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Nigeria: Strengthening Reintegration for Returnees (SRARP) - Phase II

Ex-post Evaluation Report

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Project Summary

Executing Organization:	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Project Identification and Contract Numbers	NG20P0517 / RR.0163
Project Management Site and Relevant Regional Office:	Lagos, S-Off, NIGERIA Regional Office: RO Dakar
Project Period:	15 December 2020 – 15 December 2022
Geographical Coverage:	Nigeria
Project Beneficiaries	Returning migrants from Germany and the EU, private sector employment agencies (PSEA), federal and State-levels authorities, civil society organizations (CSOs).
Project Partner(s):	Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FLME), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking, Edo State Task Force Against Human Trafficking, National Orientation Agency, Federal and State-levels authorities, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), UN agencies.
Total Confirmed Funding:	EUR 1,400,000
Date of the Evaluation	February 2023
Evaluator	Abderrahim El Moulat, ROMEO, IOM Dakar

ACRONYMS

AVM	Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants
AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
CMET	Case Management Expert Team
CSO	Civil Society Organization
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GCM	Global Compact for Migration
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HVR	Humanitarian Voluntary Return
IOM	International Organization for Migrations
KII	Key-Informant Interview
LGA	Local Government Area
LSETF	Lagos State Education Trust Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MET	Monitoring and Evaluation Expert Team
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MSC	Most Significant Change
NAPTIP	Task Force Against Human Trafficking
NCE	No Cost Extension
NCFRMI	National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons
NMP	National Migration Policy
RC	Reintegration Committee
RGA	Revenue Generating Activities
RO	Regional Office
RRR	Return, Readmission and Reintegration
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SOP	Standard Operational Procedures
SRF	Strategic Results Framework
TFAHT	Task Force Against Human Trafficking

ToC	Theory of Change
WGRRR	Working Group on Return, Readmission and Reintegration

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project "*Strengthening Reintegration for Returnees (SRARP) - Phase II*", funded by the GIZ and implemented by IOM Nigeria between December 2020 and December 2022, attained to an important extent to its ultimate objective to "*contribute to the Federal Government of Nigeria's efforts to reintegrate returning Nigerian migrants from Germany, EU, and other transit and destination countries sustainably*".

The internal ex-post evaluation relied on a mixed approach, using quantitative and qualitative data to assess the project's performance with regards to the evaluation criteria.

The main findings and recommendations of the evaluation are:

Relevance (Rating: Very Good – 4/5)

According to the evaluation findings, the project was assessed as being still relevant to its immediate context, with the regular trends of migrants' return from Germany and other countries during a difficult economic and social situation in Nigeria.

By adopting a needs-based individual approach to the reintegration of returned migrants, the project was able to identify the vulnerabilities of selected beneficiaries and to better target the appropriate social, economic and psychosocial assistance in order to enhance the sustainability of their reintegration.

The project's design, as articulated in its Logic Model, was coherent and detailed, with two result pathways related to improved capacity of implementing partners and enhanced sustainability of migrants' reintegration. The design of the second phase of the project integrated to an acceptable extent lessons learned and best practices from the first phase.

Recommendation 1.
In any future similar intervention, better align the initiative's ultimate objectives with the SDGS and IOM CGM objectives, and map the intervention output and outcome indicators to IOM Strategic Results Framework (SRF) indicators.

Gender equality was not systematically and clearly articulated in the project's design as represented in the Logical Framework and the result matrix. No specific gender-related output or outcomes were clearly formulated, and the project performance indicators were not disaggregated by gender.

Recommendation 2.
For any future projects, better mainstream gender equality in the project design and its related Logic Model and result matrix.

Effectiveness (Rating: Very Good – 4/5)

Average Reintegration sustainability scores of the surveyed beneficiaries generally increased compared to their baseline level (except for the psychosocial dimension), with a majority of the beneficiaries having a moderate to a high level of sustainability on the three dimensions at the end of the project. Despite its slight decrease, the psychosocial dimension remains the highest in terms of its sustainability score, while the economic dimension is still the lowest compared to others despite its important increase.

Recommendation 3.
Base the provided complimentary reintegration assistance on the level of sustainability at the start of the project and conduct systematic baseline assessment at the individual level.

The project exceeded by 221% its target in terms of needs-based rehabilitation assistance and was able to a certain extent to identify and provide urgent medical and psychosocial support to relevant beneficiaries.

Recommendation 4.
Provide continuum of care for people returned migrants needing long-term medical or mental support and social protection to provide such continuum of care.

Targeted and need-based business and vocational training was effectively provided to beneficiaries by various confirmed implementing partners. Most respondent beneficiaries were satisfied with the quality and utility of the trainings, but no monitoring system was in place to assess the outcomes of the training.

Recommendation 5.
Put the focus on digital marketing and digital transformation in the business skills training provided to returned migrants.

Recommendation 6.
Design a comprehensive and integrated system to monitor the results and outcomes of business and technical skills' trainings and to follow up on their contribution to the sustainable reintegration of the beneficiaries.

The project exceeded its target by 34%, providing different complimentary reintegration assistance to 428 beneficiaries, with most receiving business training and equipment to start micro-businesses.

Recommendation 7.
Consider increasing the economic reintegration amount allocated to beneficiaries and adjust it to the inflation rate.

The project provided capacity-building support for mental health and health actors, including training programs for MHPSS service providers and material and equipment support. This allowed partner state and non-state actors to enhance their capacity to provide more effective recovery and reintegration services.

The project contributed towards establishing and strengthening reintegration coordination structures at the federal and state level, with participants gaining a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Refresher trainings were held for state and non-state actors involved in reintegration in various states, improving their skills and knowledge of opportunities for guidance.

Recommendation 8.
Improve the coordination and communication between monitoring teams and case workers.

Efficiency (Rating: Excellent – 5/5)

The project was, overall, well-managed, with most of its activities implemented as per the planned schedules and no significant changes to its implementation approach. The project was able to leverage synergies with other IOM AVRR interventions in Nigeria, to pool resources and to mobilize knowledge and expertise.

The project was able to surpass its targets in terms of supported beneficiaries without increasing its expenditures, substantially improving its financial efficiency. This financial improved efficiency is a direct effect of the project's operational efficiency and its capacity to share resources and mobilize existing knowledge.

Recommendation 9.
Better budget certain management functions such as M&E, case management and liaison with the private sector.

The recommendations from the project's Phase I final evaluation and their management proposed actions were not systematically monitored and reported on. However, most of the recommendations have been, at least partly, addressed.

Recommendation 10.
Draft a Management Response Matrix to propose action plans to address the evaluation recommendations, and systematically monitor and follow up on the proposed actions by the project management.

Considering its limited M&E resources, the project was able to implement the core of IOM AVRR M&E system by leveraging its partnership and collaboration with the MET. However, the M&E system lacked a systematic and longitudinal collection of qualitative data on the beneficiaries' reintegration and its results, as well as a pre-established design to systematically assess its impacts.

Recommendation 11.
Plan and design any impact assessment at the start of the project, with the appropriate quantitative and qualitative data collection rounds to be conducted throughout the project implementation in order to enhance the assessment reliability and scientific rigor.

Recommendation 12.
Collect more qualitative data on the beneficiaries' reintegration processes and results in order to enrich the understanding of the causal links between the project, its environment and any observed results or outcomes on the beneficiaries' reintegration and its sustainability.

Impact (Rating: Very Good – 4/5)

The project beneficiaries' reintegration sustainability generally improved, especially their average overall and social reintegration. Economic reintegration has slightly improved, while psychosocial reintegration has experienced a slight decrease.

Based on the surveyed full samples of beneficiaries, the complementary reintegration assistance provided by the project had a

generally positive effect on their overall and economic sustainability, and a more significant effect on their social reintegration compared to other returned migrants.

Recommendation 13.
For any similar future intervention, design a comprehensive and rigorous impact assessment at the start of the project, with multiple rounds of data collection on the reintegration results and sustainability before and after the intervention, and with the appropriate financial and human resources and strict quality controls of the reintegration data and its reliability.

Recommendation 14.
Conduct at least another round of data collection on the reintegration sustainability to assess whether the observed changes on the various dimensions of sustainability endures six months to one year after the end of the project.

Demographic variables such as age or gender did not have any significant effect on the reintegration sustainability of the beneficiaries. The GIZ project had, however, a more positive impact in some states.

Recommendation 15.
Further investigate the differences of the sustainability scores by gender and by state to identify and address their underlying causes.

Sustainability (Rating: Good -3/5)

Overall, the project improved the institutional sustainability structure at the federal and state level. However, more support is necessary to ensure continuity and progress.

Recommendation 16.
Develop a hand-over or an exit strategy, detailing the measures to be taken by the relevant government and CSO partners to ensure the results of the project will be sustainable on the longer-term.

Recommendation 17.
Continue supporting the strengthening of the capacities of reintegration federal and state coordination and monitoring structures such as the WGRRR, TWG, RCs, CMETs or TEMs.

While the project has been effective in improving the social reintegration of its beneficiaries, more effective mechanisms should be put in place to continue supporting social reintegration, such as community-based reintegration projects, involving youth-at-risk and partnering with the private sector.

Recommendation 18.
Consider funding a third phase of the project, integrating lessons learned and best practices from its two phases, to continue strengthening the capacities of government and CSO partners and supporting the sustainable reintegration of beneficiaries.

CONTEXT AND PURPOSE OF THE EVALUATION

Project Background

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Migration Agency, began operations in Nigeria in 2001 with the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme, one of the organization's global initiatives, which helps stranded migrants who wish to voluntarily return home safely and supports the most vulnerable to get back on their feet. In 2002, IOM signed a cooperation agreement with the government of Nigeria and launched the country mission. Ever since then, IOM has continued to assist stranded migrants in host countries to return voluntarily to their home countries through the AVRR programs. Since 2017, IOM under its Humanitarian Voluntary Return (HVR) and Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programs, in partnership with the Government of Nigeria, has facilitated the voluntary return of over 27,000 stranded migrants from Libya, Niger and other transit country destinations.

Building on the successful first phase of the IOM-GIZ cooperation as well as the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, and UK Government funded projects, the "Strengthening Reintegration for Returnees (SRARP) - Phase II" project (referred to in what follows as the GIZ project) is intended to continue contributing to the Federal Government of Nigeria's efforts to reintegrate returning Nigerian migrants sustainably. Over a period of 24 months, and in collaboration with the Federal Government of Nigeria, IOM and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), joined efforts were made towards long-term impact by delivering complimentary comprehensive reintegration assistance to migrants who have returned to Nigeria (and their families), as well as building the capacity of both state and non-state actors involved in return and reintegration to ensure effective assistance is provided through a sustainable model. The main objective of the project is to "*contribute to the Federal Government of Nigeria's efforts to reintegrate returning Nigerian migrants from Germany, EU, and other transit and destination countries sustainably*" through the contribution to two outcomes: (1) Returning migrants achieve economic self-sufficiency, social stability and psychosocial wellbeing, and (2) State and non-state actors provide timely, gender-sensitive, and comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration support to returning migrants, potential migrants and their communities.

