



MIGRATION PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

A NEW APPROACH TO BETTER MANAGE MIGRATION

“A lasting solution will only come if we address the root causes, the reasons why we are currently facing this important refugee crisis. Our European foreign policy must be more assertive.”

Jean Claude Juncker,
President of the European Commission

“Migration is a positive thing for the world, but we need to do it in a regulated way. It is a global, complex phenomenon, it concerns the EU as much as countries of transit or origin ...Our approach is a new one, based on a win-win partnership.”

Federica Mogherini, High Representative/Vice-President
of the European Commission, Strasbourg – 7 June 2016

The European Union introduced a new Migration Partnership Framework in June 2016 that fully integrates migration in the European Union's foreign policy. This is a key element of the European Union Global Strategy.

The new approach rethinks how all concerned actors – the European Union's Member States, the EU institutions, and third countries – work together to better manage migration flows and strive for well-managed migration. It establishes a results-oriented approach to mobilise and focus all EU and Member States' tools and resources for that purpose. Our shared objective is to give people the chance and the means for a safe and decent life close to their homes, fight smuggling and prevent death at seas. And this can only be done together with our third country partners.

Through the Partnership Framework, the EU aims at saving lives and breaking the business model of smugglers, preventing illegal migration and enhancing cooperation on returns and readmission of irregular migrants, as well as stepping up investments in partner countries.

THE NEW PARTNERSHIP APPROACH INCLUDES A MIX OF SHORT AND LONG TERM ACTIONS

➔ SHORT TERM MEASURES

- Save lives at sea and in the desert;
- fight traffickers and smugglers' networks that benefit from people's despair;
- increasing returns of those who do not have the right to stay; and enable migrants and refugees to stay closer to home rather than embark on dangerous journeys.
- Open up legal ways to Europe for those in need, in particular with more resettlements for refugees.

➔ LONG TERM MEASURES

- Address the root causes of irregular migration and force displacement by supporting partner countries in their political, social and economic development.
- Improve opportunities in countries of origin fostering sustainable development, so people can build a future in their country.

The EU is putting into place and implementing this framework starting with a number of priority countries of origin and transit – Mali, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, and Ethiopia.



The key word of the new proposal is partnership. The objective is to develop win-win relationships with the European Union's partners to tackle the shared challenges of migration and development.



A key component in this approach is the development of political frameworks for continued and operational cooperation pulling together the different work strands, instruments and tools, in order to develop a comprehensive partnership with third countries, aimed at ensuring the conditions for sustainable migration flows (so called "Compacts"). Formal international agreements can flow from the compacts, but the compact as such is a fluid process.

For each partner country, depending on its specific circumstances – whether country of origin, transit, or hosting a large refugee population, a tailor made approach is developed, designed to deliver clear targets and joint commitments. The compacts combine different policy elements like development aid, trade, mobility, energy, security, digital policy, which are mobilised jointly with EU Member States and are tailored to each situation depending on the country.

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN CONCRETELY?



The European Union is developing coherent and continuous dialogues at all levels with partner countries to work towards joint solutions.



Strengthened EU agency involvement in partner countries (European Border and Coast Guard Agency, EUROPOL).



Deployment of dedicated European migration liaison officers to priority countries of origin and transit.



Development of innovative IT solutions to better manage migration and contribute to good governance and development.



Support to host and transit countries through existing Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions and operations, including on border management and in fighting traffickers and smugglers.



The European Commission proposed an ambitious External Investment Plan to support investments in partner countries in Africa and the European Neighbourhood, to strengthen our partnerships, promote a new model of participation of the private sector and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



More flexible use of existing financial tools such as the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa or the EU Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis to support refugee populations and reduce dangerous journeys.

FUNDING



➔ SHORT TERM MEASURES

- The European Commission with agreement from EU Member States, adopted the decision to strengthen the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa with **€500 million** from the European Development Fund reserve, bringing the total resources allocated to the EU Emergency trust Fund for Africa amount to **€2.4 billion** – coming from different financial instruments under the EU budget and the European Development Fund, and an additional **€82 million** from EU Member States contributions
- Nearly **€2.4 billion** in total were pledged by the EU and its Member States as additional funds for Lebanon, Jordan and Syria at the London conference in February 2016.

➔ LONG TERM MEASURES

- With an input of **€4.1 billion** from the EU budget and the European Development Fund, the EIP will mobilise up to **€44 billion** of investments. If Member States and other partners match the EU's contribution, the total amount could reach **€88 billion**.
- Total aid flows from the EU and its Member States to the key priority countries recently averaged **€4.4 billion** per year.

Including the funding already used, this would make available nearly €8 billion over the period 2016-2020 to support key third countries, on the basis of a joint effort from the EU and its Member States to closely coordinate development assistance.

For 2017, the European Parliament and the Council authorised additional €726.7 million in the budget to further support the external dimension of migration.

The Commission presented on 14 December the second progress report of the Partnership Framework. Collective work is starting to bear fruit and is resulting in tangible outcomes.

- More than 20 high-level visits to priority countries have been conducted by the HRVP, a number of EU Commissioners and Member States political leaders backed by technical missions of senior officials of EU institutions and Member States.
- The EU has stepped up its support through its CSDP Missions and its technical assistance.
- € 1 billion have been mobilised under the EU Trust Fund for Africa and 64 programmes have been approved.
- Further contracts in support of the actions foreseen in the Valletta Action Plan were signed for almost €471 million under the EU Trust Fund for Africa.
- Increased engagement to tackle root causes and assist communities affected by high level of smuggling (i.e. in Agadez) has been put in place.
- First results can already be seen in the priority countries:
 - Flows along migratory routes have decreased substantially. In Niger, the number of people crossing the desert has fallen from over 70,000 in May to 1,500 in November 2016
- In Niger, 4,430 migrants have been repatriated with the assistance of IOM
- Increased action to combat migrant smuggling has taken place in Niger, Nigeria and Mali, including apprehension of smugglers and seizure of vehicles
- An EU – Nigeria cooperation platform on migrant smuggling was launched in October.
- Strengthened operational cooperation is being put in place with Senegal, Nigeria and Mali, including through identification missions on returns.
- Negotiations on a Readmission Agreement with Nigeria have started and will continue in 2017.
- Mobilisation of projects under the EU Trust Fund for Africa in all five priority countries continues.
- European Migration Liaison Officers will be deployed to all five priority countries in early 2017.