



EVALUATION BRIEF

April 2020

FINAL INTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “ENHANCING COUNTER-TRAFFICKING CAPACITIES IN GEORGIA BY SUSTAINING INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION”

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 evaluation
Evaluator:	Tatiana Verigo, IOM Evaluator
Field visit dates:	26 Jan to 1 Feb 2020
Final report date:	April 2020
Commissioned by:	IOM Mission in Georgia
Managed by:	Marc Hulst, Project Manager

Evaluation purpose: To assess the extent to which the project entitled “Enhancing Counter-Trafficking Capacities in Georgia by Sustaining Inter-Agency Coordination” performed against its set objectives and against key evaluation criteria.

The evaluation took place at the final stage of the project. The overall objective was to evaluate the design process, the implementation of the project, and analyse the results of the project.

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

Evaluation methodology: Combination of desk review and key informant interviews to gather and triangulate data from beneficiary and partner perceptions with secondary quantitative project data

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project “Enhancing Counter-Trafficking Capacities in Georgia by Sustaining Inter-Agency Coordination” was implemented by IOM Country Office in Georgia from February 2019 to February 2020 with funding from the United States Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

The project is part of IOM’s global portfolio in countering trafficking in human being and intended to contribute to increased capacities of the Georgian government in **identifying trafficking cases and prosecuting traffickers** through comprehensive and coordinated **multi-agency approaches**.

The project builds on previous counter-trafficking (CT) efforts of IOM Georgia that received INL funding since 2010. This project proposed a **two-pronged approach**:

1) A set of training courses was implemented for Georgia’s law enforcement bodies focusing on financial investigations related to TIP, current trends of forced begging of children, and engaging with labour inspectors and police investigators on how to tackle trafficking for labour exploitation. A survey was also conducted on effective practices of combating labor exploitation with a purpose to develop guidelines for labor inspectors on how to deal with labor trafficking issues and engage with law enforcement bodies in a robust fashion. In addition, a report on child

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Georgia
Project type:	CT (Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants and Counter Trafficking)
Project code:	PX.0045
Gender marker:	N/A
Project period:	7 February 2019 to 6 February 2020
Donor:	INL
Budget:	USD 100,000

exploitation was produced over the course of the project.

2) Better coordination among law enforcement agencies, on one hand, and the Labour Inspectorate and Social Service Agency, on the other hand, was promoted by means of a number of joint working sessions and briefings, with the participation by policy makers for due briefing on current government priorities and required follow-up.

This approach involved was carried out through a set of **five outputs** aimed at improving knowledge, building capacities, and sharing good practices. At the **outcome** level, the interventions aimed to foster inter-agency cooperation between law enforcement agencies and their peers in the Labor Inspectorate and the Social Services Agency. This in turn aimed to contribute to the objective of improved investigation and prosecuting of trafficking cases in Georgia.

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Relevance

1. The project is widely relevant to target groups and the international and local government policies and strategies. This was ensured from the development phase based on comprehensive consultations with potential beneficiaries and desk review of relevant national and international policies.
2. The project aligned with IOM national, regional and global strategies, the Migration Governance Framework and SDGs.

Effectiveness

3. All planned outputs were achieved and activities were implemented according to the work plan. The result matrix served as a project performance plan. Targets and indicators outlined in the results matrix were used to measure progress of project implementation, and project activity was monitored and updated regularly.
4. The evaluated project provided input into enhanced capacity of the GOG in identifying trafficking cases and prosecuting traffickers through comprehensive and coordinated multi-agency approach. The GOG showed high level of ownership of the results achieved by the project. Cooperation between law enforcement and social services was going well.
5. The flexible modality of project management and the beneficiary-oriented approach were mentioned. Identification of labour exploitation cases and assistance to street children were mentioned as main challenges in C-TIP.

Efficiency

6. According to the information available during the evaluation, the project management was carried out well. Resources (funds, expertise and time) were effectively converted to results and project management was well carried out.
7. No modifications or project revisions were requested. The burn-rate of the project expenditures was in line with the project initial working plan.

Impact

8. The main positive impact of the project was an increase in number of child trafficking investigations, and a significant increase in identification of child trafficking cases, primarily thanks to enhanced efforts in investigations.
9. The respondents highlighted positive impact of capacity-building activities, facilitating sharing expertise and experience among participants from different agencies and regions.

Sustainability

10. High level of state ownership in regards to the project achievements was in place from the project development phase.
11. The project contributed into cooperation between partners and provided an expert-facilitated platform for coordination of future efforts.
12. The interlocutors demonstrated a high level of understanding of importance of combatting child

exploiting for begging and confirmed their willingness to cooperate.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Gender and Human Rights

13. Gender was mainstreamed but an actual gender analysis was not conducted. In terms of implementation, all data was disaggregated by sex and project products incorporated attention to gender, *inter alia* by encouraging the partners to adhere to gender balance when nominating participants for the capacity building activities.
14. The project contributed to some extent to enhancing VoTs' rights by its nature through strengthening CT capacities of respective stakeholders, and envisaged effective identification, investigation and referral for assistance handling in line with international norms and standards.

GOOD PRACTICES

The project also identified a number of good practices that would be useful for all IOM offices in designing or managing similar projects. These good practices include:

- Mainstream and ensure synergy with national policies and strategies to ensure sustainability and state ownership.
- Empower and capacitate partners to take ownership of interventions and achievements, and encourage further cooperation and interventions without IOM as the lead agency.
- Merging law enforcement participants with social workers proved to be a useful approach due to the exchange of professional experience and better understanding of roles within NRM.
- Continue providing international expertise in coordination with state, especially on the advanced level, to build capacity on new and emerging issues related to TIP.
- Consider further involvement of wide range of practitioners from different regions of Georgia for building of unified approach in C-TIP.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Actions recommended for the IOM Country Office in Georgia:

- Continue capacity building for a variety of C-TIP partners to identify TIP cases and refer them for timely and proper assistance, put special focus on labour exploitation cases and child begging.
- Conduct partners needs and priorities analysis and maintain clear coordination system for ensuring that interventions are in line with partners' expectations.
- Consider development of SOPs to support the existing legal framework in referring and assisting of VoTs, also explore ways to institutionalize them by incorporation into internal instructions and trainings for trainers for C-TIP actors.
- Consider strengthening capacities of NGOs, by assessment of their organizational development level and proper capacitation basing on their needs; support enhancement of their role in identifying and assisting to TIP cases.
- Develop explicit strategy for mainstreaming gender and human rights protection into future projects' interventions.