

PROJECT EVALUATION LEARNING BRIEF

This learning brief is a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations prepared by the evaluator for use by IOM South Sudan 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 evaluation report.

Evaluation type:	Internal independent final evaluation
Evaluator:	Laura Smith, Associate M&E Officer, IOM Regional Office in Nairobi
Evaluation visit:	13-15 December 2021

Final report: 4 February 2022

Commissioned by: IOM Mission in South Sudan

Managed by: Fitriana Nur, Project Manager

Evaluation purpose: to assess the progress of the project towards achieving results, consider validity of the project in the current reality in South Sudan, document best practices and lessons learned, and identify any indicators of project sustainability and impact.

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

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

PROJECT SUMMARY

It is estimated that 4.7 million South Sudanese live outside the country. Around 2.5 million of these are living as refugees. Money earned abroad by diaspora members are sometimes sent back to their country of origin through remittances. South Sudan also hosts individuals who are sending remittances back to their country of origin. As such, South Sudan is both a sending and receiving country of remittances. However, since 2013, the Bank of South Sudan has not issued disaggregated data on overseas development assistance. Likewise, there is no tracking mechanism to note how remittances are being used within South Sudan. It is in this context that IOM South Sudan commissioned a study of remittance flows in the country and created a policy draft on remittances and diaspora engagement.

The overall objective of this project is that the Government of South Sudan uses policy research to further develop instruments on remittances and diasporas engagement.

In order to contribute towards this objective, the project involves two outputs:

Output 1.1 – Holistic survey undertaken, and report drafted and made available for

Enhancing Knowledge on Remittances and Diasporas Engagement

Geographical coverage:	South Sudan
Project type:	Community & Economic Development
Project code:	CD.0011
Project period:	01 Feb 2019—31 Dec 2021
Donor:	IOM Development Fund
Budget:	USD 100,000

relevant stakeholders on diaspora engagement and remittances in South Sudan, including policy recommendations to maximise the contribution of the diaspora to poverty reduction in communities of origin, especially female headed households.

Output 1.2 – gender relevant policies on remittances and diasporas engagement are drafted, diasporas are mapped out for future engagement.

These two outputs together influence the one outcome of the project, technical advisory working group utilize findings from the research to draft gender sensitive policy proposals on diaspora engagement and remittances for submission to relevant ministers.

KEY FINDINGS/CONCLUSIONS

Overall, the project activities and outputs are in line with the intended outcomes and overall objective of the project and *relevant* and timely. Gender and conflict sensitivity were embedded within the project.

However, the project was largely *effective*. The project has successfully achieved most of its output indicators and has made promising strides in achieving the outcome indicators. While the project embedded gender in the design, men and women did not equally benefit at all stages of the project. Additionally, there were some barriers to participation recorded, mainly in the diaspora research study.

Regarding *efficiency*, the project required two no-cost extensions to realize all the activities fully. These no-cost extensions can be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic and by the changes in key stakeholders and government counterparts which delayed implementation of certain activities. Overall, stakeholders involved in the evaluation believe that IOM is a trusted partner and has the capacity to implement projects on diaspora engagement and remittances.

The *impact* occurred through this project documented changes in attitude, availability of resources, and IOM-supported behavior change. Impact could be hampered by the fragility of the South Sudanese context and the lack of resources to continue work related to diaspora engagement and remittances. Impact could be maximised through the creation of a diaspora working group, improving the relationship between the diaspora and the South Sudanese government and creating a communication plan to accompany the remittances study.

While project stakeholders were overall satisfied with their level of engagement in project design and implementation, many still look to IOM to continue moving the actions forward, noting limited *sustainability*.

GOOD PRACTICES

1. Engagement of various ministries in the technical advisory working group. This was recorded to be

a success amongst members of the TAWG who reported that such collaboration is rare.

2. Engagement of the right people for specific tasks. Members of the second TAWG were specifically individuals who had policy experience and so they were able to meaningfully provide inputs and feedback.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. Assess the feasibility/appropriateness of conducting surveys at project design. The survey did not reach as many participants as initially anticipated.
2. The need for a communication plan to accompany important research publications.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for IOM South Sudan Migration Management Unit:

1. Continue sharing these findings to further leverage these topics of remittances and diaspora engagement through other projects
2. Continue encouraging various ministries to take up the recommendations in the remittances survey
3. Create a list of what minimum circumstances would need to occur for additional project phases to be successful

Recommendations for IOM senior management at the IOM South Sudan Mission

1. Consider communication/dissemination plans for any studies, especially those which involved communities of special interest
2. Conduct research feasibility assessments before commissioning large research projects
3. Continue conversations with the Bank of South Sudan regarding tracking of remittance inflows and outcomes