

Statement by Commissioner Oettinger on Italy

I fully respect the will of voters being left, right or centre and in every country. By referring to the actual market developments in Italy, I did not mean to be disrespectful and I apologise for this. Italy as a founding member played and plays an important role in European integration and I hope it will continue on this path.

EU Trust Fund for Africa: new programmes worth €294 million to further foster stability and jobs and growth in the Horn of Africa

This new package complements 50 previously adopted actions amounting to €820.3 million for the Horn of Africa. Approved in seven packages in [December 2015](#), [April 2016](#), [October 2016](#), [December 2016](#), [April 2017](#), [December 2017](#) and [February 2018](#), these actions all contribute to improving stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement in the Horn of Africa region. Two additional cross-window measures (€26 million) also benefit the region in the area of protection of migrants along the Central Mediterranean route and in technical assistance.

Summary of the projects announced today:

Sudan

- The programme **“Youth, Employment, Skills (YES)”** (EU Trust Fund contribution: **€15 million**) aims at improving the ability of young women and men to find employment or establish and grow their businesses through Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET). The project will target youth and disadvantaged groups such as refugees and internally displaced persons of Darfur.
- The programme **“Simple, Spatial, Survey Method (S3M) survey for Sudan”** (EU Trust Fund contribution: **€1 million**) will help to collect and disseminate data on malnutrition among young children, as well as pregnant and lactating women through a survey in Sudan.
- The programme **“Provision of air services to allow access for humanitarian and development actors in Sudan”** (EU Trust Fund

contribution: **€1.5 million**) will provide humanitarian and development actors, donor organisations and diplomatic missions in Sudan with better access to beneficiaries, especially vulnerable communities in hard-to-reach project implementation sites through the UN Humanitarian Air Services.

The two latter actions help implementing the humanitarian development nexus in Sudan.

South Sudan

- The programme **“South Sudan Rural Development: Strengthening Smallholders’ Resilience – SORUDEV SSR”** (EU Trust Fund contribution increased from €7 million to **€15 million**) will be expanded to cover now 7 out of the former 10 states of South Sudan and will help responding to the food security crisis affecting large parts of the population. The action will strengthen resilience of communities, improving governance and conflict prevention and reducing forced displacements due to loss of livelihoods.

Ethiopia

- The programme **“Ethiopia Job Compact – Sector Reform and performance Contract”** (EU Trust Fund contribution: **€50 million**) aims at supporting Ethiopia’s industrialisation strategy with €50 million. This will be done in the framework of the “job compact” initiative, an agreement between the Government and international partners to create decent employment opportunities for Ethiopians and refugees.

Kenya

- The programme **“Piloting Private Sector Solutions for Refugees and Host Communities in North-West Kenya”** (EU Trust Fund contribution: **€5 million**) will promote better economic integration and self-reliance of refugees and host communities in the Kakuma and Kalobeyei area through market-led solutions that strengthen and deepen local markets and respond to key development challenges. This action also aims at supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

Somalia

- The programme **“Inclusive Local and Economic Development – ILED”** (EU Trust Fund contribution: **€83 million**) will foster stability in Somalia by extending state authority and increasing legitimacy of local authorities and services, promoting local reconciliation and peacebuilding, creating economic opportunities and protecting the most vulnerable.
- The programme **“Somalia State and Resilience Building Contract”** (EU Trust Fund contribution: **€100 million**) will increase the legitimacy and capacity of the Somali federal state, increase trust between the Federal Government and Federal Member States and reinforce economic reform.

- The programme **“Operational Support (Air Transport) Services”**(EU Trust Fund contribution: **€6.5 million**) will continue facilitating air access both to and within Somalia to support the smooth and efficient implementation of EU development cooperation.
- The programme **“RESTORE – Building Resilience in Northern Somalia”** (EUTF contribution increased from €8 million to **€10 million**) will receive additional funds to further contribute to addressing the adverse effects of el Niño on the resilience of already vulnerable communities of Northern Somalia, and reduce the effects of forced displacement and irregular migration in the region (this is a non-substantial amendment to an existing programme).

