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**THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**ANNEX I**

to the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the special measure in favour of Yemen  
for 2023

**Action Document for “Integrated Response for Resilience and Food Security in Yemen”**

**ANNUAL MEASURE**

This document constitutes the annual work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, within the meaning of Article 23 of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

## 1 SYNOPSIS

### 1.1 Action Summary Table

<b>1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act</b>	Integrated Response for Resilience and Food Security in Yemen OPSYS number: ACT-61721 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)
<b>2. Team Europe Initiative</b>	No
<b>3. Zone benefiting from the action</b>	The action shall be carried out in Yemen
<b>4. Programming document</b>	No programming document / Special Measure
<b>5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results</b>	NA
<b>PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION</b>	
<b>6. Priority Area(s), sectors</b>	NA
<b>7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Main SDG: SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture Other significant SDGs (up to 9) and where appropriate, targets: SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls SDG 13: Take action to combat climate change and its impacts
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	43072 - Household food security programmes – 70% 15190 – Facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility – 30%

<b>8 b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	11004 – Other public entities in donor country				
<b>9. Targets</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance				
<b>10. Markers (from DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective @</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>	
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Nutrition @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>	
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Climate change mitigation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>11. Internal markers and Tags:</b>	<b>Policy objectives</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
		Digitalisation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		
Connectivity @		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
digital connectivity energy transport		YES <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		

	health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	COVID-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
<b>12. Amounts concerned</b>	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020130 Total estimated cost: EUR 37 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 37 000 000			
<b>MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>				
<b>13. Type of financing</b>	<b>Direct management</b> through: - Grants - Procurement			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

The Action aims to support sustainable pathways to resilience for vulnerable people in Yemen.

The **Specific Objective** (Outcome) of this action is to improve the food security and resilience of vulnerable communities in a context of climate change in Yemen, including women, youth and persons with disabilities as well as displaced populations.

The **expected outputs** to be delivered by this action are:

Output 1: Improved capacities of the local population for sustainable and resilient livelihoods, with a focus on gender equality.

Output 2: Improved capacities and resources of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and their host communities for resilient, climate adapted livelihoods.

This Action builds upon the EU's substantial investment in Yemen over the last few years and responds to the commitment of the EU to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of the **Agenda 2030**, mirrored in the **European Consensus on Development and the EU Green Deal**. It contributes to realising the **EU policy objectives in priority areas**, notably the food production component of the Response to Global Food Insecurity on and the agreement that strengthening strategic autonomy in food production is a priority and part of the **Global Gateway** implementation. The food crisis in Yemen is a long-term trend, has multiple root causes (including climate change) and is exacerbated by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

The Action will build on the progress and lessons learnt from EU-funded projects in the areas of integrated human and social development, and promoting economic stability and growth in Yemen.

## 2 RATIONALE

### 2.7 Context

After more than eight years of conflict, the overall situation in Yemen continues to be fragile and volatile. Political instability, climate induced shocks, persistent security challenges and socio-economic vulnerability have

exacerbated the ongoing humanitarian crisis, with an estimated **21.6 million people** (almost three-quarters of the population) in need of **humanitarian assistance** and protection in 2023.

The outlook for the coming period is worrying. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and resulting shortage of grain supply has hit Yemen particularly hard, as the country imports 90% of its grain and is therefore extremely sensitive to price fluctuations. After years of continuous instability, the humanitarian response is suffering from the inability of short-term humanitarian interventions to continue supporting such a heavy caseload of people in need year after year. Food insecurity is a grave concern for Yemen and potentially a source of even further political instability – especially in the country's south where the Government of Yemen has struggled to meet the population's most basic security and food/nutrition needs. Helping local communities cope with the current crisis could also contribute to maintaining local stability and keeping the social fabric of Yemen intact.

The acute food insecurity and malnutrition situation in Yemen deteriorated further in 2022, with **17.4 million people (IPC Phase 3 and above)** in need of assistance.<sup>1</sup> An estimated **2.2 million children in Yemen are acutely malnourished**, including nearly 540,000 children under the age of five. The prevalence of acute malnutrition of **wasting is of 9.9%** which is just 0.1% below the 'high' threshold (10%) and stunting is far above the 'very high' threshold of the WHO 2019 categorization, but with distribution in age groups that predicts a likely increase in the coming years. Acute malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women is of 24.9%, with an increase of 2.8 folds.<sup>2</sup>

Protracted conflict, economic crisis, and climate change are responsible for setting back human development in Yemen by decades, displacing millions and reversing progress toward the SDGs.

Yemen faces the sixth largest **internal displacement** crisis in the world, with some 4.5 million people internally displaced since 2015 (80% of women and children) of whom 3.1 million require humanitarian assistance.<sup>3</sup> Most of them have been displaced for over a year and many of them more than once.

The high risks of **natural hazards** are expected to increase in frequency and severity in 2023. In particular, severe floods and droughts have led to the destruction of shelters and infrastructure and have restricted access to markets and basic services. This will further deteriorate the vulnerability of displaced populations.

Between January and June 2022, Yemen experienced moderate to severe drought conditions, coupled with an unprecedented rise in temperatures, affecting all crops. Between July and September 2022, torrential rains triggered widespread flooding. **Climatic shocks** contribute to intensifying the food insecurity situation in the country.