A final evaluation of the first phase of the project was conducted in January 2021 and concluded, among others, that the project was responding to clearly identified needs of the returned migrants in terms of economic, social, and psychosocial support; that the project's referral strategy was successful and should be strengthened; that mental and psychological assistance should be better targeted and that the community-based reintegration projects were not timely and properly implemented due to their complexity and costs. The evaluation also recommended reinforcing the engagement with the private sector; completing the debt study and integrating its findings and recommendations in the design of the second phase of the project and more systematically generalizing accommodation assistance to vulnerable returned migrants.

Evaluation Purpose and Scope

This *ex post* internal and independent evaluation is commissioned by IOM Nigeria as part of its contractual engagement with the donor. It is conducted to assess the overall performance of the project, including the extent to which the project's activities and outputs were achieved and if and how they contributed to any observed outcomes and impacts. More specifically, the objectives of the evaluation are to:

- Examine the extent to which the project has contributed to the sustainable reintegration of returned migrants in Nigeria.
- Examine the effectiveness, relevance, efficiency, impact, gender and sustainability of the project.

- Determine the extent to which the project has made an impact on returning migrants' economic self-sufficiency, social stability and psychosocial wellbeing.
- Propose relevant recommendations for the development and implementation of any further interventions and activities based on the performance and achievements of the project.

The evaluation findings and recommendations can be used by IOM country office in Nigeria and its reintegration unit for their planning and programmatic efforts. They can be useful to the donor to assess the alignment of the project with its orientations and priorities, to integrate the evaluation learnings in its programming and to potentially replicate its model and implementation approach in the region and/or globally. The evaluation findings can also be used by the government partner agencies to assess the project's contribution to the countries' reintegration ecosystem and to inform any future programs or initiatives seeking to improve returnees' sustainable reintegration.

The evaluation covers all project's outcomes and their related outputs and activities in all states of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; as well as the project's full implementation period from December 2020 to December 2022.

Evaluation Questions

The evaluation was conducted in accordance with five of the six OECD-DAC evaluation criteria (Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact and Sustainability) as well as a Gender transversal criterion. These criteria are assessed against the overall objective and the specific results set within the project's log frame and theory of change. Specific evaluation questions include:

RELEVANCE	- How appropriate is project design to achieve its objectives in the context in which it operates? How appropriate are the project's intended results for the context within which it operates? - To what extent were the needs of beneficiaries and stakeholders taken into account in project design? - Which parts of the intervention have been the most appropriate and why? - Which were least appropriate and why?
EFFECTIVENESS	- To what extent has the project contributed to the sustainable reintegration of the returned migrants in Nigeria? - What have been the major factors affecting the achievement and non-achievement of the objectives set for the project? Did the achieved results reach the beneficiaries as planned? - What external factors are affecting the implementation of the project and how are they being managed? - To what extent have the government been involved and engaged to plan and achieve the objectives and interventions of the project? - In which areas has the project been successful in identifying and addressing key gaps in the targeted institutions? What are the areas needing further development and review, and how?
EFFICIENCY	- Were the designed activities, implementation and other resources in terms of time, finance and expertise adequate to achieve sustainable project objectives and results? - What are the areas needing further development and review, and how? - To what extent have progress be made on the previous recommendations made on phase 1 project?
IMPACT	- What are the likely long-term impacts of the projects? - How much of the impact can be attributed to the intervention? - What would have happened without the intervention? - If any, which unintended effects can be observed, whether positive or negative? -

SUSTAINABILITY	- To what extent has debt affected the sustainable reintegration of the beneficiaries? - How effective were the governance structures assisting in the reintegration of the beneficiaries? - To what extent has the capacity of MHPSS service providers improved to provide services the beneficiaries in need? - What mechanisms did the project put in place to guarantee sustainability of the AVRR programs in Nigeria? - Do partners have the financial and technical capacity to maintain the benefits of the project to guarantee sense of ownership and interest in the sustainability? If not, what continued program support is needed to ensure sustainability, as well as replicability, at the local level (e.g. financial, coordination, technical, human resources)?
GENDER	- To what extent has the project: 1) advanced women's equal participation with men as decision-makers, 2) promoted the rights of women and girls, and 3) increased women's access to and control over development resources and benefits? - To what extent has the project improved the capacity of stakeholders to promote gender equality (GE)? - To what extent are the GE results consistent with the positions/commitments on GE of key partners/stakeholders in recipient countries (e.g. governments, regional/local organizations)? - Did the project reach clearly identified and disaggregated by sex, age, race, ethnicity and socioeconomic group? - To what extent were the needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men reflected in the project overall design and implementation?

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Evaluation Approach

The evaluation used a mixed-method approach, relying both on quantitative data collected by the project management on reintegration sustainability and collecting further qualitative data from different sources to address the evaluation questions, surveying the main project beneficiaries and stakeholders on their experience with the project and its activities and describing any changes to its internal and external contexts and how they impacted the attained results. The evaluation approach considered a criteria-based approach complemented with a program theory model and an impact assessment design. On the one hand, the project's performance was assessed against the above-described OECD-DAC evaluation criteria and their related evaluation questions mapped to the proposed data collection methods (see the Evaluation Matrix in Annex 3). The project's overall performance for each criterion was rated, in accordance with IOM guidance on ex-post evaluations, on a scale of one to five (1=Poor, 5=Excellent) based on the evaluation findings and the available evidence. In Annex 2, the Evaluation Scoring Matrix provides a detailed definition of each of the assessment criterion and justifications for the rating.

On the other hand, and in addition to the criteria-based evaluation model suggested, the evaluation was also informed by a program theory approach as well as by an impact assessment design. The program theory perspective states that every program is built upon explicit or implicit models on how the intervention will cause the desired results. For this, the global model of the project was revised, aiming at establishing the underlying intervention rationale, the causal linkages between all elements in the project toward the production of results (figure 3 in the 'relevance' Section). The theoretical model included all relevant aspects of the intervention: assumptions, bottlenecks, main priorities, outputs, dimensions, outcomes and the final impact.

A comprehensive and rigorous design was developed to assess the project's impacts on the beneficiaries' reintegration sustainability. The quasi-experimental design was inspired by the state-of-the-art literature on impact assessment, as well as by the latest advances by IOM and other organizations in terms of evaluating the impacts of reintegration interventions. A detailed discussion of the impact methodology and its limitations is presented in Annex 1, as well as the relevant statistical and robustness tests.

Methodological Strategy

The evaluation used a combination of data collection techniques to obtain a reasonable view and understanding of the project to be able to answer the evaluation questions and provide meaningful recommendations. The use of different and complementary sources of information helped to some extent to fill the gap between the absence of information and the inability to survey a larger sample of beneficiaries.

To address the evaluation questions, the study relied on quantitative and qualitative data, either directly collected by the evaluation consultant or IOM staff in the country offices, or provided by the project management staff:

Table 1. Evaluation Data Collection Tools

PROPOSED METHODS FOR DATA COLLECTION			
Methods	**Description**	**Number**	**Addressee**
Desk Review	In-depth review of all documentation related to and generated by the project.	N/A	N/A
Key-Informants Interviews	Individual interviews with Selected project stakeholders	12 interviews conducted with selected stakeholders	IOM staff; Government and implementing partners, etc.
Beneficiaries' Semi-structured Interviews	Interviews with a limited sample of beneficiaries to further explore their perceptions on reintegration and its sustainability.	40 interviews on reintegration results and sustainability.	Reintegration beneficiaries (including housing, medical, education & childcare support beneficiaries)
Reintegration & Sustainability Surveys	Annexes 7, 8 and 9 of IOM AVRR M&E system, collecting information on the reintegration assistance and its sustainability.	102 beneficiaries surveyed at the baseline stage and 281 at the end of the project.	Reintegration beneficiaries.

- **Desk Review** - A detailed analysis of the project documents initially assessed the extent to which the project is aligned with the identified needs and the priorities of its main stakeholders (beneficiaries, IOM, the project partners, the donor, etc.), as well as the coherence of the intervention and the synergies created with the various partners to ensure the sustainability of its results. Project documentation included the project document and logical framework, the project budget, the interim and final financial and narrative reports, activity reports, documents related to the project's outputs such as partners' reports, etc.
- **Interviews with key-informants** - including with the project management teams in Lagos, Abuja and Benin City, representatives of partnering government agencies (National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), Task Force Against Human Trafficking (TFAHT), Task Force Against Human Trafficking (NAPTIP), etc.), representatives of implementing partners, as well as other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The interviewees were selected in a way to ensure the views and perceptions of all relevant stakeholders are represented, as well as gender balance. A list of the evaluation categories of interviewee can be consulted at Annex 4.
- **Semi-structured Interviews with a small sample of direct beneficiaries** - especially in Lagos and Benin City Local Government Areas (LGAs). The project beneficiary respondents were selected based on their vulnerability, their availability and the ability to reach them. No systematic sampling was conducted to identify respondents to the in-depth qualitative interviews. A total of forty (40, including 20 women) in-depth individual interviews was conducted face-to-face by the project M&E staff and members of the Monitoring Expert Teams (MET).
- **Quantitative Surveys** - of beneficiaries' reintegration results and its sustainability. The evaluation used survey data collected by the project M&E staff with the support of the MET both at the baseline stage of the project and after migrant returnees received their reintegration packages. The project management used IOM standard M&E system, developed,

piloted and operationalized for all AVRR interventions by administering the Reintegration Monitoring Survey (Annex 7 as per the M&E System)[1], the Reintegration Satisfaction Survey (Annex 8) and the Reintegration Sustainability Survey (Annex 9). Survey data were collected at the baseline and end-line stages of the project with respective samples of 102 and 281 beneficiaries. In addition, and to conduct the counterfactual impact assessment, the evaluation used baseline and end-line reintegration data on a sample of the EU-IOM Joint-Initiative for migrants' protection and protection (referred to thereafter as EUTF). This allowed to compare reintegration outcomes and sustainability across the two groups of reintegration beneficiaries, providing a counterfactual of what would have happened without the project assistance[2]. The reintegration data on both groups of the impact assessment were extracted by project staff from IOM reintegration database MIMOSA.

The fieldwork data collection phase of the evaluation was conducted by the internal evaluation expert, the project M&E staff and the MET members between 06th and 18th February 2023 during field missions in Benin City and Lagos. Remote interviews were conducted with respondents in Abuja and those who could not be interviewed during the field mission.

Data Analysis

As for the evaluation qualitative data, both the collected interview data and the data extracted from the exhaustive document review were uploaded into a qualitative data analysis software (Qualcoder) for coding and content analysis. The qualitative data were analyzed iteratively, following both a deductive and an inductive approach. First, the evaluation data were coded using a preliminary coding book based on the project ToC and the evaluation questions. This initial coding identified in the data the central themes and categories articulated in the project logic model and/or the evaluation questions. The coding scheme was, subsequently, further refined by carefully reviewing the qualitative data and capturing any emerging thematic or trend not initially accounted for by the project theory. Following this content analysis which provided the basis for the evaluation preliminary findings and recommendations, a contribution analysis was conducted to test the validity of the project's theory and the potential causal relationships between the different levels of results. As an experiment, the new Artificial Intelligence (AI) ChatGPT was also used to summarize the unstructured text data, to explore and identify recurrent trends and concepts and to extract causal relationships between these concepts.