Regional

- The EU Trust Fund contribution to the programme **“Facility on Sustainable and Dignified Return and Reintegration in support of the Khartoum Process”** will be stepped by €20 million (to €45 million) in order to help partner countries to develop and implement rights-based, development-based and sustainable return and reintegration policies.
- The programme **“Monitoring and Learning System”** (EU Trust Fund contribution increased from €2 million to **€4 million**) will be expanded.

For more information

[Press release – Protecting and supporting migrants and refugees: new actions worth €467 million under the EU Trust Fund for Africa](#)

[MEMO – EU Trust Fund for Africa: new programmes worth €173 million to protect migrants and support stability and employability in the Sahel and Lake Chad region](#)

[EU Emergency Trust for Africa](#)

EU Trust Fund for Africa: new programmes worth €173 million to protect migrants and support stability and employability in the Sahel and Lake Chad region

This new package complements 79 already ongoing actions amounting to €1,376 million in that region approved in six packages in January 2016, [April 2016](#), [June 2016](#), [December 2016](#), [December 2017](#) and [February 2018](#). The new actions aim at further fostering stability and economic opportunities in the region,

and increasing the protection of migrants.

Summary of the projects announced today

Central Mediterranean route

- In order to continue life-saving assistance to migrants and refugees, €70 million were made available to protect migrants and refugees along the Central Mediterranean route. This adds to the initial allocation of [€115 million adopted in February 2018 to support the UN's refugee agency](#) (UNHCR) in providing international and emergency protection, basic and life-saving assistance, to refugees evacuated from Libya. Additionally, it will increase the number of migrants benefitting from protection and voluntary return while ensuring their sustainable and dignified reintegration in the frame of the [EU-IOM Joint Initiative](#).

Mali

- Additional assistance worth €10 million will be provided to address the rapidly degrading security situation in central Mali, in order to provide a fast and adapted response. It complements the support already provided by the EU to the G5 Sahel countries. Rule of law, territory control and increased security of the population will be some of the issues addressed, thus facilitating the creation of a trust bond between Malian security forces and local populations.

Nigeria

- New activities worth €50 million will help to improve the employment skills of young people in Nigeria. This will enhance the economic and employment opportunities for up to 376,000 young Nigerians, of which at least 30% women. A strong focus rests on income-generating employment opportunities.

The Gambia

- Economic development and future prospects for youth will be promoted in The Gambia through the project "Building a future – Make it in The Gambia", worth €23 million. While nurturing positive prospects for local populations, the programme will also support the development of a reintegration referral mechanism by the IOM. The aim is to ensure that returning migrants receive access to skills development programmes and social reintegration, in order to increase their employability.

Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau

- A project worth €5 million to be implemented in Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau will help to modernise and strengthen secure identity chains and documental security. This will further contribute to the fight against human trafficking and respect of human rights through enhanced security and migration management capabilities, for instance by increasing birth registration. The measure will also enable an effective management of legal migration, through documents issued by national authorities. It

will also help to improve public planning through compiling reliable data and statistics on migration flows.

Regional

- At **regional level**, the programme “ARCHIPELAGO: an African-European TVET initiative”(€15 million) will continue addressing youth and vulnerable groups’ employability through improved technical and vocational education and training and enhanced employment opportunities, therefore contributing to better match labour offer and demand.

For more information

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The EU continues to deliver on its commitments to assist vulnerable migrants and refugees and address root causes of irregular migration. The new support measures in the Sahel/ Lake Chad region and the Horn of Africa will foster stability, jobs and growth, especially for young people and vulnerable groups.

They complement ongoing bilateral and multilateral efforts, such as through the Joint African Union – European Union – United Nations Task Force. Today’s additional funds will allow for life-saving assistance to be taken forward, including accelerating resettlements of refugees from Niger as a priority.

