

PROJECT EVALUATION LEARNING BRIEF

March 2020

This learning brief is a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations prepared by the Owl RE consultancy for use by IOM project staff and management and the Fund. Details on all of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations can be found in the full evaluation report.

Evaluation type:	External independent ex-post evaluation
Evaluator(s):	Sharon McClenaghan Owl RE
Evaluation visit:	2-6 December 2019
Final report:	11 March 2020
Commissioned by:	IOM Development Fund ("The Fund")

Managed by: Nino Shushania, IOM Project Manager, Georgia

Evaluation purpose: To assess the relevance of the project for the stakeholders and beneficiaries, to determine whether the project has achieved its intended objective; the effectiveness and efficiency of project management and implementation; promote transparency and accountability, assist the Fund in its decision-making, better equip staff to make judgments about the project and to improve the effectiveness for potential future project funding.

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

Evaluation methodology: Document review and semi-structured interviews

PROJECT SUMMARY

Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS represent a significant public health concern in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Particularly alarming are the rates of multi-resistant and extensively drug resistant tuberculosis forms in the South Caucasus countries along with the increasing prevalence of HIV/AIDS registered cases. Effective TB and HIV/AIDS control is further undermined by high rates of interrupted treatment courses.

Inter-connectivity between the three countries is strong and mobility along the South Caucasus transit corridors has increased with the recent introduction of Integrated Border Management (IBM) to the region. Migrants and mobile populations represent one of the main vulnerable at-risk groups.

The project's main objective was to contribute to the enhancement of cross border mechanisms for prevention, increased detection, referral and treatment of HIV/AIDS and TB among migrant and mobile populations in the South Caucasus region.

The core activities included a regional health promotion campaign, regional migrant health survey and training/awareness of healthcare professionals.

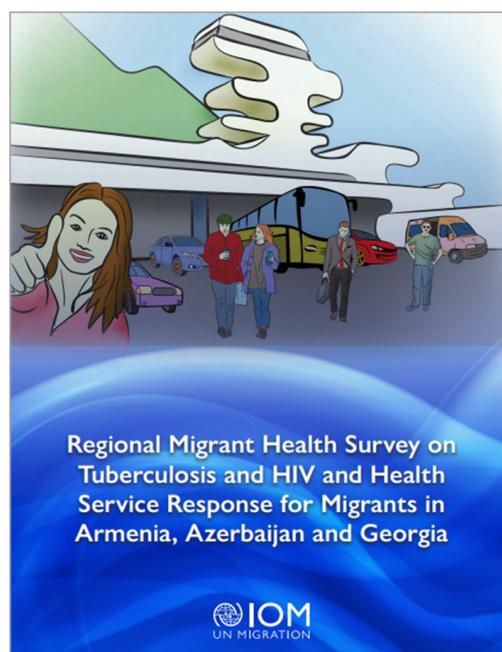
Enhancing Mechanisms for Prevention, Detection and Treatment of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis Among Migrant and Mobile Populations in the South Caucasus Countries

Geographical coverage: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Project type: Migration and health

Project code: MA.0379

Project period: 1 December 2016 to 30 November 2018



Regional Migrant Health Survey Report

KEY FINDINGS

The project was found to be very relevant to a pertinent issue of the region - that of migrant health as it relates to TB and HIV/ AIDS, as well as aligning to the national healthcare priorities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In addressing the challenges relating to referral and treatment continuity/compliance throughout migration process, and the need to strengthen cooperation between healthcare systems of sending, receiving and in-transit countries to address this, the project was extremely ambitious and innovative with 15 different activities spread over 3 countries.

Relevance (rating: Excellent - 5): The project was found to be highly relevant and aligned to the government priorities of all three counties, to differing degrees. It identified an issue of key importance for the region and was developed and implemented with the Government ministries and counterparts representing the three participating countries.

Effectiveness (rating: Very good - 4): The project was found to be very effective in achieving its outcomes and outputs which were achieved or mostly achieved through the three main components of the project. Through working together successfully, the project set an important precedent between the three countries in establishing a first step in a regional migrant-centred approach on HIV/AIDS and TB prevention and surveillance

Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness (rating: Excellent - 5): The project was managed very efficiently given the logistical challenges of coordinating a regional programme in three countries. It was found to be very cost effective with additional resources being donated by each country. The project timeframe was extended by three months with a no-cost extension which was needed to conclude the activities (the publication of survey results).

Impact (rating: Very good - 4): In the short term, the project improved health services to migrants and set an innovative precedent for further regional collaboration between the three participating countries. Interviewees were positive about what the project had achieved in terms of awareness raising, piloting migrant sensitive services, generating important data on migrant health and initiating a joint approach to the need for regional healthcare services. However, they were less positive about the potential of longer-term impact of the achievements without further funding secured.

Sustainability (rating: Acceptable - 2): Support for the project outcomes was extremely strong but interviews indicated mixed views as to the sustainability of the results. Further steps have been taken to promote joint activities between IOM offices and related partners to secure funding for the continuation of project related activities but these have been unsuccessful to date.

Conclusions

The project successfully enhanced cross-border mechanisms for sensitive migrant health services through raising awareness, voluntary counseling and testing. It also established an important first step in a regional migrant-centred approach between the three participating countries. However, given the ongoing tensions within the region, the sustainability of this approach will depend upon continued political will, as well as further resources to support activities; the lack of financial resources was cited as the main barrier to this occurring.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Project design

- For all IOM units implementing IDF projects, include a description of the political context of the project, and any ongoing tensions, in the project proposal and informing the assumption relating to the objective, against which progress can be accurately measured.

B. Project management

- For all IOM units implementing IDF projects it is suggested to a) have a database created of all stakeholders/ participants; b) have documentation of all key events and meetings, c) for regional projects, all project documentation of participating national offices to be stored on PRIMA; d) regular updating of the Results Monitoring Framework.

C. Sustainability and follow-up

- IDF should consider a section at project proposal stage which would estimate the level of sustainability possible; IDF projects should have a sustainability and follow-up plan as part of the final report.

D. Research-based projects

- IOM should consider developing a protocol on management and decision-making for projects which includes a clear delineation of staff responsibilities; project proposals featuring research components should be carefully budgeted to match their intended scope.

E. Gender equity assessment

- The Gender Unit should review all IDF project proposals and make suggestions as to what is required in order to comply with IOM gender policy.