



Roadmap for Cooperation EASO - Egypt (2021 – 2023)









Roadmap for Cooperation between EASO and Egypt February 2021- January 2023

I. Acronyms

AUC - American University in Cairo; CCCPA - Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding; CEAS - Common European Asylum System; CMRS -Centre for migration and refugee studies; COI – Country of Origin Information; EASO – European Asylum Support Office; EA – Evidence Assessment (EASO Core module); EUD – European Union Delegation; EU – European Union; EU MS – EU Member States; GOE – Government of Egypt; IN – Inclusion (EASO Core module); IO - International Organisation; IOM - International Organisation for Migration; IP -International Protection; IT – Interview Techniques (EASO Core module); M&E - Monitoring and Evaluation; MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs; MLSA – Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs; MoE – Ministry of Education; Mol - Ministry of Interior; MoJ - Ministry of Justice; MoSS- Ministry of Social Security; MoU- Memorandum of Understanding; NGO - Non-Governmental Organization; NCCM -National Council for Childhood and Motherhood; NCCPIM-TIP - National Coordinating Committee for Preventing and Combating Illegal migration & Trafficking in Persons; NCHR- National Council for Human Rights; NCW - National Council for Women; QD - Qualifications Directive; RDPP NA - Regional Development and Protection Programme for North Africa; RSD – Refugee Status Determination; SOP – Standard Operating Procedures; TBC – To be Confirmed; TBD – To be Determined; THB – Trafficking in Human Beings; TORs - Terms of Reference; TP - Temporary protection; TtT - Train the trainers; UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF - United Nation Children and Education Fund; UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

II. Introduction and background

The rationale behind EASO support to the Egyptian authorities in the area of international protection and asylum lies with the first meeting of the Egypt-EU Migration Dialogue, which took place on 17 December 2017 in Cairo. Following the Dialogue, the European Commission, taking stock of the interests expressed by Egyptian authorities, proposed follow-up action points, including potential support by EASO in the areas of international protection and asylum, and prevention of and fight against irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings¹.

This resulted in the first EASO-Egypt cooperation which was implemented in 2019-2020.

Additionally, the Egyptian authorities requested EASO presence in ongoing regional trainings conducted by the CCCPA (Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding) in 2018, 2019 and in 2020. An EASO representative of the Vulnerable Groups team with specific expertise on THB has been regularly delivering presentations on EASO tools and trainings on THB in this context.

Based on several exchanges during the activities implemented in 2019-2020 and in *ad-hoc* consultations with Egyptian authorities, EASO and the Egyptian counterparts (hereinafter Egypt) agree

¹ Cfr. https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt_en/37530/1st%20Session%20of%20the%20EU-Egypt%20Migration%20Dialogue European Commission, joint staff working document, "Report on EU-EGYPT relations in the framework of the revised ENP (2017-2018)", SWD (2018) 490 final, December 2018.







on the present Roadmap document built around main topics of interest/need as outlined in the Summary section below.

III. Methodology

Needs Assessment and Rationale for the intervention

In line with the background explained above, the present document has been developed using a participatory approach where EASO and Egypt have been working together in the drafting and identification of areas of cooperation. It outlines relevant areas for the delivery of targeted capacity-building activities to be implemented using EASO expertise and with the participation of EU MS experts, in partnership with Egypt. It gathers input also from relevant stakeholders in order to achieve a shared and coordinated set up for the implementation of the foreseen actions.

The Roadmap implementation timeframe is agreed to be of 24 months, starting on August 2020 until July 2022.

To allow sufficient **flexibility and adaptability to the needs and resources** of both sides, this document can be revised, if need arises, upon agreement of EASO and Egypt.

Monitoring and Evaluation

To ensure progress is monitored and **support delivered in a sustainable way**, as per EASO methodology (such as the EASO Needs Assessment User Guide), indicators for each activity will be developed. These will also support the continued improvement and adaptation of the document to meet the needs of EASO and EG and to adapt activities to respective available resources.

EASO will request Egypt to fill in activity evaluation reports/forms and a mid-term/final general surveys to be able to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the activities foreseen in the present document. The outcome will be shared with Egypt and the incorporation of any changes based on lessons learnt gathered from this exercise will be subject to mutual agreement between EASO and Egypt.

