



EVALUATION BRIEF

January 2020

MIDTERM INTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE “REGIONAL PROGRAMME AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING (UKRAINE, MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, BELARUS) PHASE II”

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.

Evaluation type:	Midterm internal evaluation
Evaluator(s):	Nomagugu NCUBE, Svetlana RAKIC
Field visit dates:	23 September—4 October 2019
Final report date:	31 January 2020
Commissioned by:	IOM Mission in Ukraine
Managed by:	Victoria MAZURENKO

Evaluation purpose: The purpose of the mid-term evaluation is to review the project’s performance and achievements to date, to identify best practices and aspects that could be improved, as well as to propose any correctional/additional/follow-up activities, as necessary and depending on resource availability.

Evaluation criteria: The evaluation was conducted to respond to questions according to the OECD/DAC criteria: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability. Additional questions were included to measure Accountability to Affected Populations including Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of beneficiaries.

Evaluation methodology: The evaluation was conducted in line with IOM standard evaluation methodology and procedures, consisting of three main stages: desk review, field visit and analysis and synthesis phase.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project is being implemented in Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Georgia, part of the South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia region where according to data accumulated by IOM, the situation is, among others, characterized by the following common trends: most of the human trafficking originating in the region is intraregional, more specifically within sub-regions (Central Asia, South Caucasus, Western Balkans and Eastern Europe); forced labour, including in the construction and agricultural sectors, domestic servitude and begging, is still the main purpose for human trafficking in the region; rising share of trafficking in men and trafficking for labour exploitation.

Additional effort is required from the international actors to strengthen states’ capacity and commitment to proactively prevent human trafficking, to conduct educational campaigns that target at-risk population, to identify and protect trafficking survivors and to improve overall response and referral mechanisms by sensitizing non-specialised service providers and responding to issues that trigger human trafficking (such as gender-based violence).

Based on the lessons learnt, needs identified and good practices developed in the first phase of the project (CT.0795), the second phase aims to strengthen cooperation and dialogue in the sphere

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia and Belarus
Project type:	Counter-trafficking
Project code:	CT.1122
Gender marker:	1
Project period:	January 2017—December 2020
Donor:	Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Budget:	60,200,000.00 NOK

of combating human trafficking through regional exchange of knowledge, experience and best practice between Governments and civil society of Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and Belarus through achieving the following three **Outcomes**:

- Regional and national response to TIP (and protection of Victims of Trafficking (VoTs)) is improved through consolidated coordination platforms, cooperation among all relevant actors and improved counter trafficking policies.
- Civil society organizations in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus take a lead advocating for improved counter-trafficking policies and state response
- Knowledge base on human trafficking is solidified and used to adjust prevention and protection strategies in the region.

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Overall, the programme has demonstrated good potential and is on course to achieve most of its expected outputs and outcomes, effectively contributing towards improved prevention, protection, prosecution and partnerships on TIP. The programme responds to a critical need in the project countries and region and has can be considered for continuation and expansion. Based on the evolving needs on the ground, the project has been flexible enough to accommodate additional interventions towards achieving its stated results. The addition of activities such as training of airlines, road and sea transport sectors, as well as members of the amalgamated territorial communities in Ukraine has been driven by the changing dynamics of human trafficking as well as the national governments decentralization reform agendas.

The programme was found to be largely **relevant** to the HT context in the four countries and the region. This conclusion is based on the following observations: (1) there was consensus amongst all key stakeholders interviewed on the problematisation of the phenomenon of TIP in the four countries and the need to take action to address this issue; (2) the programme holistically addresses all the four Ps (prevention, protection, prosecution, partnerships) of HT response; (3) the programme is in strong alignment with national, regional and international frameworks and provisions on HT.

In terms of **effectiveness**, the project is largely on track to meet its planned outputs and targets even though there was late start-up. Related to **efficiency**, the late start-up of the programme affected timely onset of implementation of the programme activities, which necessitated an immediate request for one year no-cost extension to December 2020.

The programme has certain strong **sustainability** elements, mainly through (1) integration of TIP in the national and sub national development agendas (2) working with existing national and sub national state and non-state structures with long term presence in the project countries, (3) capacity strengthening of stakeholders through innovative means including e-learning and mobile applications, and (4) collaboration with the private sector in capacity building has resulted in cost savings which should continue to be explored for other sectors and interventions.

As for longer-term **impacts**, the programme is contributing to improvements in the national HT response in the target countries through a range of interventions, including (1) policy reforms by supporting review of legislation; (2) institutionalization of best practices such as innovative information sharing; (3) supporting the strengthening of state mandated established national coordination structures.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Young people are disproportionately targeted by traffickers and are more vulnerable. Project has actively sought to reach them with targeted and specific messaging.

Gender was noted as an important consideration for the project. However, the project did not demonstrate that gender considerations were sufficiently mainstreamed in project interventions, including gender analysis of beneficiary needs in reintegration as well as in vulnerabilities and risk to trafficking.

GOOD PRACTICES

There has been evidence of several other interventions that have potential to be best practices (Youth Summer School, collaboration with private sector). However, the project needs to focus on assessing these and documenting them for scalability within the region and beyond.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on review of literature, key informant interviews with stakeholders and discussions with communities, the following recommendations are put forward by the evaluation team.

1. Strengthen programme monitoring and evaluation to enable better tracking of progress towards results at all levels.
2. Revise and strengthen programme design to ensure better fit of interventions with desired results.
3. Consideration should be given to continuation of the programme of support and potentially contributing to further strengthen national and regional capacities on prevention, protection and partnerships while sustaining the gains on prosecution.
4. Conduct documentation of good practices by the end of the project, to feed into final reporting and the development of new programming, depending on resource availability. Depending on the decision taken regarding the position of La Strada Belarus, some of the funds initially programmed towards their support could be diverted towards this.
5. Strengthen engagement and inclusion of all stakeholders (government, CSOs, and other IOM missions) at programme design and revision stages. This process could start with engaging these stakeholders in elucidating the programme theory of change and revision of indicators.