



EVALUATION BRIEF

4 November 2019

FINAL EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “ENHANCING COOPERATION MEASURES TO EFFECTIVELY COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING CAPACITIES AZERBAIJAN” - PHASE VI (ECMCT PROJECT)

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 and externally by project partners. More details can be found in the full evaluation report.

Evaluation type:	External independent final evaluation
Evaluator(s):	Christian Bugnion de Moreta
Field visit dates:	6 —11 October 2019
Final report date:	4 November 2019
Commissioned by:	IOM Mission in Azerbaijan

Managed by: Marija Nikolovska, Project Manager

Evaluation purpose: To support IOM and the donor in assessing progress, to ensure accountability; in determining what is working and what is not, to inform future phases; and to identify knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned.

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

Evaluation methodology: Document review and inception report submission, in-country data collection based on 14 semi-structured interviews with IOM, national counterparts, US State Department, in Baku and Skype with Nakhchivan police, as well as direct observation.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The aim of the project was to contribute to strengthening the National Capacity in effectively countering the Trafficking in Persons phenomenon. The project chose an approach in which four outcomes were expected to contribute to this overall result: 1) enhanced capacity of health professionals to identify, protect and assist migrants and VoTs, 2) Enhanced capacity of the judiciary contributes to better protection and assistance to migrants and VoTs, 3) Strengthened capacity of NAR in counter-trafficking, 4) VoTs and migrant workers enjoy greater access to protection of rights and provision of assistance.

The most clearly identifiable outcome has been to raise awareness about the issue of Trafficking in Persons. Activities were held in Baku with a wide range of counterparts and across the country. 1,914 awareness raising seminars were held in schools countrywide with the collaboration of the Azerbaijani Red Crescent a psychosocial manual was developed for health professionals, trainings for judges and prosecutors were carried out in various locations. 972 migrant workers also benefited from post-orientation sessions.

IOM supported the three officially recognized shelters in Azerbaijan to provide assistance to the VoTs and potential VoTs Interviews with shelter staff indicated that IOM was critical in capacity development. Furthermore the support of the IOM enabled to provide assistance to 494 shelter residents. Shelters provide integrated service support including psychosocial therapy, legal assistance, medical attention, support to children school enrolment, livelihoods, etc.

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Azerbaijan, Baku and regions including Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic
Project type:	Combating Human Trafficking
Project code:	CT.0998
Gender marker:	1
Project period:	21 September 2016 to 20 October 2019
Donor:	US Department of State, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)
Budget:	USD 864,964

Another important element is that IOM shows the best international practices in the field of TIP and this is highly valued by the national stakeholders, as they are anxious to ensure their national performance is in line with best international practice and are keen to learn from exchange visits.

The project also developed with the Justice Academy a handbook on International Migration Law in Azerbaijani language, the contents of which were used for the training of judges and prosecutors in various areas of the country.

The project has supported the foundations for institutional capacity development. However, the size, structure and means of the project were insufficient to achieve the outcomes and overall objective. A more strategically-oriented project with a clear measure of national capacity development could yield improved results.

Managerial capacity in terms of M&E and reporting on results should be developed to achieve the desired objectives.

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

IOM has supported the foundations to contribute to enhancing national capacities to combat trafficking in persons (TiP) with this project. Its main effect can be summarized as follows: 1) the awareness raising and knowledge sharing on international migration law and best practices in the field of combating TiP, across the range of actors involved and the general public, with specific trainings designed for each category; 2) support to victims and potential VoTs in the three recognised shelters; 3) facilitating information exchange and coordination amongst the NRM and across state agencies.

Overall project implementation was good and main outputs were achieved, with the exception of output 3.2 (Strengthening capacity of SMS in NAR), cancelled and implemented under another IOM project, and output 4.1. (creation of a migrant workers' trade union) which proved not to be feasible.

The composition of the outcome statements and outputs and the project structure appears more as a list of activities than as a strategically focused project.

Communications and relationships with the beneficiary state institutions were good and IOM has gained the trust of many state institutions and is seen a valued partner in the field of combating TiP.

However, the project size, means, timeframe and scope were not sufficient to achieve the overall objectives and expected outcomes. In the future a more strategically designed project based on broad and inclusive partner consultations could lead to a more robust project design.

Improved M&E and reporting capacity in IOM are necessary to report on higher-level results as the project concentrated its reporting on activities but did not systematically explain the rationale for the changes in project implementation.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Gender was insufficiently incorporated into project design and was dealt with in the context of a wider objective, thereby showing limited gender awareness or sensitivity. Recommendations from an internal Project Performance Review (PPR) in April 2018 led to the inclusion of a gender specific module in the ToT training for IML.

Conversely, *Human Rights* were an integral part of the approach to VoTs' assistance and therefore protection of VoTs was embedded in the activities and the trainings undertaken.

GOOD PRACTICES

The project created trusting relationship with most state institutions, as IOM is seen as a key partner to bring good international practices to combat TiP in Azerbaijan.

The holding of awareness raising campaign across the county in schools, through Migrant Information Desks (MID) and Migrant Information Centre (MIC) and through specific

workshops and training to institutional agencies was a good approach to disseminate the knowledge about TiP in locations where potential VoTs may be found across the entire country.

LESSONS LEARNED

A specific monitoring system needs to be developed to measure the institutional capacity enhancement of state institutions as pre and post-test questionnaires are a good starting point for providing evidence of outputs, but not of institutional capacity development.

Project design should reflect strategic outcomes as a result of broad and inclusive consultation with project partners to support key priority areas rather than focusing on activities.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

IOM's continued support to combating TIP should be more strategically anchored on one or two key institutions, such as the MIA, and articulated on the basis of the mandate of the state agency in combating TIP, in order to provide specifically targeted support that enables assessment of performance regarding capacity development.

IOM should develop an upscaled partnership strategy to engage partners into more strategic discussions around their capacity building priorities.

IOM has a strong role to play in support of the 4th NAP, particularly regarding the enhanced coordination efforts required from having more than 40 different actors with different mandates interact to combat TIP and the potential articulation of thematic working groups. IOM could develop, jointly with its government counterparts, a mapping of actors who are part of the National Referral Mechanism, if it is not yet covered by another project.

Specific requests were made from state agencies and NGOs to consider if IOM could organise exchange visits in the former CIS region countries to broaden their practical experience and gain hands-on good practice experience from other countries in combating TIP.

IOM should consider full training on project development, monitoring and evaluation, Results-Based Management, and reporting to all its office staff.

Given the complex identification process regarding the status of the VoTs and potential VoTs, IOM should continue its support to the three shelter NGOs as they are essential to provide the entire package of required assistance and services to address the victims needs from a human rights based approach. IOM should follow a case management approach to highlight the important results that are being achieved in a more comprehensive and illustrative manner than by narrative description.