

EVALUATION BRIEF

EX-POST EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “UNDERTAKING A MAPPING EXERCISE AND QUALITATIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL DIASPORA POLICY OF AFGHANISTAN”

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):	Glenn O’Neil, Owl RE
Final report:	19 September 2022
Commissioned by:	IOM Development Fund (“The Fund”) and IOM Afghanistan

Managed by: Lara White, IOM Afghanistan

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 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, semi-structured interviews (conducted remotely), online survey.

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project aimed to support the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA) to provide evidence-based information and informing the development of the National Diaspora Policy of Afghanistan.

The GoIRA had a long-standing priority on recognizing the value of the Afghan diaspora for the country as seen with their support for the IOM initiative on the Return of Qualified Afghans (RQA) since 2001. However, although diaspora activities have been taking place, there was no overall national Afghan diaspora strategy.

This changed on 30 July 2017 when Presidential Decree 1501 was issued on the establishment of a Joint Working Committee on Afghan Diaspora Engagement – of which IOM was a part – to harmonize diaspora engagement for Afghanistan. Part of this anticipated output of this Working Committee was the development of National Diaspora Policy for Afghanistan. This project carried out activities to inform and support the National Diaspora Policy centered on a mapping exercise of diaspora across Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and the United States of America.

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Afghanistan
Project type:	Community Engagement
Project code:	AF10P0003/CE.0392
Project period:	December 2017 – September 2019
Budget:	USD 139,387

MAPPING of the AFGHAN DIASPORA

in Australia, Canada,
the Netherlands and
the United States of America

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 IOM
UN MIGRATION

 IOM
DEVELOPMENT
FUND

The diaspora mapping report produced by the project.

KEY FINDINGS

The project was well aligned to the needs of the GoIRA concerning diaspora engagement at the time of its implementation. The project was able to carry out most of its activities and successfully fed into the draft National Diaspora Policy and improving capacity of the GoIRA in diaspora engagement. However, the change of government in mid-2021 meant that all long-term impact and sustainability of the project's benefits were lost.

Relevance (rating: Good – 3): The project was well aligned with the national priorities, policies and commitments of the GoIRA and received support from the authorities. The project objective remains valid and pertinent as the Afghan diaspora is still committed to developing Afghanistan. However, the outcomes and outputs are no longer valid as the GoIRA is no longer existing and the de-facto authorities have not continued with a diaspora policy.

Coherence (rating: Very Good – 4): During project implementation, the IOM continued to implement the Return of Qualified Afghans programme which complemented this project. There was also an Afghan diaspora mapping carried out by the Danish Refugee Council's Diaspora Programme covering different countries; there was a coordination and exchange between the two mappings.

Effectiveness (rating: Adequate – 2): The project contributed to strengthening the capacity of the GoIRA in their diaspora engagement. However, considering that the National Diaspora Policy was never endorsed and the challenges seen in appointing stable GoIRA focal points, the project could not fulfil its potential contribution before the GoIRA lost power in mid-2021.

Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness (rating: Adequate – 2): The project was cost-effective in that it was able to implement its activities with the resources available, although it could not implement all activities as planned. The project faced challenges in its project management. The project had two revisions and one no-cost extension.

Impact (rating: Poor – 1): The project's impact was rated as "poor" considering that the GoIRA lost power in mid-2021 and any policy developments and capacities built by the project were consequently lost.

Sustainability (rating: Poor – 1): The project's sustainability was rated as "poor" considering that any benefits gained were lost and were not possible to sustain given the dramatic change in context in mid-2021. As for the Impact rating, this was not a reflection of how IOM Afghanistan managed the project.

On the contrary, the project team, with the support of the Chief of Mission and the Regional Office, tried many approaches to ensure the sustainability of the project's benefits during its implementation.

Conclusions

The project was able to carry out most of its activities and successfully fed into the draft National Diaspora Policy and improving capacity of the GoIRA in diaspora engagement. However, the change of government in mid-2021 meant that all long-term impact and sustainability of the project's benefits were lost. Nevertheless, as highlighted by this evaluation, the diaspora mapping report could serve as a useful benchmark and reference for future diaspora engagement and it is recommended to make it publicly available.

Since the project completion in 2019, IOM has progressed in its global approach to diaspora engagement with the release of the Diaspora Mapping Toolkit, the holding of the Global Diaspora Summit and the development of the Framework for Diaspora Engagement in Humanitarian Assistance. As IOM Afghanistan reconsiders its approach to diaspora engagement, it can take into account these new developments and the findings of this evaluation – to determine how (and if) IOM can now support diaspora engagement for the development of Afghanistan as this project intended.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are for IOM Afghanistan

A. Sharing of diaspora mapping report (priority level: 1 - High)

- Make available the diaspora mapping report on the IOM website.
- Consider informing the Afghan diaspora that participated in the research of the availability of the mapping report.

B. Future diaspora engagement of IOM Afghanistan (priority level: 3 - Low)

- In considering future diaspora engagement, consider the new global IOM approaches to diaspora engagement and consult with the Afghan diaspora that participated in the 2018-19 mapping (in addition to "new" diaspora since 2018-19).