The **economic situation** is characterised by drastic inflation, fragmentation of economic institutions, a liquidity crisis, currency devaluation, non-payment of public salaries and soaring unemployment. The private sector has suffered severe losses, compounded by difficulties in accessing liquidity or credit and forcing massive lay-offs and closures.

**Gender inequality** is a major obstacle to poverty reduction in Yemen. Female participation in the labour market is only 6%. Employment opportunities for women are curtailed primarily due to strict societal norms and related government regulations. Yemen consistently ranks among the worst countries to be born a woman<sup>4</sup>. Women and girls also face major risks of being exposed to Gender Based Violence (GBV), with this risk heightened for women and girls with disabilities, internally displaced people and other groups in vulnerable situations. Women and children represent up to 80 per cent of the total displaced population with approximately 26 % of displaced households now headed by women. Women in female-headed households have become the primary income providers and are more impoverished and subject to higher food insecurity.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, (IPC) Jan-Dec 2022

<sup>2</sup> SMART Survey Aug-2021-Jan 2022, Unicef

<sup>3</sup> UNHCR

<sup>4</sup> The 10 countries where it's toughest to be born a girl | World Economic Forum (weforum.org)

<sup>5</sup> UNDP Country Strategy Note 2021-2024 for Yemen.

Politically, major shifts took place in 2022 with a leadership reshuffle within the Internationally Recognised Government (IRG) and a fragile series of truces being agreed for an overall period of six months. Unfortunately, the truce expired in October 2022 without clear signals in sight on whether the next period will be one of open warfare or of negotiation and compromise between the parties. The Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) of the IRG struggles with internal divisions while trying to address the challenges posed by the conflict as well as the downward spiral of the economy.

For future local and national political settlements, the work of Yemeni women as peace actors and mediators will be essential. Although rarely mentioned in the literature, there have been several examples of women-led mediations and negotiations at the subnational level.<sup>6</sup>

There is no Team Europe initiative in Yemen due to the very low presence of EU Member States (EUMS) as development donors in the country (DE, SE, NL, FR). Nevertheless, the EU Delegation (EUD) works towards a closely coordinated Team Europe approach to the Yemeni crisis. For instance, the EUD coordinates closely with EUMS and participates actively in donor coordination fora, both EU specific and broader ones, which also include EUMS. Moreover, the EUD and EUMS co-finance two projects (on economic development and community resilience); the EU and Germany have elaborated a joint evaluation in the field of women's economic empowerment.

#### Intervention strategy

The EU and participating partners will spearhead a more integrated and sustainable approach to addressing Yemen's most pressing needs. This is based on a firm belief that in spite of the ongoing violent armed conflict and humanitarian crisis, Yemen has the potential to achieve a peaceful future and make gains towards poverty reduction and greater autonomy. EU development cooperation with Yemen 2021-2024 aims to support and strengthen this potential with interventions focusing on three broad priorities<sup>7</sup>: (1) Integrated human and social development; (2) Promoting economic stability and growth; and (3) Promoting peace and security. The 2023 Special Measure for Yemen corresponds to the first and second priority areas. In line with the operational conclusions of the EU Development DGs meeting of 28 September 2022 in Brussels, the EU will adopt a nexus approach to addressing the food security crisis in Yemen, while also strengthening local capacities and local food production.

The development response in Yemen is intended to become more closely aligned with humanitarian support, as well as political and diplomatic efforts, along the logic of a humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus. The UN Economic Framework provides a coordination and coherence tool for donor engagement in Yemen across the HDP nexus. This action will be closely aligned with the Economic Framework, putting into practice crucial nexus elements of transitioning from food assistance towards self-reliance. It will build on EU added value in the macro-economic sector, where the EU, with support from the UN Special Envoy and UN Resident Coordinator, has spearheaded international coordination on macro-economic bottlenecks, as well as supported capacities for macro-economic policy making across the country.

Currently, the EU is one of few development donors in Yemen. Among EU Member States, only three (Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands) have continuously been present with development funding. Recently, France has stepped up its development programmes in response to the acute food security needs exacerbated by the global grain supply crisis. The most prominent development donor in Yemen is the World Bank, which has announced a USD 277 million package for food security in Yemen in 2022, and a further USD 300 million package on social protection. In this context, the EU will position its remaining mid-term allocation (EUR 55 million until 2024) as both complementary to the larger World Bank packages and as a convening framework for other EU Member States under a Team Europe approach.

The central objective of this measure is to contribute to food security in Yemen with an integrated multi-sectoral development toolbox. The aim is to bridge humanitarian action with economic recovery and contribute to building resilience, thereby tackling the systemic problems of food unaffordability and inadequate local food production. The approach will be two-fold. On the one hand, the action will aim at transitioning vulnerable households from assistance towards sustainable livelihood opportunities (and ultimately self-reliance) through continuum approach

<sup>6</sup> UNDP Country Strategy Note 2021-2024 for Yemen

<sup>7</sup> Internal Guidance Document 2021-2024 for EU Development Cooperation with Yemen.

i.e. targeting the same beneficiaries through a simultaneous support in terms of Multiple-Cash Assistance (MPCA), to cover their basic needs (humanitarian track) and a support in terms of livelihoods to generate income (development track) for vulnerable individuals including IDPs, households and communities. On the other hand, it will address shortcomings in the economy, from a micro to macro level, to help improve the environment for livelihoods creation, in particular for women and youth.

