



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

**DOCUMENT PARTIALLY ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC (28.08.2025)**

Brussels, 06 June 2025

WK 7046/2025 INIT

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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
N° prev. doc.:	WK 3390/2025 REV 1
Subject:	Regional action file on Ethiopia and Somalia

In view of the Coreper meeting of 11 June 2025 delegations will find attached the "Regional action file on Ethiopia and Somalia".

Introduction / objectives

The Council's conclusions from May 2021 recognise the Horn of Africa as a "geo-strategic priority" for the EU, a region with which Europe has longstanding political and economic ties. It is also a region that faces many challenges, notably in terms of food security and widespread poverty, climate shocks and recurrent problems of instability – most recently the outbreak of a devastating war in Sudan. The overall picture in the Horn of Africa has been heavily affected by recent dynamics. Some of them are positive, like the peace process in Northern Ethiopia (although at risk considering growing tensions), political reforms and the fight against Al-Shabaab in Somalia, but many are negative, including the continuous fighting in Sudan, the delays in the Peace Agreement implementation in South Sudan, regional divisions, including in context of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), or devastating climate change effects causing severe drought for five consecutive years (with drier-than-usual conditions expected to persist for much of East Africa until April 2025 at least), with sudden shifts to heavy rainfalls leading to devastating flash floods and landslides.

In terms of migratory patterns, the region remains highly mobile and hosts a very significant number of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons. Migration in the region is predominantly intraregional, and is primarily driven by demographic changes, economic opportunities and socioeconomic inequality, while further exacerbated by extreme weather events, conflict and political instability. Among the region's countries, cooperation on migration with **Ethiopia** and **Somalia** remains the most developed.

Ethiopia is a strategic partner for the EU and important regional and multilateral actor, which is still recovering from two years of a devastating civil war in the north of the country, amid fear of renewed conflict in Tigray which could lead to conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The Multi-annual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Ethiopia 2024-2027 (€650 million, revised to €609 million after the mid-term review) comes on top of three Individual Measures 2021-2023 worth €339 million. It builds on and continues the transformation of the EU agenda for Ethiopia from crisis response and reconstruction support towards a long-term investment partnership. The MIP has been translated into two Annual Action Programmes (AAPs) worth €240 million in 2024 (of which €36 million for migration and forced displacement). In addition, a €90 million AAP for 2025 is under preparation, of which €20 million for women economic empowerment and €20 million for return and sustainable reintegration.

The EU strongly supports Ethiopia as a country hosting a large number of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs. The extensive package of support to migration and forced displacement through regional and national funds amounts to a total of €129 million. In addition, humanitarian assistance is provided in areas such as food security, education, nutrition, health and protection. In parallel, under Global Gateway the EU-Ethiopia partnership offers opportunities for investments in the areas of Clean Energy Transition, Digital Transformation, Sustainable Agri-Food Value Chains, and Health Systems Strengthening.

Ethiopia is a country of origin, transit, and destination for migrants, even if the significant majority of them leaves for the Arabic Peninsula and Gulf states. IOM estimates that, annually, 250,000-300,000 irregular migrants travel on the Eastern route towards the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and other countries in the region; 50,000-100,000 on the Southern route towards South Africa and 5,000-10,000 on the Northern

route towards Northern Africa and Europe. Based on UNHCR data, as of end of February 2025, Ethiopia hosts almost 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers predominantly from South Sudan (40%), Somalia (34%) and Eritrea (17%). At the same time, regular deportations of Ethiopians from KSA take place, based on bilateral agreements between the two Governments. Since 2017, approximately 700,000 Ethiopian migrants have been forcibly returned to Ethiopia. Moreover, there are still almost 2 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), largely resulting from ongoing conflicts and tensions in different parts of the country¹.

According to Frontex, in **2024, 1 862 Ethiopians entered the EU illegally** (+50% compared to 2023). Around 70% of them were detected via the Central Mediterranean route and 25% via the Eastern Border Route. In the first three months of 2025, the number of Ethiopian IBCs further increased (+35%, 405) compared to the same period in 2024. The two main routes remain the same as in 2023 and 2024. The number of Ethiopian citizens applying for **asylum** in the EU-27 also increased from 2023 to 2024 (from 4 180 asylum applicants in 2023 to 4 955 in 2024; +19%). During the first two months of 2025, the number of Ethiopian asylum applicants decreased (-14%, 690) compared to the first two months of 2024 (800).

