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ICGLR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION



UNHCR
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Building Together the Future of the Great Lakes Region

Regional Programs Stemming from
the Renewed European Union Strategy
for the Great Lakes Region

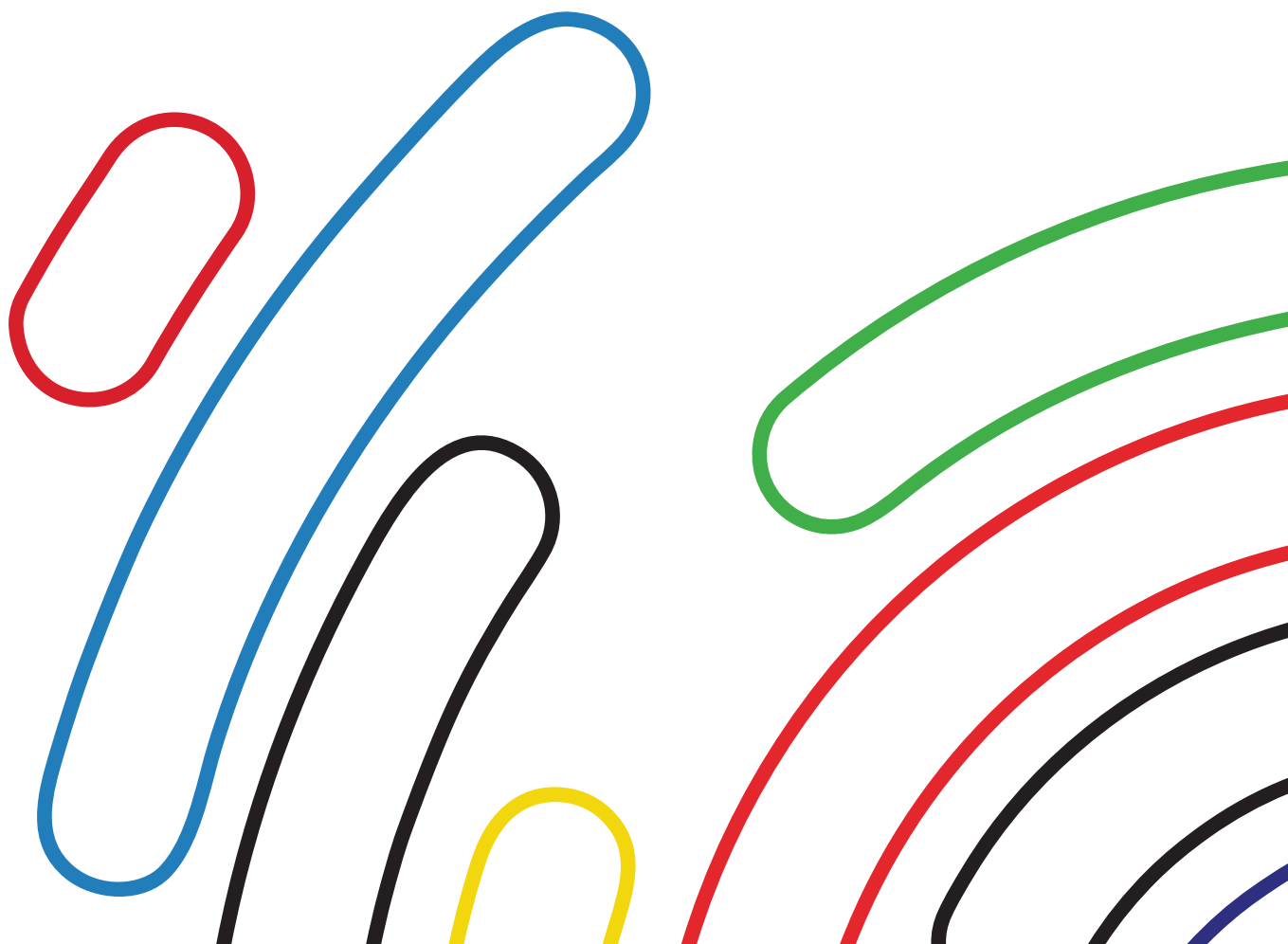






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Preface

The European Union has long been alongside the Great Lakes countries in their efforts towards peace and development. While progress has been made, it is necessary to draw lessons from previously implemented actions to strengthen European commitment.

On February 20, 2023, the European Union and its member states adopted the "Renewed Strategy for the Great Lakes Region" aimed at supporting the transformation of the root causes of instability into common perspectives. This transformation involves reconciliation, dialogue, cooperation, integration, and sustainable development. The priority is to contribute to ensuring peace, security, stability, and respect for human rights in the long run.

The second priority is to assist the region in building an African model for the management of natural resources that is economically efficient, socially equitable, and ecologically sustainable, constituting a crucial pillar for the stability and prosperity of the region.

The EU does not approach this renewed strategy alone. To achieve its goals, it must align with existing global, continental, and regional strategies, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030), the EU-AU Common Vision for 2030, or the Framework Agreement for Peace, Security, and Cooperation for the Great Lakes Region.

The EU's strategic approach relies on inclusive and strong partnerships not only with the countries concerned but also with regional organizations for political or economic integration, as well as Development Partners.

These programs cover various areas, including strengthening regional governance for peace and stability, enhancing governance of strategic minerals, protection and sustainable reintegration of refugees, displaced persons and returnees, integrated management of natural resources and the environment, and regional economic integration.

The European Union, along with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, is committed to contributing to restoring and consolidating peace and stability and promoting sustainable development and prosperity for all.



Elisabetta PIETROBON,
Ambassador of the EU to Burundi

PEACE, STABILITY AND RESOURCE GOVERNANCE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION



PEACE, STABILITY AND RESOURCE GOVERNANCE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

PROGRAM 1 :

REGIONAL PROJECT ON PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION – Phase II

INTRODUCTION

This program is a continuation of the first phase of the Peace and Security in the Great Lakes Region project, which ended at the end of 2022. It covers the twelve member states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR): Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The overall objective of this second phase is to contribute to the consolidation of peace, security and governance of mineral resources in the Great Lakes Region (GLR).

This objective will be achieved through two specific objectives (SO):

1. By strengthening the contribution of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) to conflict prevention and resolution in the region.
2. By contributing to improved control of the mining sectors in ICGLR member states. The action will contribute to further mitigating the triggers of conflict that prevent the Great Lakes region from fully realizing its potential for human and economic development.

The Action's two focus areas are areas in which the ICGLR has distinct added value:

- It is the only African-led forum mandated to bring together the states of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa in the search for concerted solutions to the challenges of peace and security in the GLR.
- It is the only regional platform with a strong political mandate, renewed support from member states and a degree of technical expertise to work on reducing the financing of conflicts linked to the minerals sector, via its Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR).

OBJECTIVES

Specific Objective 1 will be achieved through two outcomes, namely:

- a. The strengthening of the ICGLR's Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM), responsible for monitoring border security and investigating incidents that could lead to the escalation of conflicts between member states.
- b. The development of an ICGLR early warning mechanism and mediation-based crisis management capacity.

Specific Objective 2 will be achieved through three outcomes, namely:

- a. Revision of the Regional Initiative against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources (RINR) and development of guidelines for new instruments.
- b. Decisive action to implement the ICGLR gold strategy.
- c. Technical work to digitize mining certificates and adapt them to evolving international due diligence standards.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The program's ambition is to make a real difference in the Great Lakes region:

- 1. Improved planning, deployment, data processing and analytical capacity of the Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM).
- 2. Strengthening the ICGLR's capacity for early warning and mediation-based crisis management in the Great Lakes region.
- 3. Updating the concept of the ICGLR's regional initiative against the illegal exploitation of natural resources (RINR) in line with current demand from member states.
- 4. Strengthening the capacity of the ICGLR secretariat to support member states in reforming gold export regimes to prevent smuggling of artisanal gold, in line with the ICGLR strategy for artisanal and small-scale gold.
- 5. Strengthening the capacity of ICGLR member states to digitize Regional Certification Mechanism (RCM) systems and procedures, in line with evolving international due diligence standards.

By working together, the European Union and the African states involved in this program can build a more peaceful and prosperous future for the Great Lakes region.



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Project 1 :

REGIONAL ACTION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES GOVERNANCE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

CONTEXT

The project aims to improve regional governance of mining resources in the Great Lakes Region with a view to strengthening security, stability and development. It strengthens the capacity of the ICGLR and its member states to process artisanal mineral flows and exploit their potential as catalysts for socio-economic development, stability and security.

Total budget	7,145,000 EUR
Project duration (Start date - End date)	48 months (15/11/2023 - 14/11/2027)
Implementing organization	IMPACT - Transforming Natural Resources Management

OBJECTIVES

The project aims to strengthen the technical unit's capacity to:

- Support member states in monitoring, assessing and mitigating the environmental and social impacts of artisanal small-scale mining (ASM).
- Support member states in developing harmonized ASM strategies that contribute to economic development.
- Help member states gain knowledge of best-practice strategies and models for reforming gold export regimes.
- Assist member states in adopting strategies and best practice models related to the reform of gold export regimes.
- Support the adoption by member states of simplified, more efficient and cost-effective risk management systems and procedures that meet market expectations.
- Support traceability, due diligence, tracking and data sharing systems and practices in the region.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

This project involves various activities such as :

- Monitoring artisanal mining resources and the social and environmental impact of their exploitation, particularly on women and young people.** To meet this challenge, the EU is implementing with this project an ambitious and comprehensive program aimed at strengthening the validation and approval of the revised RINR, as well as updating and validating the model law for this sector. As part of this strategy, the EU will pay particular attention to the impact on women and young people and will also commit to raising stakeholders' awareness of the formalization and application of the revised RINR implementation guide.
- Application of strategies and best practices for artisanal gold exports.** This includes identification and training on these practices, as well as engagement with private sector actors for their implementation. The project will support the ICGLR in developing an intervention strategy towards "outlawed" artisanal aggregators of "3T" minerals (tin, tantalum, tungsten) and gold, who agree to cooperate. Finally, the project will help the ICGLR to pursue dialogue with international markets, in particular with importing countries and trading hubs.
- Optimization of regional certification mechanism (RCM) systems and procedures.** This includes a comparative analysis and action plan to strengthen the implementation of this mechanism, as well as the creation of a regional database and protocols for data security and sharing.

OUTLOOK

on Natural Resources, which in turn will support member states, rather than implementation and activities within the member states themselves.

By developing a robust resource program including implementation guidance, training materials and best practice documents, or by organizing train-the-trainer workshops, ICGLR staff will be able to more effectively support member states in adopting policies and procedures to improve natural resource governance.

In sum, this EU project aims to strengthen the legality, transparency and sustainability of the minerals sector. Working with member states and stakeholders, the EU is committed to promoting best practices, building capacity, raising awareness and establishing effective procedures to ensure proper control of these resources. Through these ongoing efforts, the EU hopes to contribute to a more responsible and sustainable future for the trade in artisanal mineral resources in the region.



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Project 2 :

STRENGTHENING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION'S (ICGLR) CAPACITIES FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT, RESOLUTION AND PEACE BUILDING

CONTEXT

Over the last decades, the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) has succeeded in building up an extensive network of key partners and stakeholders in the region. The current project will build on this network and ensure that its objectives reflect the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Joint Vision for 2030 defined at the EU-AU summit held in February 2022, and the United Nations Strategy for the Great Lakes Region (2020). The main stakeholder is the ICGLR.

As part of the European Union's (EU) renewed strategy for the Great Lakes, the project will be implemented in partnership with the ICGLR Secretariat, the EU Delegation in Burundi, the EU Delegations in the ICGLR member states and the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the Great Lakes Region (O/SESG to the GLR).

Total budget	EUR 2,106,000
Project duration (Start date - End date)	48 months (15/12/2023 - 14/12/2027)
Implementing organization	Institute for Security Studies - ISS

OBJECTIVE

The specific objective of this project is to strengthen the capacities of the ICGLR and its decentralized bodies in the expanded joint verification mechanism, in effective conflict prevention and in the governance of the regional response.

EXPECTED RESULTS

This project will:

- Foster a better understanding of the threat to peace and security in the Great Lakes, and enable informed and effective policy responses, by widely disseminating the knowledge acquired and promoting high-quality research and analysis.
- Strengthen technical capacities in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and migration dynamics.
- Strengthen the capacities of the ICGLR and its decentralized bodies in regional diplomacy, mediation and conflict resolution.

To achieve these objectives, a few concrete measures will be put in place.