During the implementation phase, EASO and Egypt agree to an **open two-way communication** to ensure technical level, day-to-day support and/or technical advice will be provided in line with the main areas of cooperation identified in the present document and compatibly with the normal workload of relevant resources.

Mid-term and final evaluations will be performed and a final meeting with Egyptian representatives will be organised by EASO in order to discuss progress as well as the content of any needed adjustment or possible extension of cooperation, based on lessons learnt and best practices.

IV. General Pre-conditions and Assumptions

- The identified resources, on both EASO and Egyptian side, are available for effective and timely implementation;
- The implementation of the activities included in the present document entails no costs for Egyptian authorities;
- All proposed activities are mutually identified and agreed by Egypt and EASO;
- o Relevant national authorities/stakeholders will participate in the proposed activities;
- Activities may change as new information is gathered during implementation;







- EASO and Egypt are willing to exchange experiences and take into consideration best practices;
- o EASO and Egypt are willing to maintain an open two-way communication at technical level.

V. Summary

As a result of the participatory approach explained above and of the joint assessment of needs, EASO and Egypt have identified areas pertaining to the asylum field where specific interests and needs can be addressed by an enhanced cooperation through EASO capacity building activities. Here a summary of the areas of priority and the related outcomes and outputs:

I. Supporting the establishment of asylum-related legislation, institutions and systems in Egypt

1. Asylum-related institutional capacity in Egypt is strengthened

During the current law-drafting phase, Egypt would like **to build further expertise on asylum-related matters in order to inform the design of its own national asylum law**, also in view of the technical needs linked to the foreseen establishment of an asylum body/agency dedicated to this field of work. In this context and building on the results achieved with the implementation of the first cooperation activities in 2019-2020, EASO and Egypt have identified the logic of intervention outlined below.

Outputs:

- 1.1 Egypt expertise on asylum-related matters is enhanced in view of informing the design of national asylum law;
- 1.2 Egypt understanding of methodologies on knowledge management in the field of asylum and reception is strengthened (pilot);
- 1.3 Egypt institutional training capacity on international protection/asylum-related topics, including unaccompanied children, is enhanced.
 - II. Supporting effective international protection procedures in Egypt

2. Protection-sensitive migration management capacities are enhanced

EASO and Egypt have identified support/cooperation activities adapted to the current international protection framework in the country. These are aimed at supporting Egypt's efforts to establish relevant technical knowledge, in-house asylum-related training expertise and capacity to implement the future asylum law in a timely manner. The logic of intervention outlined below builds on already achieved results as part of the 2019-2020 cooperation framework, particularly in the field of combating trafficking in human beings.

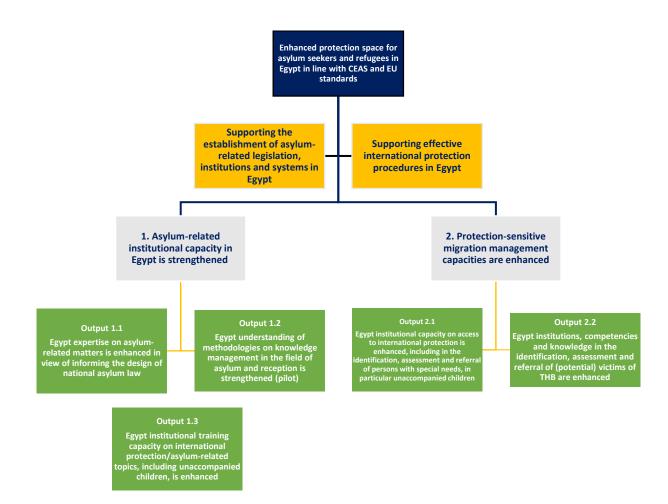






Outputs:

- 2.1 Egypt institutional capacity on access to international protection is enhanced, including the identification, assessment and referral of persons with special needs, in particular unaccompanied children;
- 2.2 Egypt institutions, competencies and knowledge in the identification, assessment and referral of (potential) victims of THB are enhanced.