The evaluation quantitative survey data was first the subject of exploratory data analysis (EDA) to draw a picture of the project's reintegration outcomes and their distributions, before analyzing the pre/post project data and comparing the GIZ and EUTF sustainability data using the relevant correlation and linear regression statistical methods. For reproducibility and access to more sophisticated statistical packages, the open-source statistical software R was used for the impact assessment. More details on the impact assessment methodology can be consulted in Annex 1.

Finally, the analyzed qualitative and quantitative data were triangulated to inform the evaluation questions, measure the outcome indicators and document any causal links between the intervention and its expected outcomes.

Norms and standards

The evaluation was conducted following relevant IOM policies and guidance on M&E, IOM Data Protection Principles, as well as UNEG norms and standards. Data collected and any resulting information was not linked to any particular respondent or office and the findings of the evaluation are presented at an aggregated level. The participants were made aware that their participation was voluntary and their explicit consent to participate in the process was systematically sought.

[1] See: Samuel Hall. (2017). Reintegration monitoring toolkit. Commissioned by the International Organization.

[2] More detailed information on the impact assessment methodology, the treatment and comparison groups as well as the description of the study samples can be consulted in Annex 1.

Limitations of the Evaluation

The following limitations should be accounted for when interpreting the results and findings of the evaluation and mitigation measures were adopted, when feasible, to alleviate their impact on the quality of the final products of the evaluation:

Table 2. Limitations of the Evaluation and Mitigation Strategies

LIMITATIONS	EXPLANATION	MITIGATING STRATEGY
Economic and political conditions	During the field work of the evaluation, the country was in the middle of an economic crisis due to monetary reform, as well as to political uncertainty caused by the soon to be held general elections. This partially hindered access to certain areas and might have influenced beneficiaries' responses regarding their economic and social situation.	Remote interviewing (by phone, teleconferencing) were conducted when meeting face-to-face with certain respondents was not possible. Data from interviews with the direct beneficiaries was triangulated with quantitative and contextual data.
Quality of survey data	The quantitative surveys were administered to both groups (GIZ and EUTF beneficiaries) at the baseline and end-line stages by IOM M&E staff or MET members with no control of the evaluation over its collection process, its accuracy or its quality. Data quality check was conducted by the lead evaluator to identify outliers and impute missing data. However, data on certain important variables for the impact analysis such as vulnerability status, level of education or income before return were not available. In addition, not all data collected by the reintegration monitoring and satisfaction surveys were included in the datasets provided by the evaluation management (such as intention to re-migrate) to allow further analysis of the reintegration outcomes.	The evaluation had to accommodate with the existing reintegration data while conducting the necessary statistical tests to ensure the reproducibility and accuracy of the impact analysis.
Sampling Strategy	No clear sampling strategy was reported for the quantitative data related to the reintegration outcomes of the treatment and comparison groups. Any reported exploratory data or inferential analysis should, therefore, be interpreted with caution as the samples are not necessarily representative of their respective populations.	Any exploratory or inferential findings are reported with the limitation inherent to its quality and generalizability.
Lack of qualitative monitoring data	The evaluation was confronted to the scarcity of qualitative monitoring and performance data regularly and systematically collected on the project implementation and results, especially at the higher outcome levels.	To the extent possible, the evaluation tried to identify and extract outcome data through the review of the project's available documentation (partners' reports, interim reports, etc.) and some of its success stories. Outcome and impact related questions were

LIMITATIONS	EXPLANATION	MITIGATING STRATEGY
		factored in the evaluation qualitative data collection tools.
Wiliness to openly express opinions and reflections	The evaluation process sought to establish a relationship of trust with informants. On certain aspects related to their economic or social situation, certain respondents might not be willing to elaborate for different reasons.	The evaluation was committed to the do-no-harm principle, as well as to the privacy and confidentiality norms. Triangulation of data sources and search of secondary data provided more information on the aspects less articulated by some respondents.
Evaluation biases	Evaluations are, by definition, vulnerable to cognitive and behavioural biases, such as seeing patterns where there are not, or attribution biases where the projects observed outcomes and impacts are linked only to internal factors rather than external ones.	The evaluation tried to the extent possible to be as systematic, transparent and reflexive as possible. Systematic by following a clearly established plan, transparent in the way judgements were generated and based on triangulation, and reflexive in being aware of the bias problem throughout the process.

RELEVANCE

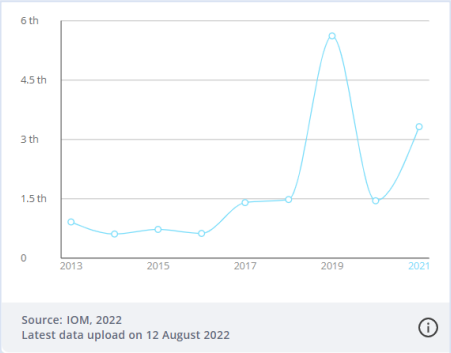
Relevance is the extent to which the intervention objectives and design respond to beneficiaries, global, country, and partner/institution needs, policies, and priorities, and continue to do so if circumstances change. ***(Rating: Very Good – 4/5)***

Continuous Need for the Project

Finding 1. According to the evaluation findings, the project was assessed as being still relevant to its immediate context, with the persistent regular trends of migrants' return from Germany and other countries during a difficult economic and social situation in Nigeria.

1.1. After a sharp decline in 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath, the curve of the number of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) and Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) resumed its upward slope (figure 1), with nearly 3.3K supported by IOM in 2021 (not including forced returns)[3], which makes Nigeria the third highest country of assisted returns in the sub-region after Guinea and Mali. Among assisted voluntary returnees, a fairly significant number have had a traumatic migration experience and suffers from vulnerabilities due to gender-based violence, health and mental situation or social isolation upon return. For instance, AVRR data under the EU-IOM joint-initiative between the end of 2020 and 2022 shows that no least than 40% of assisted returnees were diagnosed with or self-identified as suffering from a type of specific vulnerability directly linked to their migration or/and return experiences. This may be particularly relevant for returnees from Germany who have a different migration experience and equally different expectations on their return compared to groups of returned migrants from other regions or countries.

Figure 1. Number of Migrants Assisted to Return Voluntarily



1.2. Furthermore, the direct internal and external environment of the project have undergone significant changes which have impacted both the situation of the beneficiaries and the implementation of the project. A succession of health, economic, political and security crises during the last years have severely tested the sustainability of the reintegration of the project beneficiaries (and more generally of returned migrants) and made the complementary reintegration assistance offered by the project even more relevant. The galloping inflation of recent years globally and across the sub-region has first impacted the most vulnerable populations (including returning migrants) and drastically reduced the actual amount allocated to beneficiaries for the implementation of their economic reintegration project. The end of the cycle of the EUIOM joint initiative and its replacement by a new initiative with a smaller budget envelope is also likely to reduce both the actual target of beneficiaries of return and reintegration assistance and potentially the quality of the reintegration assistance.

Response to stakeholders' needs

Finding 2. By adopting a needs-based individual approach to the reintegration of returned migrants, the project was able to identify the vulnerabilities of selected beneficiaries and to better target the appropriate social, economic and psychosocial assistance in order to enhance the sustainability of their reintegration.

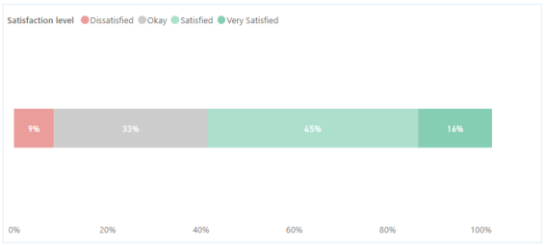
1.3. Following the first phase of the project, and the recommendations and lessons learned derived from its final evaluation, the project second phase activities and related outputs were designed to directly respond to the needs and expectations of its different categories of beneficiaries; namely the direct beneficiaries of the complementary reintegration assistance, particularly those who are vulnerable and have limited access to support systems, the federal and state partner agencies and the CSOs. For

[3] Source: IOM Data Portal. https://www.migrationdataportal.org/international-data?i=avrr_origin&t=2021&cm49=566

the direct beneficiaries, returned migrants were recommended for complimentary assistance under the project after a careful Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants (AVM) screening and assessment by case managers and other relevant project staff to identify their social and psychosocial needs. According to the evaluation respondents, targeting and screening processes were efficient and effective, thanks to collaboration with relevant government agencies. The project provided a range of complementary reintegration assistance, including referral to specialized clinical institutions, housing support, emergency shelter, and business and vocational training. The eligibility and selection criteria for social assistance were clear and the business training was more structured in the second phase of the project thanks to better data sharing and careful planning with the training providers.

1.4. If the level of satisfaction with the reintegration assistance received under the project is an appropriate proxy to gauge its response to the needs of the beneficiaries, the results of the reintegration satisfaction survey indicate an overall low level of dissatisfaction vis-à-vis the reintegration services received (figure 1), with no significant differences across gender, age or host country. Respondents who expressed less satisfaction with the reintegration assistance under the project typically mentioned challenges, such as the high cost of renting shops, limited access to capital and financial products to expand and develop their businesses, and long-term mental health medication needs that were not always covered by the project or provided by government agencies. Finally, the interviews with direct beneficiaries also suggest that their needs and expectations varied depending on their country of origin and personal circumstances. For example, returnees from Germany had different attitudes and expectations compared to other groups coming back from Algeria or Niger. The project design and implementation approaches were, therefore, important to tailor support to the specific needs and circumstances of each beneficiary.

Figure 2. Beneficiary Satisfaction with the Reintegration Assistance (n=89)



1.5. Regarding its institutional beneficiaries of the project (government agencies, implementing partners, NGOs, etc.), the evaluation of the first phase of the project, as well as the mapping assessments supported by the EU-IOM JI and UK Government, stressed the need to strengthen the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) response amongst state and non-state actors providing assistance within existing facilities and structures at community level focusing, on strengthening existing capacities to provide culturally appropriate care for migrants and their families. This need was directly addressed by the project's second output ("*State & non-state actors have the knowledge skills and tools to provide specialized services to vulnerable returnees*") and the project enhanced the capacity of 24 (including 17 females) MHPSS specialists from various partners to provide recovery assistance using a manual for recovery and rehabilitation developed by an independent consultant as part of the project. Material and equipment support were also provided on a need basis to two NGOs (Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons (SEYP) and the Pathfinder Justice Initiative (PJI) to further strengthen their ability to provide effective and tailored MHPSS assistance to their beneficiaries.

