

Council of the European Union

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NOTE

From:	Presidency
То:	Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP)
Subject:	Operationalisation of the Pact – Follow-up on the implementation of the Action Plan on Nigeria
	- Presentation by the Presidency

Delegations will find attached the implementation review of the Action Plan for Nigeria prepared by the Presidency.

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Implementation review Nigeria (360-degree approach)



The implementation review document presents an overview of existing goals, objectives and state of play included in the Action Plan, Action File and Implementation report, as well as an update on the current funding situation related to Nigeria. Together with the Implementation report, it serves as a background for the discussion in EMWP.

The Action plan for Nigeria was last updated on 6 December 2021 (11951/21 REV 2).



Action Plan – summary Goals for managing migration and address forced displacement

- Protection and humanitarian assistance: continue to assist refugees, IDPs and those most affected by different conflicts through humanitarian assistance. Play a more prominent role in the governance of IDP issues.
- <u>Root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement:</u> address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement through an integrated approach. Cooperate with Nigeria on programmes to improve young people's prospects and employability.
- <u>Migration governance and management:</u> work with Nigeria on all aspects of migration management, encourage Nigeria in the implementation of its National Migration Policy and its Labour Migration Policy, and support migration governance in the country. Enhanced cooperation on integrated border management, reinvigoration of the working arrangement with Frontex. Strengthen national capacities to tackle organised crime linked to irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings. Continue to work on increasing national capacity to dismantle criminal networks, implementation of Niamey Declaration. Respect for human rights, international humanitarian law, and support for implementation of gender-sensitive policies and child protection systems, continue to work on strengthening the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for Protection and Assistance to Trafficked Persons. Information and awareness raising campaigns. Support to data management. Activities supporting diaspora engagement.
- <u>Cooperation with EU Agencies:</u> cooperation between Nigeria and EU agencies such as Frontex, Europol and EUAA should be pursued more systematically. Updated working arrangement with Frontex could be considered. The activities of the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community could be further expanded.
- <u>Return, Readmission, Reintegration:</u> working on a strengthened cooperation on return and readmission, aim at a swift conclusion of the negotiations on the readmission agreement, support effective return and readmission. Strengthening the capacity and ownership of authorities and civil society organisations to manage voluntary returns and support sustainable reintegration of all returnees, supporting national policy frameworks and reintegration mechanisms, including establishing and supporting the implementation of a National Referral

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Mechanism for Return and Reintegration. Help strengthen Nigeria's capacity to better respond to readmission applications, embedded in development policy measures. Continue to work on safe return and sustainable reintegration of returnees, including sensitization of returnees and potential migrants on irregular migration. Continue to support all types of reintegration, including community-based projects.

- <u>Legal Migration</u>: Consider further promoting pathways for regular migration. Seek to scale up labour migration projects, including possibly a Talent Partnership. Strengthen the positive development effects of migration, including through the use of remittances.
- <u>Whole of route/regional cooperation:</u> strengthening cooperation with and support to countries along migration routes from Nigeria towards the EU, including through multi-country Team Europe Initiatives. Continue to support free movement and migration within the ECOWAS region.

Main measures

- Political engagement, Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM 2015
- A wide range of policy tools and cooperation in policy areas, including development cooperation, security, visa, trade, agriculture etc, as agreed in the Ministerial meeting on the 9 December 2021.
- Deployment of a European Migration Liaison Officer (migration and mobility) and a European Return Liaison Officer
- Collaboration with Frontex
- Humanitarian assistance (COM)
- Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027: NDICI-Global Europe through Multiannual Indicative Programmes at country and regional level, HOME funding
- Team Europe Initiatives on the Atlantic/Western Mediterranean migration route and on the Central Mediterranean migration route
- Member States' bilateral engagement
- Mobility measures MS and COM (Erasmus+)

MOCADEM finalized an Action File for Nigeria in March 2022.