In the framework of the annual exercise under Article 25a of the Visa Code, [REDACTED] cooperation on readmission has been so far assessed as insufficient. Visa measures were proposed in September 2023 based on the Commission's fourth assessment report of cooperation in 2022. Since 29 April 2024, visa restrictive measures under Article 25a of the Visa Code are applicable to nationals of Ethiopia considering the unsatisfactory level of cooperation on readmission. Since the measures were proposed (September 2023, adopted by the Council in April 2024), two meetings of the Joint Working Group (JWG) took place (on 27 February 2024 and 19 November 2024²), with the next JWG foreseen before summer 2025. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

emphasise that visa measures can be lifted only when progress is assessed as substantial and sustained.

In terms of EU-Ethiopia cooperation on migration, the Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CMM) was signed by the EU and Ethiopia in November 2015 followed by a Joint Declaration "Towards an EU-Ethiopia Strategic Engagement", including a sectoral dialogue on migration, signed on 14 June 2016. In February 2018, the EU and Ethiopia agreed on the admission procedures for the voluntary and non-voluntary returns of Ethiopians who are irregularly present in the EU Member States.

Following more than two decades of civil war and absence of state control, under the leadership of President Mohamud, **Somalia** is pushing forward ambitious political and security agendas and is advancing on the constitutional review process. The EU continues to support this critical peace and state building processes, including through its CSDP missions and support to the Somali security sector under the European Peace Facility, while remaining committed to continue supporting Somalia's reform and reconciliation agenda. Between 2021 and 2024, the EU has allocated €257 million to its cooperation with Somalia, excluding the costs of its CSDP missions, and support under the EPF. The cooperation on migration covers several actions with projects amounting to €21.6 million. Similarly to Ethiopia, Somalia benefits from various regional interventions detailed in the overview of actions below.

Somalia is a crucial origin, transit and, to, a lesser extent, host country for migrants, with the Eastern Route to the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC) as the busiest and most dangerous migratory corridor. Nearly 20,000 Somali migrants are forcibly returned from Saudi Arabia each year.

Somalia remains a priority country for the EU and Member States. This applies to cooperation on migration and readmission as well as triple nexus cooperation on peace, humanitarian issues, security, development

¹ [Ethiopia: Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons \(As of 28 February 2025\) - Ethiopia | ReliefWeb](#)

² The first JWG meeting took place on 13 May 2019, the second on 28 November 2019 and the third on 27 February 2024.

and stability. In the framework of the annual exercise under Article 25a of the Visa Code, cooperation on readmission has been continuously assessed as insufficient, with forced returns being officially suspended since October 2021. On 23 July 2024, the Commission adopted a proposal for visa measures for nationals of Somalia, following the fifth assessment report of cooperation in 2023. The 1st EU-Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission took place in Mogadishu on 20 November 2024, and the 2nd Technical Dialogue is planned for July 2025 in Brussels (date TBC).

Based on UNHCR data, as of end of January 2025, there are still almost 940,000 Somali refugees in the neighbouring countries, mainly in Kenya and Ethiopia. Over 140,000 refugees have returned to Somalia since December 2014³. In addition, there are still almost 4 million IDPs, largely resulting from the natural disasters and ongoing conflicts⁴.

According to Frontex, in **2024, 3 475 Somalians entered the EU illegally** (-14% compared to 2023); 49% of them via the Eastern Mediterranean route, 19% via the Central Mediterranean route and 13% via the Eastern Borders route. In the first three months of 2025, the number of Somali IBCs increased (+86%, 743) compared to the same period in 2024. In these first months of 2025 the main routes became the Western Mediterranean Route (241), the Central Mediterranean Route (198) and the Eastern Mediterranean Route (163). The number of Somali citizens applying for **asylum** in the EU-27 decreased between 2023 and 2024 (from 19 850 asylum applicants in 2023 to 18 480 in 2024; -7%). With regards to the first two months of 2025, the number of Somali asylum applicants also decreased (-22%, 2 495) compared to the first two months of 2024 (3 215).

A comprehensive approach to cooperation with Ethiopia and Somalia, including all aspects of migration and forced displacement, should be adopted to:

- Reinforce engagement with Ethiopian and Somali authorities, at political, diplomatic and programme level, through high level contacts and technical exchanges.
- Enhance cooperation on migrant protection, prevention of irregular migration, combatting migrant smuggling and strengthened border management.
- Enhance the cooperation on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration, including within the framework of the assessments under Article 25a of the Visa Code
- Address the prevention of instrumentalization of migrants [REDACTED]
- Strengthen migration governance and management, by addressing the root causes of irregular migration and promoting legal/labour migration pathways and related skills development.
- Enhance cooperation on sustainable and integrated responses to forced displacement and durable solutions for refugees.