The action will contribute to enhancing food security and building resilience in Yemen by helping vulnerable people build resilience to food, economic, environmental and social shocks and meet their basic needs, especially in terms of food security. The action will also support vulnerable people in areas affected by climate change through promotion of climate resilient agriculture, and climate adaptation actions to help them increase their ability to adapt to climate change shocks, and thus meet food security needs in a sustainable and long-term manner. In line with the nexus approach, it complements the European Commission's humanitarian actions by putting in place an integrated and layered approach ranging from food/cash assistance to livelihoods, nutrition and water-related interventions, small agri-business support and community asset development. EU funding will complement a large World Bank package of food security assistance that will be more strongly focused on agri-businesses and value-chain development. The action will contribute to scaling up investments aligned with the Yemen Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Action Plan (MNSAP) and responds to the Call to Action to work towards sustainable solutions to the problem of malnutrition in Yemen.

The action will adopt a gender sensitive perspective, with women making up 50% of rights-holders and certain interventions (e.g. nutrition) specifically targeting female rights-holder. The action will contribute to the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan III and the Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIP)<sup>8</sup>, notably its key thematic areas of strengthening economic and social rights and the empowerment of girls and women, as well as addressing challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and digital transformation.

As part of the EU's ambition to build sustainability by strengthening local institutions, component 1 of the action will preferably be implemented by a local organisation with extensive experience in building resilience and livelihoods in a longer-term development context and having the demonstrated capacity to have access on the ground and to successfully engage with local government entities. The second component of the project will be led by an implementing partner with a proven track record in delivering humanitarian assistance in combination with livelihood support to displaced populations and their host communities in Yemen.

The special measure 2023 will contribute to more comprehensive EU action in the field of food security. It will provide not only a framework to coordinate development engagement on the currently most pressing needs in Yemen – the affordability of food, but it will also provide targeted tools to link up humanitarian engagement in the country with more durable and sustainable solutions for vulnerable populations across the country.

## 2.8 Problem Analysis

### Short problem analysis:

#### 1. Severe and continuing food insecurity and the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance

At present, food insecurity is primarily addressed through humanitarian assistance rather than long-term solutions. This is a problem because of the growing dependence on humanitarian assistance, which is negatively affecting the ability to be more economically self-reliant. The substantial demand for humanitarian assistance also raises questions about the ability to meet needs in the longer-term. A major gap in the assistance to the food insecure population is that at present sustainable options are lacking or are only in early stages of development through pilots involving limited numbers of people. The problem is compounded by the high level of vulnerability of a very large number of people in Yemen, as well as the risks of natural hazards and climate vulnerability which makes them more vulnerable to sudden shocks and the risk to fall back into dependence on humanitarian assistance.

<sup>8</sup> Country Level Implementation Plan: <https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/search?keywords=CLIP>

## 2. Widespread and protracted displacement affecting displaced populations and host communities alike

Many people in Yemen have been affected by displacement over the years. This includes the displaced people themselves who need to survive in an often-hostile environment but also the host communities that need to share resources with the IDPs. The displacement has become protracted, driven not only by conflict-related issues but by underlying economic factors as well, in addition to the impacts of climate change as floods risks, the scarcity of land and water sources displaces more people in search of vital resources. The problem is largely being addressed through short-term humanitarian solutions. Very little progress has been made towards durable solutions so far. Discrimination and exclusion of displaced people, in particular certain groups (e.g., Muhammasheen and migrants/refugees) further exacerbate their vulnerability and make sustainable solutions more difficult and urgent.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

Key stakeholders are vulnerable communities in Yemen, including women, youth and persons with disabilities as well as displaced populations and marginalized groups. There are formal and informal local and community level institutions – such as local development councils and savings and loans associations.

Other key stakeholders are local institutions which could be involved in the project as implementing partners and the civil society organisations with the capacity to simultaneously implement humanitarian assistance and livelihood interventions.

## 3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### 3.7 Objectives and Expected Outputs

**The Overall Objective** (Impact) of this action is to support sustainable pathways to resilience for vulnerable people in Yemen.

**The Specific(s) Objective(s)** (Outcomes) of this action is to improve **food security and resilience** of vulnerable communities in a context of climate change in Yemen, including women, youth and persons with disabilities as well as displaced populations.

**The Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are:

**Output 1:** Improved capacities of the local population for sustainable and resilient livelihoods, with a focus on gender equality.

**Output 2:** Improved capacities and resources of IDPs and their host communities for resilient, climate adapted livelihoods.

### 3.8 Indicative Activities

Activities relating to Output 1:

- Cash support for female-headed households and mothers with children with disability.
- Mobile money services to promote financial inclusion.
- Strengthening Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), skills training and support to establish micro enterprises.
- Support for IDPs in host communities to engage in sustainable livelihoods and micro-businesses.
- Provision of small grants for smallholder producers to restart or expand production.
- Training of agronomists and technical assistance provided to farmers to promote climate-resilient farming methods.
- Provision of productive community assets as key outputs, such as water tanks, irrigations systems, land rehabilitation, and feeder roads to enable access to markets.