Areas of priority and Activities

I. Supporting the establishment of asylum-related legislation, institutions and systems in Egypt

1. Asylum-related institutional capacity in Egypt is strengthened			
Output (expected result)	 Egypt expertise on asylum-related matters is enhanced in view of informing the design of national asylum law; Egypt understanding of methodologies on knowledge management in the field of asylum and reception is strengthened (pilot); Egypt institutional training capacity on international protection/asylum-related topics, including unaccompanied children, is enhanced. 		
Responsible authorities	MFA		
Target group	Legislators, officials, practitioners in the field of migration/asylum, including at the level of policy-making and law-drafting (such as, <i>inter alia</i> , representatives of MFA, MoJ, etc.).		
	Other national stakeholders with which EASO will seek to establish synergies:		
	The Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) mission is to prevent, mitigate and resolve violent conflicts in Africa. They offer a training programme – mainly to African and Arab officials - on trafficking and smuggling, including unaccompanied children and vulnerable groups as well as protection, prevention and prosecution of these crimes. The Centre has key expertise in the organisation of high-level regional fora (e.g. the Aswan Forum in December 2019) on a wide range of topics related to Peace and Development and geared towards enhancing collaboration among international actors. CCCPA could bring regional leverage for the organisation of the foreseen regional seminar.		
	Coordination should also be ensured with the Centre for migration and refugee studies (CMRS) of the American University in Cairo (AUC) under the CMRS project on "Refugee Entitlements in Egypt", financially supported by the EU (for instance, see activity 1.1.4 below).		
Description and assessment of the situation / EASO added value	Given the recent interest expressed by Egypt in light of the establishment of a national asylum law, system and procedures, EASO and Egypt have agreed to include a 'legislative framework' area in the Roadmap, in order to provide EASO and EU MS expertise to inform/support Egyptian asylum law drafting efforts.		
	At the end of February 2020, EASO and Egypt authorities organised a conference on asylum systems in three EU MS (Belgium, Malta and Netherlands) with models of asylum systems of interest to the Egyptian government. Following the request for information, written outputs were prepared and translated into both		







Arabic and English on the four asylum systems focusing on specific points of interest, as indicated by Egypt.

Output 1.2 is meant to offer an additional opportunity for benefitting from EASO's expertise and thematic networks on asylum and reception for informing the law drafting process, via the use of written answers/analyses produced by EASO with input from EU MS, based on EG written requests.

Pre-conditions / assumption

For qualitative knowledge management / sharing:

- Egypt identifies the specific areas of interest regarding the organisation of asylum procedures and reception;
- Egypt and EU MS consent to share and provide insights on the identified areas.

For Trainings:

- The training plan is built both in view of the current situation in Egypt and taking into consideration needs that might arise in the next, new asylum law-implementation phase;
- EASO will support the adaptation of the training plan in view of the law implementation phase in coordination with Egyptian counterparts. This will be further developed and implemented once the law will be adopted and as part of an updated Roadmap document;
- Egypt and EASO are willing to share and exchange relevant information and knowledge for the achievement of this result;
- Egyptian authorities identify and appoint officials/practitioners for participating in EASO TtT in view of gradually building a sustainable and specialised pool of national trainers;
- Language: EASO TtT modules that will be delivered in English, require very good knowledge of spoken and written English to ensure trainees' full learning experience, as well as their participation and interaction with the trainers and the fellow trainees;
- National roll-outs: Egypt and EASO trainers deliver the sessions jointly with active participation on both sides, both during online and face-to-face sessions;
- Relevant EASO TtT modules can be translated in Arabic upon Egypt request.
 Inclusion of translations in this agreed document will be considered a request.

Deliverables

Output 1.1.

- Joint capacity-building activities plan;
- Joint concept note on the regional seminar (common deliverable with the draft EASO regional pilot project²;
- Arabic versions of EASO ad-hoc products.

Output 1.2

² EASO will implement a three years' regional pilot project with priority third countries in the North Africa region (herein referred to as 'EASO regional pilot project'.







- Joint pilot methodology for the delivery of EASO qualitative information;
- Qualitative information documents in English and Arabic;
- Evaluation report, including an agreed way forward.

Output 1.3

- Joint training plan;
- The pool of EG national trainers grows in line with the joint training plan;
- Joint national roll-out training schedule;
- EASO training modules in Arabic are made available in the EASO training platform.