- First, a functional early warning mechanism will be implemented to detect emerging problems early and respond appropriately. In addition, strengthened links with neighboring regions and continents will help to promote strategic international cooperation to address global challenges.
- In terms of capacity-building, this will involve promoting the use of methodological tools and setting up training programs to enhance skills. A centralized information center will also be set up to facilitate the exchange and dissemination of knowledge.
- Finally, in the interests of inclusivity and capacity building, standard operating procedures will be created to ensure a consistent and equitable approach across all these initiatives. Advocacy missions and consultations will also be carried out to ensure active participation and enhanced dialogue with all stakeholders.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

This project comprises several activities including:

- ▶ Drafting research reports, policy briefs and other documents on conflict prevention and peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region.
- ▶ Organization of dissemination events and information meetings.
- ▶ Support for the SCs and decentralized bodies of the ICGLR.
- ▶ Setting up and equipping ICGLR crisis rooms.
- ▶ Support for conflict prevention, management and resolution in the Great Lakes region.
- ▶ Training in regional diplomacy, mediation and conflict resolution.
- ▶ Organization of consultation platforms, including high-level retreats and advocacy missions.

OUTLOOK

This project adds value to regional commitments to peace and security in the Great Lakes region by strengthening the technical capacities of the ICGLR and regional capacities in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and migration.



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Project 3 :

PROJECT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE ENHANCED JOINT VERIFICATION MECHANISM (EJVM) OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE GREAT LAKES REGION (ICGLR)

CONTEXT

The objective of this joint mechanism is to resolve and prevent internal and inter-state armed conflicts, subversive activities and the eradication of all forms of persistent insecurity within and between member states, as well as to eliminate threats to peace, security, stability and sustainable development in the Great Lakes region through collective security.

The specific objective of this support project is to strengthen the EJVM's capacity to contribute to the creation of conditions conducive to security, stability and development in the Great Lakes region.

Total budget	999,732 EUR
Project duration (Start date - End date)	34 months (25/09/2023 - 24/07/2026)
Implementing organization	ALTAIR Asesores sl

EXPECTED RESULTS

This ambitious project is designed to promote the sustainability of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region's (ICGLR) Expanded Joint Verification Mechanism (EJVM). The proposed approach is twofold: to increase the effectiveness of the EJVM and to strengthen its accountability.

To this end, it is planned to:

- Provide technical support for the implementation of the EJVM's mandate through planning activities, improved methodology and technical data processing.
- Strengthen the capacities of EJVM experts in the fields of human rights, conflict prevention and resolution, international humanitarian law, mediation and negotiation, DDR and child soldiers.

KEY ACTIVITIES

A dedicated Technical Expert with in-depth knowledge and understanding of the EJVM, its mandates and challenges, will be deployed to assist the EJVM with training, ongoing coaching and technical advice, as well as partnership development support.

- **The training courses** will cover various concepts such as: security sector governance; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR); community violence reduction (CVR); child protection and addressing the recruitment and release of children associated with armed forces and groups (CAAFAG); prevention of radicalization and violent extremism; screening processes; prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration (SPRR); human rights and international humanitarian law; insider mediation, negotiation and dialogue techniques; conflict prevention, management, resolution and transformation; surveillance, investigation and intelligence management; collaborative leadership; management of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); civil-military cooperation (CIMIC); management of electoral violence (before, during and after); technical processing of data reports and geographic information system (GIS); strategic and operational planning; communications; reputation analysis and implementation of confidence-building measures; safety and security arrangements and protocols; emergency first aid; logistics, administration and finance.
- **Technical advice and coaching:** in addition to training EJVM members, the technical expert will monitor post-training impact and assess how new knowledge and equipment are being used to improve operational efficiency.
- **Development of partnerships and confidence-building measures:** explore possibilities for joint activities with other key players for peace and stability (MONUSCO, UN agencies (UNDP, UNWOMEN, UNHCR...), African Union, ...).

OUTLOOK

This program aims to support the ICGLR in its efforts to strengthen the dynamics of conflict prevention and resolution in the Great Lakes region. By improving regional cooperation, strengthening mediation and conflict prevention capacities, and promoting economic and social development, this program will help build a more peaceful and prosperous region for future generations.



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OTHER MINING GOVERNANCE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Project 1 :

CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS (CRM)

CONTEXT

On March 16, 2023, the European Commission adopted the so-called "CRM" package, comprising a proposal for a regulation, the CRM Act (COM {2023}160 final), dealing with internal market aspects, and a communication focusing on external aspects. Among other things, the CRM defines criteria for selecting countries with which the EU should enter partnership, and for identifying strategic projects to strengthen the EU's security of supply, of which partnerships with resource-rich countries are an essential component.

As announced in the CRM package, the EU is looking to engage with several partner countries to develop win-win strategic partnerships in sustainable raw materials value chains, supported by the EU's Global Gateway strategy.

Partnership on sustainable value chains for critical and strategic raw materials between the EU and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The EU and the DRC signed a memorandum of understanding on October 26, 2023, to develop value chains for critical raw materials. This partnership establishes close cooperation in five areas:

- Integrating sustainable value chains for raw materials.
- Mobilizing funds for infrastructure development.
- Cooperation to achieve sustainable and responsible production.
- Cooperation in research and innovation.
- Capacity building to enforce relevant rules.

Around 70% of the world's cobalt supply comes from the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is also the world's fifth-largest producer of copper, with some of the highest-quality reserves in the world. The DRC also has reserves of lithium, silver, germanium, uranium, lead, zinc, cadmium, diamonds, gold, tin, tungsten, manganese, niobium and tantalum. Cobalt, copper and lithium are essential components of the growing market for batteries for electric vehicles, and important inputs to produce clean energy technologies.

Cobalt is a battery material for which there is significant processing capacity in the EU on a global scale. However, most of the cobalt mined in the DRC is exported to China for refining - China controls 63% of the world's refining capacity.

DRC wants to create a value chain for battery raw materials, starting with the ambition to develop cobalt and copper processing and refining capacity in the country. For some of these ambitions, the prerequisite is a stable supply of low-carbon electricity, which is currently not the case, even though the country has significant hydroelectric and solar energy potential.

The problems associated with duty of care, child labor, ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) criteria, conflicts, etc. are well known. Many Western investors have turned away from mineral extraction and marketing in the DRC, while Chinese companies have become predominant in almost all sectors. Chinese companies control around 50% of the country's cobalt production, and along with other players such as the UAE are involved in the wider mining sector.

Investing in and accompanying the DRC will help promote the EU's approach to these issues, while leading to mutually beneficial business opportunities. The strategic partnership with the EU aims to reduce the risks associated with investments by European companies and offer the DRC alternative partners.

During their visit to Kinshasa on March 4, 2023, Commissioners Breton and Urpilainen, together with DRC President Tshisekedi, announced their commitment to discussions on a strategic partnership on value chains for critical raw materials. Negotiations continued over the summer, and in September 2023

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on October 26, 2023, in Brussels at the Global Gateway Forum, a roadmap is scheduled to be drawn up over the following six months, setting out concrete joint actions to be implemented by 2030.

Due to the electoral period in December 2023, the EU Delegation in Kinshasa is waiting to officially launch negotiation sessions with the Congolese authorities, while beginning to organize some working sessions at a purely technical level with key sectoral Ministries.

This partnership, and the commitment of EU companies that will potentially result from it, can contribute to the security of supply of critical minerals, as well as to the sustainable development of the DRC through new local and international value chains.



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Project 2 :

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MINING SECTOR IN RWANDA

CONTEXT

The mining sector in Rwanda is largely characterized by small-scale mining operations with their characteristic drawbacks linked to low use of modern technologies in terms of mining and mineral beneficiation, low productivity and poor application of health, safety and environmental standards. Despite its shortcomings, the sector is among those with a significantly positive economic impact. This is demonstrated by the important role played by minerals in the country's global exports, as well as in job creation in rural areas, which stimulates economic growth and thus contributes to government revenues. In recent years, the Government of Rwanda has taken important steps towards improving geological knowledge and professionalizing the sector. At present, almost all miners are officially registered - informal mining is classified as illegal mining, and operations need to be further professionalized by increasing skills, knowledge and the effective implementation of international standards in mining operations throughout the country. A major challenge, however, remains the lack of skills: the vast majority of the 56,000 or so people working in the mining sector are unqualified, posing a challenge to the further professionalization of the sector.

Total budget	EUR 4,150,000
Project duration (Start date - End date)	36 months (01/12/2022 - 30/11/2025)
Implementing organization	GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
Main stakeholder	RMP - Rwandan Mines, Petroleum and Gas Board
Area of intervention	Rwanda

OBJECTIVES

As of December 2022, it promotes the modernization and sustainable growth of the mining sector. Given the Rwandan government's priority to develop the mining sector, and the EU's strategic interest in diversifying its supply of critical raw materials, the EU delegation has focused its support on establishing a long-term strategic partnership on raw materials attractive to Rwanda.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Improve compliance with international safety and environmental standards, as well as EU regulations (EUR 855,000)
- Support the digitization and operationalization of mining sector service (EUR 1,220,000)
- Strengthen TVET's expertise in mining training (EUR 1,220,000)
- Development and training of short courses and raising awareness of environmental, health and safety and social protection standards (EUR 855,000).



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Project 3 :

TRADE UNIONS PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND DECENT WORK IN THE RWANDAN MINING SECTOR

CONTEXT

The Rwanda Extractive Industries Workers' Union (REWU) is a mining and quarrying workers' union created in 2014 and published in the Official Gazette No. 49 bis of 08/12/2014.

On the one hand, REWU acts as a channel through which workers or union members convey their work-related ideas, problems and aspirations to improve their well-being and, on the other, has a duty to work with members, the community and leaders in general, to combat all forms of child abuse and domestic violence.

There are 4 reasons why REWU was created:

1. Advocating for labor rights, safety and health in the workplace
2. Promoting a savings culture
3. Promoting the rights of women and children in the mining and quarrying industry
4. Campaigning against child labor

Total budget	500.000 EUR
Project duration (Start date - End date)	48 month (01/12/2023 – 30/11/2027)
Implementing organization	REWU – Rwanda Extractive industry Workers Union
Area of intervention	Rwanda

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen human, labor and environmental rights in the Rwandan mining sector, and the specific objective is to improve the effectiveness of trade unions in promoting and protecting human rights and decent work in the Rwandan mining sector.

The project is implemented by REWU, which is affiliated to CWUR – Confederation of Workers' Unions of Rwanda.

The action is relevant to general and labor principles, as the rights-based approach is the modus operandi of CESTRAR and affiliated unions like REWU. They integrate the norms, standards and principles of human rights and international labor standards (e.g., ILO conventions) into their day-to-day work. In addition, a central element of their mandate is to represent all workers, including marginalized, disadvantaged and excluded groups, e.g., workers in the informal economy (and in the mining sector), which is linked to the rights-based approach of leaving no one behind.

The sustainability principle underpinning this action is to strengthen local ownership throughout and ensure that CWUR/REWU's national and local capacity is a key outcome. In addition, with 16 CWUR-affiliated unions in other private sectors, it is anticipated that lessons learned, synergy effects and added value will be transferred to like-minded CWUR unions, e.g., value chain sectors such as manufacturing, trades, agriculture, construction, etc.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The following three target groups have been selected for this action:

1. 600 union leaders, educators and representatives of CESTRAR and affiliated unions such as REWU. Around 300 of these will join new works councils, so that the total number of active councils will rise from 125 to 260.
2. Through social dialogue with union representatives and direct involvement in the project, 360 managers from companies, employers' organizations and government institutions.
3. 35 government (mining) labor inspectors. Labor inspections are essential for the protection of labor and environmental rights and the enforcement of labor legislation in the field.

The final beneficiaries are the majority of the 70,000 workers in the mining sector and around 1,500,000 members of the local community directly and indirectly affected by the mines.



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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND FORCED DISPLACEMENT IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

PROGRAM 1 :

EUROPEAN UNION REGIONAL ACTION TO PROVIDE DURABLE SOLUTIONS TO THE BURUNDIAN REFUGEE CRISIS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

INTRODUCTION

The Great Lakes region has been facing large-scale forced displacement for decades. As of November 30, 2023, some 246,005 Burundian refugees were being hosted in the four main countries of asylum, including 46,667 in the DRC in the province of South Kivu, 48,300 in Rwanda, 111,708 in Tanzania in the two camps of Nduta and Nyarugusu, and 46,667 in Uganda in the districts of Isingiro and Kampala in the South-West region.

Following the 2020 general elections in Burundi, the installation of the new government and President Evariste Ndayishimiye's call for Burundians living in exile to return, the rate of voluntary returns has increased considerably. Dialogue between stakeholders in Burundi and in the countries hosting the refugees (notably Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and the DRC) has resumed through meetings of the tripartite commissions for the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees.