Results: An update on the implementation of the action file will be prepared during the 1st half of 2026.

³ [Somalia: Refugee returnees \(31 January 2025\) - Somalia | ReliefWeb](#)

⁴ [Regional Bureau for East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region - Somalia situation | Population of concern to UNHCR \(as of 31 January 2025\) - Somalia | ReliefWeb](#)

Actions⁵

Note on Ethiopia: From 2021 to 2023 the adoption of the Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027 was put on hold due to the conflict in the north of Ethiopia (2020-2022). In the absence of a MIP, the EU continued supporting the population with three sets of individual measures, worth €338.5 million. The MIP 2024-2027 for Ethiopia (revised to EUR 609 million) was adopted in October 2023.

Action	Specific Objectives	Lead actor(s) and Timeframe	Actions completed, Results ⁶	Next Steps / Comments ⁷
Political and technical awareness	<u>Action 1</u> <i>Jointly pursue contacts with the Ethiopian and Somali authorities at political and diplomatic level to achieve progress on cooperation in the areas of common interest. Underline a particular attention to the root causes of irregular migration as well as the importance of readmission cooperation</i>	<i>Commission, EEAS, EU Delegation, Member States: ongoing.</i>	<p><u>Ethiopia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 October 2024: Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen mission to Ethiopia, including meetings with President Taye Atske Selassie and with Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). November 2024: Fourth Joint Working Group with Ethiopia December 2024: EEAS and COM Senior Officials meetings with the Ambassador of Ethiopia to the EU, Eshete Tilahun, mainly as a follow-up to article 25a measures. <p><u>Somalia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 2024: Meeting of COM Senior Official with the Chief of Staff of the Office of the President of Somalia and the Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Ali to discuss cooperation on readmission and the follow up to the adoption of the proposal for visa measures under Article 25a of the Visa Code. 	<p><u>Ethiopia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioner Brunner meeting with Ethiopian MFA 21/05/25 Joint Working Group – 27/06/25 Regular technical engagements between COM and the Embassy of Ethiopia to the EU Assessment of cooperation under the new Article 25a report [REDACTED] <p><u>Somalia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd EU-Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission – July 2025 (TBC)

⁵ As per the agreed new structure: List of actions with objectives following a list identified in the introduction

⁶ As per agreed new structure: Key actions completed in the last 6-12 months; some actions can be regional covering both of either of the countries, or only national

⁷ As per agreed new structure: Key actions planned for next 6-12 months; some actions can be regional covering both of either of the countries, or only national

Action	Specific Objectives	Lead actor(s) and Timeframe	Actions completed, Results ⁶	Next Steps / Comments ⁷
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 November 2024: 1st EU-Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission 9 December 2024: Meeting of COM Senior Official with the Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Ali, to discuss the immediate follow up to the 1st EU-Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission 12 March 2025: Meeting of COM Senior Official with the Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Ali on readmission in the follow up to the 1st EU-Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission and discuss next steps. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular monitoring meetings between DG HOME and the Ambassador of Somalia to the EU.
Reinforce cooperation on border management, combatting migration smuggling	<p>Action 2</p> <p>Enhance cooperation on prevention of irregular migration, combatting migrant smuggling and strengthened border management, and support the prevention of instrumentalization of migrants [REDACTED]</p>	Commission, EEAS, EU Delegation, Member States: ongoing	<p><u>Regional actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Operational Centre in Khartoum (ROCK) in support of the Khartoum Process, the African Union Horn of Africa Initiative and the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) – phase II (ROCK II) (adopted in 2022, €5 million covering DRC, DJI, EGY, ETH, KEN, SOM, SDN, SSD, UGA) Better Migration Management (BMM) Programme phase III (adopted in 2022, €40 million covering DJI, ERI, ETH, KEN, SOM, SDN, SSD, UGA) Promoting Action and Cooperation among countries at global level against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Smuggling of Migrants (PACTS)” (€5M globally - covers ETH) 	<p><u>Regional action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Support to the fight against trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling in the Horn of Africa Region (BMM IV + ROCK III) (€20 million covering DJI, ETH, KEN, SOM, SDN, SSD, UGA)

