EVALUATION BRIEF

15 March 2022

MID-TERM INTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT "COUNTER-TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACTIVITY, C-TIP" IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

This evaluation brief presents a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as identified by the evaluator(s) for use by key stakeholders, including internally by IOM staff and externally by project partners. More details can be found in the full evaluation report.

Evaluation type: Internal independent mid-term evaluation

Evaluator(s): Alem Brook Makonnen, Senior Regional Specialist for Protection and Assistance, RO Pretoria

Field visit dates: 05-11 February 2022

Final report date: 15 March 2022

Commissioned by: IOM Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Managed by: Hyewon YI, Project Manager

Evaluation purpose: To apply learning and recommendations during the months remaining in the implementation period, as well as in future similar projects. The evaluation will also be shared with project partners.

Evaluation criteria: Five OECD-DAC criteria, i.e.., Relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability.

Evaluation methodology: Document review, review of monitoring data; semi-structured key informant interviews with a diverse range of stakeholders representing all project components: IOM staff, consultants and implementing partners; national officials, staff working in shelters, beneficiaries, donor.

PROJECT SUMMARY

With the USAID funded C-TIP project, IOM DRC aims **to promote a more coordinated and effective national response to combat TiP**. The APLTP as one of the project's main beneficiaries, is the main state structure responsible for TiP prevention, sensitization about TiP, identification and prosecution of perpetrators and victim protection and assistance.

The **outcomes** are increased investigation and prosecution of traffickers, increased capacity of the new Agency to fulfill its mandate and increased protection for victims of trafficking.

All three outcomes should be reached through strong partnership between IOM, State anti-trafficking actors and civil society.

According to the Fixed Amount Agreement signed between USAID and IOM, a number of project milestones have been agreed upon. Accordingly, the main project activities are:

- Organize a three-day workshop to review the draft of anti-trafficking legislation with parliamentarians (Milestone 4)
- Organize a working session to update the draft anti-trafficking legislation and establish clear timeline for its adoption
- Provide IT and office equipment and supplies to the APLTP (Milestone 2)
- Organize a workshop to strengthen the

knowledge and understanding of trafficking in persons for technical members including the national agency, policy makers, lawmakers, judges, lawyers, members of parliament (Milestone 5)
- Support APLTP to update the draft Action plan
- Conduct baseline study and desk review (Milestone 7)
- Support the Agency in organizing regular meetings.

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	**Democratic Republic of the Congo**
Project type:	**Counter-trafficking**
Project code:	**PX.0184**
Gender marker:	**2a**
Project period:	**24 April 2020 - 23 April 2023**
Donor:	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Budget:	3,000,000 USD

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KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Relevance: This project overall has a very high degree of relevance related to national efforts in combating TiP.

Coherence: This project is internally coherent with IOM's other CT programming, as well as with other CT initiatives given in particular that IOM is the only international organization implementing dedicated CT programming.

Effectiveness: Overall there is effort to be made to make the project effective and to be on track to meet all of its set targets. The first outcome on increased investigation and prosecution of traffickers is in limbo pending the enactment of the anti-trafficking law. In terms of Outcome 2, communication with the APLTP needs to improve for the project to meet its target of fully supporting it and meet its coordination goals. Direct assistance to VoTs (Outcome 3) has seen significant delays. COVID-19 posed challenges and delays to assistance and reintegration services.

Efficiency: The project has shown mixed results in its efficiency in terms of the deliverables met. This is apparently due to three main factors: the impacts of COVID-19, cumbersome administrative procedures (such as the Leahy Vetting that needs to be factored in whenever training workshops are planned) and communication challenges with the APLTP. Noting this situation, IOM may face some challenges to spend fully the budget by the end of the implementation period, especially the use of funds for direct assistance to beneficiaries.

Sustainability: The project has to a certain extent promoted sustainability from its conceptualization and support to the anti-TiP agency in its coordination role through government ownership, and good level of coordination and involvement of stakeholders during design and implementation. However, sustainability is challenged by ability of the state to enact the anti-TiP law, raise standards and increase funds for direct assistance, and to take on support to reintegration piloted though this project.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Gender: The project shows evidence of strong attention to gender mainstreaming as well as to gender balance with particular attention to the needs of children VoTs, though there is room for improvement in terms of analysis of needs and results for men, women, girls and boys.

Human rights: As regards human rights, the project has clear and explicit focus on improving the respect and enjoyment of rights by VoTs, potential VoTs and migrants generally.

GOOD PRACTICES

Secondment of a technical advisor to the APLTP.

Good and regular coordination between the APLTP and other government stakeholders for smoother implementation of the project.

Supporting development of the legal and regulatory framework necessary to establish and maintain assistance to VoTs and reintegration (NRM and SoPs)

LESSONS LEARNED

IOM's ongoing support to the APLTP provides at the same time some lessons learned related to sustainability, transfer of knowledge but also the risks to sustainability as regards direct assistance to VoTs.

In terms of learning, the proposal envisaged multiple activities that may be used to help the team assess challenges and successes in implementation, changes in the context that could affect the project, and opportunities to better collaborate or influence other actors.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

IOM is recommended to:

1. Continue promoting with the government actors a high-level priority attention given to CT through regular high-level meetings.

2. Closely discuss and critically assess as to whether training (development of training curriculum on investigation and prosecution of TiP, delivery of training of trainers, development of protocols between police and prosecutors) can still be delivered based on the different laws that address TiP.

3. As regards the baseline study, given that it was supposed to inform implementation of the current project, there is a need to accelerate its finalization.

4. Review its reporting practices and identify areas where improvements may feasibly be made under this project, as well as for other ongoing and future projects.

5. Formulate and sign IP agreements with partners that provide direct assistance in coordination with the APLTP.

6. Revisit the sustainability prospects of the project.

7. Ensure that learning from the piloting phase of direct assistance component is captured and shared with all relevant partners.

8. Revisit the sustainability prospects and plans for reintegration support.

9. Integrate reflection on effectiveness of reintegration services under the project into the planned discussions on policy formulation on direct assistance.