High Representative/Vice-President Federica **Mogherini** said: *“We continue working to save lives, provide safe and dignified returns and legal avenues, and tackle the root causes of migration, by creating jobs and growth. With the UNHCR, we have evacuated 1,287 refugees from Libya to Niger, who need to be resettled swiftly now. With the IOM, we helped 22,000 people to return home and provide reintegration assistance. Today’s additional commitments will further consolidate our work towards managing*

human mobility – in a humane, secure and dignified way together with our partners.”

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, said: *“The majority of today’s €467 million assistance package will be dedicated towards improving employment opportunities, especially for young people. But challenges remain, and the Trust Fund’s resources are running out. If we want to continue our live-saving assistance, additional contributions by EU member states’ and other donors will be crucial.”*

Measures adopted today focus on the following areas:

Protection and assistance for people on the move

The European Union’s work with the UNHCR has so far allowed for 1,287 refugees to be evacuated from Libya to Niger through the **Emergency Transit Mechanism**, with 108 people having been further resettled to Europe. In parallel, together with the International Organisation for Migration, 22,000 migrants stranded along the routes have been **assisted to voluntarily return home**, where they receive reintegration support. Today, the EU mobilises an **additional €70 million**, of which €10 million will support accelerating resettlements under the UNHCR’s Emergency Transit Mechanism and €60 million ensure that voluntary return and reintegration assistance can be continuously provided by the IOM. In **Kenya**, an innovative approach to piloting private sector development will promote better economic integration of refugees and supports the implementation of the [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#). Additional €20 million in regional support will help countries in the Horn of Africa, in [developing and implementing sustainable and rights-based return and reintegration policies](#).

Increase stability, resilience of local populations and improve migration management

Increasing stability and supporting the resilience of local populations is one of the pillars of the EU’s integrated approach. In central Mali, activities worth €10 million will address the rapidly degrading security situation, to increase trust between Malian security forces and local populations. Further new activities will promote conflict prevention, foster food security in **South Sudan** or improve knowledge on malnutrition in **Sudan**. In Sudan, support will also enable humanitarian and development actors to access hard-to-reach areas. In **Cape Verde** and **Guinea Bissau** new measures will help to set up a reliable civil identification registration and document issuance system, to allow the population to benefit from enhanced mobility, document security and better access to rights.

Economic opportunities for young people

Providing sustainable employment opportunities for young people is key to tackle the root causes of irregular migration. New actions will support the skills development and vocational training of young people to help create better employment opportunities, for example in **Ethiopia**, **Nigeria** or **The Gambia**. In **Sudan**, a new support project, will strengthen the job skills of

young people and support them through training to establish and grow businesses. This project will target disadvantaged groups, such as refugees and internally displaced people and, like all EU assistance in **Sudan**, will be realised through trusted implementing partners.

In order to ensure continuous monitoring of the effectiveness of Trust Fund for Africa programmes, the funding of the dedicated monitoring and learning system has been doubled from €2 million to €4 million.

Background

The [EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa](#) was established in 2015 in order to address the root causes of instability, irregular migration and forced displacement. Resources currently allocated to this Trust Fund are €3.4 billion from EU institutions, European Member States and other donors.

Today's assistance adds to the 147 programmes that were already previously approved across the three regions (North of Africa, Sahel and Lake Chad region and Horn of Africa) worth a total of €2,594 million, which was divided as follows: Sahel/Lake Chad €1,293 million (79 programmes), Horn of Africa €820.3 million (50 programmes), North of Africa €335 million (14 programmes). This amount also includes 4 cross-region programmes (€145.1 million).

For More Information

[MEMO – Sahel Window](#)

[MEMO – Horn of Africa Window](#)

[EU – IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration](#)

[EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa](#)

[Question and Answers \(Q&A\) on the Regulation on short selling and certain aspects of credit default swaps \(SSR\)](#)

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