Description of activities with indicative timeline

Output 1.1 Egypt expertise on asylum-related matters is enhanced in view of informing the design of national asylum law

- 1.1.1 EASO-Egypt consultation meetings for the joint development of a capacity-building activities plan, linked to the law drafting process in Egypt and identifying key topics of interest to be addressed through adhoc seminars, follow-up work visits and delivery of EASO expertise (see 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 below) (Q3-Q4/2020 Q1/2021);
- 1.1.2 **Series of ad-hoc seminars as** jointly identified in the capacity development plan (Q2/2021 Q2/2022);
- 1.1.3 **Work/exchange visits**, to EU MS/neighbouring countries (to be jointly identified), linked to the activities 1.1.1 to 1.1.5; (Q2/2021 Q3/2022). Relevant documents/overviews needed for the activity are translated and proofread;
- 1.1.4 Thematic workshops on asylum seekers entitlements in the asylum procedure, establishing a cooperation with the CMRS of the AUC (Q3/2021). Relevant documents/overviews needed for the activity are translated and proofread;
- 1.1.5 Regional seminar on topics related to the development/reinforcement of asylum and reception systems (including on the hand-over process from UNHCR to government authorities), paving the way to the creation of an experiences/best-practices' exchange forum. This regional seminar falls under the combined umbrella of EASO-Egypt cooperation and the draft EASO regional pilot project (Q3-4/2021). Relevant documents/overviews needed for the activity are translated and proofread;

Output 1.2 Egypt understanding of methodologies on knowledge management in the field of asylum and reception is strengthened (pilot);

- 1.2.1 EASO-Egypt consultation meetings for the definition of a pilot methodology and topic(s) of interest for the delivery of EASO qualitative information documents (Q4/2020 Q1/2021);
- 1.2.2 Delivering of written qualitative information based on agreed topics and methodology (up to three as a pilot phase, TBC in activity 1.2.1) (Q1-Q4/2021);







Translation and proofreading of produced documents/answers;

1.2.3 Pilot phase evaluation: evaluation survey, report and meeting to discuss results and way-forward, including the possible confirmation/establishment of the EASO qualitative information provision channel (Q3/2021).

Output 1.3 Egypt institutional training capacity on international protection/asylum-related topics, including unaccompanied children, is enhanced.

1.3.1 EASO-Egypt meetings/workshops to jointly draft a specific training plan including participation in EASO TtT. This will also take into consideration the implementation phase of the future Egyptian national asylum law, and will entail a training needs assessment with related learning outcomes that Egypt intends to achieve (Q3-Q4/2021);

Translation into Arabic and proofreading of agreed modules (e.g. THB; Interviewing vulnerable persons/children; COI) (Q1/2021);

- 1.3.2 Participation in EASO core, introductory and in-depth TtT modules, such as Interview Techniques; Evidence Assessment; Inclusion; CEAS; COI; etc. (Q1-Q2/2021);
- 1.3.3 Participation in EASO TtT modules with focus on Persons with Special Needs, to form a pool of specialised trainers. These modules include Interviewing Vulnerable Persons and Interviewing Children (Q2-Q3/2021);
- 1.3.4 EASO-Egypt meetings to design a national roll-out training schedule, based on the agree training plan (1.3.1), on Egypt participation in EASO TtT and the available pool of EG trainers (Q4/2021 Q2/2022);
- 1.3.5 Delivery of the national training roll-out sessions (Q2-Q3/2022).

Synergies

In cooperation with the **EU Delegation in Cairo**, synergies will be explored with EU MS and with other donors and relevant stakeholders engaged in Egypt.

Furthermore, synergies are being identified with UNHCR and other key partners. A two-way communication channel will be established to avoid duplication and strengthen cooperation.

EASO regional pilot project with priority countries: synergies will be identified with respect to topics and capacity building modalities. Activity 1.1.5 above will be organised under the joint umbrella of the present Roadmap and the regional pilot project.







II. Supporting effective asylum/international protection procedures in Egypt

2. Protection-sensitive migration management capacities are enhanced

Output (expected result)

- 2.1 EG institutional capacity on access to international protection is enhanced, including in the identification, assessment and referral of persons with special needs, in particular unaccompanied children;
- 2.2 Egypt institutions, competencies and knowledge in the identification, assessment and referral of (potential) victims of THB are enhanced.