As of 2020, the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees, which began in September 2017, has intensified. Thus, since 2017, 233,271 refugees have returned to the country. These returns are a positive sign of improvement in the situation.



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OBJECTIVES

The program set up by the European Union aims at providing a sustainable multi-sectoral regional response for Burundian refugees and returnees in the Great Lakes region and in Burundi through

- Strengthening the resilience, empowerment and self-sufficiency of Burundian refugees (women and men in all their diversity) in the Great Lakes region and returnees (men and women in all their diversity) in Burundi.
- Supporting the resilience of returnees to Burundi and of communities of return in order to promote sustainable reintegration, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.
- Enhancing the scope of durable solutions for refugees and returnees by promoting both national and regional exchange and learning.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Strengthened capacity of local authorities in cross-border areas to facilitate voluntary return in dignity and safety, with a view to the sustainable reintegration of Burundian returnees, and with a focus on the specific protection needs of the most vulnerable groups, such as stateless refugees, women, children and people with special needs.
 - Building the capacity of national authorities and educational institutions in Burundi and in the region's refugee-hosting countries to grant legal and equal rights to all Burundian refugees and returnees in terms of document issuance, access to housing, land, property, education and civil status management.
 - Supporting local approaches to reintegration, with a focus on empowering returnees through the development of vocational skills, financial inclusion, innovative livelihoods and sustainable, ecological and climate-resilient agricultural solutions.
 - Improving infrastructure and policies to support the development of sustainable, green and climate-resilient economic activities, and increase cross-border mobility in the region.
- Increased participation of returnees in social cohesion, community action and local structures, and strengthened measures to prevent and combat sexual and gender-based violence, including the risk of re-victimization in a context of fragility and conflict, and support for survivors (GAPIII).
 - Strengthening the analysis, planning, monitoring and coordination capacities of the Burundian authorities about initiatives linked to the search for sustainable solutions for the reintegration of returnees, particularly those financed by the EU.
- Strengthening intergovernmental coordination and learning on durable solutions for refugees and returnees.



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Project 1 :

INTEGRATED RESPONSE TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE OF RETURNEES IN BURUNDI

OBJECTIVES

General objective:

Promote the sustainable reintegration of Burundian returnees in their areas of return.

Specific objectives:

- Protection of returnees to Burundi, including women and children, is strengthened in targeted communes.
- The resilience of returnees and host communities in Burundi (men, women and children in all their diversity) and the reintegration process are strengthened in the targeted communes.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Legal assistance

- Dissemination of information on access to services in transit centers and targeted areas of return – IRC.
- Awareness-raising and support in obtaining civil status documents and diploma equivalence - IRC.
- Capacity-building for agents of communal and hillside services on the themes of civil status and civil documentation – IRC.
- Specific assistance in the management of land files, support for land certification and legal and judicial assistance for specific cases - ICCA /IRC.
- Provincial coordination meetings between provincial departments of family and social development and actors involved in justice and civil status – IRC.

Prevention and management of gender-based violence (GBV)

- Setting up and/or revitalizing watch committees (CE) in the hills – AVSI.
- Promoting positive masculinity and building skills (setting up "Engaging men in accountable practice" (EMAP) groups and discussion groups for girls) – AVSI.
- Raising community awareness of GBV and services available to support victims - AVSI/W-WGVC.
- Follow-up of protection/GBV cases – AVSI.
- Support for survivors of GBV and, where necessary, referral to other support services (psychosocial support/medical care, temporary accommodation, organization of recreational activities and distribution of dignity kits) – AVSI.

Mental health

- Training of Community Health Workers (CHWs) on mental health as a vector for community awareness - WWGVC
- Capacity building of health structures in mental health case management - WWGVC

Child protection

- Support for members of child protection committees (CPE) and watchdog committees (CE) to conduct awareness campaigns to promote civil registration of children – AVSI.
- Supporting and strengthening child protection committees (CPE) - AVSI
- Setting up child-friendly spaces – AVSI.
- Accommodation of unaccompanied/separated children/and other children with special needs (where appropriate) in foster families and promotion of their reunification with their biological families – AVSI.

Education

- Promoting access to education and school reintegration for repatriated children by raising awareness and networking institutions – JRS.
- Rehabilitation/equipment of 40 classrooms and 40 latrines – JRS.
- Raising young people's awareness of personal hygiene, GBV, reproductive health and distribution of dignity kits – JRS.
- Supply of teaching and learning materials to 1,530 teachers and training – JRS.
- Distribution of school supplies to 67,500 repatriated and vulnerable children from returnee communities and organization of remedial classes for 90,000 repatriated and vulnerable children – JRS.



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Resilience

- ➔ Training community leaders and local structures in financial management – IRC.
- ➔ Facilitating the grouping of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) into networks and connecting the 76 VSLA networks with formal financial institutions – IRC.
- ➔ Strengthening and supporting VSLAs: training, supply of kits and facilitating registration with ANACOOOP - IRC/AFRABU.
- ➔ Facilitating the connection of returnees to financial institutions and strengthening the business plans of returnees trained in countries of asylum, through conditional cash transfers – IRC.
- ➔ Establishment of hill nurseries and farmer field schools (FFS) and technical training for FFS members and nurserymen on climate-resilient production – WWGVC.
- ➔ Community education campaign on sustainable and climate-resilient environmental management – WWGVC.
- ➔ Support for the networking of RWH and VSLA members around promising value chains – WWGVC.
- ➔ Identification of microenterprises and IGAs to be supported – JRS.
- ➔ Training of 2,300 beneficiaries (70% women and 30% men) on the acceleration program and project management – JRS.
- ➔ Granting of microcredits to 2,300 trained beneficiaries and monitoring and technical support for IGAs – JRS
- ➔ Organization of a market study / feasibility study to identify vocational training streams – AVSI.
- ➔ Literacy or refresher courses for learners and technical training for beneficiaries – AVSI.
- ➔ Integration of GBV victims into solidarity and support/monitoring groups - AVSI
- ➔ Training courses / post-training tutoring and monitoring of professional integration / employment of beneficiaries and young people who have undergone training in host countries – AVSI.
- ➔ Setting up start-up structures/capital and selection of civil society organizations - AVSI and advocacy actions to promote the socio-economic integration of young people in their communities – AVSI.

Social cohesion

- ➔ Establishment, management and training of Community Welcome Committees (CWC) at zonal level – Tdh.
- ➔ Identification of community initiative groups (GIC) at hill level and facilitation of informal meetings between members of existing groups and new returnees – Tdh.
- ➔ Organization of annual dialogue sessions and biannual expression forums for young people and local government – Tdh.
- ➔ Training notables in conflict management and the needs of returnees, and monitoring their care – Tdh
- ➔ Setting up and training of mixed and inclusive committees (CPV) of children and teachers – Tdh.
- ➔ Support for the organization of social events in schools on living together – Tdh.

TARGET GROUPS

Returnees and host communities in targeted communes - (80%-20%)

- Repatriated children (0-12 years)
- Youth and adolescents (12-17 years)
- Women
- Men
- People with special needs

FINAL BENEFICIARIES

- Total direct beneficiaries:
143,822 (80% returnees; 20% host communities)
- Indirect beneficiaries:
Returnees and host communities in the 15 target municipalities (130 hills).



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Project 2 :

INTEGRATED CROSS-BORDER RESPONSE TO HELP STRENGTHEN THE PROTECTION AND RESILIENCE OF DISPLACED POPULATIONS IN TANZANIA AND BURUNDI

CONTEXT

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and a consortium of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have agreed to jointly support Burundian refugees in the Kigoma region of Tanzania, as well as returnees in three communes in Burundi. The project will run for 48 months, from October 2, 2023, to October 1, 2027.

Total budget	EUR 8,122,379 (3,720,410 EUR UNHCR component; 4,401,969 EUR NGO component)
Project duration (Start date - End date)	48 months (02/10/2023 - 01/10/2027)
Implementing organizations	UNHCR - Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees IRC - International Rescue Committee (IRC-Burundi and IRC-Tanzania) ICCA (Icirore c'Amahoro) DRC - Danish Refugee Council
Area of intervention	Tanzania: Nyarugusu and Nduta refugee camps, Kigoma region Burundi: Giteranyi commune, Muyinga province; Gisuru commune, Ruyigi province; Giharo commune, Rutana province

OBJECTIVES

General objective

The project aims to provide solutions to the main obstacles to the return of Burundian refugees by supporting cross-border protection services and access to civil documentation, while strengthening the skills and capacities of refugees to ensure their empowerment upon return to Burundi.

Specific objectives

- ➔ Improved protection of refugees in Tanzania and continuity of monitoring during and after repatriation to Burundi.
- ➔ Improved collection and sharing of information on the Burundian labor market opportunities, strengthening the skills and capacities of refugees in Tanzania through targeted training to ensure the employability of returnees upon return.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

1. Activities implemented by UNHCR:

Civil status documents

- ➔ Cover the administrative costs of birth registration for refugee children in Tanzania and bear the administrative costs for other civil documents.
- ➔ Support the integration of refugee children into the decentralized birth registration system in Kigoma.
- ➔ Support stakeholder coordination and organize discussions with Tanzanian and Burundian authorities on the recognition/transcription of birth certificates.
- ➔ Strengthen the capacity of civil registry services in Burundi and Tanzania for civil documentation (supply of equipment and materials).
- ➔ Strengthen the ICT skills of the civil documentation department in Burundi.
- ➔ Strengthen the capacities of the Provincial Family and Community Development Departments (PFCDD) with training, computer equipment and supplies for the three selected Family and Community Development Centers (FCDC).

Training

- ➔ Raising awareness in Tanzania
- ➔ Purchasing of textbooks and teaching materials
- ➔ Supporting for examinations and improved results
- ➔ Improving the learning environment in primary, lower and upper secondary schools
- ➔ Supporting returnees in the process of recognizing/validating/converting study certificates in Burundi (advocacy, workshops, missions, IT equipment and supplies)

GBV and women's empowerment

- ➔ Carrying out a safety audit in the camps
- ➔ Developing a cross-border GBV referral pathway to follow up cases from Tanzania to Burundi

Child protection

- Strengthening the Best Interest Procedure (BIP) in Tanzania
- Supporting for legal assistance for vulnerable returnees and children
- Supporting for community structures

Skills development for return

- Develop and implement a data-sharing system of beneficiaries supported in Tanzania for further support in Burundi.
- Organize meetings and missions to address technical and vocational education and training (TVET) equivalence issues in Burundi.

2. Activities supported by NGOs

Tanzania

- Strengthen community awareness in both camps on access to documentation (IRC-Tanzania).
- Improve the quality of education and performance of pupils in Tanzania to facilitate their reintegration into the Burundian school system (IRC-Tanzania).
- Ensure that returnees, prior to the voluntary repatriation process, identify documentation needs and are aware of the need to have their civil status documents in place (IRC-Tanzania).
- Improve the quality of education with a view to repatriation (IRC-Tanzania).
- Meeting with key stakeholders on how to improve access to civil status documents (IRC-Tanzania).
- Income-generating activities for survivors of GBV (IRC-Tanzania).
- Capacity building and training for legal staff, freelancers, existing management structure (IRC-Tanzania).
- Raise community awareness of GBV and building capacity for GBV mainstreaming risk mitigation and coordination (IRC-Tanzania).
- Sensitize parents to the importance of repatriating their children's school documents; sensitize students, teachers and parents to the recognition of National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) certificates in Burundi, including the documents required and the process to be followed (IRC-Tanzania).
- "Engaging Men through Accountable Practices" intervention (EMAP) and "Girl Shine" intervention (IRC-Tanzania).
- Support for community structures (IRC-Tanzania).
- Market assessment in Burundi and Tanzania (IRC-Tanzania).

