

CONCORD AidWatch Briefing Paper

Migration in the EU NDICI

Call for consultant

February 2021

Introduction

In the framework of its work on EU Official Development Assistance trends, CONCORD Europe, the European Confederation of Development and Relief NGOs, is launching a call for external consultants. As CONCORD leads the work of civil society on the quantity and quality of European ODA, the AidWatch briefing paper about migration in the EU Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) aims to inform coordinated EU advocacy work and to influence policy makers.

Timeline

The work should be carried out between February and April 2021, when the briefing paper should be released.

Job description

The main tasks of the work would consist in:

- Conducting desk research, interviews and focal groups with CONCORD and other EU aid experts on a structured basis (webinars) on the topics of the briefing paper;
- Drafting and finalising the briefing paper, including graphs and tables and incorporating comments from the consultation process with CONCORD members and Secretariat.

Report content and format

Background

Migration is one of the 5 European Commission's geopolitical priorities in its external action. The EU is about to roll out a new instrument for development cooperation for the next 7 years, the NDICI. The agreement behind it is that the NDICI contains a 10% allocation for migration-related actions. A form of conditionality (called 'flexible incitative approach') could apply to the migration-related actions, but not necessarily to the ODA, which is kept at 93% of the instrument. Some NDICI portions will not necessarily be DAC compliant. The details of the final agreement are still to be released publicly.

Conditionality on migration remains a controversial discussion, high on the EU political agenda. Horse-trading development assistance sends a very bad signal: peoples' lives are less important than EU migration objectives. A clear risk of migration policy conditionality on ODA is to fail to respect partner country ownership or, indeed, a new approach based on partnership. Rather it will divert ODA from its genuine goal - to reduce poverty - and from the people and countries in most need. A people-centred and human rights-based approach must guide EU external actions. Therefore CONCORD would like to produce a 4/5 pager analysis of the NDICI migration benchmark.

Objectives

As an advocacy objective, the analysis aims to influence how the NDICI migration allocation (10%) can be implemented to ensure that development effectiveness principles and the ODA definition are respected, and that migration related activities will do no harm to people. This analysis can feed into the broader discussion about criteria for the use of aid for migration-related activities - which is happening at the OECD level too. Ideally, the analysis will also be part of CONCORD's reaction to the DAC 2020 preliminary statistics release and feed into the planned OECD DAC review of members' use of the reporting code for Facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration.

With evidence and data, part of the narrative of the briefing paper will aim to suggest how, in practice, the EU should go about the implementation of the share of the NDICI budget earmarked for migration-related activities. By doing so, the analysis aims to counteract the current EU discourse which sometimes borders on anti-migrant rhetoric and counterfactual assumptions about the links between migration and ODA.

Format (including other products, such as a webinar)

We want to have a handy, short and accessible analysis about ODA conditionality on migration in the NDICI, of 4-5 pages maximum. It will be structured as follows (CONCORD's members are gathering additional ideas):

- Introduction/Background: which will explain where we are at with migration policy conditionality on ODA & the migration allocation in the NDICI. This part will be brief and complemented by footnotes and references.
- Main analysis: which will be built on a main guiding question "What kinds of migration-related development funding is consistent with...?":
 - *Respect of the legal basis of the EU external action*: this part will look at what EU Treaties and NDICI regulation say about EU development aid.
 - *Respect for human rights and promotion of people's well-being*: this part will bring together positive examples of migration management projects & negative ones (a few case studies, but also references, sources).
 - *Respect of the rules agreed in the OECD DAC*: which will gather info on what DAC rules allow and will contribute to define our advocacy for the EU NDICI monitoring system which will be set up over the upcoming months.
 - *Respect for international principles for effective development*: this part will highlight how aid cannot function as a 'tool' for EU internal policy on migration objectives.
- Recommendations: with targeted messages for the European Commission, EUDs, NGOs/CSOs.

Methodology

One of the aims of this paper is to be evidence-based. Some tools to carry out an evidence-based analysis could be:

- through drawing an analysis of the final NDICI regulation, its objectives and about migration policy conditionality.

- through ODA approaches to tracking: following the OECD/DAC markers on one hand and influencing the future EC tracking system on the other one (see NDICI recital 30).
- since we'd like to bring stories of what migration-related activities can be supported with ODA, gathering types of actions that EU donors can do (see NDICI article 8.7). In this framework, EU-funded projects on migrations implemented by CONCORD members and partners could be presented.
- gathering facts from compilation and analysis of the 2018 and 2019 ODA data on the DAC reporting code for migration.

More inputs have been gathered by CONCORD members and will be shared with the consultant upon the final selection.

Candidate profile

Successful candidates for this offer will respond as much as possible to the following profile:
Essential:

- Experience of quantitative and qualitative data analysis (including use of OECD databases preferably).
- Excellent English writing and editing skills; ability to write about complex issues in an engaging way.
- Excellent knowledge of EU Development Cooperation issues.
- Very good understanding and knowledge of the aid/development effectiveness agenda.
- Very good knowledge of migration policy, practices and challenges.
- Experience of coordinating and managing networks or multiple stakeholders would be an advantage.

Desirable:

- Experience of working in the NGOs environment, with complex multicultural networks and under pressure.
- Some experience in communication.

Application process

To apply for this post, please send:

- your CV outlining your relevant expertise to meet this assignment (1 page max);
- your proposal on how you will undertake this research, including a suggested number of days and their distribution between the different tasks and phases of the work and your day rate (2 pages max).

Please submit this to Riccardo Roba (riccardo.roba@concordeurope.org) and Celia Cranfield (celia.cranfield@concordeurope.org) by 19 February at midnight cob.¹ Interviews are planned to take place in the week of 22 February.

Budget

The maximum budget available for this assignment is 6,800.00 EUR, including VAT. For any additional information, don't hesitate to contact Riccardo at his email address riccardo.roba@concordeurope.org before the deadline.

¹ The call was launched publicly on CONCORD website on 8/02/2021 (available until 19/02/2021 end of the day) at the following link:

<https://concordeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Call-for-consultant-of-CONCORD-AW-Report-2020.pdf>