- Provision of layered support for vulnerable households and communities.
- Development of effective linkages between humanitarian assistance and longer-term development interventions adopting climate smart approaches Activation and formation of community structures such as the Village Cooperative Councils (VCCs) and the Sub-District Committees (SDCs).
- Identification of best practices and most effective pathways towards sustainable food security and livelihoods.
- Effective gender equality and women empowerment measures comprising detailed planning/budgeting of project activities, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
- Appropriate design of activities to provide equitable gender opportunities including gender checklists and gender sensitive community consultations.
- Best practices for adaptation and mitigation of the impact of climate change adopted and tailored to the local context with action plan responding to baseline survey findings on climate change.

#### Activities relating to Output 2:

- Gender-sensitive assessments, targeting new and protracted vulnerable IDPs and host communities.
- Analysis of the livelihood profile of vulnerable communities.
- Labour and market assessments in the selected areas to identify livelihood opportunities.
- Cash assistance to meet the critical basic-needs of vulnerable households including targeted IDPs, host communities and returnee-households while being enrolled in livelihood activities.
- Technical skills and capacity development in relation to identified livelihood practices, based on integrated water resources management, soil conservation, seeds selection, climate-smart agriculture, etc.).
- Natural resources management (NRM) through adaptation planning at household level, and rehabilitation of natural resources, with regard to common natural disasters (drought and flood).
- Stakeholder workshops to assess the nexus approach adopted by the project and how these experiences could be employed to promote for durable solution.

### 3.9 Mainstreaming

#### **Environmental Protection & Climate Change**

**Outcomes of the EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The EIA (Environment Impact Assessment) screening classified the action as Category C (no need for further assessment).

The action is not a category A intervention, nor there are national regulations that require an EIA. Furthermore, none of the action interventions are likely to have any significant environmental impact on the environment. (As determined by the screening process).

**Outcome of the CRA (Climate Risk Assessment) screening** (relevant for projects and/or specific interventions within a project)

The Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) screening concluded that this action is no or low risk (no need for further assessment).

As determined by the screening process, the action highlighted the impact of climate changes in increasing the vulnerability towards food security and resilience, the context and problem analysis demonstrated awareness of climate risks and their potential level of negative impact. The Action will embed climate risks concerns into project baselines surveys and collect information from beneficiaries on the impacts of climate change on their lives which will provide significant information to develop a climate strategy.

#### **Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**

As per the OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that women will be considered a priority target group in project activities in all Outcomes/Objectives.

The Action is aligned with the EU Gender Action Plan 2021-2025 (GAP III), and its thematic areas of engagement “Promoting economic and social rights and empowering girls and women” and “Addressing the challenges and harnessing the opportunities offered by the green transition and the digital transformation”, and the Country Level



Implementation Plan (CLIP), which is in line to the EU Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy (HRDCS, 2021) and the EU Roadmap for engagement with CSOs for Yemen.<sup>9</sup>

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### **Human Rights**

In line with the 2021 “Updated Tool-box for placing rights-holders at the centre of the EU’s Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation”<sup>10</sup> and the respective Council Conclusions<sup>11</sup>, the action will be designed and implemented following a human rights-based approach, encompassing all human rights, which will be particularly relevant for people in vulnerable and disadvantaged situations, including IDPs and those living in rural and marginalised areas. The action will take into account the following working principles: (i) applying all human rights for all (ii) meaningful and inclusive participation, (iii) non-discrimination and equality, (iv) accountability and rule of law, (v) transparency and access to information.

The actions will be aligned with the EU’s Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy for Yemen<sup>12</sup>, which was developed in partnership with EU Member States in 2021.

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### **Disability**

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D1. This implies that persons with disabilities will be considered a priority target group in project activities in all Outcomes/Objectives.

During the labour and market assessment, market trades in which persons with disabilities can effectively participate will be identified and supported, adaptations for trainings, potential trades will be made as needed.

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### **Reduction of inequalities**

In Yemen all segments of the population do not enjoy equal access to resources and well-being. Cultural, political and conflict dynamics drive the exclusion of particular groups, women, older people, people with disabilities, refugees and migrants, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Inclusion of these populations is vital in ensuring that assistance meets the needs of the entire population, and leaves no one behind. This action will focus on the most vulnerable groups, particularly on women and persons with disabilities.

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### **Democracy**

Although not an objective of the action, the proposed activities will contribute to promote democracy through a participatory and consultative approach with local communities and local authorities. This approach has been adopted in previous and ongoing EU actions and has been much appreciated by them. This type of approach is all the more important in the absence of regular elections and lack of well-functioning institutions.

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### **Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience**

The Action will be guided by the **Conflict Analysis Screening** for Yemen. It will ensure that the complexity of the Yemeni conflict will be thoroughly taken into consideration, by applying a conflict-sensitive approach, limiting social exclusion, discrimination and stigmatization over access to project resources and livelihoods services, ensuring adherence to the “Do No Harm” principle. The Action will also seize opportunities that contribute to strengthening peace and social cohesion.

Additionally, conflict sensitivity is systematically part of most EU-implemented projects as part of the internal requirements of our implementing partners. The EU has accumulated a lot of experience on implementing projects in a conflict context and this expertise will be tapped during the design and implementation of the projects.