- Exchange visits and meetings between Tanzanian and Burundian staff, local authorities and key stakeholders (IRC-Tanzania).
- Renovation/improvement of training centers in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps (IRC-Tanzania).
- Provision of technical, vocational and educational training (IRC-Tanzania)
- Training in vegetable gardening techniques, sustainable agriculture, climate-smart agriculture (CSA) through the creation of demonstration centers as income-generating activities (IGA) (IRC-Tanzania).
- Training of market committees on market governance, leadership skills, conflict management skills and construction of minor infrastructure in selected markets (IRC-Tanzania).
- Strengthen the capacity of three DPDFDC in the border provinces of Ruyigi, Muyinga and Rutana through capacity building and support for the monitoring of civil documentation, recognition / transcription of birth certificates issued by non-Burundian authorities (IRC-Burundi). Support specific case management for land ownership issues (IRC-Burundi).
- Fournir une assistance juridique à des cas spécifiques en soutenant l'assistance juridique, en fournissant les fonds nécessaires à la gestion des cas et en allouant des fonds pour des cas juridiques spécifiques qui pourraient nécessiter une assistance juridique supplémentaire (ICCA) ;
- Provide legal assistance to specific cases by supporting legal assistance, providing funds for case management and allocating funds for specific legal cases that may require further legal assistance (ICCA).
- Facilitate the process of recognition/validation/conversion of certificates in Burundi by the relevant authorities to promote school enrolment (IRC-Burundi).
- Support the enrolment of repatriated children in Burundian schools to avoid delays in returning to school after repatriation (IRC-Burundi).
- Development of a cross-border GBV referral channel to follow up on cases from Tanzania to Burundi for repatriated refugees, in coordination with relevant stakeholders (IRC-Burundi).
- Follow-up of all cases of GBV referred by UNHCR in Burundi and capacity building of the DPDFDC on the Burundian side for GBV cases (IRC-Burundi).
- Capacity-building for DPDFDC in identifying protection cases, managing cases and strengthening referral channels, raising awareness of legal and civil documentation and providing psychosocial support to men, women and children in need (IRC-Burundi).

TARGET GROUPS

- ➔ Refugees (men, women, boys and girls) residing in the two camps in Tanzania: 96,208 people are expected to benefit from protection interventions, of whom 10,000 will be helped to obtain civil status documents, while 8,316 refugees will benefit from interventions aimed at improving their livelihoods.
- ➔ Refugee children: in particular. 2,000 refugee children will benefit from tailored protection activities to ensure their well-being, while a further 23,333 are expected to receive birth certificates.
- ➔ Host communities: 4,818 people living in villages surrounding refugee camps will benefit from livelihood and resilience activities.
- ➔ Returnees: 52,700 returnees are expected to benefit from improved and more continuous protection support after their return to Burundi.
- ➔ Repatriated children: 1,380 repatriated children are specifically targeted to benefit from protection support upon their return to Burundi.
- ➔ Local communities in Burundi are considered as indirect beneficiaries of the action, as they should also benefit from capacity building of local protection services. Some 176,402 people are expected to benefit (equivalent to around 30% of the population of the target communities).
- ➔ Tanzanian and Burundian service providers whose capacities will be strengthened, both in terms of training, but also by providing the necessary equipment and supplies.

FINAL BENEFICIARIES

In Tanzania, refugees currently residing in the two refugee camps of Nyarugusu and Nduta in the Kigoma region, as well as certain members of the host community for subsistence activities. The activities will be particularly beneficial for Burundian refugees/returnees who are in the process of returning to their country of origin.

RÉSULTATS ATTENDUS

Results	Total figures	Detailed figures
Repatriates who have been informed about the procedures and conditions for obtaining legal identity documents in transit centers and return zones	78 127	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ (25,007 transit centers) ➤ (53 120 zones de retour)
People protected or accompanied to apply for civil status documents and diploma recognition	11 700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 65% returnees ➤ 65% members of local communities
Training in documentation, civil status recognition/transcription and access to documents	1 490	
People trained and who improved their skills regarding children's protection and psychosocial support needs	3 816	
Beneficiaries of legal assistance to resolve land rights disputes	8 785	
Repatriated children admitted to schools	8 500	
Repatriated children and other vulnerable children from host communities who benefited from remedial classes	90 000	
Beneficiaries of assistance under the EU-funded intervention to prevent GBV	13 806	
Trainees who improved their knowledge of access to livelihoods	14 255	
People participating in community dialogue mechanisms	1 142	
People sensitized to conflict management in the process of reintegrating returnees	12 082	

The schooling of 23,333 refugee children who will have received a birth certificate or birth notice in Tanzania.

Nationality	Primary	Secondary
All	98%	35%
Burundian	99%	27%



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Project 3 :

PAMOJA (TOGETHER)

CONTEXT

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, the European Union (EU) has allocated a financial contribution to support a project aimed at empowering women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The project will be implemented in collaboration with three experienced partners: the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Fondazione AVSI and the Council of Feminist Organizations Working in Synergy (CFOWS).

Total budget	EUR 3,500,000
Project duration (Start date - End date)	30 months (01/02/2024 – 31/07/2026)
Implementing organizations	UNHCR – Haut-Commissariat des NU aux Réfugiés UNHCR – Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees IRC – International Rescue Committee AVSI – Fondazione AVSI CFOWS - Council of Feminist Organizations Working in Synergy
Area of intervention	Democratic Republic of Congo: Ruzizi, Nundu, Uvira and Lemera health zones in South Kivu province

OBJECTIFS

General objective

Promote sustainable solutions and peaceful coexistence between Burundian refugees and host communities in South Kivu province (DRC).

Specific objectives

- Strengthen the mixed, inclusive and responsible nature of the communities in which Burundian refugees reside.
- Strengthen the resilience of Burundian refugees and their host communities, and sustainable access to economic and social services and opportunities.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Understanding and addressing the root causes of tensions and problems faced by Burundian refugees and members of host communities.
- Facilitating access to quality education for Burundian refugees in their host communities.
- Inclusive promotion of peaceful coexistence.
- Strengthening access to economic opportunities for Burundian refugees and members of host communities, including young people.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Conflict and gender analysis

Strengthening mixed community structures (strong, inclusive and accountable mixed community structures - FIRE)

Strengthening peaceful coexistence through problem-based iterative adaptation (PDIA)

Prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) for peaceful coexistence

Strengthening women's leadership.

Raising awareness of social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among host communities and Burundian refugees.

Strengthening access to education for children aged 6 to 18 living outside the camps

Contribution to strengthening the education system and improving the quality of education for refugees living outside the camps.

Socio-economic reintegration of vulnerable young people through technical training and entrepreneurship

Strengthening the livelihoods of adult Burundian refugees and members of their host communities

Strengthening women's economic and decision-making power through women-led community organizations

TARGET GROUPS

➤ Burundian refugees and host communities

FINAL BENEFICIARIES

➤ 3,500 Burundian refugees and 3,500 host communities

➤ 36 institutional and community structures



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Project 4 :

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR BURUNDIAN REFUGEES IN SOUTH KIVU

CONTEXT

The project is being implemented in the province of South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Program (WFP).

The action demonstrates the European Union's commitment to supporting vulnerable populations and promote stability and sustainable development in the region. By working in partnership with UNHCR and WFP, the EU is contributing to a comprehensive and coordinated response to humanitarian crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Total budget	5.241.930 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	36 month (01/01/2024 – 31/12/2026)
Organisations in charge of its implementation	UNHCR – Haut-Commissariat des NU aux Réfugiés PAM – programme Alimentaire Mondial
Area of intervention	République Démocratique du Congo : Province du Sud-Kivu

OBJECTIVES

This project aims to respond to the urgent needs of vulnerable populations in South Kivu province, which is facing numerous humanitarian challenges. Through coordination between UNHCR and WFP, comprehensive humanitarian assistance will be provided to IDPs, refugees and host communities.

The funds requested from the European Union will play a key role in the implementation of this project. They will finance activities such as food distribution, access to drinking water, emergency medical assistance, protection of women's and children's rights, as well as recovery and reintegration programs.

General objective

To provide cross-cutting protection tailored to the needs of the 42,000 Burundian refugees in South Kivu, and to facilitate voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity to Burundi for refugees ready to return to their country of origin.

Specific objectives

- Strengthen the protection of Burundian refugees (men, women and children in all their diversity).
- Improve durable solutions for Burundian refugees.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Improved respect for the rights of Burundian refugees through cross-cutting, tailored protection, achieved through direct implementation and capacity-building of government officials.
2. Improved living conditions for people affected by the humanitarian crisis in South Kivu, thanks to European Union investment. Basic needs will be met, food security strengthened, and basic services restored.
3. Measures put in place to foster the resilience of local communities and support their self-determination.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Border protection and surveillance
- Capacity-building for local authorities to enable them to better fulfill their role as those responsible for refugee protection.
- Registration of Burundian refugees and renewal of their identity documents.
- Support for the construction/rehabilitation of transitional shelters in the camps.
- Support for improved access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Community participation in preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV).
- Support for victims of gender-based violence through multi-sectoral assistance.
- Improve learning conditions for refugee children.

TARGET GROUPS

- Burundian refugees (especially women, children and people with special needs)
- Congolese government

BENEFICIARIES

- 42,000 Burundian refugees (women, men, girls and boys)



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Project 5 :

PROMOTING GLOBAL DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR REFUGEES IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION THROUGH INCREASED DIALOGUE AND PEER LEARNING.

CONTEXT

The project is part of the EU's regional action to support a multi-sectoral regional response for durable solutions to the Burundian refugee crisis in five countries of the Great Lakes region. It will support national and regional dialogue and learning on durable solutions for forced displacement in the Great Lakes region.

Total budget	2.222.222 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	48 month (02/10/2023 – 01/10/2027)
Organisations in charge of its implementation	Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat – ReDSS (DRC – Danish Refugee Council)
Area of intervention	Etats membres de la CIRGL. Cependant, l'action sera surtout centrée sur les pays de la CIRGL accueillant le plus de réfugiés burundais : la DRC, le Rwanda, l'Uganda, la Tanzanie et le Burundi.

EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Integrating best practices from ICGLR member states into the ICGLR regional strategy on sustainable solutions to forced displacement in the Great Lakes region.
2. The participation of refugee-led organizations and platforms in peer learning events to share their knowledge of durable solutions to contribute effectively to the drafting of the regional strategy.
3. The participation of refugee-led organizations and platforms in peer learning events to share their knowledge of durable solutions to contribute effectively to the drafting of the regional strategy.
4. The acquisition of knowledge and capacity by the ICGLR Executive Secretariat to lead the process of drafting and adoption by member states of the regional strategy on comprehensive sustainable solutions to forced displacement in the Great Lakes region.
5. Sectoral ministries involved in a "whole of government approach" to ensure refugees and returnees are equipped with knowledge and skills on comprehensive durable solutions and to provide support to forcibly displaced persons in line with the implementation of the ICGLR regional strategy on forced displacement.
6. The acquisition of appropriate knowledge and tools for durable solutions by refugee-led organizations that have participated in peer learning events.
7. Updated research on topics relating to sustainable solutions is published to feed into the drafting of the ICGLR regional strategy on sustainable solutions to forced displacement in the Great Lakes region and its action plan.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Capacity-building and experience-sharing involving various stakeholders in the field of sustainable solutions for forced displacement in the Great Lakes region.

At the regional level, ReDSS will support the regional consultative group, and in particular the ICGLR and the UNHCR, in developing a global strategy for durable solutions for refugees in the Great Lakes region. This process will include a series of peer learning workshops for key stakeholders, including on issues such as access to civil status and nationality documents, access to land, access to national services, livelihoods and employment opportunities, self-sufficiency, freedom of movement, etc.

At the national level, ReDSS will support ICGLR countries wishing to implement a "whole-of-government approach" to refugee management by providing capacity-building training on durable solutions. It will also design and undertake a series of community dialogues across the region, focusing on durable solutions. In Burundi, ReDSS (with UNHCR) will support the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the multi-year, multi-partner strategy on durable solutions and reintegration.

➤ The research

Le ReDSS commandera des recherches pour éclairer les objectifs de renforcement des capacités énumérés ci-dessus, notamment sur des sujets tels que :

- a. Cross-border mobility of refugees in the Great Lakes region and livelihood opportunities.
- b. Analysis of refugee self-sufficiency and livelihood models in the Great Lakes region.
- c. Complementary channels for labour mobility and educational opportunities for Burundian refugees.

ReDSS will also commission analyses to help ICGLR member states follow up on their commitments at the 2023 World Refugee Forum. Finally, ReDSS will carry out analyses of durable solutions for each of the five countries in the Great Lakes region hosting the most Burundian refugees and Burundi for the reintegration of returnees.

➤ Advocacy

ReDSS will continue its advocacy efforts around the promotion of durable solutions for displaced people in the Great Lakes region, in line with the ICGLR strategy being formulated on durable solutions in the Great Lakes region. Advocacy will be guided by the results of research carried out by ReDSS.



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Project 6 :

STRENGTHENING COORDINATION, PLANNING AND DIALOGUE FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

CONTEXT

The overall objective of this project is to strengthen coordination and integrated programming for reintegration in Burundi, through the development and operationalization of a multi-annual - multi-partner Strategy for the Reintegration of Burundian Refugees (MYMPR) as well as to support initiatives in the Great Lakes region aimed at strengthening regional coordination, thematic discussions and information sharing on durable solutions for the situation of Burundian refugees. The project targets government institutions responsible for managing refugees and returnees, as well as humanitarian and development actors. The final beneficiaries of this regional action are Burundian refugees, candidates for return, returnees and local communities in Burundi.

