



EVALUATION BRIEF

March 2019

INTERNAL PROGRAMME EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO PVE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: “COMMUNITY BASED APPROACHES TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN TARGETED MUNICIPALITIES IN BIH” AND “MOVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM”

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

Evaluation type:	Internal programme evaluation
Evaluator:	Sarah Harris, Regional M&E Officer, IOM Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Field visit dates:	September 2018
Final report date:	November 2018
Commissioned by:	IOM Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Managed by:	Mirza Omerhodžić, Project Coordinator

Evaluation purpose: To evaluate implementation and results of community-based approaches to PVE. The evaluation also aimed to further contribute to enhance knowledge and evidence base for PVE, as a new policy and research field, and to identify lessons learned and promising practices. The findings and recommendations will be used by IOM project staff and the donor to assess the relevance and accountability of the projects to the intended beneficiaries, effectiveness and value for money, impact and sustainability prospects, and by IOM senior management to improve future interventions

Evaluation criteria: Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability, as well as cross-cutting issues.

Evaluation methodology: Desk review, interviews, and focus groups. Of the 15 target communities, the evaluator was able to visit five communities during the field visit.

PROJECT SUMMARY

IOM started engaging in prevention of violent extremism (PVE) in BiH in late 2015, with support from various donors, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Government of the United Kingdom (UK), the Embassy of the Italian Republic in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Sarajevo. This evaluation focuses on two projects, funded by USAID and UK. The USAID project is the main focus, since it covers the design and piloting of the community-based approach in BiH, which then formed a basis for the wider PVE programming.

In 2015, IOM began piloting community-based approaches to reducing susceptibility of youth to radicalization and violent extremism, by increasing youth engagement and strengthening community resiliency and response capacities. This community is the foundation of IOM's PVE work in BiH.

Interventions initially targeted six pilot communities, later expanded into a total of 15 at-risk communities in BiH. The UK-funded project also expanded the scope to Kosovo* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Activities were designed and implemented based on an initial assessment phase, which was used to identify local perceptions of vulnerability and resilience factors, appropriate

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Project type:	Community Stabilization (CS)
Project codes:	CS.0733 / CS.0838*
Project periods:	September 2015 - November 2018 / October 2016 - March 2018
Donors:	United States Agency for International Development (USAID) / Government of the United Kingdom (UK)
Budgets:	USD 1,500,000 / GBP 678,113

interventions to respond and trusted leaders suitable to support such interventions within each community.

Starting in 2016, with UK and other funding, IOM increased attention to sustainability. This involved expanding reach into more communities and building expertise of parents, teachers and other actors to identify and prevent violent extremism. IOM also promoted regional PVE approaches in the Western Balkans through dialogue and capacity building of officials on community-based approaches, with the aim of setting up models to a more sustainable long-term mechanism in the region as a whole.

IOM refers to the UNSC resolution 1244-administered Kosovo in an abbreviated manner as "Kosovo/UNSCR 1244". For the purpose of this document, this shall be shortened to "Kosovo" without prejudice to positions on the status and in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Relevance:

- This community-based model included innovative methodologies, in particular MoviEQ workshops based on scientifically tested methodology; participative, youth-led approaches; and evidence-driven and locally-tailored interventions. The pilot tested model could be replicated in BiH, in Western Balkans, or even globally.
- There is a clear strategy and theory of change, though dosage and sequencing of activities and beneficiary selection criteria could be further refined.
- The objective is valid and pertinent and the project well informed by local needs. There is a need and interest for more MoviEQ workshops, more grants for youth-led initiatives, more exchange among different communities, and support to sustain parent and practitioner groups.

Effectiveness:

- The project was effective in promoting individual and community resilience. MoviEQ workshops were seen as highly innovative and impactful, with lasting change in the way of thinking among youth. Stakeholders praised the youth-led dialogues and initiatives, and youth reported increased trust for local authorities, more confidence to engage in community discussion, and stronger personal networks. Parents and practitioners improved knowledge and attitudes. IOM made great strides to promote integration into school curricula.
- It is an inherent challenge to reach the “hard to reach”, the most at-risk. To mitigate this, the project included an inception phase, adaptive management, ongoing stakeholder consultation and engagement with youth, all coordinated by carefully selected and nurtured community liaison points (CLPs).

Efficiency:

- Time was needed to pilot and tailor the approach to each community in the inception phase. That could be shortened in future, but is still be needed in to train staff and establish trust with local stakeholders.
- All team members, experts and partners were carefully selected. The project was evidence-driven with inception phase and a variety of methods and tools to monitor activities, results, budget and expenditure, and risks. An evaluation of impact was also included.

Impact:

- A range of positive changes have been perceived, including increased interactions, solidarity and cooperation among youth from different social and ethnic groups. Many youth have formed other independent groups to continue community activism,

and some have applied for additional grants. Some local authorities were inspired to launch similar youth-led grant schemes.

- Impact assessment was still ongoing. Pending the results, there may be a need for more clarification of how components are designed to link to each other, and the impact of different types of dosage and sequencing of activities across the components.

Sustainability:

- The project built capacities of local professionals to deliver MoviEQ workshops. Youth-led community initiatives were designed to promote continued activism after the project.
- Key challenges are continued roll out of MoviEQ and operation of parent and practitioner networks, both mitigated by building local capacities to use and apply the knowledge and methodologies.

Cross-cutting issues:

- Attention to human rights and protection was included in inception phase and implementation. IOM ensured that views of youth, local authorities, and community members were gathered and fed into decision making.
- Gender analysis was included both in the design and during implementation to inform the strategy and activities.

Finally, a number of lessons learned and good practices were identified, available in the full report.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for IOM Mission in BiH:

1. Explore opportunities to share results of this three-year project with beneficiaries and communities .
2. Examine sequencing and dosage of activities and the extent to which these factors affected impact.
3. Expand provision and institutionalization of MoviEQ workshops, and link to follow-on youth-led initiatives.
4. Continue providing support to promote sustained work of parent and practitioner groups.

Recommendations for IOM and partners:

5. Promote wider use of this community-based model.
6. Include more activities for exchange among youth participants from different communities.
7. Gather beneficiary and other monitoring data in a way that allows for analysis of dosage and sequencing.