

EVALUATION BRIEF

EX-POST EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “STRENGTHENING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE TO BETTER PROTECT AND ASSIST MIGRANTS IN A SITUATION OF VULNERABILITY IN MALI

This learning brief is a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations prepared by the Owl RE consultancy for use by IOM project staff and management and the Fund. Details on all of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations can be found in the full evaluation report.

Evaluation type: External independent ex-post evaluation
Evaluator(s): Anita Leutgeb, Owl RE
Final report: 20 August 2021
Commissioned by: IOM Development Fund (“The Fund”)

Managed by: Manon Cagnard, Project Manager

Evaluation purpose: To assess the relevance of the project for the stakeholders and beneficiaries, to determine whether the project has achieved its intended objective; the effectiveness and efficiency of project management and implementation; promote transparency and accountability, assist the Fund in its decision-making, better equip staff to make judgments about the project and to improve the effectiveness for potential future project funding.

Evaluation criteria: Relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

Evaluation methodology: Document review and semi-structured interviews (conducted remotely).

PROJECT SUMMARY

Mali is a key origin and transit country on the West African migratory route. The town of Gao has become a major transit point towards Niger and Europe in Northern Mali. An increasing number of migrants has been taking the Gao-Tassalit route leading to Algeria and Europe.

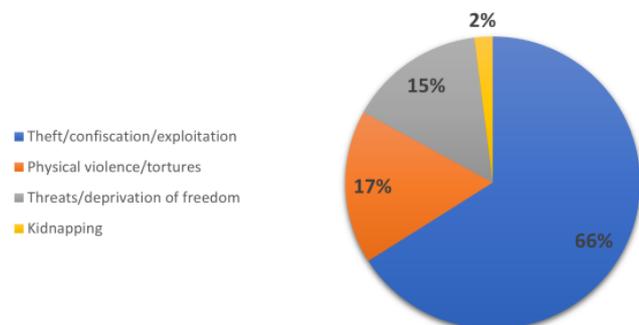
The actions proposed by this project focused on strengthening the capacity of the government to provide quality information on migration patterns to the international community and civil society actors to respond to migration pressures in the best possible way.

The action was aligned with the *Politique Nationale de Migration* (PONAM) adopted by the Malian Government in September 2014 which identified some of its main pillars to be protection and assistance, support to regular migration, capacity-building of relevant stakeholders, information campaigns and counselling for potential migrants and returnees. It also aligned well with IOM’s plans for the region to strengthen capacities of the government and civil society, in particular concerning human trafficking. CSOs consulted for this evaluation found a good alignment with their strategies towards victims of trafficking (VOT) and protection of vulnerable migrants.

Project information:

Geographical coverage: Mali
Project type: CT Counter Trafficking
Project code: ML10P0002/CT.1000
Project period: 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017
Budget: USD 200,000

Types of violence against migrants returning from Libya to Mali



Source: Report on types of violence against migrants in Mali (report produced by the project, p. 19).

KEY FINDINGS

The project set out to strengthen the capacity of government and civil society actors to support and protect migrants and potential migrants in their decision-making process to engage in channels of irregular migration. While it is not possible to say if and how much impact the project made in supporting migrants and potential migrants in their decision-making process not to engage in channels of irregular migration, the evaluation has seen that capacity of the government and civil society actors was strengthened, notably in relation to counter-trafficking, the identification of vulnerable migrants, the increase in knowledge on migration patterns and trends and the protection of victims of GBV (including VOTs) reinforced with the One-Stop centre in Bamako.

Relevance (rating: Adequate - 2): The relevance of the project was mixed. It was relevant and aligned with national migration priorities and IOM's national and regional plans. The results matrix showed major issues (lack of vertical/horizontal logic, inconsistencies, etc.). The proposal documentation could have been further refined and detailed by describing, for example, cross-cutting issues, linkages to other initiatives, partnerships, etc.

Coherence (rating: Good—3): The project was compatible with ongoing IOM work on capacity-building and data collection, analysis and research implemented with the government and other stakeholders. However, no evidence of an in-depth stakeholder consultation at the design stage to avoid duplication of efforts and promote synergies was found.

Effectiveness (rating: Adequate – 2): The effectiveness was assessed as adequate. Collaboration and coordination with partners and stakeholders was good. A greater involvement in the design of capacity-building activities would have been beneficial to increase ownership and take advantage of local expertise.

Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness (rating: Adequate - 2): The project was found to be managed adequately. However, the project had a budget underspend of 18% and it was not able to reallocate and use these funds during the project's duration. In addition, reporting was considerably delayed.

Impact (rating: Very good - 4): The project had a very good impact. It increased the capacities of government and CSOs. Most importantly it strengthened collaboration and cooperation among key stakeholders in the country to improve assistance to vulnerable migrants by laying the foundations for the creation of a national referral mechanism (NRM) for vulnerable migrants.

Sustainability (rating: Good - 3): Several activities generated benefits that are continuing up to now. E.g. It helped creating the basis for the NRM for vulnerable migrants which was validated by the government in 2021. The One-Stop centre for victims of GBV became a model for other such centres in the country.

Conclusions

Although the project was assessed of having only partly achieved its objective, it achieved valuable results. It contributed to increase the capacity, coordination and collaboration of government, civil society actors and UN organisations in particular in the field of human trafficking and protection of vulnerable migrants.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Project Design

For IOM Mali:

- Ensure that the project proposal has a clear and explicit Theory of change, is based on solid assumptions and hypotheses, and that the outcome, outputs and indicators are correctly formulated and follow the recommended steps and approaches of the IOM Project Management Handbook.
- Ensure that projects are designed in a collaborative manner with all relevant IOM units and key actors in the field taking into consideration their needs and priorities.
- Consider including specific measures to promote and track the use of products and services provided by the project.

B. Project Management

For IOM Mali:

- Ensure that new staff members are well prepared to the needed communication lines and donor requirements.

C. Trainings

For IOM Mali:

- Explore the possibility of providing continuity to the training activities as a key component in improving national capacity in coordinating protection of vulnerable migrants.
- Ensure that post-training coaching is provided to ensure knowledge retention and the actual application of the knowledge gained.

D. Partnership building, networking

For IOM Mali:

- Explore the organization of study visits and other regular information exchange of CSOs on the assistance of VOTs and migrants.