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### **Disaster Risk Reduction**

The proposed activities in the action will contribute to Disaster risk reduction through promoting the adoption of Natural resources management (NRM) interventions, climate-smart livelihoods practices, and through best practices to reduce natural hazards risks and to adapt and mitigate the impact of climate change.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://capacity4dev.europa.eu/search?keywords=CLIP>

<sup>10</sup> Updated Tool-box for placing rights-holders at the centre of the EU’s Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation: [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-07/swd-2021-human-right-based-approach\\_en.pdf](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2021-07/swd-2021-human-right-based-approach_en.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Council conclusions on a rights-based approach to development and Tool-box – a rights-based approach encompassing all human rights for EU development co-operation: [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/142682.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/142682.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> EU Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy for Yemen:

<https://www.eas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2021%20EU%20Annual%20Human%20Rights%20and%20Democracy%20Country%20Reports.pdf>

**Other considerations if relevant**  
N/A

### 3.10 Risks and Lessons Learnt

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)</b>	<b>Mitigating measures</b>
External Environment	Operational context: conflict risks programme continuation	High	High	Security measures are in place to protect personnel, programming and assets; target low conflict intensity areas; where necessary use remote management
External Environment	Operating environment: administrative restrictions and interference by authorities	High	High	Operating through local implementing partners with solid management systems to address access restrictions and the ability to engage with (local) government
External Environment	Limited capacity, legitimacy and functionality at central level	High	Low	Continued coordination across all levels of government. Work more closely with the local authorities at the district and community levels
External Environment	Pressures on local organisations when working directly with a Yemeni implementation partner instead of the UN	High	Medium	Close monitoring to understand the dynamics of potential new (local) pressures
External Environment	Capacity gaps when working directly with a Yemeni implementation partner instead of the UN	High	Medium	Close monitoring to understand the needs when the portfolio is expanding and bringing in specialist technical support and systems support, e.g. through specialised UN agencies, when needed
External Environment	Economic and financial collapse	High	Medium	Assess feasibility of using alternative financial providers such as micro-finance institutions, money changers/exchange offices
External Environment	Operational Context: Stringent project clearance process and	High	High	Close coordination with national and local authorities; continuous monitoring of the clearance processes in place; joint monitoring and supervisory visits

	mobility approval by the authorities			
Planning, Process & Systems	Participation by communities: - Access to and by communities - Availability of people to participate	Medium	High	Use local partners; ensure that the project's design considers cultural, availability and access issues when developing activities; undertake conflict, gender and do-no-harm assessments and analysis. Promote gender mainstreaming and the inclusion and participation of youth and other groups living in vulnerable situations throughout
External Environment	Access to inputs / functioning markets	Medium	Low	Minimize misuse of inputs through value-chain development. Strengthen private sector capacity to produce inputs
External Environment	Climate variability/extreme events	Medium	Medium	Conduct and regularly update risk assessment for natural disasters. Temporary suspension of sub-projects during floods.
Legal &Regulatory	Restriction of imports of equipment necessary for operations	Low	Medium	Identify equipment that can be procured locally or with minimal potential disruption to supply chains
People & Organisation	COVID-19 impacts on programme delivery	Low	Medium	Contingency plans are in place for remote working and safe access to communities

### Lessons Learnt:

This action is informed by a meta evaluation of 16 EU-funded projects in the areas of integrated human and social development and promoting economic stability and growth in Yemen. The meta evaluation consisted of a desk review of project evaluation reports and Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) reports; and stakeholder consultations with project implementing partners which identified the following lessons:

The selected **approach to project implementation** is critical. Until now UN-agencies performed a leading role in the implementation of EU projects but they need local organisations and their networks for access to local government and to work at the community level. Working directly with local organisations would have advantages in terms of access, sustainability and efficiency. A recent EU study<sup>13</sup> has shown that **local actors** such as Social Development Fund (SFD), Public Works Project (PWP) and the Yamaan Foundation **have set up their systems to meet international standards** for accounting and monitoring, and have adequate policies in place. These institutions are already directly or indirectly receiving funds to implement donor-funded projects.

The **area-based approach** was elaborated under the Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY) and Strengthening Institutional and Economic Resilience in Yemen (SIERY) projects. Local authorities in the various parts of the country operate under different circumstances, relationships and constraints. One important lesson is that local governments have an understanding of the needs of local communities that is lacking at the central level and are therefore more aware of the needs and priorities of the target communities. The area-based approach allows for the identification of the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities and the provision of targeted assistance to these populations. Another key lesson is that local governments need support in developing criteria for defining priorities and that

<sup>13</sup> EU (2022). Human and Social Development Mapping and Evaluation Assignment. Draft final report prepared by Particip GmbH. December.

working with local actors could facilitate participation and collaboration of local communities with local authorities to set those priorities and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of interventions addressing the multiple needs of communities, such as food security, health, water and sanitation, and protection.

Lessons from **multi-donor approaches and donor coordination** show that establishing effective coordination mechanisms and developing a joint donor financing strategy could provide promising opportunities to enhance donor coordination at a strategic level and to open a collective dialogue on what is realistically achievable and would yield the most positive impact in the current context. An example is the Economic Framework<sup>14</sup>, to which several UN agencies operating across the humanitarian/development/peace nexus have signed up, which demonstrates how donors can be more effective beyond their traditional partnerships.