Total budget	3.683.751 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	48 month (01/10/2023 – 30/09/2027)
Organisations in charge of its implementation	UNHCR – Haut-Commissariat des NU aux Réfugiés
Area of intervention	Région des Grands Lacs (Burundi, République démocratique du Congo, Rwanda, Tanzanie, Uganda)

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Drawing up a multi-annual, multi-partner strategy for the reintegration of Burundian refugees (MYMPR)
- The organization of eight tripartite meetings to identify the challenges and opportunities linked to the voluntary return of Burundian refugees and to formulate concrete recommendations to improve reception conditions.
- 39 protection monitoring reports (36 dashboards and 3 annual analytical reports).
- 8 "go and see" and "come and tell" visits to provide refugees with information on living conditions in the return areas

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Support for the development and launch of a multi-annual, multi-partner strategy for the reintegration of Burundian refugees (MYMPR).
- Support for the organization of tripartite meetings and exchanges aimed at advancing durable solutions in the region, especially with regards to voluntary repatriation (including "go-and-see" and "come-and-tell" visits).
- Continue protection monitoring after return and ensure that protection monitoring reports are available.
- Provide information to those wishing to return to their country of origin.



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Project 7 :

DUTERE INTAMBWE – IMPROVING THE AUTONOMY AND SELF-DETERMINATION OF REFUGEES AND THE HOST POPULATION IN THE DISTRICT OF KIREHE, RWANDA

CONTEXT

As a long-standing partner of the Great Lakes region, the European Union is committed to providing a multisectoral regional response to the Burundian refugee crisis, by mobilizing financial, technical and political resources.

The European Union's initiatives include the "Dutere Intambwe" project in Kirehe, Rwanda. The general aim of the project is to contribute to the protection, assistance and search for lasting solutions for Burundian refugees and the communities hosting them, while respecting humanitarian principles and human rights.

Total budget	4.300.000 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	32 month (01/02/2024 – 31/08/2026)
Organisations in charge of its implementation	GIZ – Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit gmbH
Area of intervention	Rwanda : Kirehe

OBJECTIVES

This project aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

Specific objective 1: Enhanced protection for Burundian refugees (women and men in all their diversity) in the Kirehe district of Rwanda. This district is home to the Mahama camp, which houses more than 60,000 Burundian refugees. The project aims to improve refugees' access to legal aid, psychosocial assistance, prevention of and response to gender-based violence (GBV), and to strengthen their participation and representation in the camp's governance bodies.

Specific objective 2: Strengthened resilience, empowerment and self-sufficiency of refugees (women and men in all their diversity) and their host communities. The project aims to promote the socio-economic integration of refugees and their host communities by offering them opportunities for vocational training, employment, entrepreneurship and access to financial services.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The project aims to achieve these results:

1. Providing and strengthening legal aid and psychosocial support for refugees and host communities, especially women and other vulnerable groups.
2. Improving access for MSMEs (micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) in selected value chains to BDS (business development services) in the Mahama camp and surrounding host communities.
3. The active labor market measures offered in the Mahama camp and surrounding host communities are strengthened from a gender perspective.
4. Encouraging institutional dialogue on the framework conditions for promoting the gender-sensitive economic inclusion of refugees at district and national level.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Identification of specific needs and development of needs-based interventions in collaboration with CSOs and the target group in relation to legal aid, mental health and self-determination.
- Improvement and expansion of existing psychosocial support services and conflict resolution mechanisms to make them better known in the camp and surrounding communities.
- Strengthening coordination and cooperation with organizations providing legal aid to make it accessible to refugees.
- The development of maps of protection and support services (including legal advice, for example on employment rights) and a referral system for use by education or training centers, cooperatives, etc.
- Awareness-raising activities to publicize protection services (including legal advice).
- Capacity-building measures for CSOs working in and around the Mahama camp on refugee-specific issues.
- Carrying out an initial assessment of existing business support services, identifying gaps and developing, with key partners and stakeholders, an action plan to improve business support services and their accessibility for more people.
- Identification of community development needs; design and implementation of community development measures and an extension programme for existing community development associations in the Kirehe district.
- Carrying pilot activities and confirming/rejecting approaches by proving the concept on specific commercial opportunities.
- Support for the management of the most promising commercial or revenue-generating opportunities.
- Support for the expansion of existing services specifically tailored to the needs of women and people living with disabilities to develop innovative programmes to help start-ups/MSMEs/cooperatives prosper in their first 6 months of business.
- Strengthening existing business support services and piloting innovative approaches
- Development of a series of modular workshops on business development for young people, business start-ups and entrepreneurs from refugee and neighboring communities: focusing on the legal framework, legal forms for businesses (e.g. cooperatives), business registration, finance, accounting and taxation, labor rights.
- Identification of existing offers supporting access to finance for start-ups/MSMEs; use of this mapping as a basis for capacity-building measures for business development service (BDS) providers, aimed at improving their services to improve access to finance.
- Evaluation of the existing system of employment services, discussion of the results with key stakeholders and development of measures to improve and extend employment and ALMM services for refugees and the vulnerable host population.

- Development with partner organizations of business models for the sustainable and gender-sensitive provision of employment services in and around Mahama camp.
- Providing training for placement officers and career counsellors from partner organizations in the Mahama camp and surrounding communities, focusing on the needs of women and vulnerable groups.
- Support for public-private dialogues to identify areas and assess capacity for greater inclusion of refugees and RLOs in Kirehe district planning processes to facilitate access to national services.
- Facilitating exchange and learning opportunities between districts to increase the potential for reproduction.
- Improving access to consumer markets, for example by working with logistics service providers.
- Facilitating intra-governmental exchanges to defend and identify opportunities for integrating refugees in the relevant ministries.
- Promoting the integration of refugees through existing multi-stakeholder platforms.

TARGETED GROUP

- 150 refugees/host communities receiving legal aid.
- 200 refugees/host communities receiving psychosocial assistance.
- Number of refugees/host communities benefiting from active labor market measures to be confirmed.

FINAL BENEFICIARIES

- The final beneficiaries of this project are the refugees and their families in the Mahama camp, and the local population in the Kirehe district.



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Project 8 :

EU REGIONAL PROJECT TO PROVIDE LASTING SOLUTIONS TO THE BURUNDIAN REFUGEE CRISIS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION - UGANDA COMPONENT

CONTEXT

Uganda is one of five countries in the Great Lakes region hosting Burundian refugees, mainly in the Nakivale and Kyaka camps, as well as in the urban areas of Kampala and Mbarara.

This project targets Burundian refugees in Uganda who have expressed their intention to return to Burundi. The final beneficiaries are estimated at 6,000 Burundian refugees in the South-West region, particularly in Nakivale and Kyaka.

This project is being implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its partners, in close collaboration with the national and local authorities of the host countries.

Total budget	1.837.125 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	24 month (01/01/2024 – 31/12/2025)
Organisations chargée de sa mise en œuvre	UNHCR – Haut-Commissariat des NU aux Réfugiés
Area of intervention	V : Nakivale, Kyaka, Kampala, Mbarara

OBJECTIVES

The general aim of this project is to strengthen the protection of Burundian refugees (women and men in all their diversity).

EXPECTED RESULTS

Strengthening the capacity of local authorities in cross-border areas to promote informed, voluntary, dignified and safe movements for the reintegration of Burundian refugees, focusing on the specific protection needs of the most vulnerable groups, such as stateless refugees, women, children and people with special needs (i.e. people with disabilities).

This outcome aims to improve cooperation and coordination between the Ugandan and Burundian authorities, as well as with the other actors involved in the repatriation process, in order to ensure that the rights and needs of refugees and returnees are respected. It also aims to build the capacity of local authorities, particularly in the areas of information management, conflict prevention and resolution, environmental protection and the promotion of peaceful coexistence between communities.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Surveys of Burundian refugees on their intention to return to Burundi. This activity aims to gather reliable and up-to-date data on the motivations, preferences and needs of Burundian refugees who are considering returning to their country of origin.
- Information and awareness-raising activities for refugees on the general situation in their regions of origin, to ensure safe, dignified and voluntary return. This activity aims to provide Burundian refugees with objective and verified information on the political, security, socio-economic and humanitarian situation in their regions of origin, as well as on the conditions and procedures for repatriation.
- Support for the organization of logistics and transport for repatriation from Uganda (including vaccination, civil status documents and academic certificates, pre-departure cash allowance and convoys). This activity aims to ensure that Burundian refugees who have expressed their willingness to return to Burundi receive adequate logistical and financial support to facilitate their journey and resettlement.

CRISES HUMANITAIRES ET DÉPLACEMENTS FORCÉS

PROGRAM 2 :

HUMANITARIAN AID

INTRODUCTION

The European Union provides funding to respond to humanitarian crises through a funding instrument called the Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP). For 2023, the humanitarian aid implementation plan has been prepared based on the ECHO/WWD/BUD/2024/01000 financing decision (global decision) and the general guidelines on operational priorities for humanitarian aid (operational priorities).

The HIP is annual and covers the five countries of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania. It focuses on the humanitarian needs (a) the conflict in the DRC and the presence of Congolese refugees and (b) Burundian refugees' situation in the region, as well as the return of refugees to Burundi, and (c) natural disasters.

For these crises, the humanitarian needs (caused by the conflict and natural hazards) are significant. The situation of Burundian and Congolese refugees and climatically displaced people is considered a forgotten crisis. In Burundi, the presence of OCHA has enabled better coordination of humanitarian actors. The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (revised in mid-June) required USD 237.2 million, targeting 2.7 million of the most vulnerable people.

The HRP was recently revised to reflect the deteriorating food security and health/nutrition situation. UNHCR's regional approach to Burundian returnees focuses on finding durable solutions for their reintegration. Several development programmes for returnees are currently being launched, helping to make the link between humanitarian and development actions operational.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of the European Union humanitarian programmes in the region is to support:

- The protection of Burundian and Congolese refugees in Tanzania, Rwanda, and DRC
- The return of Burundians in conjunction with a sustainable solutions program
- The response to natural disasters in Burundi.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The interventions aim to provide an emergency response to humanitarian needs in the Great Lakes region, through:

1. Advocacy for longer-term solutions, by working with development on the link with "sustainable solutions".
2. Support for the reception of new Congolese asylum seekers in Burundi, Tanzania and Rwanda, in terms of reception capacity, advocacy for recognition of prima facie status, approaches to facilitate local integration or other durable solutions.
3. Support for emergency planning in the three countries in the event of an increase in the influx from the DRC.
4. Development of approaches to disaster preparedness and anticipatory action.

ACTIVITIES

The European Union's humanitarian strategy for 2024 is to maintain a flexible approach in order to better respond to the different types of flows and influxes in the region.

Response to Congolese and Burundian refugees

The refugee response strategy will continue to be based on three components:

- a. On the one hand, the response in the camps aims to maintain basic services, geared towards protection and food assistance, as well as support for voluntary return (volrep) in accordance with the tripartite agreements. Monitoring the "return promotion" approach is essential to ensure compliance with international refugee law.
- b. On the other hand, with the increase in the return package for returnees (\$200/person), return support has become more important in recent months. The EU continues to support people in the 6 months following their return, in order to guarantee minimum conditions of protection, accommodation and return assistance. It is important to link this to development interventions aimed at sustainable solutions (in particular economic, educational and social reintegration).

c. The third axis focuses on advocacy and regional coordination. The objective is to strengthen regional coordination, particularly on cross-border operations and durable solutions (to make the Nexus operational). Close attention is also paid to advocacy for compliance with the tripartite agreements and to the living conditions of refugees in the camps (in particular their risk of exposure to protection problems as a result of reduced food rations and reduced funding).

The EU also supports the strengthening of regional advocacy mechanisms through the ICGLR, the UN Special Envoy for the Great Lakes and the office of the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat working on refugee protection management policy.

➤ **Food security response in refugee camps in Tanzania and Rwanda.**

- a. Considered only for refugees living in camps with limited access to livelihood activities.
- b. Harmonized targeting strategies: shift from status-based to needs-based targeting (where possible)
- c. Cash transfers remain a priority, if possible.
- d. Rd. The response focuses on IPC 3+ and 4 (saving lives).
- e. The integration of protection must be considered.

➤ **Natural disaster prevention and response**

- a. Multiple risks: Covering both natural and man-made risks
- b. Scaling up the early warning system: coordination between stakeholders and local capacities strengthen the system
- c. Risk-informed: risk analysis to complement the needs-based approach.