Action	Specific Objectives	Lead actor(s) and Timeframe	Actions completed, Results ⁶	Next Steps / Comments ⁷
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Global Action on illicit financial flows and digital-related components of the fight against the smuggling of migrants (€15M globally – covers ETH)</i> • <i>Frontex contributed to the technical discussion under the relevant measure within the Khartoum Process framework in 2024:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>7-8 February 2024: Thematic Workshop on Enhancing Transnational Law Enforcement Partnerships on Combatting Trafficking in Persons in Nairobi</i> • <i>10-11 December 2024: Thematic Meeting on Innovative Strategies for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings and Migrant Smuggling in Mombasa.</i> 	
Enhance cooperation on readmission and on the sustainable reintegration of returned migrants, including within the framework of the assessments under Article 25a of the Visa Code	<u>Action 3</u> <i>Enhance the cooperation on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration, including within the framework of the assessments under Article 25a of the Visa Code</i>	<i>Commission, EEAS, EU Delegation, Member States: ongoing</i>	<u>Regional action:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration (MPRR) programme in Sub-Saharan Africa [EU: €333.8 million NDICI RIP SSA 2022 and 2024, specific amount for Ethiopia and Somalia unknown]</i> • <i>Within the Khartoum Process framework, Frontex contributed to the Thematic Meeting Sustainable Return and Reintegration: A Partnership Approach to Lasting Solutions for Returnees and their</i> 	<u>Ethiopia:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Joint Working Group – 27/06/2025</i> • <i>Regular technical engagements between COM and the Embassy of Ethiopia to the EU</i> • <i>Reflections on supporting capacity building initiatives for Ethiopian consulates are ongoing</i>

Action	Specific Objectives	Lead actor(s) and Timeframe	Actions completed, Results ⁶	Next Steps / Comments ⁷
			<p><i>Communities on 19-20 February 2025 in Addis Ababa.</i></p> <p><u>Ethiopia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 December 2024: Technical meeting between COM and the Embassy of Ethiopia • 19 November 2024: Joint Working Group in Addis Ababa. • 8 November 2024: Technical meeting between COM and the Embassy of Ethiopia. • 20 September 2024: third technical meeting between COM and the Embassy of Ethiopia • 10 July 2024: second technical meeting with the Head of political and public diplomacy affairs • 5 June 2024: technical meeting with the Head of political and public diplomacy affairs • 27 February 2024: 3rd JWG with Ethiopia • Support to sustainable reintegration to Ethiopian returnees from Europe and support to vulnerable displaced populations affected by COVID-19 [EU: €15 million EUTF-ET-52]. <p><u>Somalia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 March 2025: Meeting of COM Senior Official with the Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Ali, on readmission in the follow up to the 1st 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening migrant protection, sustainable reintegration, and the reinforcement of the National Referral Mechanism in Ethiopia – [EU (under approval) €20M NDICI MIP AAP 2025] <p><u>Somalia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2025 (TBC) 2nd EU--Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission • Regular monitoring meetings between COM and the Ambassador of Somalia to the EU. • Support to reintegration and national referral systems [€12 million –AAP 2025, MIP, NDICI]

Action	Specific Objectives	Lead actor(s) and Timeframe	Actions completed, Results ⁶	Next Steps / Comments ⁷
			<p><i>Technical Dialogue on Readmission and discuss next steps.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 December 2024: Meeting of COM Senior Official with the Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Ali, as following to the 1st Technical Dialogue. • 20 November 2024: 1st EU-Somalia Technical Dialogue on Readmission • 14 October 2024: Meeting between COM Senior Official, the Chief of Staff of the Office of the President of Somalia and the new Ambassador of Somalia to the EU (H.E. Ali) • 19 July 2024: Call between COM Senior Official and Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Hashi on the follow up of the 5th assessment report under Article 25a of the Visa Code. • 21 March 2024: Meeting between COM Senior Official and Ambassador of Somalia H.E. Hashi on readmission, in the framework of Article 25a of the Visa Code. • Regular monitoring meetings in Brussels and Mogadishu. • Written exchanges in the follow up of the 1st Technical Dialogue. 	
Address the root causes of irregular migration and promote	<p><u>Action 4</u></p> <p><i>Strengthen migration governance and management, by addressing the root</i></p>	<p>Commission, EEAS, EU Delegation, Member States:</p> <p><i>ongoing</i></p>	<p><u>Regional actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Alliance for the Horn of Africa Initiative 2023-2024 (adopted in 2023, €83 million covering DJI, ETH, ERI, KEN, SOM, SDN, SSD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED]