The project ‘Promoting resilience and social cohesion through an integrated response to vulnerable communities in Yemen’, also known as the **Durable Solutions Project (DSP)**, was a 2.5-year project funded by the EU that piloted a durable solutions approach to programming in Yemen. The project addressed the immediate needs and longer-term priorities of displacement-affected communities. Learning was captured by the study ‘Creating pathways to future durable solutions for IDPs in Yemen’.<sup>15</sup> The key lessons learned from this study included the following:

- Durable solutions are out of reach at the present time for the vast majority of Yemen’s IDPs. However, it is possible for programming to support IDPs to make progress towards a future durable solution through gradually reducing their displacement-specific needs.
- It is important for programming to support host communities, as well as local services and institutions, through an area-based approach.
- Reducing displacement-specific needs and supporting displacement-affected communities requires an integrated, multi-sectoral approach.

Important lessons learnt on **environment and climate change** are:

- The provision of solar energy can greatly improve access to energy for poor communities and difficult-to-reach areas, particularly those that are isolated or lack access to the electricity grid. This could also improve access to essential services in these communities such as health and education.
- Solar energy can be used to power irrigation systems, water pumps, and other agricultural equipment, which can increase crop yields and improve livelihoods for farmers and rural communities.
- Best practices to overcome floods and landslides in Yemen include: implementing early warning systems and emergency response plans to quickly respond to flooding and landslides; planting vegetation and creating green spaces to absorb water and reduce the risk of landslides; and enhancing community participation and awareness in disaster risk reduction and management including preparedness planning.

Lessons from the meta evaluation indicate that more collective research and reporting are needed to examine and plan how to practically assess progress towards **gender equality and women’s empowerment**. In particular, better metrics are needed to measure and link shifts in attitudes and behaviour that led to sustainable impacts on women and girls’ resilience. Prioritization on women’s empowerment implementation approaches is needed to ensure not only women and girls’ access to services, but also equal access to and control over rights, resources, assets and services.

Gender sensitivity requires gaining a solid understanding of disaster-related vulnerabilities and the underlying causes of vulnerability across different categories such as IDPs, returnees, host communities, female-headed houses, people with disabilities and other.

**Monitoring, evaluation and lesson learning (MEL).** There is a need to support the evolution of project M&E systems from monitoring and reporting towards MEL frameworks including evaluation and learning. This would require to systematically embed the lessons from project evaluation and ROM reports and the follow up actions taken (or not taken with reasons why not) in project monitoring systems.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations (2022). Economic Framework: A Nexus Approach for Yemen (draft). Version 2. September 2022.

<sup>15</sup> EU (2022). Draft report on Creating Pathways to Future Durable Solutions for IDPs in Yemen: an analysis of the displacement context in Yemen and learning from the implementation of the Durable Solutions Project. Report prepared by David Glendinning on behalf of the Durable Solutions Project Consortium.

### 3.11 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this Action is that the proposed mix of multi-purpose cash, grants to smallholder producers to increase food production, rehabilitation of community assets, and support for building sustainable livelihoods that adopt climate impact adaptation practices is the best strategy to address the identified problems for the following reasons:

IF the proposed activities on cash support and rehabilitation of community assets with a specific focus on most vulnerable groups including women, youth, persons with disabilities and IDPs, are undertaken on the assumption that the action will be able to provide such activities building on our previous support and on the assumption that implementing partners will manage to obtain necessary approvals and undertake project activities, THEN the stated outputs to improve food security, resilience, decrease vulnerability to climate changes and transition to sustainable development of the targeted communities will be produced.

IF the Outputs to increase food security, resilience, decrease vulnerability to climate changes, and developmental outputs in the targeted communities and areas are delivered and the assumptions that there will be ownership and buy-in from the local communities and institutions hold true, THEN the Outcomes regarding reliable food security and more developed communities in the targeted areas including communities with IDPs will be realized, BECAUSE our long-standing support and past projects show that there is an opportunity to deliver these outcomes especially through the direct implementation by local institutions who have developed significant technical and managerial capacity during the conflict and are closer to the needs on the ground. It's also based on the fact that the current action will build on humanitarian interventions by implementing a Nexus approach with a particular focus on IDPs. This suggests that slight changes in implementation modality, and more targeted layering of humanitarian and development assistance can lead to significant and sustainable change locally to enable transition out of dependency.

If the Outcomes relating to improved food security and sustainable development in the targeted areas and communities are achieved and the assumptions regarding the resolution or at least the non-worsening of the conflict conditions hold true, THEN the action will have contributed to created sustainable pathways to resilience. This is BECAUSE only a resilient development can prepare local communities to deal with protracted conflict, long-standing poverty and climate-related risks and the action is based on lessons learnt from previous projects working with local communities all over the territory.

