

EVALUATION BRIEF

EX-POST EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “STRENGTHENING INTERNAL MIGRATION POLICIES IN BOLIVIA ”

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):	Patricia Goldschmid, Owl RE
Final report:	20 May 2021
Commissioned by:	IOM Development Fund (“The Fund”)

Managed by: Horacio Calle, Head of Mission

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, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

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

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project was developed in response to a need for information about migration in the Plurinational State of Bolivia (here forth referred to as Bolivia). With Internal migration as one of the main factors influencing the demographic process there was a need for data and analysis of migration processes, including sectorial or disaggregated analyses to guide sectorial planning.

The project was designed in collaboration with the Social and Economic Policy Analysis Unit (Unidad de Políticas Sociales y Económicas - UDAPE), a decentralized unit linked to the Ministry of Development Planning (Ministerio de Planificación del Desarrollo - MPD), the National Institute of Statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estadística - INE), and the Sociological Research Institute (Instituto de Investigaciones Sociológicas - IDIS) of the Higher University of San Andrés (Universidad Mayor de San Andres - UMSA).

The project included two components: (1) a study that analysed the trends, characteristics and determinants of internal migration in relation to six strategic sectors, and (2) a document of strategic guidelines with sectorial orientation based on the results of the study of component one.

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Bolivia
Project type:	Migration policy
Project code:	BO10P0001/CE.0350
Project period:	1 November 2016 to 31 October 2018
Budget:	USD 100,000



The study on internal migration in Bolivia

KEY FINDINGS

The project was able to contribute to improved knowledge and understanding about internal migration trends in Bolivia among key government officials, however, at the time of the evaluation no policies had been created as a result. Nevertheless, the outcomes and outputs remain relevant as the study was still the only updated reference on internal migration at the time of this evaluation.

Relevance (rating: Very Good - 4): The project was aligned with national priorities to compensate for a lack of information about internal migration tendencies during a time of increasing movements within the country and responded to a lack of data about migration in the country, particularly internal migration.

Effectiveness (rating: Good- 3): The project's two outputs produced were considered as valuable in providing a basis of information about migration that was missing in the country. However, some feedback indicated that while there was some uptake of the strategic guidelines, many felt that they were not highlighted enough and lacking clear action points to understand how to translate the information into the appropriate policies.

Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness (rating: Good - 3): The project was found to be managed mostly efficiently and cost-effective with the use of financial resources used appropriately and all activities carried out within the set budget. Three cost extensions were allocated, extending the project by 12 months.

Impact (rating: Adequate - 2): The impact of the project was assessed as "adequate" due to the fact that no policies had been developed as a result of the study and guidelines at the time of the evaluation. This was partially due to the changes in government and the global Covid pandemic. Positive aspects were noted such as the value of the comparative study, which remains an important reference for internal migration in the country.

Sustainability (rating: Good - 3): The project considered sustainability in its inception in that its aim was to create a long-term resource on internal migration and that would support the development of policies. The UDAPE was positioned as the leading organisation in the project in order to ensure continuity after the project closure. The integration of a broader range of stakeholders and officials on a municipal level in the dissemination was mentioned as a possible action to ensure sustainability.

Conclusions

The project was able to produce data on internal migration and the necessary guidelines, thereby helping government entities become more aware of the needs of internal migrants and adapt or develop public policies. Considering the challenging environment, it was successful in creating a resource that can potentially support the government in developing policies that consider internal migration trends. At the time of this evaluation, however, no policies had been implemented which integrated internal migration.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Approval processes

For IOM Bolivia:

- For future projects, calculate extra time for projects that involve approval processes and collaboration agreements with the government entities.

B. Plan of action

For IOM Bolivia:

- For future projects with guidelines as an output, develop an accompanying plan of action for their integration into government entities (with briefings, capacity building and support) and allow project time to do this (at least six months).

C. Stakeholder involvement

For IOM Bolivia:

- For future similar projects, broaden the scope of stakeholders consulted and involved, for example involve CS as advocates for the project's outputs as appropriate and involve regional and municipal authorities to get the information to the local level.

D. Record keeping

For IOM Bolivia:

- For future similar projects, ensure that meeting notes and lists of attendees are properly taken, documented, and uploaded onto PRIMA, annexed to the interim reports to facilitate reporting, monitoring and evaluation.

E. Project follow-up and handover

For IOM Bolivia:

- To sustain the results of this project, continue to monitor to what extent the six sectors have integrated the project's findings within their policies on internal migration.

For all IOM units implementing IDF projects:

- IDF projects should have a sustainability and follow-up plan as part of the final report.