



AFRICA E MIGRAZIONI

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“ADDRESSING MIGRATION DRIVERS IN AFDB’S CO-DEVELOPMENT APPROACH ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION.

INVESTING IN ROOT-CAUSE SOLUTIONS: JOB CREATION, FOOD SECURITY, AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AS TOOLS FOR LONG-TERM REGIONAL RESILIENCE”

Introduction - Development challenges and root-cause solutions in the context of migration policy

Migration dynamics along the routes towards the Mediterranean region comprising West and North African countries stem from a multifaceted array of intertwined structural socio-economic, political and environmental factors. The Mediterranean area has therefore become the subject of a critical focus in the international economic

framework, shaped by persistent development challenges such as youth unemployment, food insecurity, economic stagnation, demographic pressures, and political instability in North African and Sahelian states.¹

Instead of exclusively focusing on the symptoms connected to migration phenomena, this analysis aims at addressing their underlying drivers, in order to underscore the tangled tracery of root causes which give rise to migration. In response, development actors such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) have started to adopt integrated strategies in order to shape newfangled root-cause solutions through long-term, targeted and context-specific investments.

This paper critically explores the AfDB's co-development-oriented approach to migration dynamics in the Mediterranean region, focusing on key pillars that foster sustainable development and regional resilience: job creation, food security, and youth empowerment.

Within the broader discourse on harmonising international migration with economic development strategies, the main drivers and development challenges leading to migration in the region will be examined, and root-cause solutions will be assessed as foundational components of a comprehensive migration policy framework.

Chapter I - Migration drivers and regional integration in the Mediterranean Region - *Eco-socio-political drivers: the economic necessity of immigration for Europe*

Migration-driven influxes result steadily more vital to settle Europe's long-term stability and growth, due to the convergence of labor market demands, demographic shifts, and interconnected challenges.

Contemporary labour market trends clearly indicate that European labour force dynamics face heavy mismatches between local labor supply and industry needs in key sectors, producing unfilled vacancies.² Concurrently, migrant actors are capable of responding to labor shortages in strategic sectors since they act as additional economic players, injecting dynamism into stagnant industries by contributing to start-ups and SMEs³, and increasing domestic demand by consuming goods and services in support of local businesses. Moreover, technical training programs, merit-based scholarships, exchange programs allow receiving countries to internally foster supplementary, diversified, and high-level employable skills.

The demographic reality of contemporary history bluntly shows that the majority of European countries depends upon aging populations, rising median ages, and birth rates falling below replacement levels: this picture depicts a shrinking workforce and straining pension systems.⁴ In response, a transformative demographic renewal would be generated by receiving immigrant people, who would convert diversity into strength: second-generation societies foster adaptability, multiculturalism, innovation, competitiveness, integration and demographic rejuvenation. Indeed, whereas Europe is confronted with declining labor force and aging population, the African continent is undergoing demographic expansion and youth joblessness rates: Africa's youthful population⁵ faces a stark employment gap driving economic discontent and migration pressures, which represent a strategic opportunity for Europe's economic sustainability in the long run. Moreover, remittances⁶ from diaspora communities represent a critical

¹ Youth unemployment rates in southern Mediterranean countries remain exceptionally high, counting young tertiary-educated individuals in nations like Egypt and Tunisia experiencing greater joblessness than their less-educated peers.

² Source: https://www.ilo.org/sites/default/files/2024-05/wp115_web.pdf (last opened: 11/08/25).

³ Small and Medium Enterprises.

⁴ Source: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Population_structure_and_ageing (last opened: 10/08/25).

⁵ Over 60% of Africa's population is under the age of 25, and approximately 10 to 12 million young people enter the labor market each year. Despite this, only three million formal jobs are generated annually, resulting in great youth unemployment rates.

⁶ Remittances to West African countries exceed 5% of GDP, notably in Nigeria and Senegal, contributing through knowledge transfer, economic investments, and remittance-backed spending on education and health in origin communities. Source: <https://www.iom.int/news/new-report-iom-migration-west-and-north-africa-and-across-mediterranean> (last opened: 11/08/25).

financial lifeline for African households, contributing to poverty reduction, resilience and investments in social services.