Action	Specific Objectives	Lead actor(s) and Timeframe	Actions completed, Results ⁶	Next Steps / Comments ⁷
legal/labour migration pathways	<p><i>causes of irregular migration</i></p> <p><i>Promote legal migration options/pathways in line with national competences.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support to Free Movement of Persons and Transhumance in the IGAD region Phase II (adopted in 2023, €15 million covering DJI, ERT, ETH, KEN, SOM, SDN, SSD, UGA)</i> • <i>Sustainable Urban Integration of Displacement-Affected Communities (SUIDAC) in Sub-Saharan African cities (adopted in 2023, €30 million covering DRC, ETH, SOM, SDN, UGA)</i> • <i>Durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations in Sub-Saharan Africa (adopted in 2021, €75 million covering BFA, CAR, CMR, TCD, DRC, DJI, ETH, KEN, MRT, SOM, SDN, SSD, UGA)</i> <p><u>Ethiopia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Establish a competitive and workers' rights-oriented labour migration system for Ethiopians [EU: €6.5M NDICI AAP 2024-P1-Action 3]</i> • <i>Sustainable support to persons displaced by conflict and natural hazards and their host communities (adopted in 2023, €40 million)</i> <p><u>Somalia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Social Protection for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change (SPARCC) (adopted in 2024, €19 million, migration marker 1)</i> • <i>BREACH - Boosting Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in Somalia</i> 	<div></div> <div></div>

Action	Specific Objectives	Lead actor(s) and Timeframe	Actions completed, Results ⁶	Next Steps / Comments ⁷
			<p>(adopted in 2022, €35 million, migration marker 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to the reduction of climate-induced conflict and to climate-sensitive reconciliation in Somalia (adopted in 2021, €8 million, migration marker 1) 	
Enhance cooperation on sustainable and integrated responses to forced displacement and durable solutions for refugees.	<p><u>Action 5</u></p> <p>Enhance cooperation on sustainable and integrated responses to forced displacement and durable solutions for refugees.</p>	<p>Commission, EEAS, EU Delegation, Member States:</p> <p>ongoing</p>	<p><u>Regional actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Programme for the “Sustainable Urban Integration of Displacement-Affected Communities” (SUIDAC) in Sub-Saharan African cities (adopted in 2023, EUR 30 million covering ETH, SDN, SOM). • Supporting Chad, South Sudan and Ethiopia to addressing the Sudanese displacement situation (Flexible Mechanism, signed in 2023, EUR 23 million covering TCD, SSDN, ETH) • Durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations in Sub-Saharan Africa (adopted in 2021, EUR 75 million covering CAR, CMR, ETH, KEN, MRT, SSDN, SOM, TCD, UGA). <p><u>Ethiopia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to sustainable and integrated responses to forced displacement (refugees, IDPs and returnees) and labour migration (AAP, adopted in 2024, EUR 36 million) 	<p><u>Regional action:</u></p> <p>Protection, Assistance and Solutions for Forcibly Displaced Populations in Sub-Saharan Africa (RIP, expected to be adopted in 2025, EUR 115 million to indicatively cover Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda)</p>

Action	Specific Objectives	Lead actor(s) and Timeframe	Actions completed, Results ⁶	Next Steps / Comments ⁷
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable support to persons displaced by conflict and natural disasters and their host communities (SM, adopted in 2023, EUR 40 million) <p><u>Somalia:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boosting Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change in Somalia (BREACH) (AAP, adopted in 2022, EUR 35 million, migration marker 1) 	

ANNEX I - Member States actions

- Description of the action with the following details (content of the action – indication of the link to the Action file objectives, overall budget, timeframe, key implementors)

