



EVALUATION BRIEF

Dec. 2019

FINAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO COORDINATE NATIONAL ANTI-TRAFFICKING RESPONSE, INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKING OFFENDERS IN MALI ”

This evaluation brief presents a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as identified by the evaluator 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 final evaluation
Evaluator:	Maite de Muller, Regional M&E Officer IOM Regional Office in Dakar
Field visit dates:	16-21 September 2019
Final report date:	15 December 2019
Commissioned by:	IOM Mission in Mali
Managed by:	Aminta Dicko, Project Manager

Evaluation purpose: This final evaluation is being conducted almost at the end of the project’s implementation of this 3-years project. The overall purpose is to evaluate the progress of the project with a view to achieving the objectives and expected results and to measure the changes that this project has made in terms of supporting the Government of Mali to strengthen its technical capacity.

Evaluation criteria: Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability”.

Evaluation methodology: The data collection involved document review; semi-structured key informant interviews with partners and stakeholders and a final debrief and discussion with IOM staff. Analysis relied primarily on qualitative analysis of data collected through document review (secondary data collection, desk review) and notes from semi-structured interviews (primary data collection with primary stakeholders).

PROJECT SUMMARY

The TIP situation in Mali is complex and multidimensional. Mali is a source, transit, and destination country for women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. While domestic trafficking is more prevalent than transnational trafficking, records confirm that Malian and foreign nationals including boys, men, women and girls are also subjected to various forms of exploitation and slave-like practices across borders.

This 3-years project, implementation period from October 2016 to March 2019 (extended until September 2019), intended to provide the Government of Mali (GoM) with technical assistance to strengthen the legal and operational framework for combating trafficking in persons (TIP). The project had two main objectives:

Objective 1: Institutionalize victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP case (both in instances of adult and child trafficking for the purpose of sexual and labor exploitation). The project aimed at building the capacity and ensuring measures to combat TIP, through trainings for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement agents (LEAs), through: developing training Modules, conducting the trainings and replicating them in 6 selected regions.

Objective 2: Institutionalize national TIP referral mechanisms between national authorities and service providers, including the civil society, to ensure compre-

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Mali
Project type:	Counter-trafficking
Project code:	CT.1016
Project period:	October 2016 to March 2019 (extended until September 2019)
Donor:	J/TIP
Budget:	USD 750,000

hensive support to victims of trafficking. The project aimed at:

Strengthening the capacities of the already established National Committee against TIP (NCTIP), led by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. This committee, responsible for reporting to the GoM on the implementation of the TIP National Action Plan (2015-2017) includes governmental, non-government and intergovernmental stakeholders.

The formulation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to improve services to victims of trafficking (VoTs) and to enhance cooperation between government and civil society actors.

Improve the capacity to provide adequate assistance to victims of trafficking, including two shelter refurbishment and training; and direct victim assistance.

Relevance: The project has been responsive to the complex migration and trafficking context and needs in Mali. The project was well aligned with national strategies and donor's priorities and contributed to them. The proposal was well designed in terms of a clear, concise and logical description of the two main objectives, as well as its description of rationale. However, it was identified that some aspects in the Results Matrix could be further improved or strengthened, including better defined indicators, baselines and targets.

Effectiveness: Some key results were effectively achieved by the project, including: a ToT Manual that addresses core elements of victim-centered criminal justice response to combat TIP; the Training manual for judges, prosecutors have been successfully printed and published; a ToT session was conducted for both judges and prosecutors; strengthening the capacities of the already established National Committee against TIP (NCTIP); elaboration of a new National Action Plan 2018-2022; drafting Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for National Referral Mechanism (NRF); building the capacity of 2 Shelters for VOT, in Bamako and Gao; ensuring direct assistance for 42 VOTs in Mali; develop of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between law enforcement agencies and the International Organizations (IO) and NGOs/CSOs sector that ensures transfer from police custody to support and protection services operated by NGOs/CSOs. Mostly in terms of effectiveness, the project allowed to institutionalize NCTIP meetings and put forward the fight against human trafficking in the country. However, the project has not completed all proposed activities and did not achieve all planned outputs before the end of the project

Efficiency: IOM Mission in Mali meets regularly to monitor progress across its projects and hold meetings for each program area to review progress. These project specifically could have used some basic monitoring tools more efficiently. Analysis of the implementation timeline and completion dates from the interim reports indicates that the project was not very timely in conducting its activities, as previously planned in project document. In terms of donor relations, there was regular communications with JTIP and IOM Washington, who served as project's team liaison with JTIP. IOM routinely submitted quarterly reports on time and staff was available for conference calls. The budget was partially well planned, project delays and the non-implementation of some activities, disrupted its correct execution. Financial reports were regularly generated by the Finance Unit and reviewed by IOM project staff. Implementation level reached only 56% of the funds (total expenditures 416,477 USD, out of 750,000 USD budget, up to evaluation field mission dates, September 2019). Regarding the management and decision-making structures and processes have been partially effective and adequate to ensure efficient project implementation, taking into account delays in the implementation of some activities. A project-budget revision would have been advisable during no cost extension.

Sustainability: IOM Mali, to formulate a sustainability strategy for the CT training component, so as to optimize the training contents already developed and the trainees available. Within the capacity building efforts, a broader printing and distribution of CT training materials should be strongly encouraged, so as to be widely shared with all relevant Ministries, NCTIP stakeholders and widely in all regions of Mali. IOM Mali to engage in a fruitful conversation with GoM for a long-term vision on how to better accompany the GoM in the institutionalization of victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP case and increase law enforcement efforts (Law 2012-023 Relating to the Combat against Trafficking in Persons and Similar Practices), including having a centralized mechanism to collect comprehensive anti-trafficking law enforcement statistics. NCTIP's stakeholders to build a long-term strategy to support civil society to provide services to VoT, once the NRM mechanisms is also approved and within the framework and approved activities of the New Plan of Action.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. IOM Mali to engage in a fruitful conversation with GoM for a long-term vision on how to better accompany the GoM in the institutionalization of victim-centered investigations and prosecutions of TIP case.
2. IOM Mali-CT Unit to continue co-organizing and actively participating very actively in the NCTIP, and closely follow up on the new Plan of Action (2018-2022) and the eventual creation of the future TIP Agency. IOM Mali to provide to the government with the needed technical assistance.
3. IOM Mali to follow up and offer technical assistance to leading government entities in terms of minor and adults VoTs (DNPEF and eventually DNDS).
4. NCTIP to proceed with the signature of the MoU as soon as possible, so as to ensure a better coordination between protection actors and law enforcements actors and define the procedures to be followed for a better victim's protection approach .
5. To ensure sustainability of the referral mechanism, the SOPs will have to be passed over to the relevant stakeholders to be adopted by the Ministerial council. IOM Mali to continue its advocacy role within the NCTIP.
6. Capacity building initiatives in Mali remain a central objective. Building a strong partnership with interested partners in funding large and consistent capacity building initiatives, in close coordination with all concerned government entities, will be key to ensure a long terms vision, effective support and a sustainability strategy, so as to optimize achieved results.
7. NCTIP's stakeholders to build a long-term strategy to support civil society to provide services to VoT, once the NRM mechanisms is also approved and within the framework and approved activities of the New Plan of Action.