### 3.12 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

PROJECT MODALITY (3 levels of results / indicators / Source of Data / Assumptions - no activities)

Results	Results chain (a): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (a): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To support sustainable pathway to resilience for vulnerable people in Yemen.	<p>Number of people in need of humanitarian assistance (disaggregated by sex)</p> <p>% of people with improved food consumption score</p> <p>3. % of people reporting fewer negative coping mechanism in relation to food consumption</p> <p>5. GEF 1.23 SDG 1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line</p>	1. 21.6 million of people in need (2022)	1.To be defined during inception	1.Humanitarian Needs Overview Dataset (OCHA)	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome	Improved food security and resilience of vulnerable communities in a context of climate change in Yemen, including women, youth and persons with disabilities as well as displaced populations.	<p>1.1. the number of businesses created under VSLA and jobs created from these businesses</p> <p>1.2. Proportion of targeted households reporting that the level of social cohesion in their communities has improved (** GEF 2.24)</p> <p>1.3. Proportion of local population in targeted communities who report improved income after the end of the grant support by the action</p>	1.1 To be defined at inception	1.1 To be defined at inception	1.1 Baseline, mid-term and endline assessments	<p>The rights-holders associate to amplify their production and negotiation power</p> <p>The communities further invest into the infrastructures and basic services</p> <p>The policy-makers apply the lessons learned in the policies</p>



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Output 1	Improved capacities of the local population for sustainable and resilient livelihoods, with a focus on gender equality	<p>1.1.1 Number (and proportion) of target households provided with Cash for Nutrition (C4N) in selected communities, disaggregated by women-led, IDP and other vulnerable groups</p> <p>(**GERF 2.32)</p>	1.1.1 0 by 2023 with the support of this action	1.1.1 To be at defined inception	1.1.1 C4N register rights-holders	
		<p>1.1.2 Number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land</p> <p>(**GERF 2.1.)</p>	1.1.2. 0 by 2023 with the support of this action	1.1.2. To be at defined inception	1.1.2. Baseline, mid-term and endline assessment	
		<p>1.1.3 Number of rights-holders who have access to financial services, disaggregated by sex, location and type of service (mobile money, Village savings and loans associations, disaggregated by type of service, sex.</p> <p>(**GERF 2.17)</p>			1.1.3 Number of VSLAs; Number of rights-holders joining the mobile finance networks	<p>1.1.3 The members of informal financial groups increase the trust and attract new me</p>

		1.1.4 Number of smallholders by type of activity who received grant projects disaggregated by sex, youth  (**GERF 2.1)	To be defined at inception	To be defined at inception	1.1.4 Lists of grant beneficiaries; grant project's reports and internal monitoring reports of the action	The stakeholders receive further consultations for sustaining their activities
		1.1.5 Number of smallholders that have sold produce in local market, to local traders with the support of the action disaggregated by sex, location	To be defined at inception	To be defined at inception	1.1.5 Supply contract or vouchers	Local traders further support the smallholders to sell the produce  Smallholders associate for improved negotiations with traders
		1.1.6 Number of rights-holders having access to improved community assets to support food production  (**GERF 2.38 and 2.18), disaggregated by sex and location	To be defined at inception	To be defined at inception	1.1.6 the data of the HH members and the total number of population of the targeted village/s or community where infrastructures were developed	The communities have sufficient resources for further maintenance and development of the community asset, and are supported by the development partners to do so
		1.1.7 Status of the compendium of best practices and approaches for sustainable and resilient livelihoods aimed at food security and climate adaptation	1.1.7 Non-existent by 2023	1.1.7 Drafted jointly with local actors and disseminated to communities and extension services by (time)	1.1.7 The compendium and minutes of its discussion with stakeholders (municipalities, extension agents, donors)	The compendium is used for decision-making within the communities by the extension agents regional/central authorities and development partners)

<b>Output 2</b>	Improved capacities and resources of IDPs and their host communities for resilient, climate adapted livelihoods.	2.1.1 Status of the gender sensitive assessment of the needs	2.1.1 Not undertaken before 2023	2.1.1 Conducted, presenting statistics on IDPs in the host communities, regional/central authorities and development partners	2.1.1 The assessment report and the minutes of its discussion with the communities, regional/central authorities and development partners	The assessment further serve for conflict resolution, provision of basic services, supporting IDPs for employment and micro entrepreneurship, and for other social-economic measures
		2.1.2 Number of IDPs households provided with access to improved basic services, disaggregated by sex, location and service.  (**GERF 2.20)	To be defined at inception	To be defined at inception	2.1.2 Reports of the works contractors and utilities	Communities learn on the best practices and efficient investments into basic services
		2.1.3 Number of IDPs implementing micro-business grant projects, disaggregated by sex and location  (**GERF 2.20)	To be defined at inception	To be defined at inception	2.1.3 Internal monitoring reports of the action: grant projects' reports	IDPs micro-businesses are further supported by the communities and extension/business support services/donors
		2.1.4 Number of IDPs receiving cash for nutrition, disaggregated by sex and location  (** GERF 2.20)	To be defined at inception	To be defined at inception	Project progress reports; baseline, mid-term, and endline assessments	

		2.1.5 Number of IDPs households applied at least one Natural resources management (NRM) intervention disaggregated by sex and location	To be defined at inception	To be defined at inception	Baseline, mid-term, and endline assessments	
		1.1.8 Areas of agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support	To be defined at inception	To be defined at inception	Baseline, mid-term, and endline assessments	

## 4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

### 4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the Government of Yemen.

### 4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is **72 months** from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer in duly justified cases.