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Project 1 :

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

CONTEXT

UNHCR's regional protection project is a continuation of ongoing activities (in refugee camps). The programme integrates an environmental component and establishes a link between humanitarian activities and durable solutions (new way of working with development donors to fill funding gaps). Geographic coverage remains Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and DRC. Regional coordination/advocacy for a 12-month period remains extremely relevant to consolidate the tripartite working groups, respect for international refugee law and high-level advocacy to obtain regional commitment from the authorities and institutions (AU, SADC, etc.) on durable solutions.

Total budget	6.000.000 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	12 month (01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023)
Organisations in charge of its implementation	UNHCR – Haut-Commissariat des NU aux Réfugiés
Area of intervention	DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzanie

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project include:

- Protecting the rights of refugees
- Maintaining dignified and secure conditions

MAIN ACTIVITIES

This project is being implemented in various countries, with a focus on protection activities:

- In refugee camps, child protection activities, prevention and response to gender-based violence, registration of refugees, legal support, voluntary repatriation (VOLREP).
- In areas of return, activities include setting up shelters for protection in areas of return, post-return monitoring and protection, support in transit centers, etc.

PERSPECTIVES

This project supports UNHCR in maintaining its protection activities in the refugee camps and in supporting the voluntary return of refugees up to 6 months after their return. The project will also support the implementation of tripartite agreements between the countries of the sub-region and develop advocacy actions in favor of refugees in the Great Lakes region at the level of the regional bodies of the African Union, ICGLR and other political bodies in the region.

Ultimately, this project aims to make the link with the European Union's reintegration activities to put in place lasting solutions for returnees and host communities. It is now important to include returnees in development programmes such as what is done in the above-mentioned programme "EU Regional Project for Durable Solutions to the Burundi Refugee Crisis in the Great Lakes Region".



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Project 2 :

SUPPORT FOR THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME IN RWANDA AND TANZANIA FOR BURUNDIAN AND CONGOLESE REFUGEES

CONTEXT

The Great Lakes region is facing two major crises, the Burundian crisis (supported by the EU humanitarian aid since 2015) and the recent Congolese situation linked to the M23 crisis.

While the Burundian refugee situation has reached its eighth year, over 259,226 Burundian refugees (as of 28 February 2023) continue to be hosted by four main countries of asylum, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Tanzania continues to host the largest Burundian refugee population, with some 126,159 refugees, almost all of whom live in the east of the country, in the Nduta and Nyarugusu camps. In Rwanda, 78% of the 47,800 Burundian refugees live in the Mahama camp. More than 11,000 refugees live in urban areas, mainly in Kigali and Huye.

The WFP provides food aid to these people, who are truly dependent on humanitarian aid.

Total budget	3.250.000 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	12 month (01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023)
Organisations in charge of its implementation	PAM – programme Alimentaire Mondial
Area of intervention	Rwanda : camps de réfugiés de Mahama, Kigeme et Kiziba ; Tanzanie : camps de réfugiés de Nduta et Nyarugusu

OBJECTIVES

The specific objective of the regional project is to improve emergency food assistance to refugees in the camps, to meet their food and nutritional needs.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

In Rwanda, the intervention provides unconditional food and nutritional assistance to approximately 123,000 vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers living in the Mahama, Kigeme and Kiziba refugee camps, as well as in the Nkamira transit site. The WFP is implementing the targeted approach through its Centre of Excellence for Programming and Targeting.

Activities:

- Unconditional food assistance in the form of cash, while retaining the programmatic flexibility to provide in-kind and/or cash assistance.
- All direct monitoring activities are carried out by WFP, while the joint MDP will be carried out by external enumerators and led by UNHCR and WFP.
- Complaints and feedback mechanism with five reporting channels.

In Tanzania, the intervention provides refugees in official camps with food in kind to meet their basic needs in terms of food security and nutrition. The food ration provides 2,100 Kcal per person per day through a monthly ration of fortified maize flour, pulses, fortified vegetable oil and iodized salt. Fortification helps to prevent and reduce the prevalence of anemia and other micronutrient deficiencies. Since 2021, ECHO has proposed implementing vulnerability targeting criteria based on food security, but the government has not approved the request for a formal socio-economic profiling survey. The WFP continues to assistance 100% of eligible refugees.

Activities:

- Provision of food assistance in kind - monthly food basket, hot meals to newly arrived and repatriated refugees and asylum seekers, as well as HEBs to people in transit.
- Carry out CHSs, PDMs and JAMs in the camps to collect food security indicators and other relevant information on humanitarian aid and refugee protection.
- Maintain and strengthen the CFM (e.g. a free telephone line adapted to the language) in consultation with beneficiaries and other stakeholders in the camps.

OUTLOOK

Set up activities to target the most vulnerable and promote economic empowerment activities to reduce dependency on humanitarian aid.



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Project 3 :

STRENGTHENING THE PREPAREDNESS AND CAPACITY FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION OF COMMUNITIES, THE BURUNDI RED CROSS AND NATIONAL PLAYERS

CONTEXT

Natural disasters remain one of the main causes of the destruction of shelters, loss of AME and displacement. As a reminder, WFP and its partners, including the Burundi Red Cross, have been implementing PD projects since 2020 with funding from the European Union. The first two phases (2020 and 2021-2022), considered as pilot phases by the partner, will have made it possible to lay the foundations at community level and for institutions involved in the response to and prevention of natural disasters in Burundi in 40 communities.

Total budget	1.500.000 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	24 month (01/05/2023 – 30/04/2025)
Organisations chargées de sa mise en œuvre	PAM – programme Alimentaire Mondial CRB – Croix-Rouge burundaise
Area of intervention	Burundi : provinces de Rumonge, Kirundo, Rutana, Bubanza, Bujumbura rural et mairie.

OBJECTIVES

The proposed project aims to consolidate the achievements of the previous phases:

- Implementing a multi-hazard approach
- Strengthening the implementation of an early warning system for the national platform for risk management and disaster preparedness via the IGEBU
- Supporting the anticipatory cash responses
- Adding conflict-sensitive and environmental approaches to risk analysis.

The response proposed by WFP is in line with the EU standards and priorities in response to natural disasters and in Nexus, as this project also forms part of a synergy with the EU "Tubehoneza" project that the CRF was implementing. This project is establishing seven municipal DSO platforms in at-risk areas, providing training on risk analysis, simulation exercises and pre-positioning. The FRC is also implementing the Safer Access Framework (SAF).

EXPECTED RESULTS

This project will run for 24 months in 5 provinces, including Rumonge (Muhuta and Rumonge districts), Kirundo (Bugabira and Busoni districts), Rutana (Bukemba district), Bubanza (Mpanda district) and Bujumbura rural/Mairie. The WFP is proposing to extend its geographical coverage and add 20 committees to the existing 40. 32,167 direct beneficiaries are expected, including 16,267 women and 15,900 men.

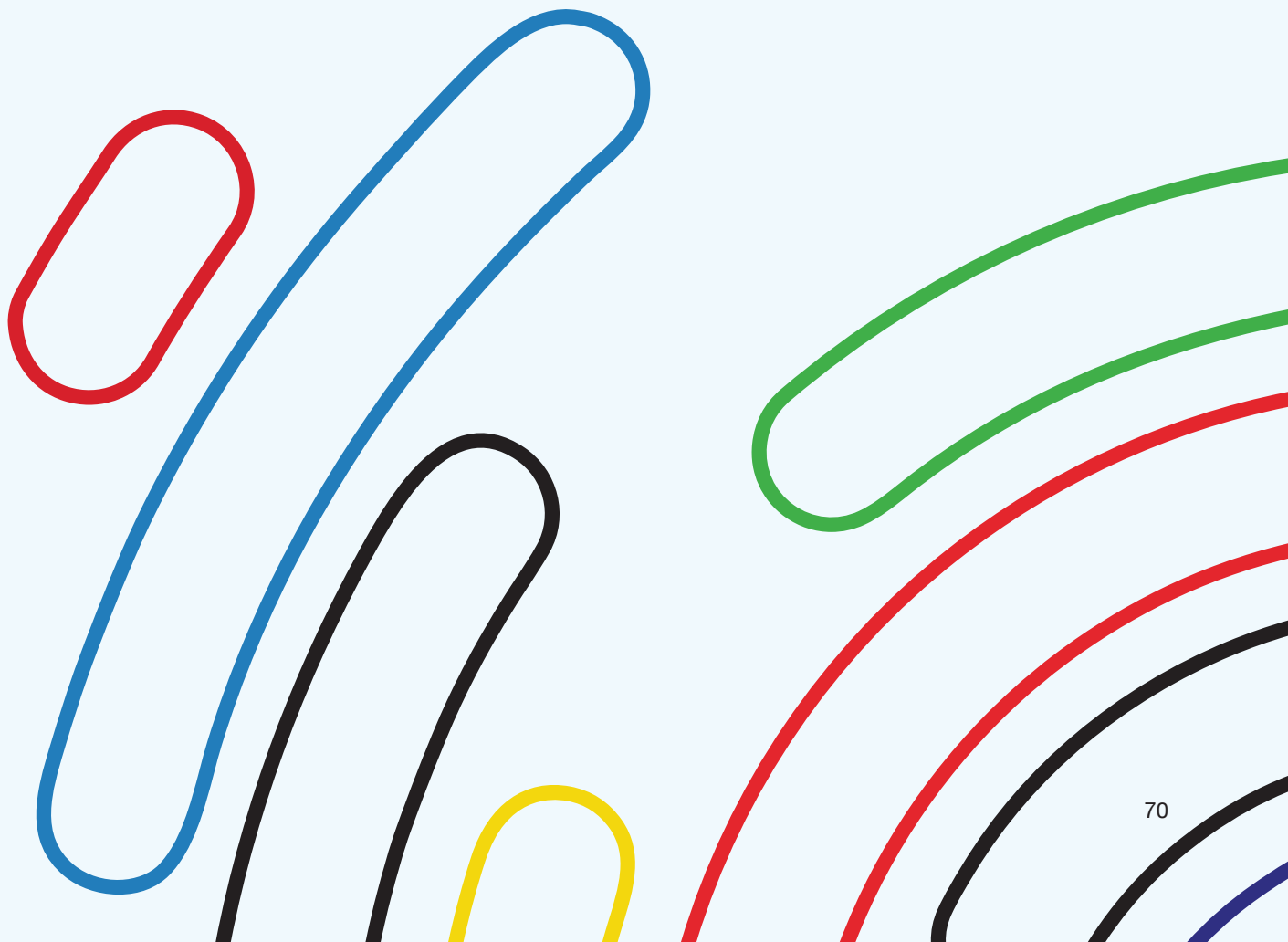
The action proposed by the WFP aims to intensify its support, extend the approach and strengthen the capacity to prepare, anticipate and respond to multi-hazard emergencies. The Burundi Red Cross is at the centre of the implementation on the ground with the support/accompaniment of the consortium in complementarity with other development projects and focused on the response and prevention of natural disasters in Burundi.

1. Building the capacity of communities and the Burundi Red Cross to prepare for and anticipate multiple risks. A total of 354,000 people will be covered by a functional early warning system. 40,860 people will be covered by contingency and preparedness plans in the event of the occurrence of one of the risks of various origins.
2. Strengthening the capacities of national forecasting and early warning players. 10 IGBU staff will be trained in the management of this forecasting and early warning system. The IGBU will produce 1 weekly bulletin for floods and 1 monthly bulletin for droughts.
3. Delivering preparedness and anticipation assistance to the populations most at risk. 31,325 people to be assisted potentially through the Cash modality for concerted, contextualised actions based on analyses by the members of the consortium under the lead of the WFP.

OUTLOOK

Ultimately, the aim of the project is to make a national multi-hazard early warning platform operational, managed by the government, and to set up a disaster response and anticipation capability in the provinces most affected by natural disasters.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT



NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

The European Union has launched the European Green Pact, a concerted strategy for climate-neutral, resource-efficient and economically competitive development. This strategy aims to respond to the global challenges linked to the climate and the management of natural resources: 50% of total greenhouse gas emissions and more than 90% of the loss of biodiversity and water stress come from the extraction, transformation, manufacturing and consumption of natural resources.

Several programmes are financed and supported by the European Union to protect the environment and natural resources, including in the Great Lakes region, in order to strengthen cross-border management of water resources and biodiversity, and to improve resource management through a circular economy approach.

