

EVALUATION BRIEF

FINAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE FORMULATION OF POLICIES AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO LABOR MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY”

This evaluation brief presents a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as identified by the evaluator(s) 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:	Evaluation ex-post mixta
Evaluator(s):	Marco Ayala (externo) Andrés Gutierrez (interno)
Field visit dates:	December 2020 - June 2021
Final report date:	October, 15th 2021
Commissioned by:	IDF y IOM Ecuador
Managed by:	IOM Ecuador

Evaluation purpose: The purpose of the evaluation was to identify the added values generated by the project and lessons learned applicable to similar future projects.

Evaluation criteria: Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability.

Evaluation methodology: The evaluation applied a non-experimental design in which qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis were used to answer the selected evaluation questions. In all cases, the triangulation of sources and methods was needed as a mechanism to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings.

PROJECT SUMMARY

In 2015, the Government of Ecuador had the challenge of implementing the constitutional standards related to the management of migration in the legislative and political reality in each public institution with competences in the subject. In addition, there were regional integration processes, in particular the “Acuerdo de Residencia para Nacionales de los Estados Parte del MERCOSUR” and the “Agenda de integración suramericana a través de UNASUR”, which both of them demanded the existence of policy and regulatory frameworks consistent with the Constitution and international standards.

In this context, the IOM Office in Ecuador formulated the project “Support the Ministry of Labor and the National Assembly in the formulation of policies and regulations related to labor migration and human mobility”. It aimed to support legislative processes related to migration and to strengthen labor migration policies in Ecuador. Thus, the initiative sought to provide assistance to the National Assembly and the Ministry of Labor to address migration issues in a comprehensive manner, including the risks of human trafficking and particular needs of migrant women.

The project had a planned duration of 18 months and a total budget of USD 150,000 from the IOM Development Fund (IDF). It was extended to a period of 37 months between 2015 and 2018.

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Ecuador
Project type:	Labor Migration
Project code:	LM.0274
Gender marker:	1
Project period:	August, 1st 2015 to September, 30th 2018
Donor:	IOM Development Fund
Budget:	USD 150.000

Two outcomes were defined:

- The National Assembly has the migration knowledge to include the main regulatory challenges in the legislative processes on migration and it can disseminate them among the citizenry.
- The Ministry of Labor has greater knowledge and capacity to create labor migration policies.

During the implementation of the project, Ecuador suffered a devastating earthquake of magnitude 7.8 on the Richter scale (April, 2016). The disaster is considered the most destructive earthquake in the last thirty years.

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Relevance.- The project focused on the needs of the key actors for migration policy (Ley Orgánica de Movilidad Humana), including labor migration actors (Labor Migration Policy).

Effectiveness.- The project faced exogenous factors that negatively affected it, the main one was the 2016 earthquake, which forced most public institutions to face its impacts, which delayed its implementation. As well as, facing a change of government and authorities needing to renegotiate the project and define new priorities. The elimination of the Labor Migration Unit of the Ministry of Labor had a negative impact on the actions of the project, because it was in charge of developing policies and specific actions for labor migration.

Efficiency.- The monitoring mechanisms and tools partially contributed to the achievement of the project results in accordance with the defined times and budgets, considering the external factors that impacted the project.

Sustainability.- The knowledge products generated by the project have -in a partial way- the prospect of being accepted and useful in future policy and strategy discussions. The Manual for Labor Inspectors remains in force.

Impact.- The project registers positive changes in the capacities to generate migration and labor migration policies and tools with a gender and rights approach. However, external factors are identified, such as the institutional one, which affected the generation of more significant changes.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Relying on the United Nations System to generate a solid document to improve the Human Mobility Law could be replicated in other IOM projects.
- The specific case of the Manual for Labor Inspectors, which had a greater number of revisions than the other products developed by the project, had an impact on its quality and use, which could be taken into account for future projects carried out by the IOM.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish, for programmatic work between IOM and its stakeholders, institutional arrangements that allow coordinated and planned work based on institutional needs, such as cooperation agreements, framework agreements or annual work plans.
2. Keep training courses and/or workshops on the Manual for IOM Projects with IOM staff to facilitate the incorporation of the gender and rights perspective in the project cycle.
3. The theory of change of the project has to be clearly established, the steps to achieve it and also its success indicators.
4. The project design must include gaps of time to allow its performance, it includes a period of time for stakeholders to be fully prepared for execution of the project.
5. In order to ensure that gender or human rights approaches are adequately included in the studies or consultancies, these considerations must be strictly established in the terms of reference, so that they are not left to the discretion of the consultants.
6. It is recommended that the knowledge generated by the project articulates with the training program of the institution and/or public sector where the Ministry of Labor has jurisdiction.
7. To IOM projects contribute significantly to positive changes in their interventions, it is suggested to design comprehensive interventions through the support of innovative institutional frameworks that allow capacity building in stakeholders.