1.6. Continuous capacity building was also provided to the various federal and state structures created or reinforced as part of the EU-IOM JI or the first phase of the project such as the Working Group on Return, Readmission, and Re-integration (WGRRR), Reintegration Committees (RC), the Case Management Expert Teams (CMET) or the Monitoring and Evaluation Expert Teams (MET). Training and refreshers on IOM reintegration approach, M&E systems and MHPSS assistance were provided to members of these structures, along with regular meetings to discuss case management, to improve coordination and induce ownership. Most agencies and implementing partners interviewed as part of the evaluation stated that the project met, at least partly, their capacity-building needs, and expressed the need for even more support to strengthen their ability to provide effective and integrated assistance to the reintegration of return migrants.

Relevance of the project model

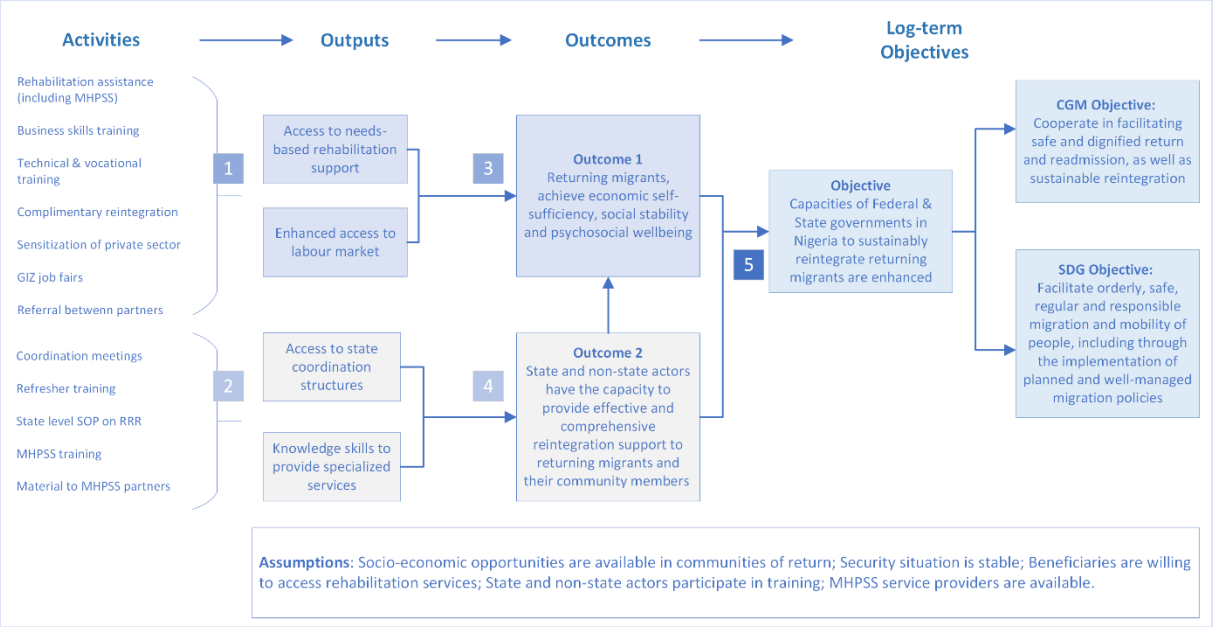
Finding 3. The project's design, as articulated in its Logic Model, was coherent and detailed, with two result pathways related to improved capacity of implementing partners and enhanced sustainability of reintegration. The design of the second phase of the project integrated to an acceptable extent lessons learned and best practices from the first phase.

1.7. As mentioned above, the project design and its Logic Model underwent important adjustments in response to the recommendations and lessons learned from its first phase. Collective and community-based reintegration were not provided under the second phase of the project given the implementation challenges related to collective action dilemmas under collective reintegration projects and the complexity and cost of designing and implementing community-based reintegration projects. This is also in line with the recent lessons learned from research on reintegration showing that "*community reintegration assistance, […], is associated with less sustainable outcomes in the economic dimension and the returnees' overall reintegration sustainability*" and that *"[beneficiaries] who received individual assistance to reintegrate into their personal support networks achieved better psychosocial reintegration outcomes. This result indicates that tailored and individualized psychosocial assistance may be more effective than collective activities in that regard*"[4]. Awareness raising outcome and its related activities have also been abandoned during the project's second phase, in favor of more attention given to strengthening the capacities of government and civil society partners to provide targeted, individualized and effective assistance to economic, social and psychosocial reintegration. These awareness-raising activities around migration risks and alternatives being also costly and requiring complex logistics to be implemented.

1.8. The project's Logic Model and its underlying ToC (visually represented in figure 3 below) were sound and coherent, in line with IOM integrated approach towards reintegration of return migrants[5], with a focus on the individual level ensuring "*reintegration takes into account specific needs of individual migrants, especially considering situations of vulnerability*". The project's overall objective ("*To contribute the Federal Government of Nigeria's efforts to sustainably reintegrate returning Nigerian migrants*") is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10.7[6] and the 21st objective of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM)[7], but could have been better formulated to articulate the expected long-term institutional and developmental changes. The project ToC is articulated around two result streams, where the activities and outputs targeting eligible returned migrants are supposed to contribute to their achievement of sustainable reintegration (outcome 1) and those targeting state and non-state capacities are supposed to contribute to their enhanced ability to support reintegration of returned migrants (outcome 2). The second outcome is causally and logically linked to the first one, increased technical, organizational and coordination capacity influencing sustainable reintegration, and the two outcomes are expected to contribute to the overall objective of systemic and institutional federal and state capacity to sustainably reintegrate returned migrants. These causal links will be tested in what follows.

[4] See, IOM, 2022, Knowledge Bite #5: Types of Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Reintegration Outcomes. Knowledge Management Hub.
[5] See: IOM, 2019, Reintegration Handbook: Module 1 - An Integrated Approach to Reintegration.
[6] "Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies."
[7] "Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration."

Figure 3. Project Theory of Change



Finding 4. Gender equality was not systematically and clearly articulated in the project's design as represented in the Logical Framework and the result matrix. No specific gender-related output or outcomes were clearly formulated, and the project performance indicators were not disaggregated by gender.

1.9. Gender equality, in accordance with IOM strategy and reintegration approach, was not systematically mainstreamed in the project's proposal or its Logic Model. No gender-specific outputs or outcomes were considered and performance indicators were not systematically disaggregated by gender. Nonetheless, progress indicators, as well as any available monitoring data, were disaggregated by gender during the reporting on the project's implementation progress.

EFFECTIVENESS

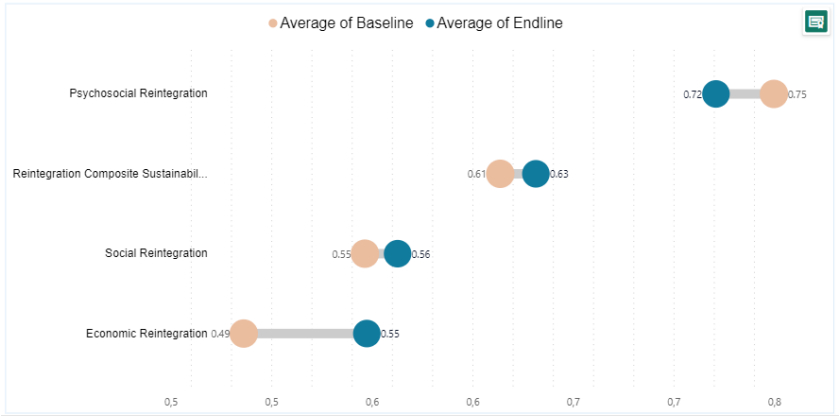
Effectiveness refers to the extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives and its results, including any differential results across groups. ***(Rating: Very Good – 4/5[8])***

Reintegration Sustainability Levels

Finding 5. Average Reintegration sustainability scores of the surveyed beneficiaries generally increased compared to their baseline level (except for the psychosocial dimension), with a majority of the beneficiaries having a moderate to a high level of sustainability on the three dimensions at the end of the project. Despite its slight decrease, the psychosocial dimension remains the highest in terms of its sustainability score, while the economic dimension is still the lowest despite its important increase.

2.1. To contribute to its first expected outcome to support "*returning migrants achieve economic self-sufficiency, social stability and psychosocial wellbeing*", the project had to achieve its related outputs to improve returned migrants "*access to needs-based rehabilitation support*" and "*access to the labor market either through (short-term) employment and/or self- employment*". With regards to economic self-sufficiency, social stability and psychological wellbeing, these outcomes are, as per IOM approach to reintegration, conceptualized, operationalized and measured through its standard respective Reintegration Sustainability Indexes (RSI) and data collection surveys presented and discussed at length in Annex 1[9]. As illustrated in figure 4 below, the average reintegration sustainability scores for the surveyed beneficiaries increased slightly for the overall and social reintegration, increased more substantially for the economic sustainability and decreased for the psychosocial sustainability. Whether these observed changes are statistically significant or can be attributed to the project is discussed in the "Impact" section below.

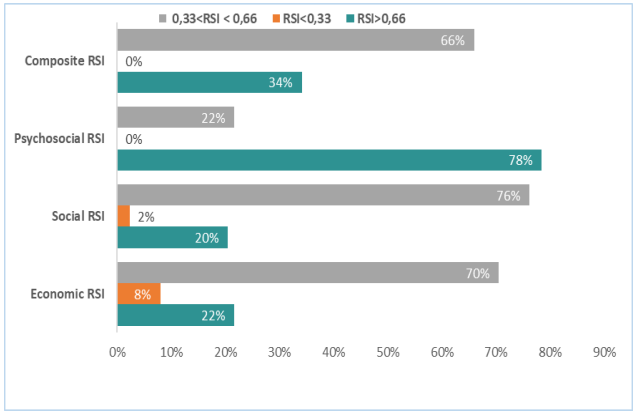
Figure 4. Baseline (n=281) Vs. End-line (n=102) Average Reintegration Sustainability Scores



[8] For rational and justification for the rating of each evaluation criterion, please refer to Annex 2.
[9] For more details on IOM conceptualization and operationalization of reintegration sustainability, see also: IOM. (2016). *Towards an Integrated Approach to Integration in the Context of Return.* Available at: https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DMM/AVRR/Towards-an-Integrated-Approach-toReintegration.pdf and, Samuel Hall. (2017). *Reintegration monitoring toolkit.* Commissioned by the International Organization.

2.2. The median composite RSI for the full sample of surveyed beneficiaries is 0.63, which means that more than half the beneficiaries have an acceptable to high level of overall reintegration sustainability[10]. In fact, as shown in figure 5, 34% of the beneficiaries have an overall RSI score superior to 0.66, demonstrating a high level of overall sustainability of reintegration; while the vast majority have an overall moderate sustainability level requiring some kind of further reintegration support. The picture is even brighter for the psychosocial reintegration which, despite its slight decrease, remains at a high level with 78% of the sample having a score superior to 0.66. The economic and social reintegration are at lower levels of sustainability, with respectively 0.55 and 0.56 median values and higher percentages in the red zone of reintegration. It is worth noting that despite its slight increase, the economic reintegration is at the lowest level compared to other dimensions of reintegration, and that the psychosocial dimension of reintegration is surprisingly high both at the baseline and end-line stages (median value of 0.75) despite its slight decrease after the reception of the reintegration complementary assistance. When desegregated by gender, age or location, the RSI scores show no significant differences, except for the psychosocial RSI which is statistically significantly higher for male respondents to the end-line survey.

