



EVALUATION BRIEF

5 October 2022

EX- POST EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT TO STRENGTHEN LINKAGES WITH THE MAURITIAN DIASPORA”

This evaluation brief is a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations prepared by the evaluator for use by IOM Mauritius project staff and management and by the IOM Development Fund. Details on all of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations can be found in the full ex-post evaluation report.

Evaluation type:	Internal independent ex-post evaluation
Evaluator:	Laura Smith, Regional M&E Officer, IOM Regional Office in Nairobi
Evaluation visit:	1-4 August 2022
Final report:	29 August 2022

Commissioned by: IOM Mission in Mauritius and IOM Development Fund

Managed by: Céline Lemmel, Chief of Mission

Evaluation purpose: access achievement of short-term and long-term results as outlined in the project, document best practices and lessons learned, and identify how gender and human rights were embedded within the project

Evaluation criteria: Relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability

Evaluation methodology: Document review, semi-structured interviews, and questionnaire

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Republic of Mauritius is both a source and destination country for international migration. Since independence, the country has experienced high levels of emigration with sizable diaspora communities in the United Kingdom, France, Australia, and Canada. However, data on the size of these populations and their skills, aspirations, and needs remained unclear. This fact was emphasized in IOM's *Migration in Mauritius: A Country Profile 2013* as well as in the Government of Mauritius' *Migration and Development Policy*. There are great opportunities of leveraging diaspora communities for development in Mauritius.

It is in this context that the IOM Mauritius Country Office proposed the project “Building the Capacity of the Mauritian Government to Strengthen Linkages with the Mauritian Diaspora”. Receiving funds from the IOM Development Fund, the project sought to build the capacity of the Mauritius Government to strengthen ties with the Mauritius diaspora and to leverage diaspora contributions to the development of Mauritius through both social and economic pathways.

Building the Capacity of the Mauritian Government to Strengthen Linkages with the Mauritian Diaspora

Geographical coverage:	Mauritius
Project type:	Community & Economic Development
Project code:	CD.0002
Project period:	01 Nov 2018—31 Aug 2021
Donor:	IOM Development Fund
Budget:	USD 200,000

The project objective was to contribute to increased diaspora contribution to the social and economic development of Mauritius. The project aimed to work towards realization of this objective, through the following outcomes:

- 1.Coordinated and structured diaspora engagement mechanism are created to promote increased Mauritian diaspora engagement
- 2.The Government of Mauritius' diaspora engagement is informed by accurate and up to date data and evidence

KEY FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

This project was highly *relevant*. Before the 'Building Capacity of the Mauritian Government to Strengthen the Linkages with the Mauritian Diaspora' project, diaspora engagement was part of the Mauritian Migration and Development Policy; however, there was little formal engagement with the diaspora aside from formal requests. This helped create new platforms for engagement with the Mauritian Diaspora and it has been well received by government stakeholders in particular. It is evident that the Mauritian diaspora also want to engage in the development of Mauritius through various mediums.

Overall, this project was *effective*. All but one outcome indicator and one output indicator were achieved during this project, as such the quantity of produced results mostly matched with the approved results matrix. The quality of the results was notably higher than anticipated largely due to the above-and-beyond work of both members of the IOM project team and the consultants hired under this project.

The project was mostly *efficient*. Overall, the project results show value for money in terms of the products produced. IOM project staff and the consultants produced more than expected under this project which in term produced higher quality outputs under a lower budget. Instead of the original 18 months envisioned, this project lasted 34 months largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and high turnover amongst staff in the government.

There is sound, early evidence of *impact* in which long-term outcome and objective level changes will occur. The objective level indicator was achieved, and two of the three outcome indicators achieved. Until the National Action Plan is validated progress towards long-term changes will be stalled.

This project is moderately *sustainable*. There were two mechanisms and two products developed under this project. Out of these, one product and one mechanism are still utilized: mapping report and the technical working group. The key product, the National Action Plan, once approved will improve the project sustainability.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for IOM Mauritius

1. IOM Mauritius to prioritize the validation and ultimately implementation of the National Action in terms of advocacy with the various ministries but also in searching for external funding opportunities to support the implementation.
2. IOM Mauritius to continue to keep the feedback loops open via email, social media and other platforms with the Mauritian Diaspora. This could also include continuing to serve as the organizer for the Diaspora Dialogue series in order to not lose engagement.
3. IOM Mauritius, in future projects, to consider creating information/orientation packages for new focal points in technical working groups. This anticipation of turnover could help in onboarding new focal points.
4. IOM Mauritius, in future projects, to draft a theory of change to better communicate the project's pathways of change as well as help identify gaps in the results matrix.
5. IOM Regional Office for Southern Africa to organize a regional best practices session featuring IOM Mauritius engagement plan with diaspora to highlight their ability to reach members of the diaspora in distinct country contexts and link this with the Policy Exchange and Learning on Migration (POEM) platform.