,427,893.65
3. Subtotal direct eligible costs of the Action (1-2)					18,691,568.79				12,692,642.70
4. Remuneration (maximum 7% of 7, subtotal of direct eligible costs of the Action)					1,308,411.21				888,484.99
5. Total eligible costs of the Action (3-4)					20,000,000.00				13,581,127.69

Quality assurance process

Migrant Protection Return and Reintegration North Africa

Assessment Criteria	Justification
Reasons for choosing IOM as an implementing partner	<p>The Action “Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration in North Africa (MPRR-NA)” led by IOM, builds on the national and regional actions of the EUTF-funded “EU-IOM Joint Initiative” in North Africa. More specifically, this action builds on IOM's extensive experience in design and delivery of Migrant Protection and Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes and Voluntary Humanitarian Returns (VHR) in Libya. The Action thus benefit from all accumulated experiences, including achievements, best practices, lessons learned and insights gained from current programmes, such as the previously-mentioned IOM-EU Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, Cooperation on Migration and Partnerships to Achieve Sustainable Solutions (COMPASS) programme, and the Regional Response to COVID-19 in North African Countries.</p> <p>IOM was selected as best entity to carry out the proposed activities, taking into account the nature of the action. Notably, the Partner's thematic capacities and expertise in the very sector of return and its logistical and management capacities were considered; as well as its strong and effective mandate within the local context in question. In addition, to its operational capacities, the value added of operating on a complementary/follow-up contract were also taken into consideration. Previous positive implementation capacities in the above-mentioned contracts also made it clear that IOM is the best-placed entity to implement the action.</p>
Capacity of the IP	IOM has and is already implementing similar return activities in North Africa and showed to have the requested capacities. IOM has a robust M&E system and manages the Displacement

	<p>Tracking Matrix (DTM). DTM is a tool, which gathers and analyzes data to disseminate critical multi layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations. It enables decision makers and responders to provide these populations with better context specific assistance</p>
Alternative IP	<p>No alternative partners were identified, considering the strong competence of IOM, relevant network and credibility built up during the previous phases of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. Furthermore the trust and confidence build by the entity in developing links with North African actors were also positively assessed.</p>
Involvement of other entity/ies	<p>At all levels of intervention, partnership and cooperation with best placed actors will not only ensure that respective expertise is leveraged in the best interest of beneficiaries, but also that sustainability of interventions is maximized. Moreover, IOM's Outcomes will be reached by actioning national reintegration programmes that are Protection-anchored, Development-oriented, Government-owned and Partnership-based.</p> <p>Achieving sustainable return and reintegration depends on the combined efforts of all stakeholders. Partnerships and cooperation between a variety of actors – governmental and non-governmental – at the international, regional, national and subnational levels are essential to enhance the range of reintegration assistance, avoid duplication of efforts and foster the sustainability of return and reintegration processes. IOM is committed to facilitate this engagement of actors with different mandates and areas of expertise – from national and local governmental institutions to the African Union (AU) and relevant RECs, UN agencies, international and national CSOs, private sector and academia – from the policy level all the way to individual case-management and reintegration provision. This will be supported by promoting nationally-owned robust context analyses and mappings and formalization of referral mechanisms and</p>

	<p>partnership – including building on the strong partnerships fostered under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration.</p>
<p>Experience in the geographic area of the Programme</p>	<p>IOM is a strategic actor of the EU-Africa partnership on the enhancement of migration governance between Europe and Africa, specifically on protection, return and reintegration. Proposed interventions are in line with 1) IOM's Return, Readmission, and Reintegration Policy, 2) IOM's Policy on the Full Spectrum of Return, Readmission and Reintegration (2021), 3) The IOM Regional Strategy for the Middle East and North Africa (2020- 2024), which builds on good practices, lessons learnt and gains from current programming on both policy and operational levels. Specifically, proposed interventions on reintegration are in line with 1) The Regional Integrated Reintegration Approach for North Africa, and 2) IOM Country Level Reintegration Approach for Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.</p> <p>The Action is also in line with African Member States priorities outlined in relevant National Migration Policies, as well as other reintegration policies. The Action takes into account the African Union Guidelines on Reintegration, supported under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, once they will be finalised.</p>
<p>Support to the partner countries to exercise leadership and ownership</p>	<p>Yes, North African stakeholders will be systematically involved. Through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, in complementarity with other IOM efforts, IOM has built capacity to facilitate safe and dignified returns, and sustainable reintegration, through an increasingly strong partnership with national authorities.</p>
<p>Use of monitoring systems</p>	<p>The Action monitoring system will be following IOM's institutional M&E guidance and Accountability to Affected Population commitments and on M&E for return and reintegration programmes. It relies on a regional M&E plan developed during the programme inception phase, and a strong information management (IM) system and data</p>