Figure 5. Percentage RSI Scores by Range



Rehabilitation Assistance

Finding 4. The project exceeded by 221% its target in terms of needs-based rehabilitation assistance and was able to an acceptable extent to identify and provide urgent medical and psychosocial support to relevant beneficiaries.

2.3. To enhance reintegration effectiveness and sustainability, the project provided returnees in need with urgent rehabilitation assistance, including medical and MHPSS assistance, following AVM screening and individualized reintegration counselling to identify their immediate, mid-term and long-term needs. The screening and profiling of the beneficiaries is conducted upon return or referral by the GIZ using the already developed and operationalized eligibility criteria in the IOM AVM and Reintegration Handbooks. In total, as shown in table 3 below, the project provided rehabilitation assistance to 154 returnees (i.e. 35% of the total beneficiaries, including 49% women) of whom 65 received medical assistance and four received psychological assistance.

Table 3. Planned vs. Provided Rehabilitation and Reintegration Assistance

Type of reintegration assistance	Target	# Beneficiaries	% females	Difference vs. target
Complimentary reintegration assistance	320	428	31%	+34%
Needs-based rehabilitation assistance	48	154	49%	+221%
Business skills training	150	249	32%	+66%

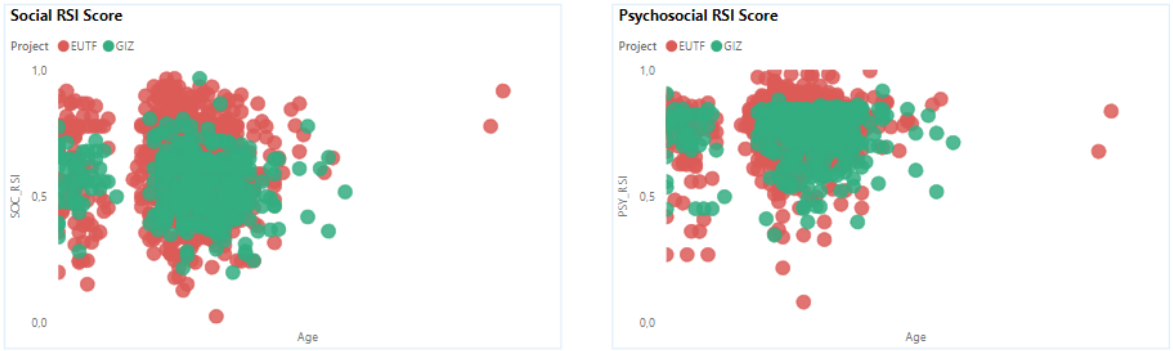
2.4. Few to no monitoring data on the AVM and screening processes and their effectiveness were made available to the evaluation[11]. However, if we compare the average RSI scores of the GIZ sample at the

[10] The Reintegration Sustainability Index (RSI) scores for each dimension take values between 0 and 1. An extreme score of 0 would indicate that a returnee does not demonstrate any signs of reintegration. On the other hand, a score of 1 would suggest that a returnee is perfectly reintegrated. Below 0.33, the score imply that reintegration still needs intensified assistance; and above 0.66 that beneficiaries can likely be relatively independent in the given dimension of reintegration, or overall, and can be expected to progress in reintegration with lighter support only.

[11] It is worth reminding, as mentioned in the methodology section, that of the many data collected by the three reintegration monitoring and sustainability surveys (Annexes 7, 8 & 9 in IOM AVRR M&E System), only variables related to the sustainability scores, satisfaction and few demographics were included in the datasets shared by the evaluation management. It could have been valuable to have access to the full survey raw data to conduct more analysis on the different aspects of the reintegration and its sustainability.

baseline stage with the averages of a sample of EU-IOM JI (EUTF) beneficiaries who returned and have been supported during the same period, we notice that the average RSI scores are systematically higher for the latest group, particularly for the social and psychosocial RSI scores, considered as proxies for the levels of vulnerability and need for complimentary support[12]. The distributions of the social and psychosocial RSI scores for the EUTF group are also more spread and with higher upper limits (see figure 6 below). This can be considered as a plausible, albeit not conclusive, illustration that the profiling and vulnerability assessment processes has indeed been able to identify, on average, those returnees most in need of complimentary reintegration assistance.

Figure 6. Distribution of the Baseline Social and Psychosocial RSI Scores for GIZ and EUTF Sample Beneficiaries



Business and Vocational Training

Finding 5. Targeted and need-based business and vocational training was effectively provided to beneficiaries by various confirmed implementing partners. Most respondent beneficiaries were satisfied with the quality and utility of the trainings, but no monitoring system was in place to assess their outcomes.

2.5. To strengthen the beneficiaries' reintegration sustainability overall and in its three dimensions, the project was expected to enhance their access to the labor market through business and vocational skills training to prepare them either to create their own micro-business or to explore the national or regional labor markets. Ten business skills training were organized for a total of 249 beneficiaries (including 48 women), four of which were the GIZ-GOPA entrepreneurship training conducted in Lagos and Benin and six were 5-days IOM business skills training in Lagos, Benin, and Delta States, facilitated with the support of the Case Management Expert Teams (CMET). The GOPA training (152 beneficiaries, including 33 women) was intended to prepare the beneficiaries to:

- Understand the basics of entrepreneurship and how to create and run a business;
- Develop a Business Plan;
- Be aware of the challenges, opportunities and underlying risks when venturing into entrepreneurship;
- Be given an opportunity to pitch their business plan to a selected panel of experts comprising of the financial sector, business development support sector, GIZ/SEDIN-GOPA and IOM; and
- get business registrations with the Corporate Affairs Commission and open a business bank accounts.

The IOM business skills training provided the beneficiaries with reintegration counselling sessions and support to develop business/reintegration plans to beneficiaries who identified a viable business idea.

2.6. In partnership with the GIZ and the Lagos State Education Trust Fund (LSETF), the project also provided need-based technical and vocational skills training to beneficiaries through a referral process; and another CSO partner, Don Bosco, provided a three-months residential technical and

[12] The difference between the average social and psychosocial RSI between the EUTF and GIZ groups is statistically significant at the baseline stage at respectively 10 and 1%.

vocational skills training to 12 referred beneficiaries (including two women). After the training, the beneficiaries received starter packs to help them immediately start their own businesses.

2.7. While the few available data show a high level of satisfaction of beneficiaries who attended the business skills training and improved knowledge and skills, no systematic monitoring and follow-up system was in place to collect information on how the training improved the business, technical and vocational skills of the beneficiaries, how the knowledge and skills acquired have served them to start and manage their businesses and what is the tangible contribution of these trainings to the sustainable reintegration of beneficiaries. There is, nonetheless, a general expressed positive views by the evaluation respondents regarding the relevance, quality and potential outcomes of the business and vocational trainings. Training providers highlighted particularly the need to better link with the private sector to create effective mechanisms to refer beneficiaries to business providers.

> *"Life skill training has the advantage to give the returned migrants choice of what they want to do. Some of the migrants have drifted into creative activities, such as creating content on social media and doing media activities. These activities give them more faith in themselves and their skills."* ***Implementing Partner.***

Reintegration Assistance

Finding 6. The project exceeded its reintegration assistance target by 34%, providing different complimentary reintegration assistance to 428 beneficiaries, with most receiving business training and equipment to start micro-businesses.

2.8. Different types of reintegration assistance were provided to 418 beneficiaries[13], exceeding by 34% the initial target (table 3 above). Most beneficiaries received complementary economic reintegration assistance in the form of business & soft skills training, counselling sessions to develop a business plan and equipment to start a micro-business. Created micro-businesses vary between food stores, the sale of laptops, cellphones and electronic accessories, hairdressing salons or transportation. At the end of the project, 83% of the surveyed beneficiaries who started a micro-business (n=84) reported that their business is still operational, while 6% have already closed their business (figure 8). However, most of the forty beneficiary respondents interviewed as part of the evaluation say that their economic and financial situation is precarious and that the business they have created as part of their reintegration project is struggling to prosper. The same discrepancy is also to be noted between the number of housing assistance provided by the project and the number of respondents who state that their housing is not safe or does not meet the needs of their families.

Figure 8. Complementary Reintegration Assistance by Type of Reintegration

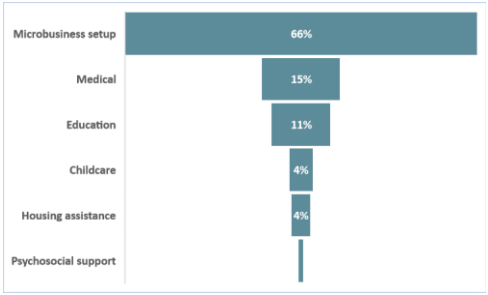
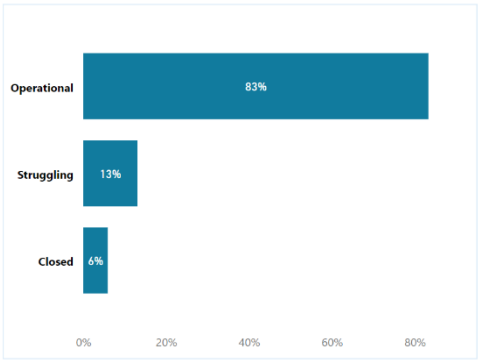


Figure 7. Situation of Created Micro-business Projects



2.9. In truth, for an individualized complementary reintegration project based on responding to specific needs, the number and percentage of certain types of social or psychosocial support such as housing, medical or psychological support remain relatively limited. It is difficult, based on the available data, to assess whether certain beneficiaries eligible to certain types of reintegration support based on the initial screening and vulnerability assessment ended-up not receiving the promised assistance. In the semi-structured interviews with around 40 beneficiaries, some, however reported such alleged discrepancies.

[13] It is worth noting that different kind of assistance were provided to certain beneficiaries and double counted in the total number of beneficiaries.

"I was told by IOM that she I was eligible for house rent support and skills training, but I have not been contacted yet." Female beneficiary, ***Micro-business and Education Assistance.***

Capacity Building of State and Non-state Actors

Finding 7. The project provided capacity-building support for mental health and health actors, including training programs for MHPSS service providers and material and equipment support. This allowed partner state and non-state actors to enhance their capacity to provide more effective recovery and reintegration services.

