



# EVALUATION BRIEF

May 2019

## “APPUI AU RENFORCEMENT DE LA GESTION DE LA MIGRATION AU NIGER” (STRENGTHENING MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN NIGER)

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.

<b>Evaluation type:</b>	Internal Midterm Evaluation
<b>Evaluator(s):</b>	Maite de Muller, Reg. M&E Officer, IOM Regional Office in Dakar
<b>Field visit dates:</b>	27 January-1 February 2019
<b>Final report date:</b>	15 May 2019
<b>Commissioned by:</b>	IOM Mission in Niger
<b>Managed by:</b>	C. Atekmangoh, Project Manager

**Evaluation purpose:** To support IOM, the donor (DANIDA) and key partners in assessing progress to achieve the objectives and expected results and to measure the changes that this project has made in terms of supporting the Government of Niger in strengthening the management of migration. To ensure accountability; and to provide 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, sustainability and gender.

**Evaluation methodology:** The data collection for the evaluation involved document review; 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 18-month project (implementation period from January 2018 to June 2019) intended to strengthen the concerted and human rights-based management of migration flows in Niger, including improving the management of the return of migrants and preventing irregular migration. Through a reinforcement of awareness raising activities.

The project had three main objectives:

- National institutions have strengthened knowledge and capacity to manage migration;
- State authorities responsible for the return of migrants have enhanced knowledge and capacity to manage returns effectively;
- Migrants in transit in Niger are informed about the dangers of, and alternatives to, irregular migration.

The project seeks to strengthen the capacity of some national institutions, which have a key responsibility in managing migration, through relatively targeted actions and considering the limits of their absorptive capacity, as well as other supports they are already benefiting from. The projects also support IOM in addressing some immediate needs of target migrants, particularly regarding sensitizing migrants on their way to North Africa and Europe about the dangers and alternatives to irregular migration and help on their return.

### Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Niger
Project type:	Migration Management
Project code:	RT.1414
Gender marker:	X
Project period:	January 2018 to June 2019 (ext. Sept)
Donor:	DANIDA
Budget:	7,500,000 DKK (approx. 1,000,000 Euros)

This project is inserted in IOM Niger's broader strategy to address complex migration flows in Niger, the "Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM)". This mechanism aims to provide a holistic response to the complexity of the migratory phenomenon in Niger, which remains a country of origin, transit and destination. This mechanism was established in 2015 thanks to several projects, that complement the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrants Protection and Reintegration.

## KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

**Relevance:** The proposal was well designed in terms of a clear, concise and logical description of 3 main areas of work. The project's objectives and outcomes were well aligned with context and needs. The project was well aligned with national strategies and donor's priorities and contributed to them.

**Effectiveness:** The project is completing all activities and have already achieved almost all planned outputs before the end of the project. The progress has been mainly on track. IOM has appeared to successfully mitigate some of the identified challenges and constraints. Government institutions in Niger are characterized by heavy administrative processes, and this has resulted in delays in the implementation of certain activities.

**Efficiency:** Analysis indicates that expenditures and activity implementation is overall timely and on track. IOM project team and counterparts all reported in general good communication and information sharing, including through periodic reports from counterparts and frequent updates and information sharing from IOM. The budget was well planned and did not need a budget revision so far. However, a detailed analysis of expenses and financial reports might require a broader discussion with the donor, so as to ensure allocation to budget lines reflects reality on the ground. Donor relation was efficient but could be improved, in terms of ensuring donor's expectations are clear and realistic and correspond to reality on the ground.

**Sustainability:** Sustainability and transfer strategies to capitalize on achieved outputs should continue to be discussed, agreed and formalized with government institutions and partners before the project's end. IOM needs to continue strengthening national capacities and knowledge in order to support the gradual transfer of skills and ownership of the management of migration issues by national authorities. In coordination with the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrants Protection and Reintegration, activities to promote the capacity of state authorities, in charge of the return of migrants, to effectively manage returns must be articulated in part of a regional project, in close collaboration with ECOWAS and the African Union. A better coordination network among national and international partners working in awareness raising campaigns will ensure the creation of synergies and avoid duplications.

## KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Recommended actions for the near future:*

1. Sustainability and transfer strategies should continue to be discussed, agreed and formalized with government institutions and partners before the project's end.
2. IOM Niger should keep working and build capacities of focal points within government counterparts.
3. Continue IOM advocacy work with Liberia and Guinee Conakry to try to speed up the consular process for issuing travel documents for their nationals.

### *Recommended actions for migration management in Niger:*

4. Continue and reinforce IOM efforts to support Nigerien authorities in addressing a broader and more consistent strategy on migration management. A strong capacity building component will be key and should become a priority.
5. DANIDA could foresee an engagement strategy aimed at more substantially supporting national institutional capacities in migration management, to be initiated later in the framework of the Country Program (2017-2022) as a Phase 2 of the project.
6. Follow IOM diplomatic and programmatic efforts in WCA to promote the capacity of state authorities in charge of the return of migrants, in close collaboration with ECOWAS and the African Union.
7. Data collection and analysis should be reinforced and better coordinated in Niger. IOM to support national entities to take the leading role.
8. Ensure that a strong coordination mechanism for all stakeholders providing assistance to migrants is set up in Niger, in coordination with CCM, so as to ensure synergies and avoid duplications.
9. IOM Niger should continue to support the Government of Niger on the further implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Marrakech Conference in December 2018.

### *Recommended actions for IOM Niger for future projects in general:*

10. IOM's enhanced transparency and proactivity in sharing projects' goals with government counterparts will enrich the trust relationship and will help partners to have a broader picture and understanding of their concrete activity within and in relation to a broader program.
11. IOM Niger to further assess means of integrating sustainability into all projects design, for example: by encouraging the participation and engagement of stakeholders and direct beneficiaries in project design and implementation; by supporting local institutions to progressively take responsibility for project design, implementation and results.