OBJECTIVES

The main programmes funded by the European Union aim to:

- Develop a cross-border environmental monitoring system to assess the qualitative, quantitative and climatic aspects of the Lake Tanganyika and Lake Kivu basin. This monitoring system will provide a more accurate understanding of the current state of the lakes and enable targeted action to be taken to protect them.
- To develop pilot actions to reduce water pollution in lakes Tanganyika and Kivu through improved management of wastewater, solid waste and catchment areas
- Support countries in Eastern and Southern Africa in the transition from a linear to a circular economy, by creating an environment that encourages investment in circular business models and improving access to the necessary skills and finance, with a focus on two priority value chains, namely packaging/plastic waste and e-waste.
- Improving the conservation, management and use of ecosystem goods and services and biodiversity in protected areas for the benefit of nature and local communities, in particular women, young people and vulnerable populations.
- Improve cross-border and trans-regional governance for the conservation and management of cross-border protected areas.



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PROGRAM 1 :

CROSS-BORDER WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Project 1 :

LATAWAMA – LAKE TANGANYIKA WATER MANAGEMENT

CONTEXT




The catchment area of Lake Tanganyika, consisting mainly of the lake of the same name and Lake Kivu, is of global importance and contains a significant proportion of the pure water of the African continent. It is home to one of the world's largest fish stocks and is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world. These water resources are a source of socio-economic well-being for the basin's population, estimated at around 25 million people. However, in 2017, Lake Tanganyika was declared "endangered lake of the year", due to the multiple challenges it faces because of rapid human population growth and poverty, as well as climate change. Between 2020 and 2023, heavy rains fell on the watershed, with similar human, material and environmental consequences on the shores of the riparian countries. Another complication is the limited regional coordination. There is currently no mechanism for collecting and sharing information at basin level. To remedy these problems, it is important to implement the agreements signed between the riparian countries.

Total budget	7.000.000 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	53 month (01/09/2019 – 31/01/2024)
Organisations in charge of its implementation	ENABEL – Agence belge de coopération technique
Principale partie prenante	ALT – Autorité du Lac Tanganyika
Area of intervention	DRC : Uvira ; Rwanda : Ruzizi ; Burundi : Bujumbura ; Tanzanie : Kigoma ; Zambie : Mpulungu

OBJECTIVES

Lake Tanganyika and its tributaries are under threat from climate change, overfishing, population growth and pollution. The aim of this project is to protect the biodiversity of this region and the well-being of the communities that depend on it.

The European Union has launched a cross-border water management project for this region, which aims to:

-  **Harmonising water rules and standards between riparian countries.**
 Cooperation between the various countries is essential for effective and sustainable management of the water resources of the lake and its tributaries. This will make it possible to better regulate water-related activities such as fishing, agriculture and industry, and to combat polluting practices.
-  **Reducing pollution and preserving water quality :**
 This involves improving the operation of wastewater treatment plants, adopting more environmentally friendly agricultural practices, and strengthening solid waste collection and management systems (both municipal and biomedical).
-  **Raising awareness among local populations and promoting sustainable practices:**
 promoting sustainable practices for the responsible management of these resources.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The project supported by the European Union has enabled a network to be set up to monitor the waters of Lake Tanganyika, one of Africa's largest lakes, to ensure the sustainable management of this vital resource.

- Thanks to the refurbishment and equipping of four laboratories in towns bordering the lake (Bujumbura in Burundi, Kigoma in Tanzania, Uvira in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mpulungu in Zambia), the local authorities now have an essential tool for monitoring the quality of the lake's water
- In addition, the creation of a database for monitoring water quality, the Lake Tanganyika Water Portal, provides easy, transparent access to the information gathered. As a result, decision-makers and local communities will be informed of any threats to health and the environment posed by water pollution and can take steps to remedy the situation.

Significant results have also been seen in pilot projects in riverside towns to reduce pollution through the efficient management of solid and liquid waste.

➤ In Uvira, in the DRC, there are:

- a. A master plan for solid waste management.
- b. Equipment and capacity-building for 3 local solid waste collection associations (tricycles, wheelbarrows, boots, gloves).
- c. A pilot composting project to produce organic manure.
- d. The construction of an incinerator to manage biomedical waste

➤ In Bujumbura, Burundi, there are:

- a. Optimising the operation of the Buterere wastewater treatment plant.
- b. Rehabilitation of 10 drying beds.
- c. The installation of a pumping system for faecal sludge.
- d. Strengthening the capacity of the operating entity and digitizing the collection network.

➤ In Kigoma, Tanzania, as in Mpulungu, Zambia, we can see:

- a. Improving the solid waste system.
- b. Building an incinerator to manage biomedical waste.
- c. Building the municipality's capacity.

➤ In Rusizi, Rwanda, we can see:

- a. Drawing up a management plan for the Rusizi catchment area.
- b. Restoring the landscape and protecting the Rusizi watershed (reforestation, terracing, etc.).

Thanks to the commitment of the European Union, this project is also helping to build local capacity for sustainable water management and to promote regional cooperation between the countries bordering Lake Tanganyika. These tangible results demonstrate the importance of cross-border cooperation in protecting and preserving our planet's precious natural resources.



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Project 2 :

TAKIWAMA – INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE TANGANYIKA AND KIVU LAKE BASINS

CONTEXT

The TAKIWAMA (Tanganyika and Kivu Water Management) programme is part of the integrated management of the waters of the Lake Tanganyika and Lake Kivu basins, and of the Team Europe Initiative aimed at ensuring effective management of transboundary waters in Africa.

With 18% of the volume of fresh water available in the world, the catchment area of lakes Tanganyika and Kivu is of global importance and a source of socio-economic well-being for millions of people. This catchment area is a source of drinking water, hydroelectric power and industrial and agricultural development for the region. It is home to one of the world's largest fish stocks and one of the richest areas of biodiversity in the world. This lake complex is also an important communication route, offering major opportunities for cross-border and intra-regional integration, trade and investment.

The basin's water resources are subject to numerous anthropogenic pressures that affect water quality. The increasing frequency of extreme climatic events is accelerating this deterioration. National and regional authorities do not have sufficient tools to monitor the state of water resources, identify priority areas and themes and plan activities to reduce these pressures.

Following on from the LATAWAMA - Lake Tanganyika Water Management and SPRNIG - Support Program for Regional and National Infrastructure Governance in Central Africa, this Action aims to continue water conservation efforts throughout the catchment area (Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia). At the same time, this Action aims to introduce a transport and trade governance component to the Lake Tanganyika corridor, which would make it possible to integrate the northern corridor (which starts from the seaport of Mombasa), the central corridor (which starts from the seaport of Dar es Salaam) and the southern corridor (which starts from Durban or Beira).

Total budget	31.000.000 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	60 month 2024 – 2029
Organisations chargées de sa mise en œuvre	ENABEL, GIZ, Coopération néerlandaise
Principales parties prenantes	ALT – Autorité du Lac Tanganyika ABAKIR – Autorité du Bassin du Lac Kivu et de la rivière Rusizi
Area of intervention	DRC : Uvira ; Rwanda : Ruzizi ; Burundi : Bujumbura ; Tanzanie : Kigoma ; Zambie : Mpulungu.

OBJECTIVES

TAKIWAMA aims to improve biodiversity and human development in the Lake Tanganyika and Lake Kivu basins, through better management of transboundary water resources, regional integration and the application of sustainable and inclusive economic practices in the basin.

On the one hand, the programme aims to create the technical and institutional conditions for basin organisations to benefit from an operational water monitoring and control tool. The acquisition and sharing of this data are an essential prerequisite for an integrated water resource management policy and good water governance. The programme will also develop specific pollution control activities in each country. These will be based on the different ecosystems and the needs of the target populations, with a gender and human rights-based approach, and will be inspired by the concept of the circular economy. Ultimately, the programme aims to develop transport and trade within Lake Tanganyika, thereby improving the regional integration of the countries in the basin, strengthening the economic links between the countries (and thus contributing to the stabilisation and peace of the sub-region) and completing the framework of transport corridors (north, central and south) which is currently interrupted at Lake Tanganyika level.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The main results expected from this programme are as follows:

- **A cross-border environmental monitoring system for the qualitative, quantitative and climatic aspects of the Lake Tanganyika and Lake Kivu basin is operational.**

These activities involve: strengthening the network for monitoring water quality in the basin by extending its geographical coverage and the type of data collected; strengthening the monitoring network by installing, rehabilitating and/or automating quantitative measurement stations in the basin; effective planning of an operational budget allocated by the regional and/or national authorities so that the costs of staff involved in data collection are fully covered by each State.

- **Simulation models and information on the state of the basin's resources and the effects of climate change are made available to stakeholders.**

These activities involve: setting up an online geographical information system to facilitate access to data for stakeholders in the basin; supporting research programmes so that the available information can be used to improve knowledge of the state of current resources and to simulate scenarios for their development (water balance simulation, climate scenarios, sediment modelling, etc.); developing early warning systems, coupled with response strategies, to minimise the impact of possible flooding on populations, infrastructure, etc.

- **Cross-border resource management strategies and procedures are developed in the Tanganyika and Kivu Lake basins.**

Ces activités concernent : la conception et la mise en œuvre de processus, procédures et mécanismes de gestion régionale par les autorités de bassin ; une réflexion sur la tarification des services proposés à une variété d'utilisateurs potentiels ; un renforcement des cadres juridiques, réglementaires et politiques pour la gestion des ressources en eau transfrontalières dans le bassin, avec des déclinaisons nationales ; des démarches pour favoriser le démarrage du processus d'adhésion des pays du bassin à la Convention UNECE sur l'eau.

- **Spaces for inclusive dialogue and coordination with different stakeholders (authorities, cross-border basin organisations, civil society organisations, research institutions, development partners, etc.) are being consolidated and extended.**

These activities involve: building a shared vision of the basin by establishing inclusive forums for dialogue to compare interpretations and analyses of data at several levels of governance (communities, civil society, local, national and supranational authorities); sharing experiences with neighbouring cross-border river basin organisations.

- ➔ **Knowledge of the potential benefits of the circular economy among policymakers, businesses, consumers and civil society (representing the population in all its diversity) is enhanced.**

These activities involve: developing a common understanding of the inclusive circular economy concept for the protection of the basin's aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, as well as the challenges and opportunities it presents, among key stakeholders; supporting local authorities so that they can develop inclusive circular economy action plans for the reduction/minimisation of water pollution in the basin.

- ➔ **Inclusive circular economy models are being tested and validated in different local conditions.**

These activities concern the implementation of circular business ideas in different local contexts. Projects will be implemented in at least two countries (in the form of a geographical batch) so that all countries are covered by at least one initiative. The batches envisaged are: 1/ DRC-Rwanda; 2/ Burundi-DRC; 3/Tanzania-Zambia. Plastic waste, wastewater, the fight against sedimentation and the protection of watersheds (reforestation, agroforestry, reducing erosion, etc.) are priority themes for the ALT and ABAKIR member states. These themes will therefore be at the heart of the activities implemented under this product

- ➔ **Infrastructure, logistics and transport management in Lake Tanganyika are being improved.**

These activities concern the strengthening of logistics and the current methods of lake transport, while preserving natural resources and fish stocks. Activities will be developed to: help improve and guarantee navigation safety (e.g., preventive ship inspection systems to avoid any kind of emergency/accident situation); introduce a digital system for monitoring ships/boats and exchanging information between ports; develop a system for mapping lake routes; stimulate the development of ship/boat construction, repair and maintenance services; build the capacity of the various port authorities.

- ➔ **Cross-border coordination strategies and initiatives are being developed for the Lake Tanganyika Transport Corridor**

These activities involve setting up a Lake Tanganyika Transport Corridor Management Body (OGC-CTLT) to strengthen governance of the corridor. The objectives of regional integration, competitiveness, sustainability and transport safety will be pursued by this body. Building a common vision will require establishing inclusive spaces for dialogue between national government authorities, the Lake Tanganyika Regional Authority, representatives of the private sector and civil society, leading to common and agreed initiatives and strategies for the development of the corridor (including the creation of public-private partnerships - PPPs, where appropriate).



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PROGRAM 2 :

NATURAFRICA - A NEW APPROACH TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

CONTEXT

Africa is facing an unprecedented loss of biodiversity and natural resources, resulting from the combined effects of over-exploitation and illegal resource extraction facilitated by weak natural resource governance, habitat fragmentation and loss, and climate change. The resulting land degradation undermines the resilience of ecosystems and the communities that depend on them for goods and services and traps the rural poor in a destructive cycle of increasingly unsustainable land-use practices. Vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities and women (who bear a significant share of the responsibility for their agri-food practices) are disproportionately affected. Africa therefore faces a triple challenge: preventing the loss of biodiversity, mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change, and responsibly providing the resources needed for a growing population.