2.10. Based on the evaluation data, the project engaged in capacity-building activities to ensure that state and non-state relevant actors have the knowledge, skills, and tools to provide specialized rehabilitation and reintegration services to vulnerable returnees. One aspect of this effort was capacity-building for mental health and health actors on recovery programs and community-based counseling approaches. Various capacity-building activities were conducted, such as training sessions on MHPSS, providing material and equipment support, and improving the technical capacities of government agencies, CSOs and coordination structures. For instance, training programs were conducted for 24 MHPSS service providers, case management experts, and other state and non-state actors, which led to a significant increase in their knowledge and skills. The project also helped partners mainstream MHPSS in their livelihood opportunities, developed new targeted training and new curriculums.

2.11. Another capacity-building support provided by the project to partnering agencies and CSOs was the provision of material and equipment support to identified MHPSS partners to enhance efficiency and promote collaboration in service delivery. The donations were on a need basis and included shelter beds, art-based materials for expressive therapy, lockers for keeping confidential data and items, printers for official use, children's, and women's-friendly items to promote gender and child-specific activities, and other recreational materials. Additionally, the partner organizations received equipped counseling rooms that provided a safe space for counseling to reduce suffering, build resilience, and strengthen the coping mechanisms of returned migrants. The project also focused on increasing the capacity of teachers and improving their soft skills.

2.12. The recovery programs implemented by partners thanks to the project's capacity-building support included life skill training that comprised emotional, cognitive, and social skills, and managing the symptoms of mental health conditions to improve daily function and well-being quality. They also focused on the returnee's strengths in developing goals and plans, strengthening self-esteem and efficacy in the recovery process. Recommendations were made by partners to improve the program's implementation, strengthen family support for returnees, and provide better support for migrants with severe mental health needs.

Access to coordination Structures

Finding 8. The project contributed towards establishing and strengthening reintegration coordination structures at the federal and state levels, with participants gaining a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Refresher trainings were held for state and non-state actors involved in reintegration in various states, improving their skills and knowledge.

2.13. One of the expected contributions of the project is the establishment and strengthening of reintegration coordination structures for Nigerian returned migrants by state and non-state actors. As per the migration governance structure enclosed in the National Migration Policy (2015), the Working Group on Return, Readmission, and Re-integration (WGRRR) is responsible for the development of the Reintegration, Readmission and Reintegration (RRR) manual of operation to guide the conduct of RRR in Nigeria. The Reintegration Committee (RC), created under the EU-IOM JI, is designed as a state level structure to support the coordination of reintegration assistance and interventions in respective states, as well as the technical support provided by the Case Management Expert Teams (CMET) to returnees with respect to the identification and review of their business plans.

2.14. The project contributed towards establishing and strengthening existing reintegration coordination structures in Enugu and Borno/Yobe. The meetings had participants in attendance, and committee members received a better understanding of their roles, responsibilities, and expected deliverables

towards coordination of the reintegration structures. The project also conducted meetings in Enugu State for members of the Reintegration Committee (RC) and Case Management Expert Team (CMET), where new members have been identified and added to the committees, and a WhatsApp group has been created for ease of coordination among members and for information sharing. Additionally, a central reintegration committee (RC) meeting was held in Abuja, and participants recommended states should explore and intensify referrals of returnees to other service providers that are within their states themselves for sustainability purposes.

2.15. Refresher trainings were held for state and non-state actors involved in reintegration in Enugu, Maiduguri, Yobe, Edo, and Delta. The trainings aimed to improve the skills of the actors involved and enhance their knowledge of opportunities in relation to reintegration, as well as their roles and responsibilities. Participants gained a good understanding of IOM integrated approach to reintegration and the identification of economic, social, and psychosocial assistance arrangements for reintegration. Additionally, two batches of a 4-day training on the Return Counselling Toolkit were conducted in Abuja and Kano, aimed at improving participants' knowledge and approach to counselling, migrant protection, and monitoring and evaluation. The trainings enhanced the capacity of state and non-state actors to exercise counselling in their states and support social and behavioral change communication.

2.16. Three batches of the WGRRR meetings were held during the project implementation period. The meetings had in attendance state and non-state actors, and the outcomes of the meetings included the submission of a draft action plan for the operationalization of the SOP on RRR in Nigeria. Some of the action plans developed included the need to seek collaboration for medical assistance to returned migrants at a subsidized rate or through free health services provided by FMOH advocacy service initiatives or collaborating with NHIS. The second Working Group meeting aimed to present and validate the action plan for the operationalization of the SOP on RRR in Nigeria.

Influencing Factors

2.17. A certain number of internal and contextual positive or negative factors influenced the attainment of the project's outputs and outcomes. These include:

Positive Factors

- ✓ **The mapping and debt studies**, conducted under the joint-initiative or the UK AVRR projects, provided the project and its different stakeholders with important information and recommendations to inform targeting and design activities responding to beneficiaries' needs and expectations.
- ✓ **The complementarity with other IOM AVRR initiatives** allowed the project to share resources and use and uptake the knowledge and expertise created under other AVRR initiatives such as the EU-OIM joint-initiative or the COMPASS project.
- ✓ **The competence and dedication of IOM field staff,** who worked in difficult, sometimes risky situations, made it possible to achieve all of the project's outputs and substantially contribute to its outcomes.

Negative Factors/Challenges

- **Reaching out to certain beneficiaries was difficult,** especially those living in remote areas or who changed their phone numbers. Radio stations were used to reach out to beneficiaries, as well as a snowballing approach.
- **Registered vendors were difficult to find** to procure material and inputs to start micro-business, especially in remote rural communities. This caused some delays for the beneficiaries to start implementing their micro-business.
- **Some beneficiaries did not have the needed documentation to start a micro-business.** As an alternative, the project provided cash-based reintegration without, sometimes, proper monitoring.

- **Private sector partners were not very reactive** to hiring referred beneficiaries beyond the project support.
- **Project implementation areas with lower returns were less capacitated to uptake difficult medical or psychological cases.** This sometimes forced MHPSS officers to refer these cases to partners in other localities with stronger capacities with all the complicated logistical complications for the project and the beneficiaries.
- **Social stigmatization around mental health issues remain a persistent challenge**[14]. Awareness raising of individuals, families and communities around this issue and the importance to seek mental health when needed should remain a central priority in the provision of psychosocial reintegration.
- **The galloping inflation rate greatly impacted the amount beneficiaries received for their economic reintegration**, hindering returned migrants' capacity to implement sustainable economic reintegration projects. As per the project rules, reintegration assistance amount does not automatically adjust for the inflation. Market competition is also tough, so that the returned migrants have difficulties competing with the market and its leaders.
- **The aftermath of COVID-19 impacted the real time implementation of some of the activities** on the work plan such as the Standard Operations Procedures (SoP) operationalization trainings or some of the coordination meetings with government agencies.

[14] As per the provided data, only four beneficiaries received mental health assistance.

EFFICIENCY

Efficiency refers to the extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way. ***(Rating: Excellent – 5/5)***

Operational Efficiency

Finding 9. The project was, overall, well-managed, with most of its activities implemented as per the planned schedules and no significant changes to its implementation approach. The project was able to leverage synergies with other IOM AVRR interventions in Nigeria, to pool resources and to mobilize knowledge and expertise.

3.1. Overall, the project was well managed and efficiently delivered (and even exceeded) all its outputs with no significant implementation challenges and no significant modifications to the project's activities. A clear evidence of the project's efficient implementation is that most of its activities were carried out according to their initial schedule, that its reporting was smooth and timely and that no no-cost-extension (NCE) was required from the donor to adjust for implementation delays. The activities which encountered some challenges or implementation delays are some of the RR meetings, the relative late development of nationalized SOPs or the insufficient level of engagement with the private sector.

3.2. On the adequacy of the human resources to achieve the project's outputs and outcomes, most evaluation informants think that they were appropriate, while some respondents stated that more staff would have been welcome in certain service delivery or management areas such as M&E, case management, engagement with the private sector, and mental health. Lack of human resources led to some missed opportunities, such as not being able to conduct a job fair event.

3.3. The improved efficiency of the project was made possible - in addition to the competence of the project management teams in its various implementation sites and their knowledge and experience of the rehabilitation and reintegration processes - by a set of other success factors which are related to its ability to create synergies with other interventions, its ability to consolidate its cooperation with proven partners and its effective coordination mechanisms. Indeed, the project complementarity and synergy with other AVRR projects Implemented by IOM such as the EU-IOM JI and COMPASS project allowed the project to pool resources for the delivery of certain activities, to use tools and resources developed under other projects (SOPs, training manual, needs assessments, studies, M&E systems, etc.) and more generally to make effective use of the knowledge and experience acquired by its staff implementing such initiatives.

Financial Efficiency

Finding 10. The project was able to surpass its targets in terms of supported beneficiaries without increasing its expenditures, substantially improving its financial efficiency. This financial improved efficiency is a direct effect of the project's operational efficiency and its capacity to share resources and mobilize existing knowledge.

3.4. Improved financial efficiency was a logical consequence, and even a direct effect of its strong operational efficiency. Table 3 in the previous section has outlined how the project was able to exceed its planned targets for rehabilitation and reintegration of returned migrants, as well as for training and capacity building without substantially increasing its expenditures. For example, the number of complimentary assistance actual beneficiaries exceeded the initial target by 34% and of those who received rehabilitation assistance beneficiaries by a huge 221% against the planned target while the related expenditures raised respectively by 3,5% and even have been reduced by 12% against the planned budget for this last output (see table 4 below)[15]. The efficiency gains for the project second

[15] Financial data at the activity level were not unfortunately easily extractable to be able to calculate the ratios of euros per complimentary assistance, rehabilitation assistance or training beneficiary.

outcome and its related outputs followed the same trend. Only the project' first output expenditures related to rehabilitation and reintegration support have been slightly increased, and the project made more than 2% savings on its total expenditures for more than the expected outputs and more substantial outcomes.

Table 4. Planned Budget vs. Expenditures by Output & Outcome

	Planned Budget	%Total Budget	Expenditures	%Total Expenditures	Difference	% Difference
Outcome 1	630 649,80 €	79%	629 713,23 €	81%	-936,57 €	-0,15%
Output 1.1 (Rehabilitation Support)	479 263,80 €	60%	496 848,46 €	64%	17 584,66 €	3,67%
Output 1.2 (Complementary Assistance & training)	151 386,00 €	19%	132 864,77 €	17%	-18 521,23 €	-12,23%
Outcome 2	163 200,00 €	21%	147 702,90 €	19%	-15 497,10 €	-9,50%
Output 2.1 (Coordination structures)	107 400,00 €	14%	94 748,76 €	12%	-12 651,24 €	-11,78%
Output 2.2 (Partners' capacity building)	55 800,00 €	7%	52 954,14 €	7%	-2 845,86 €	-5,10%
Total	**793 849,80 €**		**777 416,13 €**		**-16 433,67 €**	**-2,07%**

3.5. This brilliant performance of the project in terms of operational and financial efficiency is confirmed by the opinions of the evaluation respondents who are unanimous concerning the adequacy of the financial resources versus the results achieved and the capacity of the project to take advantage of what has been achieved in its first phase and through other IOM AVRR initiatives. It may also be due to the adjustments made to the project design and implementation approach by emphasizing individual reintegration to the detriment of collective or individual reintegration which are more cumbersome and costly to implement. The project's main financial ratios (e.g. spent euro per reintegrated beneficiary) need, however, to be compared to ratios of other IOM AVRR initiatives in Nigeria or to similar complementary assistance initiatives in other countries.

