

**1. Title, overall objectives and location of the action**

**Title:** Strengthening the operational capacity of the Egyptian Navy and Border Guards in managing migration flows and provide Search and Rescue at sea

**Overall objectives:**

The overall objective is to support the Government of Egypt to enhance rights-based and protection-centred border management. The specific objectives aim to strengthen the Search and Rescue (SAR) operations at sea in Egypt: increase the capacity of the Egyptian Navy and Border Guard in the areas of border surveillance and the prevention of irregular crossings by Egyptians and other nationality migrants living or transiting in Egypt.

**Location:** Egypt

**2. Context**

Egypt remains both a transit and a destination country for refugees and asylum-seekers. The number of refugees and asylum seekers registered in Egypt has more than tripled since 2011, reaching a total of 300,000 in 2021 (78% refugees and 22% asylum seekers), according to UNHCR. Considering the evolution of the drivers of refugee and migration movements in the MENA region as well as in the Sub-Saharan Africa, including notably the Horn of Africa, Egypt is likely to experience intensified flows in the medium to long term. In parallel, 2021 has seen a sharp increase in the number of Egyptians irregularly crossing to Italy using the central Mediterranean route, with 9,151 irregular crossings since January 2021, making Egyptians the first nationality in terms of arrivals to Italy using this route. The Egyptian Border Guards reported that in 2021 a total of 27,708 migrants have been intercepted while attempting to irregularly cross the land border to Libya.

The proposed programme is expected to support the Government of Egypt in its efforts to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to contribute to the implementation and attainment of the National Counter-Trafficking Strategy [2016-2021] and of the Migration Policy Framework in Africa [MPFA]<sup>9</sup> and related Plan of Action [2018-2030]. It will contribute to developing a migration system that is humane, orderly and benefits migrants and societies.

**3. What kind of measure could finance the Action?**

The Action is to be funded under the AAP 2022 under the multiannual indicative programme for a Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood. The budget is

**4. Key results**

**Key activities/components:**

- a) Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants: cooperate internationally to save lives and prevent migrant deaths and injuries through individual or joint search and rescue operations.
- b) Prevent, combat, and eradicate migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings in the context of international migration;

- c) Manage borders in an integrated, secure, and coordinated manner: manage national borders in an integrated manner and preventing irregular migration;
- d) Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly, and regular migration;

**Key results:**

The following activities will be undertaken contributing to the achievement of the results at the output level.

**Outcome 1:** Egyptian Border Guards are carrying out their migration and border management duties in accordance with international standards and best practices with the technical equipment and related training to successfully conduct SAR operations at sea and on land.

**Output 1:** Developed Search and Rescue (SAR) capacities with enhanced migration and gender and human rights inclusive-protection approach.

**Outcome 2:** The Egyptian Coast and Border Guards responsible for SAR at the sea and in the desert are aware and have increased skills on responding to irregular migration with full respect to (inter)national obligations and human rights of all migrants.

**Output 2:** Egyptian Coast and Border Guards are trained and have enhanced knowledge and skills on humanitarian border management and Search and Rescue of migrants

**Outcome 3:** Policymakers and border management officials have enhanced capacity and knowledge and demonstrate greater willingness to cooperate internationally and share good practices on migration and protection into border management policies, in particular Search and Rescue at the sea.

**Output 3.1:** The capacity of the Egyptian Navy and Border Guards is strengthened to respond to migration flows, while safeguarding human rights of migrants.

**Output 3.2:** Rescued or intercepted migrants and their families are linked to the appropriate national services in a safe and dignified manner.

**Stakeholders:** Ministry of Defence (MoD), [redacted] Implementing Partner to be identified, with cooperation with relevant EU agencies.

**Beneficiaries:** refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants in vulnerable situation and host communities as well as Egyptian Navy and Border Guards

**Duration:** [redacted]

**5. Possible/envisaged Implementing partner and other stakeholders involved:**

Assessment still ongoing, selection of partners will be in line with the NDICI regulation and the Financial Regulation.