**Overall, how content is the European Commission (EC) with the outcomes and impacts of the EUTF?**

In the last six years, the EUTF for Africa has demonstrated to be a flexible, swift and effective implementing tool with an exceptional added value. It has succeeded in pooling resources from different financing sources as well as knowledge and experience from the EU, EU Member States and other national and international stakeholders. Since November 2015, financial resources have increased from EUR 1.9 billion to approximately EUR 5 billion at the end of 2021, including over EUR 620 million from EU MS and other donors.

The EUTF Africa has played a key role in aligning EU and MS efforts that were not always in tune with each other. Development agencies of EU MS, that are EUTF’s key implementing partners, have shared their expertise and experience on the ground in a wide number of areas. For instance, their experience has been mobilised through the joint identification, development and implementation of EUTF programmes, in line with the Team Europe approach.

Due to the agreement of EUTF stakeholders to use more flexible and faster procedures, the EUTF was able to produce outcomes in an effective and timely manner. In six years, the Trust Fund achieved remarkable progress including almost EUR 5 billion of approved programmes across the three regions, almost 4.2 billion worth of signed contracts and EUR 3.7 billion worth of payments made.

Albeit it is premature to assess the impact of EUTF programmes at country level, the Mid-Term Evaluation indicated that the Trust Fund has provided substantive resources for the improvement of migration management in partner countries, focussing on the most vulnerable groups subjected to forced displacement, and it has generated important lessons about the management of complex programmes in fragile environments. The evaluation also indicated that due to a flexible and inclusive governance and management structure, the EUTF has delivered fast decisions based on strategic overview of issues at stake. The great investments for knowledge production, monitoring and reporting provided value-for-money and contributed to evidence-based interventions.

The EUTF was established with the agreement from African partners as an implementation tool combining short-term actions, aimed at responding to emergency situations, with longer-term interventions aimed at addressing the root causes (or push factors) of illegal migration in a number of Africa countries. The governance structure of the EUTF has been unique in recognizing a substantive role to African partners and regional organizations.

In 2021, the Horn of Africa (HOA) and the Sahel/Lake Chad (SLC) regions have started a joint impact evaluation exercise focusing on economic support and job creation programmes under the Strategic Objective 1 of the Trust Fund (greater economic and employment opportunities). The initiative is an opportunity for the EU and the implementing partners to learn about the net effect of projects’ activities on the EUTF for Africa’s beneficiaries’ income, wellbeing, skills acquisition and access to decent jobs in the regions of origin and destination of, as well as return from migration. This ambitious exercise shall set a precedent and will be used to feed into future identification and formulation of employment creation and economic support programmes in the most fragile countries of the Sahel and the Horn of Africa regions.

In the Monitoring and Learning System (MLS) Reports for the HOA and SLC, published at the end of 2021 and available on the EUTF website, a number of short outcome analyses on some EUTF programs already completed are available. They represent good learning exercises and their number will certainly increase over time.

**Are there EUTF projects the EC would consider to be best practice examples that can act as a blueprint for future projects with a similar scope?**

In the **Horn of Africa region**, the [Better Migration Management programme](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/region/horn-africa/regional/better-migration-management-programme-phase-ii_en) could be considered as a best-practice example in the sense that it addresses the lack of supportive migration-friendly policies, legislation, infrastructure, regional and cross-border cooperation and knowledge by countries of the Horn of Africa to manage safe and legal migration, to counter smuggling and trafficking, and to provide the necessary support and protection to victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants.

This programme has been implemented under the EUTF from 2016 until September 2022, through two phases, for an overall amount of EUR 77 million. It will have a third phase under NDICI-Global Europe for an amount of EUR 40 million.

The overall objective of the program is to enable national authorities and institutions to facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration, and effectively address and reduce trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants within and from the Horn of Africa region by applying a human rights-based approach. Activities are implemented in three interconnected components:

- Migration governance: supporting national governments in developing and improving national migration policies and frameworks for managing migration;

- Effective institutions to address trafficking and smuggling: increasing the quality of national and cross-border cooperation between law enforcement, judicial, and other state and non-state actors in coordination with existing regional initiatives and in line with international obligations and standards;

- Protection for vulnerable migrants: improving assistance to and protection of victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants at local, national and regional level.

In the **Sahel and Lake Chad region**, [the RESILAC project](https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/region/sahel-lake-chad/regional/resilac-redressement-economique-et-social-inclusif-du-lac-tchad_en)(“Inclusive Economic and Social Recovery of Lake Chad”)for a total of EUR 36,1 million, aims to provide an emergency response combining emergency, rehabilitation and recovery of the Lake Chad Basin areas most affected by the security crisis and climate change. The project focuses on economic recovery, social fabric reconstruction and strengthening local actors in Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad. RESILAC embodies a multi-country, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach. By combining short and medium-term actions, it is a perfect example of the operationalisation of the triple nexus (humanitarian-development-peace).

A ROM mission carried out in April 2021 concluded very that the project “is very relevant and responds well to the needs of the populations of the Lake Chad region; it is based on a great deal of experience in humanitarian and development work by the partners AFD, ACF, CARE, URD and CCFD, who have managed to articulate a system of support for the populations, their associations and local authorities, (...).”

DG INTPA is exploring the possibility of continuing this type of multi-sectoral intervention in the area; it is still too early to be more precise about what can be done, but we are reflecting on a new cross-border action to strengthen the resilience of populations, territories and authorities around Lake Chad, to be funded under NDICI – Global Europe.