Depending on a steady influx of labor to maintain productivity and fund pension systems, Europe is desperately in need of young foreign workers to offset the outcomes of the current demographic downturn.⁷

Now that we have underscored some examples of the strategic benefits of immigration for Europe's future, its root causes need to be brought to the forefront in order to address all the nuances of the correlation. The main drivers of intercontinental migration, prominently from West African, North African and Sahelian countries, may be found in poverty, lack of opportunities, political instability, or climate change, especially in crisis-driven or emergency-prone settings, whether or not migration is forced. Conflict, persecution, corruption, poverty, food insecurity are major push factors for people to leave and emigrate from their origin countries. In order to address these types of challenges, root-causes solutions include bolstering conflict resolution processes and peacebuilding initiatives, by supporting democratic transitions for local governance actors through anticorruption practices. International actors as UNHCR⁸, AU⁹, EEAS¹⁰ should work towards this goal to ensure efficient rule of law and human rights protection as guarantees for a governance reform. The lack of legal and safe migration options to move between countries, such as smuggling networks and human trafficking exploitation, serves as major impetus for forced migration.

With the aim to tackle these hurdles appropriately, root-causes solutions would include labor migration agreements, humanitarian visas, mobility programs, job creation programs, and local economies investments, such as the EUTF¹¹, the WB¹², the AfDB strive to do.

An additional migration driver can be recognised in displacement causes due to climate change and environmental maladaptation. Notably, Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and Sahel are among the world's most climate-impacted and disaster-prone regions, enduring intensifying climate-induced water stress and desertification.¹³ These environmental shifts heavily weaken agricultural productivity, that still remains the primary employment source in the majority of African economies, inducing economic despair and catalysing food insecurity, namely forced migration.¹⁴ Climate resilience, disaster risk reduction measures and early warning systems, as well as investments in sustainable land use and reforestation are some of the root-cause solutions to face these challenges in support of environmental adaptation.

Notwithstanding integration hurdles due to language barriers, education asymmetries, housing hindrances, as well as deceitful public perceptions, these challenges can be levelled off through coordinated migration policies and efficient integration programs.

⁷ The European Commission assesses that the EU will need at least among 50 and 60 million workers to balance the demographic shrinkage consequences. Source: https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/Demography_report_2022_0.pdf (last opened: 12/08/25).

⁸ United Nations High Commission for Refugee.

⁹ African Union.

¹⁰ European External Action Service.

¹¹ EU Trust Fund for Africa.

¹² World Bank.

¹³ Africa recorded over 7.4 million new internal displacements due to disasters in 2022 (notably in the Horn of Africa), disproportionately affecting rural, climate-dependent populations and contributing to significant internal migration and poverty exacerbation. Source: [environmentalmigration.iom.int](https://www.environmentalmigration.iom.int), <https://www.scribd.com/document/734036901/Pub2023-132-r-lom-Au-Africa-Migration-Report-Second-Edition-3?utm> (last opened: 13/08/25).

¹⁴ As laid out in the WB's Groundswell report, up to 86 million of African people could become internally displaced due to climate change by 2050 if no action is taken. Source: World Bank, Open Knowledge Repository, Home, 12 Working Papers, Other Papers, Publication Groundswell Report: Acting on Internal Climate Migration, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/2c9150df-52c3-58ed-9075-d78ea56c3267> (last opened: 12/08/25).

Indeed, regional cooperation such as the EU-Africa partnership frameworks or the Rabat and Khartoum processes, joint development initiatives and regional economic communities like ECOWAS¹⁵ could forge a coordinated response to transnational migration phenomena.

The AfDB, acknowledging that political instability functions both as driver and result of underdevelopment, promotes regional development strategies aimed at advancing regional cooperation, economic growth, institution-building, and governance reform, letting people choose whether they want to migrate rather than feeling obliged to. Focusing on migration as a structural feature of the interdependent socio-economic systems between Africa and Europe, AfDB initiatives highlight a holistic and forward-looking policy frame: its approach in the Mediterranean region is centered on long-term regional stability investments, pushing for a model of strategic co-development, where both continents benefit from the mutual interests of an equitable pathway for migration flows' management. And this is why economic immigration for Europe does not represent a stopgap measure nor a crisis to be averted, but rather a strategic necessity for its future population in order to uphold strategic competitiveness, economic upturn, demographic stability, and sound governance.

The European-African Compact for Migration: framing bilateral cooperation

In light of migration pressures in the Mediterranean area following the 2015 crisis, the European-African Compact for Migration¹⁶ was envisioned as a framework to design collaborative solutions with the African countries themselves. Indeed, for the first time, this framework of initiatives, sets of rules, and multilateral agreements marked a potential evolutionary leap forward towards cooperation in managing migration dynamics, striving to mutually address root causes by supporting development endeavours in the same countries of origin.