Action	Objective	Budget	Timeframe
<i>Title of the action</i>	<i>Link to the Action file objectives</i>	<i>Indicative budget</i>	<i>Foreseen timetable</i>
IT AMREF - Amref Health Africa - ONLUS: EQUALE-EQUAL Access to Social and eConomiC opportunities for migrants and vulnerable groups in Ethiopia	<p><u>Action 4</u>: Strengthen migration governance and management, by addressing the root causes of irregular migration.</p> <p>The EQUAL project aims to mitigate the causes of irregular migration and improve the socio-economic development of vulnerable youth and women, with a focus on migrants, return migrants, IDPs, refugees, and those potentially exposed to irregular migration in the cities of Addis Ababa and Debre Birhan, in the Amhara region.</p> <p>The intervention aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. increase vocational skills in line with labour market demands. 2. create decent jobs (both as employees and self-employed) by facilitating access to finance for business start-up and development. 3. raise awareness among target groups and communities about the risks of irregular migration. 	EUR 1,67 million	March 2025 to February 2028
IT CIFA - International Centre for Child and Family - ETS: PRO.M.ET. EO: Protection of Minors in Ethiopia on the Eastern Migration Route	<p><u>Action 5</u>: Enhance cooperation on sustainable and integrated responses to forced displacement and durable solutions for refugees.</p> <p>The initiative represents the follow-up of a project implemented by CIFA, carried out in the same target area (MAPS: Migration and Access to Protection and Basic Services: Integrated Interventions on the Eastern Migration Route), an</p>	EUR 1,5 million	March 2025 to February 2028

Action	Objective	Budget	Timeframe
	<p><i>emergency initiative financed by AICS Addis Ababa and ended in February 2024.</i></p> <p><i>The PROMETEO project aims to operate in 3 different areas, with mutually complementary results:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. to strengthen registry services by promoting them to target communities</i> <i>2. to strengthen basic services, particularly those of interest to vulnerable children, by putting in place effective coordination and referral mechanisms</i> <i>3. facilitate the protection and empowerment of 275 migrant and/or street minors and 180 highly vulnerable youth.</i> 		
<p>IT</p> <p><i>CISP - International Committee for the Development of Peoples Ethiopia: PROTECT - Promoting Registration and Organisation for the Protection and Empowerment of Minors and Youth in Ethiopia</i></p>	<p><u>Action 3:</u> <i>Enhance the cooperation on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration, including within the framework of the assessments under Article 25a of the Visa Code</i></p> <p><i>The project focuses on three main thematic areas:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. improve registration services by providing training and materials.</i> <i>2. protecting unaccompanied minors by reintegrating them into foster families.</i> <i>3. Supporting the economic empowerment of foster families, unemployed youth, internally displaced persons and returnees, with the aim of mitigating irregular migration flows.</i> <p><i>In cooperation with other civil society organisations and the media, the project aims to raise awareness and inform the public and potential migrants about the dangers of irregular migration, using edutainment techniques.</i></p>	EUR 1,67 million	From March 2025 to August 2027

Action	Objective	Budget	Timeframe
IT CESVI - Cooperazione Emergenza e Sviluppo - ETS: Borena A.S.P.I.R.E.S.: Sustainable Agriculture, Pastoralism and Inclusion for Economic Resilience and Stabilisation in Borena	<p><u>Action 5:</u> Enhance cooperation on sustainable and integrated responses to forced displacement and durable solutions for refugees.</p> <p>In close cooperation with the local Irrigation and Pastoralism Office (a member organisation) and the Water Office, Cesvi aims to rehabilitate access to water for human animal and productive consumption, by installing new irrigation systems from existing reservoirs, as well as building new water points using disused wells, with the involvement of the communities most affected by displacement in the management and maintenance of the facilities (Outcome 1, land development).</p> <p>Under Outcome 2 (agriculture), the project will reconstitute goat herds with displaced women and herder families, as well as provide unemployed youth and families in a vulnerable condition with the productive means to cultivate irrigated land, offering the appropriate technical assistance for sustainable use of resources and animal health, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and the local PAD partner.</p>	EUR 1,67 million	From March 2025 to February 2028
IT LVIA - International Lay Volunteers Association: Multi- sectoral and integrated rural development intervention in the Oromia region to counter irregular migration in Ethiopia	<p><u>Action 5:</u> Enhance cooperation on sustainable and integrated responses to forced displacement and durable solutions for refugees.</p> <p>The project is a continuation of the Relint 2019 initiative 'A future for you - Sustainable local work now'. The intervention aims to enhance vocational training in the agricultural sector, in the rural areas of Bale and Arsi:</p> <p>1. strengthening cooperatives on sustainable and low-consumption practices (agroecology).</p>	EUR 1,67 million	From March 2025 to May 2027