Responsible authorities Target group

MFA

Officials, practitioners in the field of migration/asylum, including first contact points, such as at border entry/exit points, national and local government offices (such as, *inter alia*, representatives from MFA, MoJ, NCCPIM-TIP; NCCM; NCHR, NCW; etc.), jointly identified relevant local CSOs, Community Development Associations and the like.

Other national stakeholders with which Egypt and EASO will agree to seek and establish synergies:

CCCPA for their work on THB at regional level and in order to build on the well-established cooperation so far.

Description and assessment of the situation/ EASO added value

Egypt ratified the 1969 OUA Refugee Convention in 1980, and the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol in 1981. The functional responsibilities related to registration, documentation, and status determination are currently with UNHCR under the framework of a MoU, signed in 1954 with the Government of Egypt (GOE). Egyptian authorities have responsibilities in different aspects of the procedure, including in the identification and documentation aspects.

Additionally, in October 2016, the Egyptian Parliament approved a new antihuman smuggling law which complements the law no. 64 of 2010 concerning combatting human trafficking. The NCCPIM-TIP is the government focal point for coordinating policies in the field of preventing irregular migration and combating smuggling and trafficking of human beings. The NCCPIM-TIP's mandate is to strengthen the cooperation between and among the National parties (governmental and non-governmental) with regional and international parties to achieve a comprehensive developmental approach to curb irregular migration. NCCPIM-TIP is also in charge of providing/organising relevant training sessions (also in cooperation with other stakeholders) to the members of the Committee as well as to the first contact officials.

So far, under the umbrella of the first cooperation agreement between EASO and Egypt (which was launched in August 2019), three Egyptian officials from the MFA, Prosecutor's Office and CCCPA have been trained on EASO THB module and have supported the delivery of the first national training session held in Cairo in November 2019. Currently (May 2020) two other officials from the







NCCPIM-TIP and the Public Prosecutor's Office are attending the EASO TtT elearning training on THB.

In 2019, a dedicated hotline was created as well as a shelter for victims of human trafficking. The latter is under the MoSS. Other hotlines for women and children as well as on human rights issues have been created and respond to also THB reports/questions/issues. The hotlines have been set up by the NCHR and the NCW. In addition, children victims of THB can receive support by contacting the dedicated hotline managed by the NCCM.

Pre-conditions / assumption

- Existing referral mechanism is available and shared;
- Participation of relevant first contact officials³ in targeted activities;
- EASO has capacity to have presence in Egypt for longer missions in order to support effectively the NCCM task force and MFA/NCCIM-TIP (based on Egypt needs);
- THB is included in the drafting of a national training plan with the support of EASO (see activity 1.3.1 above);
- Egypt identifies relevant officials in view of sustainably engage in the delivery of national sessions both at central and local level;
- EASO commits to support Egyptian trainers in the delivery of national training sessions.

Deliverables

Output 2.1

- Arabic versions of EASO Access to Procedure toolkit, IPSN tool, Vulnerability Assessment tool and/or Referral tool and other relevant EASO tools;
- Printed Arabic version of Access to Procedure toolkit and other relevant EASO tools;
- Joint plan for the sustainable delivery of local level operational trainings/workshops on the use of the Access to Procedure, IPSN, Vulnerability Assessment and/or Referral tools (TBC);
- EASO support/advise to NCCM task force is delivered (e.g. advice in SOPs/referral mechanism drafting, TBD based on EG needs).

Output 2.2

- See deliverables of Output 1.3;
- EASO expert advice/support is delivered (TBD based on EG needs);
- Arabic version of EASO THB module.

Description of activities with indicative timeline

Output 2.1 Egypt institutional capacity on access to international protection is enhanced, including in the identification, assessment and referral of persons with special needs, in particular unaccompanied children

2.1.1 EASO (and Frontex, TBC) national workshop to present the Access to procedure Toolkit (Q1-Q2/2021);

³ Officials who are often (or likely to be) the first point of contact for third country nationals reaching Egypt, i.e. border guards, police, immigration authorities and personnel of detention facilities.