Progress on Phase I Recommendations

Finding 11. The project integrated some of the lessons learned and best practices from its first phase. The recommendations from its Phase I final evaluation and their management proposed actions were not systematically monitored and reported on. However, most of the recommendations have been, at least partly, addressed.

3.6. As mentioned in the 'Relevance' section, the project design and implementation approach for its second phase integrated lessons learned and recommendations from the first phase, including those formulated by its final evaluation. These include the focus on individual reintegration and the abandonment of community-based reintegration, the better targeted MHPPS assistance and the needs-based training activities. While these recommendations formulated by the final evaluation and their associated action-plans don't seem to have been systematically monitored and followed up on by the project management, table 5 below attempts to summarize the progress made addressing these recommendations based on the present evaluation findings and the interviews with its main respondents.

Table 5. Follow-up on Recommendations from Phase I

Recommendation	How addressed in Phase II
Generalize the accommodation assistance and better target the psychological assistance	Housing assistance was provided on a need-basis to only 16 beneficiaries (4%), including to 63% females. Psychological assistance was also provided after counselling and vulnerability assessment to four beneficiaries (not including support provided by partners).
Continue engagement with the private sector and document the challenges, the best practices and the results of these partnerships for future interventions.	Engagement with the private sector continued during phase II with mixed results.
Complete the debt study and integrate its findings and recommendations in any potential new phase of the project or any new AVRR initiatives	Debt study has been completed as part of the EU-IOM JI. The extent of its use to inform the design of the project's second phase is not clear.
Implement the pilot IOM CBR monitoring system to document the implementation challenges and best-practices of the CBB projects, as well as their results and impact	Not relevant, as community-based reintegration projects are no longer part of the project's second phase.
Collect more systematic and periodic monitoring qualitative data on the results of the assistance and the social and economic sustainability of reintegration	No qualitative data on the reintegration monitoring and sustainability were systematically collected during the project's implementation.
Maintain and continue building the capacity of the M&E Expert Teams (METs) to leverage their skills and engagement in any future or existing AVRR initiatives in Nigeria	Training of MET continued during the second phase of the project, and the MET was involved in the project's M&E activities.
Continue monitoring the economic situation of the beneficiaries and provide, to the extent possible, emergency support during the COVID-19 crisis	No follow-up with beneficiaries from phase I has been conducted. Economic sustainability of a sample of phase II has been monitored.
Ensure all beneficiaries who are eligible based on their vulnerability assessment have access to accommodation assistance and any other relevant social assistance	Social assistance has been provided on a need-basis to close to 150 beneficiaries.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Finding 12. Considering its limited M&E resources, the project was able to implement the core of IOM AVRR M&E system by leveraging its partnership and collaboration with the MET. However, the M&E system lacked a systematic and longitudinal collection of qualitative data on the beneficiaries' reintegration and its results, as well as a pre-established design to systematically assess its impacts.

3.7. The project allocated 2% of its expenditures to M&E activities, which constitutes an insufficient proportion not in line with IOM guidelines on M&E recommending the allocation of at least 7% of any project's budget to this important management function. Nonetheless, the project was relatively well monitored, applying IOM AVRR M&E system to collect quantitative information on the reintegration results, satisfaction and sustainability, conducting monitoring visits to follow-up on beneficiaries' reintegration and documenting and collecting data on few reintegration cases.

3.8. A good practice of the project was the administration of the baseline survey with a sample of beneficiaries. This allowed the project to have an idea on the baseline level of reintegration of

beneficiaries, to target reintegration dimensions on which the project should focus its attention and to provide a baseline level against which the progress of the project could be assessed. Given the limited number of target beneficiaries of the project, the sample of the baseline data collection could have been increased or the full population of beneficiaries could have been surveyed at the baseline and end-line stages. Instead, it was not clear, based on the project's documentation, how the respondents to the reintegration surveys were sampled, making it difficult to conduct rigorous impact assessment. It could have been also beneficial to conduct multiple rounds of reintegration data collection (for example two rounds before the start of the project, mid-term and two end-line rounds). Similar multiple rounds of qualitative data on a more limited sample of beneficiaries from different backgrounds and having received different kind of reintegration assistance could also have provided the project with richer data on the reintegration processes and how they can be influenced by the beneficiaries environment, and allow implementing a Most Significant Change (MSC) approach to document these causal mechanisms and identify other unintended impacts of the project. This would have made possible a more precise and rigorous assessment of the project impacts, in addition to providing the project management with timely and sufficient data to make decision and potentially correct the course of implementation.

3.9. Enhancing the M&E system of the project by the implementation of the above-proposed improvements clearly requires more important financial and human resources. On the later element, the project has opportunistically taken advantage of all the efforts invested in strengthening the capacities of METs by associating the structure to the collection of data on reintegration results. However, some project management respondents claim that strengthening the project's M&E human resources would have allowed closer and more sustained monitoring to meet the needs of beneficiaries and collect data to make timely decisions.

> *"You sometimes need to do road trip for four or five hours just to monitor one beneficiary. And everybody is important. So, if we had two M&E officers on this project, we could have reached more beneficiaries in more efficient ways."* ***IOM Project Staff****.*

IMPACT

Impact refers to the extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended or unintended, higher-level effects. ***(Rating: Ver Good – 4/5)***

4.1. As introduced in the methodology section and detailed in the Annex 1, the evaluation had the ambition to conduct an impact assessment of the project as scientifically rigorous as the data and resources for the evaluation would allow, using a mix of reflexive and quasi-experimental designs. The results of the impact assessment below should, therefore, be read and interpreted bearing in mind all the limitations stated and discussed in the said sections. It is also worth noting that only few months after receiving their reintegration assistance and couple of months after the end of the project, it is not realistic to expect a meticulous and accurate measurement of the project's impacts. Another round of quantitative and qualitative data on reintegration sustainability might be necessary to more precisely assess the longer-term impacts of the project.

Pre-Post Sustainability Analysis

Finding 13. The project beneficiaries' reintegration sustainability generally improved, especially their average overall and social reintegration. Economic reintegration has slightly improved, while psychosocial reintegration has experienced a slight decrease.

4.2. As illustrated in table 6 below, the results of the pre/post tests of the mean reintegration sustainability scores of GIZ beneficiaries show a general and relative improvement of the returnees' sustainability without necessarily being able to attribute it to the GIZ project. For the Composite RSI, the mean difference is 0.007 (i.e. 0.7% increase), which is statistically significant at 10%, with a p-value of 0.070 but with a small effect. This suggests that while there is an improvement of the overall reintegration sustainability of beneficiaries, the intervention did not have a significant effect on the Composite RSI score, which combines the other three RSI measures.

4.3. For the Economic RSI, the mean difference is 0.02 (i.e. 2% increase), but the t-value and p-value suggest that this difference is not statistically significant. The mean scores before and after the intervention were 0.49 and 0.51, respectively. The social reintegration of beneficiaries is the dimension which significantly increased after the project implementation. Indeed, the mean difference of the RSI score before and after the intervention is 0.042 (i.e. 4,2% increase), which is statistically significant at the 0.05 level, with a p-value of 0.004. This suggests that the intervention had a positive impact on the Social RSI score, which measures the extent to which beneficiaries were able to participate in social activities and have access to social networks. This relatively important increase of the social reintegration sustainability of the project beneficiaries may be due to a more or less natural maturation effect, the returning migrants having, since their return, had the time to reactivate their social networks or to create new ones, to regenerate their ties with their families and communities and more generally to reclaim their social space and feel more comfortable interacting with its members.

Table 6. Pre-Post Mean Difference of Reintegration Sustainability Scores

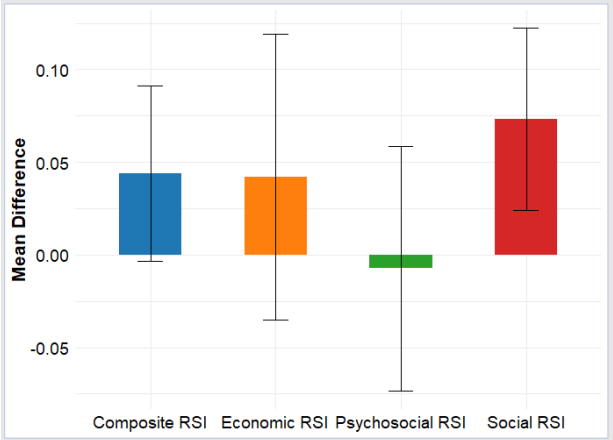
RSI	Mean difference	t-value	p-value	Pre mean	Post mean
Composite RSI	0.007	1.897	0.070*	0.61	0.62
Economic RSI	0.020	1.107	0.276	0.49	0.51
Social RSI	0.042	3.041	0.004***	0.55	0.59
Psychosocial RSI	-0.035	-0.228	0.821	0.75	0.71

Mean of difference is statistically significant at: * = 10%, **=5%, ***=1%

4.4. The economic reintegration of the project beneficiaries has improved slightly (2% increase), which may be an indication of a certain level of resilience given the very difficult economic context in the country since the return of the migrants and the fact that most of the beneficiaries have just implemented their micro-business or found an employment opportunity. On the other hand, the

sustainability of psychosocial reintegration has experienced a slight decrease since the start of the project without being statistically significant. This could be interpreted with some pessimism given all the activities that the project has put in place to provide beneficiaries with impactful mental and psychosocial support, either directly by IOM or by the implementing partners. It can also be related to the critical economic situation of the country and its impact on the general well-being of the most vulnerable populations, including that of returning migrants.

Figure 9. Mean Difference of Reintegration Sustainability Scores Before and After the GIZ Project



4.5. To sum up, if the general situation of the reintegration of the project beneficiaries has improved slightly at the end of the intervention (especially for its social dimension), it is necessary to compare this relative progress with a group having the same characteristics as the project beneficiaries and having had the same overall reintegration pathway apart from the complementary reintegration assistance provided by the project to be able to attribute these relative changes to the project.

Impact Attribution

4.6. As set out in the methodological section and in more detail in Annex 1, baseline and end-of-project data on the reintegration sustainability of project beneficiaries was compared to that of a comparable group composed of beneficiaries who received reintegration assistance under the EU-IOM Joint-initiative (EUTF). In truth, the population of returned migrants supported under EUTF constitutes the initial universe of project beneficiaries from which the GIZ project beneficiaries differ - if we control for other variables such as age, gender or location - only through their access to additional reintegration assistance under the GIZ project. Comparing the reintegration outcomes and their measurements before and after the project between the two groups provides us, therefore, with a counterfactual or, in other words, of an estimation of what would have happened if the beneficiaries of the GIZ project had not received the complementary assistance to reintegration. Table 7 below summarizes the results of the linear regression models with and without the confounding factors, and for both the full sample of the study and two exactly matched samples of the two groups to be compared.