Action	Objective	Budget	Timeframe
	<p>2. improvement of the TVET training system.</p> <p>3. expansion of business incubators.</p> <p>4. Awareness-raising on the risks of irregular migration.</p>		
<p>IT</p> <p>CEFA - European Committee for Agricultural Training: Work2gether: 'Working together for sustainable employment and agricultural development in Ethiopia'</p>	<p><u>Action 4:</u> Strengthen migration governance and management, by addressing the root causes of irregular migration.</p> <p>The project is a continuation of other DLCI-funded initiatives (2016 and 2019 Calls), EMPLOY, PONTI and WORK, whose experiences it seeks to maximise. The project is divided into 3 main lines of activity:</p> <p>1. facilitating the access of women and youth in the urban area of Addis Ababa and rural areas of Oromia to employment opportunities and decent work, including in micro-entrepreneurship.</p> <p>2. to improve the living conditions of small agricultural producers in the rural districts of Arsi, through an integrated approach that enhances the security of local food systems.</p> <p>3. to disseminate the transfer of professional skills and capacities, also raising awareness among the population about the risks of irregular migration.</p>	EUR 1,6 million	From March 2025 to February 2028
<p>SE</p> <p>Response to vulnerable migrants on the Eastern Corridor</p>	<p><u>Action 5:</u> Enhance cooperation on sustainable and integrated responses to forced displacement and durable solutions for refugees.</p>	EUR 6 million	2023-2026
<p>SE</p> <p>IGAD Regional Refugee Management Phase II</p>	<p><u>Action 5:</u> Enhance cooperation on sustainable and integrated responses to forced displacement and durable solutions for refugees.</p>	EUR 6,7 million	2024-2027

Action	Objective	Budget	Timeframe
SE <i>Capacity support to Somali Government in managing migration and returns (IOM)</i>	<u>Action 3:</u> Enhance cooperation on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration.	Approx. EUR 0,7 million	2024-2025
SE <i>Support to IOM for sustainable reintegration efforts, including in Somalia</i>	<u>Action 3:</u> Enhance cooperation on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration	Approx. EUR 2,5 million	2024-2025
SE <i>Swedish Migration Agency/CAPSOM Capacity building for efficient Migration Management in Somalia</i>	<u>Action 3:</u> Enhance cooperation on return, readmission and sustainable reintegration.	Approx. EUR 0,8 million	2024-2025

ANNEX II - Common messages

Ethiopia:

General messages

- Recognise the complex migration and forced displacement dynamics in Ethiopia.
- Recall that the EU is keen to tackle cooperation on migration in a comprehensive way as shown by the extensive cooperation portfolio on migration and forced displacement in Ethiopia.
- Underline the importance for the EU and Ethiopia to continue a permanent dialogue on migration, following a holistic and human rights-based approach, in order to anchor cooperation in a jointly defined and mutually beneficial framework.
- Congratulate Ethiopia on the several institutional and policy developments in recent years allowing Ethiopia to better manage migration. Stress that the adoption of the National Migration Policy (developed with the support of the BMM programme) is important (adoption is expected in 2025).
- Emphasise the need to raise awareness on instrumentalisation of Ethiopian nationals by Russia and Belarus in order to warn about the risks associated with it.

Readmission – Article 25a

- We take note and appreciate the steps taken resulting in some progress in certain areas of cooperation on readmission. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- COM and MS will communicate those elements to Ethiopia as a common message in bilateral meetings, technical exchanges and during meetings of the Joint Working Group.
- The 6th assessment report under the Article 25a exercise is under preparation by the COM, based on Member States' input.

Reintegration

- To accompany increased returns, COM is committed to support Ethiopia in increasing its capacities and ownership on reintegration. [REDACTED]
- In addition, support remains available for returnees from the EU via the Frontex supported EU reintegration program.
- We have generously supported RRS since 2018, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Somalia

General messages

- Recognise the complex migration and forced displacement dynamics in Somalia.
- Recall that the EU is keen to address cooperation on migration in comprehensive way as shown by an extensive cooperation portfolio on migration and forced displacement in Somalia.

- Emphasise the need to raise awareness of instrumentalisation of Somali nationals by Russia and Belarus in order to warn about the risks associated with it.

Readmission – Article 25a

- We take note of Somalia's commitment to working with the EU on return and readmission and the efforts taken in this regard. [REDACTED]

■

Reintegration

- To accompany increased returns, COM is committed to support Somalia in increasing its capacities and ownership on reintegration. [REDACTED]
- In addition, the support remains available to returnees from the EU via the Frontex supported EU reintegration program.

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