In the **North of Africa region**, the project “Support to the economic and social reintegration of returning Tunisian migrants” (Phase 1 and 2) is considered as a best-practice initiative that the EC will continue supporting in Tunisia under the NDICI – Global Europe instrument, but also seek to develop similar initiatives in other countries in the North of Africa.

The first phase of this project was a pilot aimed at establishing anational reintegration scheme for Tunisians returning to Tunisia supporting their reintegration through access to health, education, social security housing and helping them to find jobs, either as employees or to launch their own company with the help of a small grant. This pilot phase was implemented by Expertise France (and the French Office for Immigration and Integration) between June 2017 and July 2021 for a total amount of EUR 2.5 million. Activities involved the participation of four European countries (France, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland) and the provision of 200 economic and/or social assistance packages for returning Tunisian migrants. The main achievement of this project was the establishment of “Tounesna”, a national reintegration scheme piloted by the Office of Tunisians Abroad (OTE).

The second phase was initiated upon the request of the Tunisian authorities to extend this initiative to more European Member States, particularly those hosting large community of Tunisian migrants in vulnerable situations (such as Italy and Spain). This second phase is also implemented by Expertise France (and the French Office for Immigration and Integration) since December 2021, and until November 2024, for a total amount of EUR 3.9million.

**Of all the EUTF projects, how many have ended to date and how many are still active?**

For the Horn of Africa region, considering operational projects (discounting non-operational contracts such as evaluations, communication, audits, studies), 64 contracts have been completed while 156 are still on-going.

For the Sahel and Lake Chad region, considering operational projects (discounting non-operational contracts such as evaluations, communication, audits, studies), 69 contracts have been completed while 311 are still on-going.

For the NoA region, considering operational projects (discounting non-operational contracts such as evaluations, communication, audits, studies), 25 contracts have been completed while 65 are still on going.

When considering EUTF projects’ end date overall, the Final Date of Implementation of the EUTF Africa has been set at 31 Dec 2025. By that date, all approved/on-going programs will have to be concluded.

**How many projects were awarded through a) public procurement procedures and how many through b) direct award procedures?**

Overall, around 30% of the funding has been awarded through public procurement procedures and 70% through direct award procedures – including contracts concluded with EU MS Agencies, UN, International Organizations and Governments of partner countries (budget support). ​

**How many projects have received on the ground monitoring missions (ROM missions)?**

For the Horn of Africa region, to this date 68 ROM assignments have been organized, including 14 in 2020 and 18 in 2021. In the last two years, 15 ROM included a field visit component while the rest were done remotely. Before the COVID-19 pandemic started all missions but one had field components.

For the Sahel and Lake Chad region, 29 ROM assignments have been organized in total (in progress or finished), 23 having a field component and 6 remote missions.

For the North of Africa region, 36 ROM reviews with field components were completed so far and 26 ROM are planned this year.

**In the midterm evaluation of the EUTF in October 2020, one of the main recommendations was: "*To better capture outcomes and impacts, an ex-post evaluation should be conducted at least one year after all activities have been completed*." To date, how many ex-post evaluations have been conducted and what outcomes and impacts have been captured?**

While the Mid-Term Evaluation of the EUTF recommended to carry out an ex-post evaluation one year after all activities have been completed, the Commission is envisaging to carry out a final evaluation of the EUTF for Africa starting at the end of 2024, and doing the desk work and country missions throughout 2025 in order to have the final report approved and published end of 2025 / early 2026.

The Final Evaluation of the EUTF for Africa should be carried out while the whole staff of the Trust Fund and implementing partners are still operational to effectively support and contribute to such a comprehensive exercise. Moreover, the publication of the Final Evaluation Report by the end of 2025/early 2026 would ensure a proper and useful dissemination and uptake of the findings/learnings to the EUTF for Africa governing bodies(Strategic Board and Operational Committee).

**With the next instrument, the NDICI lined up, which are the lessons drawn from the EUTF that will be implemented likewise in the NDICI? And**

**Which are the elements from the EUTF that will not be included in NDICI?**

First of all, let us clarify that despite the end of the contracting period set up at the end of December 2021, EUTF Africa programmes will continue as scheduled until their completion date. The Final Date of Implementation (FDI) was extended until the end of 2025 to make sure that all activities will be duly completed.

Between 2019 and 2021, the EUTF carried out a EUTF Africa Lessons Learned exercise in the area of migration management and forced displacement. The second phase of the *Learning lessons* exercise, paved the way for a post-2020 strategy on migration, mobility and forced displacement, by providing an updated assessment of the EUTF portfolio and a thorough analysis of eight thematic areas identified (the Final Report is available on the EUTF website). We believe that the final report of this elaborate exercise provides a good analysis of the migration, mobility and displacement programs in target countries and practical recommendations to inform future programming in these areas.

In the course of 2021, negotiations with EU Member States and many stakeholders have led to the approval of national and regional multiannual indicative plans (MIPs) approved towards the end of last year and which represent the new financial framework for the EU’s future work with African partners. Therefore, the future work of the EU in the areas covered by the EUTF Africa will be embedded into the national and regional programmes in the Sub-Saharan Africa.

As an example, in the 2021 Annual Action Plan to be funded under the SSA Regional MIP, we have included two programmes the area of migration and forced displacement that were recently approved by the NDICI Committee: *Support the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) to Niger and Rwanda*(EUR 56 million) and *Durable Solutions for forcibly displaced populations in Sub-Saharan Africa* (EUR 75 million).