



# EVALUATION BRIEF

June 2018

## MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF KYRGYZSTAN TO STRENGTHEN THE LEGAL AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS”

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.

<b>Evaluation type:</b>	Internal, independent evaluation
<b>Evaluator(s):</b>	Sarah Harris, Regional M&E Officer, IOM Regional Office in Vienna
<b>Field visit dates:</b>	February/March 2018
<b>Final report date:</b>	June 2018
<b>Commissioned by:</b>	IOM Mission in the Kyrgyz Republic
<b>Managed by:</b>	Jyldyz Ahmetova, Project Manager

**Evaluation purpose:** Conducted six months before conclusion of this three-year project, the purpose is to take stock of progress in project implementation to provide IOM project management, the donor (J/TIP) and key partners (Parliament, Ministry of Interior, State Migration Service, Ministry of Labour and Social Development) with an indication of how well the project is doing including quality of project implementation, bottlenecks and constraints, achievements and milestones, lessons learned and best practices.

**Evaluation criteria:** Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability

**Evaluation methodology:** Document review, initial reflection session with IOM staff, semi-structured key informant interviews with partners and stakeholders, and a final debrief and discussion with IOM staff including participative identification of initial recommendations.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

This project aims to provide the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic (GoK) with technical assistance to strengthen its legal and operational framework for combating trafficking in persons (TIP) using a coordinated and victim-centred approach.

It supports alignment of legislation with international standards; developing a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to improve services to victims of trafficking (VoTs) and enhancing cooperation between government and civil society; trainings for judges, prosecutors and law enforcement; and increasing awareness on trafficking and related legislative and operational updates. The project also provides technical and logistical support to Parliament, essential for successful achievement of the legislative component of this project.

The project has four intended objectives, as follows:

**Objective 1:** GoK to draft, debate and adopt an amendment bringing the country's TIP law in line with international standards.

**Objective 2:** Support GoK in the development, institutionalization and implementation of a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) to identify and provide assistance to VoTs using a victim-centered approach

**Objective 3:** Prosecutorial and judicial officials engage

### Project information:

Geographical coverage:	The Kyrgyz Republic
Project type:	Counter-trafficking
Project code:	CT.0918
Project period:	1 October 2015 – 30 September 2018
Donor:	J/TIP (Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the United States Department of State)
Budget:	USD 750,000

in the effective investigation and prosecution of TIP cases using the draft amended TIP law and a victim-centered approach

**Objective 4:** Vulnerable individuals and partners and relevant government institutions are aware of the risks of TIP, as well as the development of new updates to national legal and operational framework, and engage with available services

A Theory of Change (ToC) diagram was developed to further illustrate intended results (Annex 1 to the full report).

The main project partners are Parliament, the Ministry of Interior, State Migration Service, and Ministry of Labour and Social Development. The project also worked closely with the Training Center for Judges, the Training Center for Prosecutors, and IOM's network of 30 national NGOs.

## KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

**Relevance:** The proposal is well-designed with a clear, concise and logical description of activities and results. Intended results are well aligned to context and needs. The project identified legal amendments and an NRM as priorities in line with a 2015 Parliamentary Monitoring Report, and it remains aligned to national priorities for example through inclusion of its components in the National Action Plan (NAP) 2017-2020 and alignment with other CT efforts of IOM and other actors.

**Effectiveness:** The projects appears on track to complete activities and achieve outputs by the end of the project. *Key results achieved to date:*

- Legal amendments adopted following, going beyond original plan to only produce a draft by the project's end. The project also supported drafting a law on Private Employment Agencies.
- Improved knowledge of a coordinated, victim-centered approach was perceived by stakeholders.
- SOPs are drafted and validated, and stakeholders perceive strong engagement and efforts on track to adopt by-laws for operationalization of an NRM.
- Training content and trainers were perceived to be of high-quality, including Russian-speaking trainers bringing relevant country context and experiences.

**Efficiency:** Expenditures and activities are timely and on track. IOM selected NGO proposals based on scoring that prioritizes innovation and efficiency, and the team maximized efficiency and utility of each consultant.

**Impact:** The project has supported development of a comprehensive law adopted in January 2018, as well as its implementation through completed SOP workshops and a planned final event to present and promote the full package of amendments and SOPs. Capacity building went in parallel to legislative developments, and the role of the expert consultants was cited by stakeholders as critical in promoting reflection and shifting mindsets.

**Sustainability:** Project activities and results were embedded in national agendas and action plans, and coordination and interaction were promoted through a Task Force Group (TFG) led by the Parliament.

NRM stakeholders gained knowledge of amended laws and SOPs, and perceive a willingness to implement them. Implementation will require sustained engagement and coordination, and depends on GoK gradually taking on a larger support role, including allocation of budget lines for CT.

IOM continued supporting its NGO network. NGOs will

continue to play an important role, and many continue to rely on IOM and other projects for funding, with NGOs as well as IOM often called on to support direct assistance.

Partnering with training centers and using a 'training of trainers' approach facilitates sustainability, though there may be a need for further external support, such as financial support for trainings or to bring international experts. Support may also be helpful in organization of joint trainings for prosecutors, judges and police.

Finally, the project promotes a national CT hotline and use of a new mobile application developed under this project, which will provide lasting benefits.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

*In the next month, IOM should:*

1. Review and revise the ToC to inform monitoring, exit strategy design, and final reporting.
2. Develop a Results Monitoring Framework to more clearly align indicators to specific outputs and outcomes and to better track progress.

*By the end of the project, IOM should:*

3. Carry out a fuller analysis regarding existence of dedicated CT units/staff, as part of final exit planning.
4. Gather data to report on the percentage of TFG members that demonstrate capacity and knowledge.
5. Explore ways to monitor progress for Outcome 2.1 (GoK engagement) and 2.2 (institutional capacity).
6. Explore possible approaches to monitoring application of knowledge on an institutional level.
7. Assess the status of institutionalization of the trainings and foreseen needs for future support.

*IOM is recommended to include the following into ongoing or future CT projects:*

8. Support the GoK in interpreting and applying SOPs in a unified and coordinated manner, including further training as needed for NRM stakeholders.
9. Explore ways to build capacity of GoK administrative and financial staff by providing technical advice and best practice on estimated costs for operationalizing the various elements of the NRM.
10. Explore interest among stakeholders for joint trainings for prosecutors, judges and police, as well as potentially the penitentiary system, including exploring potential added value of IOM facilitation.