The Compact was formally adopted in 2016 during the Valletta Summit on Migration, an occasion during which the migration-development nexus was finally put into practice, thanks to the integration of migration policies with development goals in an unprecedented move.

It marked a shift from a unilateral and exclusively border-focused approach to a cooperative framework, embedding border management with investments in development. The Compact was structured around three main pillars: reducing irregular migration and combating human trafficking; enhancing legal migration and mobility; investing in development and addressing root causes. It clearly states that enforcement activities such as border control are inadequate if operating alone, and that it is necessary to cope with the eco-socio-political drivers of irregular migration. In order to reduce the irregularity of uncontrollable inflows towards Europe, it is also imperative to build legal channels to enable people to move freely and lawfully across different continents. Tackling the root causes of migration implies promoting African-led development initiatives in order to steer economic opportunities and bolster local empowerment.

Regrettably, notwithstanding the positive steps this paradigm shift has undertaken, it has fallen short in delivering substantial results regarding implementation and equity: in spite of engaging with sustainable partnerships that address migration drivers, Europe centred on deterrence and short-term measures aimed at restraining the flow of immigrants. The majority of criticisms emphasizes the prioritization of enforcement measures over engagement actions on behalf of the EU member states, often securitising national concerns over human rights, social development and equitable partnerships to the detriment of African local economies. Critics predominantly denounce the EU's externalization practices of shifting border control responsibilities onto African countries, producing the effect of undermining African sovereignty, restricting mobility, raising concerns over EU complicity in inhumane abuses and illegal exploitation of migrant people who remain stuck in transit, as notably seen in the

¹⁵ Economic Community of West African States.

¹⁶ Hereafter, the 'Compact'.

cases of migrant camps in Libya.¹⁷ The practice of outsourcing border management not only does not provide root-cause solutions, but rather contributes to destabilising local economies and reduces African states to border enforcers, instead of making them equal partners. It follows that, regardless of its initial progressive nature, the lack of forward-thinking solutions on human development and legal pathways fails to endorse migration as being an ongoing, transformative and dynamic process, inextricably interwoven with developmental change.

With respect to this, the AfDB appears to be a pivotal actor within the African economic landscape in promoting policy coherence and inclusivity-oriented development, aligning political frameworks with pragmatic outcomes. Indeed, the AfDB stands out as the implementation arm of the Compact by operationalizing its objectives into tangible actions through investments in food security, job creation and youth empowerment, which advance climate adaptation, economic diversification and developmental change.¹⁸ Framing the European–African cooperation as a shared responsibility, the AfDB's co-development approach aims at converting migration from survival tactic into independent choice. For the purpose of reshaping migration from a challenge into a regional stability stimulus, a new compact grounded in the interdependence between security and development is needed in order to move from mere border control towards long-term socio-developmental changes, within a mutually beneficial outline. In the effort to address the root causes of migration, the interests of populations in both African and European countries must be aligned and prioritised while pursuing pragmatic common ground, through education, technology and infrastructure-based investments.

Chapter II - AfDB's co-development approach through infrastructure investments - *Overview of AfDB's focus: transport, energy, urban development*

The Mediterranean region turns out to be an intricate chessboard where geopolitical, socioeconomic and environmental factors interact as players in a tangled game. Heterogeneity in demographic, labour, and market trends shapes several governance issues among the diverse countries bordering this area. As a result, regional integration appears limited and fragmented, posing seemingly never-ending challenges to economic development for all actors involved.

With the aim of overcoming this deadlock, the AfDB plays a pivotal role in financing projects that improve connectivity across the region, removing physical and institutional bottlenecks on intra-regional trade, agricultural value chains and labour mobility. Indeed, connectivity acts as a key enabler for promoting more equitable access to local markets, diversifying income sources, increasing food security, stimulating job creation, hence providing root-causes solutions to migration pressures: it encompasses investments in urban development acceleration, transport, digital technology and energy networks.

Investing in railways, ports, roads, highways, logistics infrastructure projects leads to cross-border trade facilitation, better access to education and health services, lighter moving costs, as well as direct employment opportunities and regional integration, reducing exposure to life-threatening conditions. With a significant part of the African population lacking reliable access to electricity, funding energy and digital infrastructure enables industry growth, supply reliability, technological advancement, agribusiness processing, and entrepreneurship through broadband, mobile networks, power generation projects, skill development, besides empowering rural communities to participate in climate-resilient economic systems.

