

## EX-POST EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “TOWARD AN EFFECTIVE MIGRANTS’ RIGHT TO HEALTH IN CENTRAL ASIA: ASSISTING THE GOVERNMENTS IN ENHANCING HEALTH SERVICES FOR MIGRANTS”

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:** Internal independent ex-post evaluation

**Evaluator:** Ursula Wagner, Regional Migration Health Assistant, IOM Regional Office in Vienna

**Field visit dates:** 3-8 June 2018

**Final report date:** 24 September 2018

**Commissioned by:** IOM Mission in Kyrgyzstan

**Managed by:** Nurbek OMUROV, Project Manager

**Evaluation purpose:** The evaluation intends to assess the extent to which the objectives were consistent with the priorities of partners, as well as the degree to which the knowledge produced can inform policy making in the field of migrants’ right to health. The evaluation intends to capture the performance, management and success of the project, and looks at signs of potential impact of project activities and sustainability of results.

**Evaluation criteria:** Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability and cross.-cutting issues (gender and rights-based approach)

**Evaluation methodology:** Document review, and semi-structured interviews with IOM project staff, partners and stakeholders during a field visit in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Content analysis of interviews.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Central Asia is marked by high labor migration, and access of migrants to healthcare of pivotal importance. Therefore this regional project set out with the intention to contribute to the advancement of migrants’ right to health in the region by reaching two main objectives:

First, it was intended that an assessment of migration and health issues, including policies and legislation, would be useful and used by IOM, partners and other stakeholders in the three participating countries.

Main topics identified for this research were national legislations, migrants’ access to healthcare, a specific focus on needs of migrant women, and emigration of health workers, resulting in evidence-based recommendations. It was intended to integrate stakeholders’ review of these research findings to validate the findings and solutions proposed.

At the same time, the project’s secondary objective was to support national and regional dialogue to establish mechanisms for cooperation and coordination among states, and to design and implement the regional strategy to address the health issues and concerns of migrants in Central Asia.

### Project information:

Geographical coverage: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan

Project type: Health Promotion and Assistance to Migrants (MA)

Project code: MA.0377

Project period: 1 November 2016 — 31 October 2017

Donor: IDF

Budget: USD 100,000

To this end, the findings of the research were presented and discussed during a regional workshop, which took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, during the second half of the project. The aim of the workshop was not only capacity building of partners and stakeholders on migrants’ right to health, and the specific health vulnerabilities of migrants, but also to reach a joint declaration on the advancement of migrants’ right to health in the region.



## KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

### Relevance

- The project aligns well with needs and priorities in the region, as the countries face high numbers of labor migrants with their respective health needs.
- The project addressed governments' lack of knowledge and capacity to address migration health issues as cross-cutting issues.
- Partners and stakeholders were consulted and involved before and during the project implementation, however the extent of involvement could be improved, as their engagement proved to be limited.
- The project does not directly relate to national strategies on healthcare, as they do not address migration, but to current debates in the respective countries and the Eurasian Economic Union.

### Effectiveness

- The assessment of existing legislation and policies was carried out in a sound and consistent way across all three countries and covered relevant aspects. However, information provided was limited due to time and context.
- The final research report was distributed widely both in political settings and academia, is available online and is considered an important document.
- Recommendations for the improvement of legislation and policies on migrants' health have been formulated and put into tailored summaries.
- In the final regional workshop policymakers, government officials and stakeholders exchanged ideas and experiences, and were exposed to international experiences and best practices.
- Some progress was made toward realizing improved legal and regulatory frameworks, however no direct change in legislations can be noted, due to the limited timeframe and structural factors.
- Important steps were made toward achieving increased political commitment, knowledge and skills of policymakers and government officials.
- Partners' satisfaction with outcomes of the project and usefulness of the generated data is high.
- Major factors influencing the achievements were both structural (different interests at stake, limited knowledge on migration health) and in the project design (institutional change takes time).

### Efficiency

- The project was cost-effective and implemented within planned budget, with slight underspending.
- Resources were used well and contributed to envisaged results, and the project was well managed.

### Impact

- The project contributed to strengthening migrants' right to health by building evidence and contributing to capacity building of government counterparts.
- The most notable impact that migrants are considered as a separate category, and that migration is not only the domain of State Migration Services or Ministries of Labor.
- The project helped to establish a dialogue and can be considered as first step towards broader discussions on migration and health with the involvement of Ministry of Health.
- Viable partnerships have been established with government counterparts.
- The regional nature of the project allows for regional comparison, which set the base for dialogue on migrants' right to health in the three countries.

### Sustainability

- The project design included elements such as the project steering committee and workshops to foster sustainability.
- Governments' buy-in was secured before the project start, but not all governments were fully on board, hence government ownership of the information generated in the project is limited.
- Activities started during the project implementation were carried on autonomously by government counterparts. However, no progress can be noted with regard to amending laws, as governments still lack capacity to deal with migration health issues.
- IOM's involvement into migration-related activities beyond the project can be regarded as a sustainable effect and will help to further enhance capacity-building of government counterparts.

## KEY RECOMMENDATION

The project was successful in building viable relationships with the project partners with regard to a highly relevant topic. It is recommended that:

- The IOM Mission in Kyrgyzstan develops a **follow-up project** further assisting government in reaching a common framework on migrants' access to healthcare and in the concrete amendment of existing laws and regulations. Taking into account migratory movements in the **Eurasian Economic Union**, it is advised to expand the project scope to its member states and strive for harmonization of their laws.