Translation of the EASO Access to Procedure toolkit into Arabic (Q4/2020).

2.1.2 EASO national workshop to present the IPSN tool (tool for Identification of Persons with Special Needs), Special Needs and Vulnerability Assessment tool and/or Referral tool (Q2-Q3/2021) TBC;

Translation of the EASO IPSN tool into Arabic (Q4/2020). Translation of Special Needs and Vulnerability Assessment tool and/or Referral tool into Arabic (to be finalised tentatively in Q2/2021).

- 2.1.3 EASO-Egypt consultations for jointly defining a sustainable plan for the delivery of operational trainings/workshops at local level on the use of the translated Access to Procedure toolkit, IPSN tool, Vulnerability Assessment tool and/or Referral tool (Q4/2021-Q1/2022);
- 2.1.4 Series of operational trainings/workshops at local level on the use of the translated Access to Procedure toolkit (Q2-Q3/2021);
- 2.1.5 **Printing and distribution** of the translated Access to Procedure toolkit to relevant locations in EG (Q1 -Q2/2021);
- 2.1.6 **Series of operational trainings/workshops** at local level on the use of the translated **IPSN tool, Vulnerability Assessment tool and/or Referral tool** (Q2-Q3/2021);
- 2.1.7 Provision of expertise to the NCCM task force on children on the move, with focus on specific needs and rights of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees under international legal instruments (e.g. advice in SoPs/referral mechanism drafting, TBC based on Egypt needs) (Q1-Q4/2021);

Translation of relevant EASO tools, such as the EASO practical guide on Age Assessment into Arabic (Q4/2020).

Output 2.2. EG institutions, competencies and knowledge in the identification, assessment and referral of (potential) victims of THB are enhanced

2.2.1 **Participation in EASO TtT module on THB** to further develop the pool of national THB trainers (started with pilot cooperation in 2019) (Q3-Q4/2021);

Translation of EASO THB module in Arabic in view of the national rollout sessions (Q4/2020).

2.2.2 Continue the EASO support in the delivery of the THB national training roll-out sessions targeting first line responders from the relevant national hotlines on THB, human rights and women and children (Q1-Q2/2021);







2.2.3	EASO support in the delivery of the THB national training roll	l-out
	sessions targeting the Prosecutor's Office and specialized jud	dges
	(Q3/2021 – Q1/2022);	

2.2.4 Delivery of EASO expertise to MFA/NCCPIM-TIP on THB and the link with international protection/asylum through technical advice/support (based on EG needs, TBC) (Q4/2021 – Q3/2022).

Synergies

In cooperation with the **EU Delegation in Cairo**, synergies will be explored with EU MS and with other donors and relevant stakeholders engaged in Egypt.

<u>In particular, on Output 2.1, EASO will seek the following synergies:</u>

Coordination with UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF on relevant, concrete activities will be sought to avoid duplication and foster synergies.

EASO will seek synergies on Output 2.2with the following actors:

Synergies will be sought with UNODC⁴, in light of their ongoing support to relevant national stakeholders, including but not limited to police officers, prosecutors and judges in order to strengthen national capacity to identify potential victims of human trafficking as well as investigate, prosecute and adjudicate crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling⁵.

In light of IOM support to the NCCPIM-TIP⁶ on combating and preventing trafficking in persons and building capacities of relevant government officials and other target groups, as well as raising awareness on the risk and dangers of becoming victim to trafficking, synergies on relevant capacity building activities in this area will be sought.

EASO regional pilot project with priority countries: synergies to be identified with respect to topics and capacity building modalities.

⁴ The EUTF is supporting an ongoing regional project implemented by UNODC, including an Egypt component, called "Dismantling the Criminal Networks Operating in North Africa and Involved in Migrant Smuggling and Human Trafficking" (2019 – 2022).

⁵ This will be done as part of UNODC ongoing projects in Egypt including the EUTF funded 'Dismantling Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Criminal Networks in North Africa'.

⁶ The EU has partnered with IOM on the "Action to Support the National Coordinating Committee on Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons and Other Entities to Create a Safe and Secure Environment in Egypt" (2014-2018), which may be followed up by a phase II to be signed in 2020