Supplying financial resources to promote sustainable urban development plans is imperative in a continent where

¹⁷ Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/eu-africa-migration-policy-shift-cooperation-or-coersion/a-73345169> (last opened: 13/08/25).

¹⁸The AfDB strategy 'Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy' (2016–2025) seeks to generate 25 million jobs and train 50 million youth people through investments in SMEs, agribusiness, ICT skills. Thanks also to instruments as the 'Youth Marker', the AfDB aims to incorporate youth-impact outcomes as a whole.

demographic projections forecast that urban residents are expected to increase by up to half a billion by 2035¹⁹. Managing rapid urbanisation through housing, water, sanitation policies and an urban development-based agenda will be strategic to handle these demographic shifts.

Therefore, the AfDB's main focus in addressing migration root-causes in the Mediterranean area lies in massive investments in those sectors which actively contribute to enhancing regional integration frameworks, as done by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Within the framework of the envisioned co-development approach, the Bank intends to address structural constraints and foster an inclusive and sustainable environment, where economies are capable of relying on long-term resilience by absorbing demographic pressures while still providing employment opportunities for the youth.

Global Gateway strategy in Africa: investing in job creation, food security, youth empowerment, and private sector development

In line with the AfDB development priorities aimed at reinforcing a resilient and inclusive economy-based approach, the Global Gateway strategy in Africa seems properly aligned with this goal.

It was officially launched in 2021 as a comprehensive strategy of the European Commission aimed at boosting secure, clean and smart connections in transport, energy and digital sectors. It is often compared to the China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) launched in 2013 by the Chinese government, as both have been envisioned as large-scale international investment strategies; though, unlike it, the European one adopts more sustainable finance models mixing grants, loans and private investments to fund the projects. The aim is to avoid debt dependency in poorer countries by ensuring high levels of transparency and accountability, imposing EU regulations, and securing a value-based partnership approach. The implementation rollout may be slower than BRI's railways built through Chinese state loans, but the final European target should look at establishing sustainable, governance-focused and equal partnerships. The strategy intends to mobilise up to €300 billions for the global budget by 2027, 150 billion of which are committed to being invested in Africa in the following sectors: green energy transition, digital transformation, transport networks, health systems, human capital development. By strengthening ties with African countries with the goal to contribute to reducing their infrastructure deficits, the Global Gateway recognises that infrastructure investments alone are insufficient, and that they must be combined with socio-economic policies generating employment and development change through equal partnerships with local actors. Within this framework, the AfDB has sped up numerous investment operations in projects supporting skill development, entrepreneurship, formal jobs and learning mobility, as the Youth Mobility Flagship programs²⁰ and the most recent Liberian Youth Entrepreneurship and Investment Bank project.²¹

Moreover, the AfDB rounds out the European strategy's investments in agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation systems and storage facilities, by funding climate-smart agroprocessing groundworks which will be able to increase productivity, enable value addition, and strengthen value chains, as highlighted in AfDB's Feed Strategy.²² Further to this, the European strategy places strong emphasis on the importance of mobilizing private capital through blended finance and public-private partnerships to scale up infrastructure projects, in order to overcome potential financial gaps that would jeopardise the success of the assets invested. Private sector-led growth is indeed fostered thanks to AfDB's role in providing technical assistance, risk mitigation and policy support for private enterprises.

¹⁹ Source: <https://gga.org/defining-the-future-of-africas-brave-new-world-2> (last opened: 16/08/25).

²⁰ Source: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/global-gateway/youth-mobility-africa_en (last opened: 16/08/25).

²¹ Liberia became the first country to launch an AfDB initiative and it is expected to finance 30,000 youth-led businesses, create 120,000 direct and indirect jobs, contribute \$80 million to government revenues through taxes, and unlock up to \$500 million in additional lending to youth-owned businesses across the country. Source: <https://afdb.africa-newsroom.com/press/hope-for-liberias-youth-as-country-pioneers-african-development-bank-financed-youth-entrepreneurship-investment-bank?lang=en> (last opened: 16/08/25).

²² AfDB. "Feed Africa: strategy for agricultural transformation in Africa 2016-2025".

