

EX-POST EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “SUPPORTING CHINA’S ENGAGEMENT IN THE GLOBAL MIGRATION DEBATE”

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. More details can be found in the full evaluation report.

Evaluation type:	Internal independent final evaluation
Evaluator(s):	Shuburna Chodhuary, National M&E Officer,
Field visit dates:	25-31 December 2021
Final report date:	31 July 2022
Commissioned by:	IOM Development Fund
Managed by:	Mr. Cong Jun

Evaluation purpose: To assess the relevance and coherence 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 judgements 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 key informant interviews.

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	China
Project type:	Migration Governance
Project code:	PO.0105
Gender marker:	2a
Project period:	13-10-2017 to 31-12-2019
Donor:	IOM Development Fund
Budget:	USD 100,000

PROJECT SUMMARY

China joined IOM as a Member State on 30 June 2016. While China has historically been a country of origin, it has also become a transit and destination country for international migration over the past decade. China fully recognizes that migration has become a key issue in the international agenda at the global, regional and national levels and intends to strengthen its new role in the global migration debate.

Accordingly, the project supported and strengthened China’s engagement in the general global dialogue on migration. Through a multi-ministerial approach, under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), key policy instruments and frameworks have been introduced under the project to relevant policy makers in Chinese ministries, based on which China can develop its own views and policy decisions.

The project was funded by the IOM Development Fund and was implemented from 17 October 2017 to 31 December 2019. IOM Mission in China implemented the project in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of China. The expected outcome of the project is that the institutional performance of the Government of China will adapt to effectively address international migration through enhanced capacity.

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Relevance (Rating: Very Good: 4/5):

The project was found relevant to the national priorities and strategies. The project was designed and implemented in collaboration with the MFA. Most importantly the project addressed the needs and priorities of the government to support its capacity towards achieving the SDGs and implement the GCM. However, the result statements of the project could have been better defined and aligned with the project activities. The indicators of the result matrix could have been SMART. As they were formulated, it was difficult to measure the progress made against indicators. Furthermore, gender was not integrated in the project design.

Effectiveness (Rating: Good: 3.5/5):

The project moderately achieved its outputs, outcome and objective. The project was able to facilitate knowledge gain for key stakeholders on international norms and best practices related to migration. The government officials are now interested to apply the knowledge gained through seminars and workshops to formulate policies in line with GCM principles. However, there was insufficient evidence to measure how the knowledge gained translated into practice. In addition to that, the project could have organized a separate workshop or consultation with foreign counterparts on GCM and on the SDGs Agenda to obtain diversified and comprehensive point of views.

Efficiency (Rating: Good: 3.8/5):

The project maintained a strong liaison and communication with different stakeholders for their participation in the global migration sensitization seminars and workshops. The project went through frequent revisions and modifications including a 9 months no-cost extension. However, the project was unable to complete the organization of the workshop on MiGoF and Migrants in Crisis Initiative (output 1.3). The burn rate was low even after getting the 9-month extension. The project did not develop an internal monitoring mechanism to track achievements, progress and challenges of the project. The documentation of the project was not kept properly.

Coherence (Rating: Good: 3.8/5):

The project was coherent with similar interventions from IOM China. The project also added value in the sense that it increased the collaboration with the government during the implementation. The project utilized existing networks and platforms of previous and ongoing projects to invite the government officials in seminars and workshops. However, the evaluation could not find evidence on how the project utilized similar past project experiences, and knowledge in the design and the implementation of this project.

Sustainability (Rating: Good: 3/5):

The government entities were motivated to adopt the GCM and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda related to migration. The government entities did not demonstrate any commitments to sustain the result of the project activities beyond the project period. A follow up consultation on GCM was hosted in June 2021 where it was decided that IOM would be the coordinator of the UN migration network. This opportunity will support IOM to maintain the sustainability of the project outcomes beyond the project period.

Impact (Rating: Good: 3/5):

The project achieved short-term impact such as sensitizing the government on international frameworks in relation to migration governance. The duration of the project was too short to achieve long-term impacts. Hence, follow up interventions on GCM and migration related SDGs is required to keep the momentum and maintain government's interest on the global issue of migration. Along with other IOM China projects, this project influenced the Government of China to adopt the Assisted Voluntary Return/Reintegration (AVR/R) approach.

CONCLUSION:

The project was well designed to promote GCM and the migration focused SDGs Agenda. It was well aligned with national priorities and integrated government entities effectively. Some key recommendations and learnings from the findings should be taken into consideration for future programming.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. The materials of the workshops and seminars have to be user friendly and easily communicable across all the participants and all the contents of the events has to be shared with the key stakeholders in advance for their understanding and fruitful inputs in the event. Pre-consultation sessions were required ahead in any events which was co-hosted by the government.
2. It is important to look at when the ex-post evaluation should take place as it can be difficult to reach out to the project's beneficiaries and stakeholders.
3. IOM China successfully advocated for the MFA to play a leading role in organizing events which allowed for large and diverse stakeholders' participation.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. IOM China and IOM Development Fund should support clear formulation of result matrices in the development phase of project proposal, and ensure they are sound before projects are approved, for clear understanding of intended results by all stakeholders and better measurement of results.
2. Relevant cross cutting issues, including gender should be integrated and mainstreamed during the project design and project implementation phase.
3. As a part of future project design, foreign counterpart's participation has to be taken into consideration and reflected in the project implementation stage specially the promotion and sensitization of global norms, standards, and best practices related to migration.
4. The project should have an exit plan in its design and a follow-up mechanism to ensure the sustainability of the project beyond the project period. For future programming, IOM China should take into consideration to develop an exit strategy during the project implementation phase.
5. For future programming, IOM China in collaboration MFA should work on best practices to manage migration governance and address immigration issues.
6. Proper documentation of the project should be archived in a regular and systematic way.
7. Formal communication channels should be established in order to share project updates and record all the meeting minutes with the line ministries. To ensure the formal communication channel, it is suggested to have a budget for the coordination with the line ministry.
8. Any change/revision of activities should always be coordinated and agreed with the line ministry and the IOM Development Fund prior actual implementation.

