



Team Europe initiatives in the Horn of Africa

The EU's and its Member States' action in the Horn of Africa is fully aligned with the objective and priorities of the 6th EU-AU Summit which will take place in Brussels on 17-18 February 2022. Its action in the Horn of Africa initiative is one of the concrete illustrations of this renewed Africa-Europe Alliance, aiming at addressing both the immediate opportunities and challenges, as well as the long-term possibilities.

The EU is already contributing with **EUR 162 million to the Horn of Africa initiative (HoAI)** – including through an important contribution to the Multi-donor Trust Fund – and is ready to step up its support, wherever situation on the ground allows.

The Team Europe's action in the Horn of Africa will be aligned with the ambitions of the EU Global Gateway as well as with the 4 pillars of the Horn of Africa initiative.

I. Pillar 1 : Improving regional infrastructure connectivity

• Transport strategic Corridors

Team Europe initiatives will support the development of strategic **transport corridors in Africa**. These corridors will facilitate trade within the Horn of Africa as well as Africa-Europe trade, and they will support investment in sustainable, efficient, and safe connectivity between both continents, thereby developing new value chains that will benefit industries in both Africa and Europe.

Blending mechanisms will be searched to leverage investments in the sector. Funds will be made available to finance **feasibility studies** (through international finance institutions), including funds from the HoAI **Multi-Donor Trust Fund**.

Two corridors are selected in the Horn of Africa region:

- i. **Dar es Salaam – Nairobi – Addis Ababa – Berbera/Djibouti corridor**
- ii. **Cairo – Khartoum – Juba – Kampala corridor.**

To note that another corridor Mombasa-Kisangani is selected, involving only Kenya in the Horn of Africa region.

• Digital

Team Europe Initiatives will aim to support digital transformation¹:

- i. **digital connectivity** (infrastructure) to increase safe, resilient and trusted international connectivity through investments in **international submarine cables** and to boost the development of regional networks and address current missing links by supporting **regional backbones** and **regional data infrastructures**. **The EU will soon launch a study** to get into more details for the Horn of Africa region – the Horn of Africa initiative profile project will be used as one of the cornerstones. A specific attention must be paid to security and reliability on connectivity infrastructures but also to the protection of sovereignty of the countries regarding data exchange, collection and processing.
- ii. **e-governance and regulation**. Actions will aim at knowledge exchange on policy initiatives where the EU can share its experience with the Horn of Africa. The regional program “D4D Collaboration

¹ [Communication: "2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade"](#) and EU-AU Digital Economy Task Force report

on Digital Government and Cybersecurity in the Horn of Africa region” will already allow for swift action in the coming weeks/months.

Blending mechanisms will be sought to leverage investments in the sector. The EU has funds available to finance **feasibility studies** (through international finance institutions) and may also benefit from the HoAI **Multi-Donor Trust Fund** to cover certain studies.

At country level, **Kenya** is at the forefront with a strong national Team Europe Initiative which will support digital transition so its people obtain better access to digital opportunities. Support to the Government of **Djibouti** to develop its **e-governance**, in particular on cyber-security, will also be provided.

- **Green Energy**

Team Europe initiatives will aim to support the Horn of Africa’s green and just transition in the energy sector by addressing four priorities:

- renewable energy**
- increased access to energy**
- energy efficiency**
- market integration and sector reforms.**

To note that the EU will target to have 85% of its investments for CO² reduction purpose.

Regional power interconnectors are being reviewed for the Horn of Africa region (most of them are included in the Horn of Africa initiative profile project). It will be possible to launch (pre)feasibility studies to determine which **regional power interconnectors** could be funded.

Blending mechanisms will be sought to leverage investments in the sector. The EU has funds available to finance **feasibility studies** (through international finance institutions) and may also benefit from the HoAI **Multi-Donor Trust Fund** to cover certain studies.

At country level, **Kenya** is good example with a strong national Team Europe Initiative which will support sustainable green energy, as well as other measures contributing to Greenhouse gas emissions reduction (such as circular economy, sustainable agriculture, natural capital restoration and sustainable urbanisation).

II. Pillar 2: Promoting economic and trade integration

The EU is a **longstanding partner of Africa of the continent’s economic integration**. It has been providing support to regional economic integration, based on its partnership with the **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)**, and to the setup of the **AfCFTA** and of competitive regional and continental value chains, together with the AU.

For that reason, the bulk of actions will be **anchored at the RECs level**, to ensure that the sub-regional integration processes continue to advance and serve as building blocks towards Africa’s economic integration. The objective will be to boost trade through the efficient implementation of the existing trade agreements, the simplification of procedures and regulatory frameworks, namely across the priority corridors above mentioned and key regional value chains.

A framework to structure the main initiatives is being developed, in which we will reflect on the potential engagement of the Horn of Africa countries based on the study produced by the Horn of Africa initiative and other relevant documentations.

III. Pillar 3: Building Resilience

Team Europe initiatives will focus on supporting Horn of Africa’s food systems, including fisheries and aquaculture, to become more resilient vis-a-vis unfavorable trends, shocks and crises, notably addressing the challenges related to climate change, to pests and diseases, to land degradation and to price shocks.

Studies will be launched shortly to identify the needs and possible further actions to strengthen the region's resilience while several activities are **already under identification and should be funded in 2022 and in the years to come for the Horn of Africa region**. Complementarities will be searched with others sectors contributing to building resilience of the region against climate change and environmental degradation notably, such as support to MSME, circular economy, sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, forests and water.

At country level, resilience remains an essential area of focus. For instance, the EU in **Kenya** has identified resilience as a priority, with efforts deployed to assist in the Arid and Semi-Arid Lands of the country. **Somalia** has a priority sector, dedicated to building resilience and promoting social inclusion.

IV. Pillar 4: Strengthening human capital development

- **Education, Skills and Technical and Vocational Training**

Team Europe initiatives will aim at strengthening human capital through vocational education and training (VET) and skills development so as to train young people in a way that responds to the opportunities of the labour market, starting from the concrete needs of the private sector. This will include the promotion of digital and transversal skills in schools and other educational institutions.

Activities will mainly be implemented at country level, but some important continent-level projects (such as Erasmus+) are also worth mentioning for the Horn of Africa region. Some activities are already ongoing, since 2021, to support **education in Somalia**. These activities are planned **to be extended in 2022**, including for **Ethiopia and Sudan**. **Kenya** has already **identified** a program for education and skills for employment in its national envelop, with **digital connectivity in school** being a priority for actions in 2022.

- **Jobs and growth**

Linked to education and professional training above mentioned, Team Europe initiatives will also invest in sustainable **economic growth and decent jobs**, as well as improved access to social services and social protection, with a specific attention given to the **young** generation. It will mainly be mainstreamed at country level but some important continent-level projects too (such as Investing in Young Businesses in Africa – IYBA) are also worth mentioning for the Horn of Africa region. Actions will be implemented to facilitate the adaptation of local regulatory frameworks to the developing digital economy, access to finance and funding mechanisms to ensure flexibility and ease of doing business for digital enterprises of all sizes, MSMEs, start-ups and social enterprises.

- **Decent Work**

Team Europe initiatives will continue to support decent work in the region through encouraging the ratification and effective implementation of fundamental labour standards, supporting social dialogue, and building national administrative capacity. EU is engaging at country level with Kenya through a sectoral dialogue on labour topics which was announced during the EU Kenya Strategic Dialogue.

- **Health**

Some important **continent-wide projects on health** (vaccines distribution (Covax) and Team Europe Initiative on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies in Africa) and on Education (Erasmus+) are worth mentioning for the Horn of Africa region.