The economic cooperation among the two continents may be demonstrated through the Gateway strategy in Africa by providing an integrated architecture which is able to tackle development challenges through inclusive, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure investments. This serves to demonstrate the transformative role of infrastructure much beyond facilitating connectivity, rather acting as key enabler of socio-economic change.

Chapter III - Challenges in blended finance and multi-stakeholder cooperation

Addressing complex challenges through a coordinated effort may be favourable in terms of outcomes, but it surely represents a challenge itself in reconciling differing willpowers, interests, profits and gains. Blended finance models and multi-stakeholder cooperation have now turned into pivotal elements in the AfDB strategy for mobilising private and public resources in sustainable development-related projects in Africa. All the infrastructure initiatives that have been mentioned here above, specifically those encompassing renewable energy, climate-resilient solutions and urban sustainability, imply long payback timeframes, heavy capital costs and discouraging perceptions, as African markets often suffer from regulatory uncertainties, informational asymmetries and investment hesitancy due to unreliable institutional actors.²³ Recognising the limitations of public funding, the AfDB has progressively adopted blended finance tools to leverage private investments in conjunction with public contributions.

In particular, blended finance mechanisms represent a strategic application of development finance to catalyse investments coming from the private sector as well, in order to tackle financing gaps and investment risks, by providing such instruments as equity investments, risk-sharing facilities, partial credit guarantees, concessional loans and first-loss capital. For instance, the AfDB has recently engaged with green bonds and climate investment funds with the aim of channelling more resources for climate adaptation projects, foster local capital markets' development, and generate positive socio-economic impact.²⁴

Besides, the blended finance-funded projects of the AfDB have contributed²⁵ to advancing capacity building within project developers and other financial institutions, enhancing ESG²⁶ best practices.

Notwithstanding, these financial tools also pose some setbacks: considering the necessity for steady regulatory frames, the risk of misalignment between development goals and investors' profit motives, upfront costs due to due diligence, transaction advisory services, and the heterogeneity in return expectations, timelines or risk appetites, the AfDB's strategy developed the capability to provide financial engineering and negotiation solutions to balance the interests of diverse actors and enable the scalability of blended finance solutions.

In combination with these tools, the AfDB also adopts multistakeholder cooperation as a method to combine and align operational modalities and strategic priorities among diversified actors such as intergovernmental banks, governments, private investors and civil-society organisations to ease decision-making processes, simplify the efforts and avoid inefficiencies. Political dynamics, transparency and divergences in regulations pose the risk of negatively impacting commitment levels and project consistency. It follows that both blended finance and multistakeholder cooperation mechanisms in financing sustainable infrastructure investments need to balance the nuanced interplay between maximising financial returns and profitability with socio-environmental obligations.

²³ European Investment Bank (EIB). "Finance in Africa. Uncertain times, resilient banks: African finance at a crossroads", 2023. Source: https://www.eib.org/attachments/lucalli/20230088_finance_in_africa_en.pdf (last opened: 16/08/25).

²⁴ Source: <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/climate-related-funds-and-initiatives-african-development-bank> (last opened 19/08/25).

²⁵ Source: <https://afdb.africa-newsroom.com/press/african-development-bank-group-commits-40-million-to-catalyze-the-alliance-for-green-infrastructure-project-development-fund?lang=en> (last opened: 21/08/25).

²⁶ ESG stands for Environmental and Social Governance.

The AfDB started to fine-tune its frameworks by ensuring robust criteria compliance implying constant monitoring, accountability, capacity building and stakeholder engagement in line with the SDGs²⁷. Its main focus in adopting these finance tools shifted towards a steady strengthening of partnerships with parallel MDBs²⁸, national governments, and private investors. It seemed therefore necessary for the AfDB to enhance international cooperation through resource mobilisation and policy harmonisation, in order to scale and incorporate blended finance into a systematic infrastructure strategy, and in order to optimise the final impact on long-term regional resilience.

Final remarks - *AfDB interventions' assessment in addressing root causes of migration*

This paper is intended to critically examine the AfDB's co-development-oriented strategy to tackle the underlying causes of migration in the Mediterranean region, evaluating how its investments in economic inclusion and human capital can foster resilience and address migration drivers over the long term. Rather than relying on reactive responses, it has been shown how the AfDB continues to enhance long-term investments in job creation, food security, youth initiatives aimed at generating sustainable economic opportunities and regional resilience over the Mediterranean area. This co-development-led approach truly aims at fostering greater stability and shared prosperity across the Mediterranean region; however, can these interventions be considered effective in addressing root causes of migration?

