

PROJECT EVALUATION LEARNING BRIEF

June 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:	24-28 February 2020
Final report:	5 June 2020
Commissioned by:	IOM Development Fund ("The Fund")

Managed by: Frehiwot Tefera, IOM Project Manager, Ethiopia

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

It is estimated that between three and a half and five million Ethiopian diaspora members are residing in North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Australia and within Africa. This increased migration trend has drained the Ethiopian society of much-needed skills to support the country's economic development.

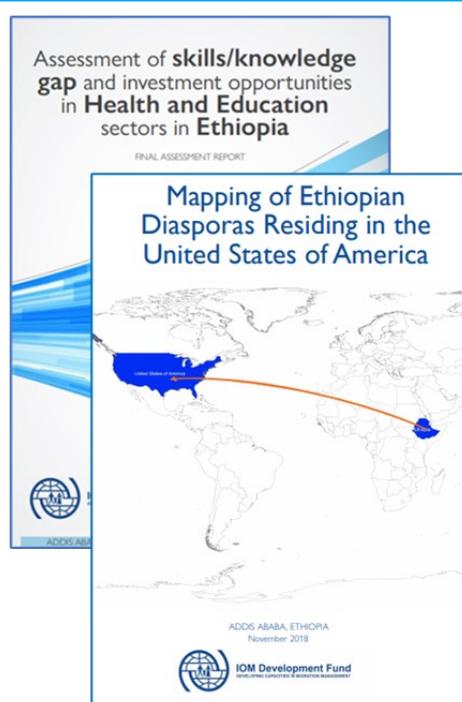
Recognizing that the diaspora can provide essential contributions to the development of the country, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) developed and launched the Diaspora Policy in 2013.

The project aimed to serve as a knowledge base to complement the GoE's efforts towards effective implementation of its Diaspora Policy to engage the Ethiopian diaspora in contributing to the economic development of the country.

The project was developed around 4 main components: 1. Collecting information about the Ethiopian diaspora in selected states in the United States of America (US); 2. Assessing the skills/resource needs and investment opportunities in the health and education sectors within Ethiopia, and matching them with diaspora resources; 3. Developing a roadmap for medium- and long-term interventions in coordination with the GoE; 4. Organizing a briefing of the outcome of the mapping and diaspora engagement for potential donors.

Mapping Ethiopian Diaspora Residing in the United States of America

Geographical coverage:	Ethiopia
Project type:	Migration and diaspora
Project code:	CE.0307
Project period:	1 December 2015 to 30 November 2018



Project deliverables: Mapping study and skills/knowledge gap report

KEY FINDINGS

The project was found to be relevant, focusing on engagement with the diaspora to develop a knowledge base and support the economic development efforts in the country, which is an ongoing priority of the GoE. The project was also found to be moderately effective, mostly or partially achieving all its outcomes and outputs through stakeholder meetings and the production of evidence-based research. A significant factor influencing project effectiveness was the timing, as the project took place during considerable political change. The project faced major obstacles to the implementation of activities including a volatile political context and the diaspora's loss of trust in the GoE. As a result a one year no-cost extension was granted.

Relevance (rating: Good - 3): The project was found to be relevant to the priorities of the GoE, complementing its effort to implement its Diaspora Policy and engage the Ethiopian diaspora. The timeframe of the project occurred during a period of political unrest which limited the relevance of the project and resulted in a reduction of its scope. Not all changes, such as the scope of the mapping component were fully documented in the Results Matrix.

Effectiveness (rating: Good - 3): The project was found to be effective. The most significant factor influencing project effectiveness was the political climate in which the project took place. This significantly reduced the time available for activities. However, project participants agreed on the usefulness of the project results and demonstrated evidence of a strengthened commitment towards diaspora engagement.

Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness (rating: Good - 3): The project was managed efficiently in challenging circumstances. The majority of project activities were delayed for a total of 25 months. The budget had a 16% underspend, a result of the reduced scope of project activities.

Impact (rating: Good - 3): The short-term results of the project were strong although limited by the reduced scope of the project. The new database produced from the mapping exercise has already been used by the GoE for diaspora engagement purposes. The longer-term impact of the project is more difficult to assess. If the project's outputs are considered as a pilot from which a larger mapping and assessment can be developed, this has the potential for longer-term impact, but will depend upon the next stage of the project being developed.

Sustainability (rating: Good - 3): The research outputs have produced valuable information which can be used to support diaspora engagement projects. The establishment of the Diaspora Agency and Diaspora Trust Fund indicate a prioritization from the GoE to engage with the diaspora and could support the sustainability of the project results.

Conclusions

The timeframe in which the project was implemented was characterized by political unrest which limited the involvement of many of the diaspora with the project. However, the project results were considered as very useful by the majority of stakeholders, particularly within the current context in which the GoE has prioritized its interest in diaspora engagement.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Project design

- For all IOM units implementing IDF projects, attention should be paid to politically related risk factors to allow for a fuller understanding of the potential negative impact on the project and contingency plans should be factored into the timeline and methodology.

B. Project documentation

- For IOM Ethiopia, all changes to activities, budget and outputs to IDF projects should be discussed and agreed with the Fund beforehand and made via a Budget and/or Project Revision on PRIMA.

C. For diaspora mapping or related projects

- For all IOM units implementing diaspora mapping projects, it is suggested to a) Co-ordinate with the respective Regional Thematic Specialist on relevant tools and initiatives; b) Project proposals featuring mapping components should be carefully budgeted; c) Allow time for all publications to be edited if deadlines are extended; d) Continue to maintain a relationship with the diaspora through project follow up; e) In researching diaspora resources and gaps ensure a collaborative approach; f) Consider opportunities to address any shortcomings if access to the diaspora is compromised. .

D. Sustainability

- For IOM Ethiopia, continue to work with the Diaspora Agency and other relevant government entities to encourage the further usage of the project's result; explore opportunities for the development and funding of new projects based on the result.