



# EVALUATION BRIEF

October 2019

## FINAL EVALUATION OF “INCREASING THE DEVELOPMENTAL IMPACT OF LABOUR MIGRATION THROUGH STRENGTHENED GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP” TWE LET PROJECT

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:** External final evaluation

**Evaluator(s):** Carroll Patterson, UNOPS Consultant

**Field visit dates:** 2 September—14 September 2019

**Final report date:** 5 October 2019

**Commissioned by:** UNOPS LIFT

**Managed by:** Undraa Suren

**Evaluation purpose:** Promote learning, feedback and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned with other colleague NGOs and Donor organizations. Identify good practices, lessons of operational and technical relevance for future project design and implementation for decent work and labour migration.

**Evaluation criteria:** Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and gender equality.

**Evaluation methodology:** Document review, field visit, meeting, focus group discussion and debriefing.

### Project information:

Geographical coverage: the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Project type: Migration and Economic/Community Development

Project code: CE.0363

Project period: 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019

Donor: UNOPS LIFT

Budget: USD 13,056,760.89

Twe Let pursued three objectives:

- Support aspirant migrants to increase their income through safe migration and help migrant families make better utilization of remittances for the creation of income generating activities.
- Build Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) partner capacity to facilitate and advocate on migration issues and to provide migration support services.
- Support the establishment of a comprehensive migration governance framework and influence government policies, procedures, and strategies to support safe and gainful migration.

To achieve project outcomes, Twe Let was structured according to broad target areas: Community Outreach and Migration Governance. In regard to the latter, Twe Let focused on governance with the aim to establish a whole-of-government migration governance framework, which is a critical foundation to institutionalize migration mainstreaming into national and local development agendas.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

In response to the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) ‘Leveraging Labour Migration for Development’ call for proposals, a consortium of organizations led by IOM proposed to implement the Increasing Developmental Impact of Labour Migration through Strengthened Governance and Partnership project (hereafter referred to as Twe Let), which aimed to improve the governance and outreach capacities of national actors to increase the developmental impact of migration in Myanmar. Twe Let focused on the developmental role of migration and supports migrants and their families from rural communities so that their migration decisions and actions improve their living conditions, help them out of poverty, and lead to inclusive and sustainable development.

## KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

### Relevance

Twe Let's objectives are relevant to the project's beneficiaries, LIFT's strategy and priorities, and the Myanmar development context. However, no connection can be made to migration by beneficiaries who receive skills, savings and/or small business training. This could be due to inappropriate beneficiary selection or beneficiaries having no connection to migration.

The project's approach to government and migration is relevant and clearly a priority, but lacks an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism.

The CSO capacity building goals are extremely appropriate and context sensitive, although are constrained by the lack of NGO implementation partners in the Dry Zone.

### Effectiveness

#### Community Outreach

Pre-migration outreach messages provided reliable and relevant information; and promoted formal and positive migration experience to beneficiaries. Main challenges were lack of effective labour migration governance and varying regional capacity. Overall, beneficiaries found skills development and financial literacy training useful, with some exceptions of trainings being non-applicable, too complex or not relevant to beneficiaries.

#### Migration Governance

No substantive progress on migration governance had been made as inter-ministerial framework did not get endorsed and the workshop with the ministries made no significant contribution.

#### Efficiency and Ethnic CSO Capacity Building

Overall, Twe Let met its CSO capacity building performance implementation goals. CSOs reported that gained improvements in several areas as a result of support provided by IOM. Yet, significant improvement is needed in regards to adaptive management and beneficiary targeting to better contribute to the goals of migration governance.

#### Gender Equality

##### Implementing Partners

IOM and CSO senior and executive management had

balanced gender distribution. Chin Human Rights Organization employed more females. Some CSOs suggested additional gender mainstreaming trainings.

#### Beneficiaries

Community outreach activities reached more females and trainings covered migration related risks for women. Skills development trainings conformed to traditional gender roles by having more females in sewing and more males in mechanics course, indicating the project's gap in addressing gendered roles.

### Sustainability

Activities will seize with the project's completion, with the exception of tourist industry training. Ethnic CSO capacity building efforts have produced a lasting effect. Beneficiaries are extremely likely to have gained a lasting effect in their migration experience, although hard to estimate accurately due to difficulty in tracking them.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

For LIFT and IOM's consideration:

- Consider enforcing beneficiary enrollment criteria that ensures some type of connection to migration can be established.
- Reassess current approach, ways, and incentives of delivering safe migration messages; and ensure more oversight.
- Periodically review pre-migration outreach graduate pre-test/post-test data to ensure beneficiaries are gaining knowledge.
- Introduce complex numerical exercises sooner into the trainings and provide additional effort for beneficiaries who are facing numeracy challenges.
- Combine and streamline relevant trainings that may involve aspiring migrants and their family members simultaneously.
- Dedicate more effort to conducting detailed labour market assessments tailored to each operational context and to maintaining quality job matching data.
- Consider incorporating qualitative approaches into its MEAL plan for output indicators that contribute to outcomes that cannot be easily predicted.
- Use both positive and negative results to inform their adaptive management practices.
- Offer skills development training in higher wage professions that have more representative gender balance.