What follows is a synthesis of the key findings built upon comprehensive evaluations of the AfDB's undertakings to address transboundary migration phenomena by targeting their main drivers.

Within the Mediterranean setting, the AfDB encounters a complex landscape that offers both significant challenges and prospects to shape the Bank's capacity and broaden the reach of its developmental impact. As a multilateral development bank, AfDB interventions targeting the underlying drivers of migration continue to prove that long-term sustainable infrastructure investments are able to significantly reduce migration pressures, when combined with economic empowerment, food security, youth inclusion and regional cooperation initiatives. Long-term resilience is indeed built upon multi-sectoral and integrated strategies including continued evaluation and adaptation measures and not merely upon short-term responses.

Drawing from the Bank's co-development approach, it follows that the promotion of an integrated development model across all the countries of Africa was indeed spurred and fostered by the pivotal role of the AfDB, implying positive regional stability in the Mediterranean basin too, standing out as the privileged arena of interconnectedness for trade, people's flows, cooperation projects and geopolitical-environmental challenges among Africa and Europe.

Surely, what remains crucial to lead economic local empowerment for African actors committed to a transformative and sustainable kind of development is the whole industry of job creation, which entails mitigating migration pressures. In this regard, the AfDB-funded infrastructure initiatives in energy, transport and urban development sectors have proven to be key stimulators for local economies to access emerging markets, reduce costs, enable new industrial operations and enhance the agricultural productivity processes. It has to be also said that the outcomes drawn from job creation range from the design to the scale of the projects and depend on how well integrated they prove to be with structural economic policies. On this point, AfDB's focus on human capital and youth empowerment that have been enabled by the above-mentioned examples, besides the finance access models and the ever-increasing digitisation of employment sectors, was able to produce promising outcomes in enhancing social cohesion when involving young people in the planning stages, allowing younger generations to build a new employable social fabric and community structure which is willing to grow skills in the origin countries.

²⁷ SDGs stands for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, established in 2015 by the UN as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They aim to address environmental, social, and economic challenges worldwide.

²⁸ Multilateral Development Banks, as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank (WB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Furthermore, as climate change and environmental degradation have been signalled as critical migration drivers, the whole frame of the AfDB initiatives to counter them has demonstrated to bolster a whole new sector based on smart farming, smart agriculture and water management supported by artificial intelligence. The Bank's investments in this sector indicate that by reducing climate change-driven vulnerability and minimising displacement triggered by resource scarcity, it is operationally possible to improve food availability and stabilise rural outcomes. It strengthens communities' capability to cope with environmental stressors known as being major push migration factors. As people flows leading to migration are transboundary phenomena, regional cooperation turns out to be vital in bridging infrastructure corridors and harmonised policies through states which are culturally and economically diversified. The AfDB importance has proven important in playing a strategic role in generating broader opportunities, enhancing connectivity among people, resources and geographies, spurring migration pressures' reduction in source communities through multi-sectoral strategies and social programs.

As every critical analysis demands, it is due to highlight the persisting challenges and the unfulfilled objectives, as well. The unpredictability of political and conflict-driven instability nurture effective limitations in financial resources, complex governance issues and uneven institutional capacities, which demand imperative steadfastness in monitoring and impact evaluation frameworks, in order to grasp all the evolutions and gauge the adaptation of the programming stages.

These challenges highlight the necessity of blended finance mechanisms and enhanced international cooperation capacities, in order to amplify the AfDB's position in bolstering regional stability over the Mediterranean basin. Adaptive management and ongoing evaluation offer promising pathways for the Bank's integrated co-development approach to address the multifaceted root causes of migration: it is a convening financier institution that turned out to be effectively able to mobilise partnerships, bridge continental asymmetries, nurture shared prosperity, and equip diversified economies to withstand external shocks, social disruptions, and spillover effects. This multidimensional approach should though imply a proactive, equitable and non-exploitative dialogue between institutions and civil society actors to foster locally driven development and unlock opportunities for inclusive and sustainable progress. This means moving beyond traditional paradigms and embracing a non-predatory approach, one that prioritizes local leadership, ownership, and empowerment.

Our shared goal as a truly proactive international community should be supporting the synergies among the private sector engagement and all those co-development projects that generate mutual value, while strengthening African agency and self-determination.

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