The choice of an indicative implementation period of 72 months is justified by the extraordinary circumstances in Yemen. The country is in a crisis situation, with two split entities between the North and the South, lack of control over certain territories by the central government, difficult access to implementation areas, and delays in obtaining permits to implement from the respective authorities. Consequently, these factors cause consistent delays in the implementation of operations.

### 4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures<sup>16</sup>.

#### 4.3.1 Direct Management (Grants)

##### **Grants: (direct management)**

##### **(a) Purpose of the grant(s)**

**Grant 1** will contribute to the achievement of Outcome/Output1 "Improved capacities of the local population for sustainable and resilient livelihoods, with a focus on gender equality"

<sup>16</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

**Grant 2** will contribute to the achievement of Outcome/Output 2 “Improved capacities and resources of IDPs and their host communities for peaceful and resilient livelihoods”.

**(b) Type of applicants targeted**

**Grant 1** is mainly targeting local institution/organization based in Yemen with proven management & financial capacity and long-term experience working with local communities/authorities in the area of food security/nutrition/food production and local development. The targeted applicants should have the capacity to easily access all areas in Yemen, including remote areas and have a track-record working with vulnerable groups including women, youth and persons with disabilities.

**Grant 2** is mainly targeting international organization with proven track record working in Yemen with IDPs and particularly in the Nexus approach in order to transition IDPs and their hosting communities from a purely humanitarian approach towards more durable solutions.

**(c) Justification of direct grants**

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to an international or local institution/organisation, selected using the following criteria:

- Experience and track record implementing similar actions in Yemen;
- Relevant expertise in the areas covered by this action;
- Financial, management and operational capacity.

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified pursuant to Article 195(a) of the Financial Regulation because Yemen is in crisis situation within the meaning of Article 2(21) of the Financial Regulation as per the Commission Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) Declaration of Crisis 2022-2023 for Yemen, and in light of the fact that potential beneficiaries with relevant technical competence, specialisation and administrative power, are limited in number pursuant to Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation.

A direct grant may be awarded considering the exceptional circumstances in Yemen, notably the crisis situation, the *de facto* split of the country into two territories with parallel political/institutional and economic structures, the volatile security context and the limited number of organisations having the capacity and the technical expertise to implement the Action.

4.3.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

Under Outcome/Output1 the procurement will contribute to the capacity building of the local organisation to:

- Assess climate practices and develop a climate strategy for the organisation.
- Qualitative evaluation on area based programming (also known as geo-bundling), that will complement the quantitative evaluation that will be done under WB project.

#### 4.3.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

Alternatively, and if the implementation modality in direct management cannot be implemented due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, the part of the action under the budgetary envelope reserved for grants may, partially or totally and including where an entity is designated for receiving a grant without a call for proposals, be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the criteria defined in section 4.3.1.c above.

#### 4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

#### 4.5. Indicative Budget

<b>Indicative Budget components</b>	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>
<b>Implementation modalities</b> – cf. section 4.3	
<b>Objective/Outputs 1 Food Security &amp; Resilience</b> composed of	26 500 000
Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	N.A.
Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.2	500 000
<b>Objective/Outputs 2 IDPs</b> composed of	10 000 000



Grants (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1	N.A.
<b>Grants</b> – total envelope under section 4.3.1	36 500 000
<b>Evaluation</b> – cf. section 5.2 <b>Audit</b> – cf. section 5.3	may be covered by another Decision
<b>Contingencies</b>	N.A.
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37 000 000</b>

#### 4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A Steering Committees (SC) shall be established for each of the two components with participation from local authorities when appropriate as well as relevant CSOs and rights holders. The EUD may participate as a full member or as an observer depending on the mandate of the steering committee. The mandate, composition and other arrangements will be agreed between the implementing partner and the EUD considering the context of the projects to be implemented under this action.

As part of its prerogative of budget implementation and to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, the Commission may participate in the above governance structures set up for governing the implementation of the action and may sign or enter into joint declarations or statements, for the purpose of enhancing the visibility of the EU and its contribution to this action and ensuring effective coordination.

## 5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

### 5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

- The implementing partners are responsible of collecting data and for implementing the necessary analysis in line with the logical framework (disaggregated by sex);
- The specific requirements in terms of information and data collection methods are defined by the implementing partners;
- The selection of monitoring tools should always be compatible with the competencies of the people in charge of data collection, analysis and reporting;

Monitoring and evaluation will assess gender equality results and the implementation of the rights based approach working principles (applying all human rights for all; meaningful and inclusive participation and access to decision-making; non-discrimination and equality; accountability and rule of law for all; and transparency and access to information supported by disaggregated data). Monitoring and evaluation will be based on indicators that are disaggregated by sex, age and disability when applicable.

## 5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the nature of the action, a mid-term, final or ex-post evaluation(s) may be carried out for this action or its components contracted by the Commission.

The mid-term evaluation may be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to assessing the implementation of the action, and potential follow-up actions.

The final or ex-post evaluation may be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the fact that lessons learnt can inform the future programming in the sector.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 3 months in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

All evaluation shall assess to what extent the action is considering the human rights-based approach as well as how it contributes to gender equality. Expertise on human rights and gender equality will be ensured in the evaluation teams.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

### 5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

## 6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

In line with the 2022 “[Communicating and Raising EU Visibility: Guidance for External Actions](#)”, it will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union’s support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, duty bearers, grant rights-holders or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.