Action File – specific objectives

Re-engage with the Nigerian authorities on migration issues in a comprehensive way to re-launch the dialogue on migration, in order to:

- Communicate at highest political level on the EU's comprehensive approach to migration, and taking into account the progress made on the negotiations on the EU-Nigeria readmission agreement, relaunch a dialogue on all migration-related issues.
- Discuss ways to enhance cooperation on returns and finalise the negotiations of the readmission agreement started in 2016.
- Develop actions to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking, and build capacity for border management and forced displacement management.
- Mitigate root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement.
- Ensure coordination and consistency of EU and Member State messages on key issues in all contacts with Nigeria

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Action Plan – goals for managing migration and address forced displacement	Action File – actions
(General outreach)	Political and technical outreach: actions 1-2
Protection and humanitarian assistance	Support measures for protection: action 7
Root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement	
Migration governance and management	Measure to combat the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings and support border management: action 6
Cooperation with EU agencies	Covered mainly by actions 4-6
Return, readmission, reintegration	Resumption of negotiations (<i>Now</i> : signature and conclusion) on the readmission agreement: action 3
	Strengthening readmission support actions: actions 4-5
	Use of the visa lever and other levers: action 8
Legal migration	Action 9
Whole of route/regional cooperation	

The implementation report from MOCADEM (WK 15356/2022) was approved by COREPER on 9 November 2022, providing a summary of progress made at that stage.

In EMWP on 15 July 2022, there was an update on the implementation of the action plan and cooperation with Nigeria. Positive signals regarding the negotiation of a readmission agreement. Good examples of local coordination. Continue implementation of the action plan.

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Financing (Member States' funding not included)

Actions proposed/adopted by DG INTPA contributing to EU Goals Ongoing

- Action against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in Nigeria (total <u>EDF</u> contribution, €10 million): to (i) reduce trafficking in persons at national and regional levels and between Nigeria and the EU, and (ii) address the smuggling of migrants between Nigeria and the EU. Implemented by FIIAPP. Duration: 2018-2023.
- EU-IOM Joint Initiative (regional, total EU contribution: €13 million): to support voluntary return to countries of origin and the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants. Duration: 2021-2023. To be succeeded by the Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration regional programme (MPRR, total EU contribution €180 million), in complementarity with a future action at country level supporting migration governance (€28.4 million).
- Fight against human trafficking in the Gulf of Guinea (regional, total €18M EUTF) implemented by Expertise France, until January 2024.

Adopted

- EU Support to Innovation and Jobs for Youth in Nigeria (INN-JOBS) (total EU contribution of €55 million): co-financed by BMZ with €5.5 million and UNDP with €600 000. By supporting job creation and skills development, the action will contribute to addressing the root causes of irregular migration and create opportunities for returnees.
- Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa Phase II FMM West Africa II (regional, total EU contribution €34 million): to strengthen the capacities of the ECOWAS Commission to address free movement and migration; enhance the capacities of national institutions of ECOWAS Member States; and promote active engagement of nonstate actors and local authorities in West Africa, including in Nigeria.

Actions under review for Annual Action Programme 2023

- Support to Migration Governance (total EU contribution, €28.4 million): including sustainable reintegration, and fight against Trafficking in Human Beings and Migrant Smuggling in Nigeria.
- Support for the Disengagement, Review, Reintegration, and Reconciliation of Persons Formerly Associated with Non-State Armed Groups in Northeast Nigeria- SD3R (total EU contribution, €20million): including community-driven reintegration and reconciliation of former armed non-state combatants and Boko Haram associates in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, including those who were forcibly displaced.

Depending on the outcomes of readmission negotiations, possible use of Flexible Mechanism to further support sustainable reintegration in Nigeria.

Through the Internal Security Fund Police, as part of a bigger Common Operational Partnership project, EU support is provided for activities led by Germany to combat Nigerian organised crime networks involved in trafficking in human beings, involving authorities of Nigeria, Niger and Morocco (estimated EU contribution of EUR 0.87 million).

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