	<p>flow based on MiMOSA for case management data and Kobo for M&E data (surveys) and additional relevant systems for qualitative data storage and analysis. The M&E plan and related IM system will be based on the provision of regional tools adaptable to country needs, with quality control at country level and an additional level of quality control at the regional level with a sample of data collected. The data will feed into live data visualization dashboards.</p> <p>This system will allow for live monitoring of progress on indicators and other relevant data collected through the Action. This will be complemented with monitoring visits to key activities conducted both by country M&E staff, while regional M&E staff will conduct visits to monitor key Action milestones and provide technical support and capacity building activities. The collection and analysis of qualitative data will be encouraged to complement and enrich findings from quantitative monitoring tools, notably through the set-up of qualitative M&E mechanisms to collect and collaboratively code qualitative data.</p> <p>The Action will also encourage the development or strengthening of two-way communication systems with beneficiaries and other accountability measures, in line with IOM commitments. This will include notably strong feedback and complaints mechanisms feeding into the monitoring system.</p> <p>The monitoring system of the Action, building in particular on the research on localized definitions of reintegration sustainability (Output 3.1) and strengthened partnerships, will also strive to encourage joint monitoring activities, such as those already ongoing in Egypt, and build the capacity of national authorities to put in place systems for monitoring protection and reintegration which speak to their own development goals and plans.</p>
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Involvement of EU MS	<p>Coordination, synergies and referral to and from other EU or Member States supported initiatives will be strengthened, including with Team Europe-led interventions. Such coordination and synergies will be maximized with the MPRR Programme - to be funded by DG INTPA and to be implemented by IOM in East, Central and West Africa - including through regular and structured coordination spaces among both programmes, as well as the development and use of common tools whenever possible and relevant. Coordination will be also sought with GIZ and other MS agencies in order to strengthen capacities of North African authorities to facilitate reintegration of returnees.</p>
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ANNEX 9: QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECKLIST

File number/ 360 reference: 23/30555

Programme/Project name: Migrant Protection Return and Reintegration Program in Northern Africa (MPRR-NA)

Programme/Project period: 18 months 1 January 2024 – 30 June 2025

Budget: DKK 20 million

Presentation of quality assurance process:

The project takes form of a Danish top-up to an on-going NDICI project running from 2022 -2026, which follows and replaces a project under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration. The support takes the form of a top-up to the EU funded (DG NEAR) MPRR-NA project through a direct agreement with IOM as the implementing partner. The programme and IOM has therefore undergone substantial quality assurance at EU level in the preparatory phase. MTF has reviewed all relevant project documents and has been in dialogue with both DG NEAR and IOM during the course of the process, enabling also the communication of DANIDA policies and guidelines.

The design of the programme/project has been appraised/appraisal checklist filled out, by someone independent who has not been involved in the development of the programme/project.

Comments: As mentioned above, the programme has undergone substantial quality assurance EU level in its preparatory phase. Documentation of quality assurance undertaken by DG NEAR is annexed to checklist.

The recommendations of the appraisal/comments in the appraisal checklist have been reflected upon in the final design of the programme/project.

Comments: See above

The programme/project complies with Danida policies and Aid Management Guidelines, including the fundamental principles of Doing Development Differently.

Comments: N/A

The programme/project addresses relevant challenges and provides adequate responses.

Comments: The programme responds to one of the key priority areas of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum's external dimension on "fostering cooperation on readmission and reintegration" and also feeds into the Strategy for Denmark's engagement with the International Organization for Migration 2023-2026 and Objective 2 of Denmark's policy for development cooperation 2021-2025, The World We Share: "Fight irregular migration and help more people better along key migration routes", in particular its components related to cooperation with North African countries and helping more people along key migration routes.

Issues related to HRBA, LNOB, Gender, Youth, Climate Change, Green Growth and Environment have been addressed sufficiently in relation to content of the project/programme.

Comments: Yes, these issues are subject to separate focus and mainstreamed into the project.

Comments from the Danida Programme Committee (if applicable) have been addressed
Comments: N/A

The programme/project outcome(s) are found to be sustainable and in line with the partner's development policies and strategies. Implementation modalities are well described and justified.

Comments: Yes. The specific outcomes identified in the projects are identified based on a logic whereby they will contribute to a better management of migration within Africa and with Europe in full respect on the rights of migrants and in line with international standards. The modalities and activities outlined in the project are clearly defined and matched with the intended outcomes.

The theory of change (if applicable), results framework, indicators and monitoring framework of the programme/project provide an adequate basis for monitoring results and outcome.

Comments: Yes. The results framework, indicators and monitoring framework will provide a solid basis for monitoring results at outcome and output level.

The programme/project is found sound budget-wise, Yes. The Danish contribution of DKK 20 million is a top-up to the EU budget contribution totalling EURO 68 million.

The agreed budget and financial reporting procedures provide an adequate basis for financial monitoring of funds.

Comments: Yes. IOM will report as indicated in the agreement based on the MFA-IOM template agreement.

The programme/project is found realistic in its time-schedule.

Comments: Yes.

Other donors involved in the same programme/project have been consulted, and possible harmonised common procedures for funding and monitoring have been explored.

Comments: As the project will be a co-funding with the EU Commission (DG NEAR) thorough consultation with relevant representatives from DG NEAR have been undertaken.

Key programme/project stakeholders have been identified, the choice of partner has been justified and criteria for selection have been documented.

Comments: Yes. Choice of IOM as implementing partner of the project is justified through EU procedures and quality assurance.

The implementing partner(s) is/are found to have the capacity to properly manage, implement and report on the funds for the programme/project and lines of management responsibility are clear.

Comments: Yes. IOM is the leading UN organization in the field of migration including assistance to voluntary return and reintegration. IOM has a strong presence in Northern Africa. Management structures and responsibilities are furthermore clearly defined.

Implementing partner(s) has/have been informed about Denmark's zero-tolerance policies towards (i) Anti-corruption; (ii) Child labour; (iii) Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH); and, (iv) Anti-terrorism.

Comments: Yes.

Risks involved have been considered and risk management integrated in the programme/project document.

Comments: Yes. *The project contains a risk matrix identifying relevant risks and possible ways of managing them.*

In conclusion, the programme/project can be recommended for approval: Yes.

Date and signature of Desk Officer:

7/12-2023



Date and signature of Management:

7/12-2023