The NaturAfrica programme is spread over six 'sub-regional windows' across the sub-Saharan continent, in which it focuses on a selected number of priority landscapes for conservation and development that are characterized by high biodiversity, and whose functional ecosystems ensure the livelihood of the communities that live there. Priority landscapes generally comprise areas with status aimed at protecting natural ecosystems and wildlife (national parks, reserves, wildlife management areas, community and/or private nature reserves, etc.) linked by multiple-use areas that offer strong potential for developing the green economy while ensuring ecological connectivity

Four of these sub-regional windows concerns one or more ICGLR member states:

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| <p>1. The forest ecosystems of the Congo Basin (Burundi, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), Uganda, Southern Sudan, Rwanda, Cameroon, Gabon).</p> <p>2. The savannahs and slopes of the East African Rift (South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia).</p> | <p>3. Transhumance landscapes of Central Africa (CAR, Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria).</p> <p>4. Trans frontier conservation areas in southern Africa (Zambia, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa).</p> |
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Total budget	160.000.000 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	84 month 2023 – 2030
Organisations in charge of its implementation	Multiples
Principales parties prenantes	UEMOA - West African Economic and Monetary Union ECCAS - Economic Community of Central African States EAC - East African Community SADC - Southern African Development Community
Area of intervention	6 major "meta-countries" across the African continent. For the ICGLR countries, see details below.

“NaturAfrica” integrated landscape management projects in the member countries of the ICGLR:

Priority landscape for conservation and development	Countries concerned	Indicative EU contribution
<p>Integrated management of the coastal forests in Conkouati-Douli NP and its periphery</p> <p>Odzala-Kokoua NP, and the contiguous Ngombe FSC-certified logging concession</p> <p>Nouabale-Ndoki NP and the contiguous Pokola and Kabo FSC-certified logging concessions</p>	<p>Republic of Congo</p>	<p>8.500.000</p>
<p>Bili-Uéré complex of Hunting Domains in DRC</p> <p>Garamba NP complex and hunting domains in DRC</p> <p>Lantoto NP in South Sudan</p>	<p>DRC</p> <p>DRC – South-Soudan</p>	<p>19.000.000</p>
<p>Okapi Wildlife Reserve and Virunga National Park and their peripheries (including Queen Elizabeth NP)</p>	<p>DRC - Uganda</p>	
<p>Greater Nyungwe - Kibira</p>	<p>Rwanda – Burundi</p>	<p>3.000.000</p>
<p>Southern Mau Forest complex Ewaso Nyiro-Lake Natron transboundary ecosystem</p>	<p>Kenya – Tanzanie</p>	<p>11.600.000</p>
<p>Kidepo-Turkana landscape</p>	<p>Uganda – Kenya</p>	<p>5.400.000</p>
<p>Kidepo Game Reserve</p>	<p>South-Soudan</p>	<p>3.000.000</p>
<p>Bamingui-Bangoran-Gounda-Manovo-St Floris section of the Greater Gounda KLCD</p> <p>André Félix NP, Yata Ngaya Reserve and Radom NP</p>	<p>RCA – South-Soudan</p>	<p>9.000.000</p>
<p>The Kavango Zambezi (KAZA) landscape</p> <p>Malawi-Zambezi landscape LZMP-ZIMOZA landscape</p>	<p>Angola – Zambia (+ Namibie, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique)</p>	<p>33.000.000</p>

OBJECTIVES

The fundamental objective of NaturAfrica is to adopt an integrated landscape management approach to ensure the sustainability of connected, climate-resilient and economically viable protected landscapes for the benefit of people and nature, by:

- Protecting essential biodiversity assets by sustaining ecologically connected landscapes with diverse, healthy, ecologically sustainable and climate-resilient ecosystems.
- Improving governance and management of natural resources by strengthening the autonomy and resilience of rural communities, women, indigenous peoples and young people.
- Unlocking the economic value of landscapes through a sustainable and respectful economy based on effective spatial planning.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The main results expected from this programme are as follows:

- **Capacity building for inclusive management, planning and implementation of conservation measures in priority landscapes.**

These activities concern: the coordination of conservation actions between the various players within the landscapes; the identification of and contribution to the creation of new protected areas and other effective conservation measures by zone; the promotion and facilitation of co-management or delegated management agreements for protected areas and other effective conservation measures by zone; the development and implementation of planning and management documents for protected areas and other effective conservation measures by zone; capacity building in all aspects (equipment, infrastructure, surveillance, monitoring and compliance with the law).

- **Better access to sustainable green economy opportunities for all members of communities within priority landscapes.**

These activities involve support for sustainable and responsible agricultural and pastoral practices in the peripheral areas of priority landscapes (agroforestry, agroecology, climate-smart agriculture, pasture management); support for forest management, including community logging and forestry; development of deforestation-free agricultural and forestry value chains (including non-timber forest products and wildlife where appropriate); support for community-based natural resource management activities, such as green energy projects ; developing ecotourism in natural environments; strengthening the sustainable use of natural resources and cultural heritage to improve communities' standard of living; assisting local communities to mobilize, participate in and raise awareness of natural resource management to enable them to derive tangible economic benefits from ecosystem services and the wildlife economy; facilitating community-based public-private partnerships between companies active in the green economy.

➔ **Capacity-building for land-use planning governance and natural resource management in priority landscapes**

These activities include assistance to multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms for participatory planning and monitoring at landscape and regional levels, building on existing sub-national, national and regional mechanisms; development and implementation of participatory spatial scenarios for land-use planning and natural resource exploitation; assistance with the formulation and implementation of payment for ecosystem services schemes; assistance with the development of legislative and regulatory frameworks to secure land tenure and use rights for local communities; support and strengthening of indigenous governance structures (e.g. Supporting and strengthening indigenous governance structures (e.g., community reserves, community forests, water user management associations, etc.); building the legal capacity of civil society organizations in priority landscapes.

➔ **Better access to information on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, for awareness-raising, promotion and participatory decision-making.**

These activities include support for the development of knowledge-sharing platforms, including links/interactions with BIOPAMA observatories and the Africa Knowledge Platform (EU Science Hub); assistance with research and data collection; implementation of strategic communication and awareness-raising campaigns; organization of exchange and/or study visits.

➔ **Developing the capacity of natural resource managers to manage the region's protected areas and natural ecosystems.**

These activities involve: training natural resource managers in regional training centers (DRC, Cameroon, Rwanda, Tanzania, South Africa); creating and supporting communities of practice in conservation, development of the green economy and territorial governance; organizing ad hoc regional workshops to share regional experiences and lessons learned in cross-border natural resource management.

➔ **6. Better coordination to harmonize policies at regional and landscape level.**

These activities concern: the operationalization of coordination structures at sub-regional level to ensure the coordinated and coherent implementation of programme activities in all the priority landscapes identified; cross-border cooperation and harmonization in terms of land-use planning; monitoring and governance in terms of natural resource management, the fight against poaching, tourism development, etc.



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PROGRAM 3 :

TRANSITION TO THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

CONTEXT

Poor waste management, particularly of packaging/plastic waste, and electronic waste, is a major challenge facing ESA countries. Due to the inefficiency and limited number of waste management infrastructures in many countries in the region, a large proportion of waste is dumped into the environment (rivers, lakes, seas, etc.) or into landfill sites that do not comply with international standards. This poses serious risks not only to the environment and public health, particularly for women, young people and informal workers, but also represents a lost opportunity to recover invaluable resources and create decent, green jobs. The transition to a circular economy would address these challenges by developing circular systems and economic models that minimize resource consumption and reduce waste.

Governments and national organizations have made major commitments within the ESA to combat climate change and promote sustainable development. The African Union's Agenda 2063 sets out a vision for a prosperous world and a sustainable Africa. Delivering on these promises will depend, among other things, on moving towards a circular economy, which can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote resource sustainability.

Total budget	40.000.000 EUR
Duration of the project (Start date - End date)	72 month 2024 – 2029
Principales parties prenantes	Service providers and SMEs in the ESA region, especially those focused on circular products and services or transitioning towards circular business models.
Intervention area	EAC and SADC member countries

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the programme promoting the circular economy are as follows:

- Establish a favourable policy framework for the circular economy in the ESA region.
- Strengthen the participation of formal and informal workers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including women and young people, in circular economy models.
- Improve access to and use of circular economy financing by businesses.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The main results expected from this programme are as follows:

- **Improved access to information and learning materials on best practice policies, strategies and legislation for governments in the ESA region.**

These activities include the strengthening of existing digital platforms to facilitate learning and sharing between governments on a range of enabling environmental policies and strategies; the organisation of workshops to facilitate dialogue and learning on specific circular economy issues, including the inclusion of women, youth and vulnerable communities (these workshops will represent a platform for dialogue between the public and private sectors to ensure that policies and strategies address regional constraints and private investment issues) ; a comprehensive review of existing certifications and standards in the region for packaging and e-waste, as well as globally recognised standards, to identify gaps and areas for improvement; the creation of potential partnerships/ alliances between cities to share best practice and collaborate on circular economy initiatives, including the harmonisation of certification and standards.

- ➔ **Increased awareness and knowledge of the principles, characteristics and benefits of the circular economy for educators, students, consumers, the private sector, financing institutions, formal and informal workers and the general population, with particular attention to gender issues.**

These activities involve: Carrying out a detailed regional assessment of how producers and consumers access information related to the circular economy, as well as the factors that influence their decision to switch to circular products, services and business models; organising annual school competitions for a circular economy award, to promote behaviour change and awareness among women, young people and their families ; the development of a sustainability label among ESA producers with a focus on packaging/plastic waste and e-waste; monitoring in the different countries of the region the implementation of National Determined Contributions (NDCs) towards achieving the Paris Agreement target and long-term goals; support to ensure that circular economy initiatives and green growth strategy are included in countries' national planning.

- ➔ **Enhanced public capacity to support circular business models, through extended producer responsibility programmes across the region.**

These activities involve: analysing current extended producer responsibility statutes and regulations in selected value chains in different countries in the region to identify gaps and opportunities; developing guidelines and toolkits to enable countries in the region to adopt inclusive extended producer responsibility programmes, taking into account different contexts and challenges..

- ➔ **Circular economy themes are piloted, refined and integrated into the regional higher education and vocational training system, with a gender-sensitive approach.**

These activities concern : analysing the needs and demands of the labour market in terms of the transition to the circular economy, with a focus on packaging/plastic waste and electronic waste; identifying the changes needed in production, design and business models, including the skills required for the various professions; in partnership with institutions that have already developed training modules on the circular economy, implementing a modular, replicable and scalable pilot project of higher education and vocational training curricula adapted to the needs identified; developing continued education and training of trainers programmes, in collaboration with higher education and vocational training associations based in Europe.

- ➔ **Increased availability of training modules on the inclusive circular economy, in a format appropriate for a wide range of participants, including women, young people and informal actors.**

These activities include: providing grants for scholarships to help develop skills in the circular economy; carrying out a detailed mapping of the packaging/plastic waste and e-waste value chains, as well as the specific training needs in each value chain; supporting leading private companies in the sector to develop technical training; setting up an annual award for suppliers in the circular economy to encourage them to follow training and development.

- **Knowledge sharing, best practice learning materials and support services related to the circular economy available via online platforms and accessible by businesses in the region.**

These activities concern: facilitating private sector access to circular economy learning and knowledge sharing materials via digital platforms (investment opportunities, licensing, funding sources, inclusive business models, available technologies, available business service providers such as trainers, incubators and innovation hubs); the sharing of information and materials on EU circular economy policies and standards to facilitate the positioning of ESA products on EU markets; the provision of South-South and North-South mentoring services to address the knowledge and skills needs of start-ups and entrepreneurs in the field of the circular economy, in order to move towards more sustainable and circular solutions; the provision of small grants to facilitate workshops to share knowledge and best practices on specific issues.

- **Increased availability of financial services for the transition to circularity for start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises with potential for scalability, replicability and social inclusion at regional level, particularly those owned by young people and women, and with access to risk-sharing finance.**

These activities concern: setting up a grant mechanism to invest and share the risk of circular economy investments for businesses in transition; developing and making available online a detailed operational manual to ensure appropriate risk management practices; the development of strong relationships with a network of commercial banks, financial institutions and investors to assist grant recipients in the transition to secure and green sources of commercial finance; the organisation of annual awards events to bring together grant recipients, governments, the private sector and any other strategic partners to showcase new circular economy products and service developments.

- **Increased availability of incubation and advisory services linked to financial preparation, business planning and the development of business models, technologies and management systems.**

These activities involve: identifying business development service providers and business incubators through calls for proposals in order to provide incubation and advisory support to grant beneficiaries; assisting these service providers and incubators to develop their service offers in line with the specific needs of the circular economy businesses receiving grants; assisting these service providers and incubators to develop and implement online service delivery mechanisms on the digital platforms developed as part of the action.



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