Table 7. Difference-in-Differences Results on the full and matched samples for sustainability scores

RSI	Full Sample							Matched Sample	
	Baseline		Endline		DID	n	With Covariates	n	DID covariates
	GIZ	EUTF	GIZ	EUTF					
Composite RSI	0.61	0.66	0.63	0.66	0.013 (0.025)	1226	-0.037 (0.024)	323	-0.139* (0.078)
Economic RSI	0.48	0.57	0.54	0.57	0.061 (0.039)	1213	0.012 (0.037)	323	-0.198 (0.121)
Social RSI	0.54	0.65	0.56	0.60	0.064* (0.034)	1213	0.014 (0.033)	323	-0.001 (0.107)

Psychosocial RSI	0.75	0.71	0.72	0.76	-0.085** (0.033)	1213	--0.105*** (0.025)	323	-0.141* (0.084)

Significance levels: * = 10%, **=5%, ***=1%

Finding 14. Based on the surveyed full samples of beneficiaries, the complementary reintegration assistance provided by the project had a generally positive effect on their overall and economic sustainability, and a more significant effect on their social reintegration compared to other returned migrants.

4.7. If we consider the regression model using the full sample, the results show that participation in the GIZ project had generally a positive effect on the RSI scores (except for the psychosocial dimension), with the difference between the GIZ and EUTF beneficiaries being statistically significant for the social and psychosocial dimensions. Indeed, receiving the complementary reintegration assistance improved the overall reintegration sustainability of the project beneficiaries compared to EUTF beneficiaries by a slight 1.3%, their economic reintegration by 6%, their social reintegration by 6.5% (statistically significant at 10%), while it decreased their psychosocial reintegration by 8.5% (statistically significant at 5%). If we account for other factors such as gender, age or location, the improvement in the overall reintegration is negative without being statistically significant, social and economic reintegration improved less effectively and psychosocial reintegration is even less important for the project beneficiaries compared to EUTF beneficiaries. The difference in the RSI score for the psychological dimension is particularly difficult to explain, especially knowing that the score for this dimension is the only one having decreased for the project beneficiaries compared to its baseline average level (see section 2.2 above). A plausible explanation might be the composition of the project beneficiaries, with a good proportion who returned from Germany, and who might have found it more and more difficult to accept their situation back in the country, with its toll on their psychosocial well-being. This is confirmed in the semi-structured interviews with beneficiaries, where a majority of returned migrants from Germany regret their decision to return and/or express their intention to re-migrate if offered the opportunity.

4.8. The regression model for the matched sample with covariates gives a different, and generally more negative, picture. Having received the complementary reintegration assistance had no positive effect on the reintegration sustainability of beneficiaries, quite the opposite; RSI scores for GIZ beneficiaries being systematically lower for the project beneficiaries compared to their counterparts who received EUTF reintegration assistance. The difference is statistically significant at 10% for the overall and psychosocial reintegration sustainability scores, where receiving the GIZ project's assistance decreased their scores by respectively 13 and 14%. Similarly, receiving the GIZ complementary assistance decreased the beneficiaries' social RSI score by 0.1% and their economic RSI score by 19.8%, but the difference between the two groups is not statistically significant.

4.9. it is important to reiterate that the analysis has some limitations. The data used in the analysis are cross-sectional, and therefore, it is challenging to determine causality. Additionally, the analysis does not consider other factors that may have affected the RSI scores, such as socioeconomic status, education level, vulnerability and employment status. Despite these limitations, the results provide valuable information on the relationship between the intervention and sustainability scores.

Finding 15. Demographic variables such as age or gender did not have any significant effect on the reintegration sustainability of the beneficiaries. The GIZ project had, however, a more positive impact in some states

4.10. Age and type of reintegration (individual vs. collective or community-based) do not seem to have any influence on the four scores of reintegration sustainability of the beneficiaries. This is not in line with other studies carried out by IOM with more global data showing that that receiving collective reintegration assistance has a positive effect on returnees' overall reintegration sustainability as well

as on their economic reintegration sustainability[16]. Gender, however, have a statistically significant influence on the overall reintegration of beneficiaries (composite RSI is 1.2% higher for male beneficiaries, significant at 5%) and on their psychological reintegration (psychological RSI is 2.5% higher for male beneficiaries at 1%) , with a small effect size. The results for state variables suggest that the GIZ project had a positive impact in some particular states where the project was implemented, while there was no significant difference in others. For instance, the results indicate that Anambra and Borno states had significant positive effects on the composite and psychosocial RSI measures, while Imo and Lagos states had significant negative effects. This may be due to differences in project implementation across states, the more limited number of beneficiaries allowing for more targeted assistance, or the capacities of implementing partners in some states being more important. In any event, these differences in project impacts across states should be more carefully analyzed. The results imply that additional interventions may be required to address the specific challenges in different regions to ensure more uniform positive effects on reintegration sustainability measures.

[16] See, for example: IOM. (2022). Knowledge Bite #5: Types of Reintegration Assistance and Sustainable Reintegration Outcomes. EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub

SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability refers to the extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue or are likely to continue. ***(Rating: Good – 3/5)***

Institutional Sustainability

Finding 16. Overall, the project improved the institutional sustainability structures at the federal and state levels. However, more support is necessary to ensure continuity and progress.

5.1. As illustrated in the 'Effectiveness' section, the project is well anchored in its institutional environment, with a clear and coherent governance structure of return and reintegration in Nigeria at the federal and state level that IOM, through its different interventions, has been supporting and strengthening since the adoption of the NMP. The main sustainability mechanism of any AVRR project implemented in the country remains the Nigeria Migration Policy (NMP, 2015), which is the framework that outlines the country's vision, objectives, and strategies for managing migration, including return and reintegration of returned migrants. The policy recognizes the potential of migration to contribute to the country's development but also highlights the risks associated with unregulated migration. It seeks to promote legal and orderly migration, protect the rights of migrants, and enhance the capacity of government institutions to manage migration. In addition to federal level coordination structures such as the WGRRR and the National Consultative Committee (NCC) as the policymaking organ of the Federal Government, IOM supported the creation and capacity-building of state-level coordination structures such as the RC, CMET and MET. These coordination structures benefitted from various capacity-building activities, both by the project and other IOM AVRR interventions, and are playing a more active role in drafting migration and reintegration policies, in designing and monitoring activities and in managing cases at the state and local levels. Their continuous reinforcement constitutes the most viable and sustainable approach towards ensuring an enduring government engagement for the returned migrants and their reintegration.

5.2. It is not yet clear, in the absence of a systematic assessment and in light of the limited evaluation information, to what extent these structures are plainly and effectively playing their coordination, monitoring and policy-making roles. The ongoing evaluation and revision of the NMP will certainly provide more evidence on such effectiveness and the potential measures to further improve it. In any case, IOM, whether through a potential follow-up of the project or its other AVRR or governance strengthening mechanisms should continue supporting the revision and effective implementation of the NMP and building the capacities of its governance and coordination structures.

Social Sustainability

Finding 17. While the project has been effective in improving the social reintegration of its beneficiaries, more effective mechanisms should be put in place to continue supporting social reintegration, such as community-based reintegration projects, involving youth-at-risk and partnering with the private sector.

5.3. As demonstrated in the 'Effectiveness' and 'Impact' sections, the project has been effective and impactful in improving the social reintegration if its beneficiaries. This means that the beneficiaries were generally well received and accepted back in their families and communities, that they reactivated or created new social networks and progressively became active actors in the social and economic lives of their communities. While the average social reintegration sustainability score of the project beneficiaries remain lower than their overall and psychosocial scores, its significant increase and its higher level compared to other returned migrant groups suggests that the project has been particularly effective in improving this dimension of the reintegration. Support to social reintegration of the project beneficiaries should continue, using the appropriate mechanisms that proved their effectiveness and impact, whether by any follow-up to the project or by federal and state relevant structures and institutions. Some respondents of the evaluation suggested reinstating community-based reintegration projects, potentially in association with the private sector, for their structuring and wider impacts that reach out beyond the beneficiaries to affect whole communities. Others also highlighted the importance of involving the community youth-at-risk in the reintegration activities

(whether individual or community-based) to continue raising awareness on the risks and alternatives to irregular migration, to avoid giving the impression of rewarding irregular migration, and more generally, to involve the whole community in the reintegration process and its various activities.

Risks to Sustainability

6.1 Despite the institutional sustainability mechanisms in place and the ownership of the project results by most of its beneficiaries, stakeholders and partners, certain political, security, financial or social risks may jeopardize their:

- The sensitive security situation in certain implementation areas remains an obvious risk to the sustainability of the project results. The evolving security situation should be constantly monitored and adjustments to targeting and implementation approach made.
- The nature of the public service both at the federal and state levels means that civil servants or elected officials involved in the project can be changed or transferred to other services or regions at any political change such as a new political leadership. This further supports the view that the various capacity-building activities need to maintain a long-term perspective to provide opportunities for continuous improvement for new and old staff. While staff turnover in project areas represent a risk, it could also have positive effects whereby those moving to other areas help transfer their knowledge and experience, resulting in improved practices in their new areas of work.
- Financial risk is always significant with government and implementing partners claiming that the end of the project's financial support could seriously affect their financial capacity to continue to sustain its results.

GENDER

Finding 18. The project design did not consistently include gender mainstreaming. However, the project made efforts to address gender inequality during its implementation, with an estimated 30% of expenditures allocated to gender equality.

6.1. As mentioned in the first section of the present report, gender equality and empowerment were not systematically and consistently mainstreamed in the project design and its planning document. The project's Logic Model didn't include any specific gender-related outcome or output, no gender equality targets were set for the project (even for the proportion of women among the targeted beneficiaries) and its progress monitoring indicators were not consistently disaggregated by gender. The project document didn't include a clearly articulated gender strategy identifying bottlenecks to gender equality and the ways to mitigate or overcome them.

6.2. These shortcomings in terms of mainstreaming gender approach in the project design and planning were, at least partially, resorbed in its effective implementation. The project was able to reach an appropriate proportion of female beneficiaries (see table 3 above), to effectively identify specific women needs and to disaggregate its progress and achievements by gender. In the evaluation interviews, IOM staff stated that gender mainstreaming was strongly considered in the implementation of the project's activities. There was also a greater concern from the government on the importance of ensuring gender equality, empowering women groups and preventing gender-based violence (GBV). The majority of counsellors at IOM or implementing partners were women, and IOM provided some training on gender mainstreaming and GBV to implementing partners, especially for psychology experts and rehabilitation counsellors. Needs were identified by the project staff and partners as different for female beneficiaries compared to male, and individualized need-based support was provided to female beneficiaries. It was also suggested that mainstreaming gender in different activities would encourage representation in migrants' associations and their input into design, mapping, and monitoring.

> *"Gender is an important factor for victims of trafficking (VoT), as most are women and children. They have specific needs and we need to adjust our approach and integrate a gender-based approach in our activities. IOM has provided us with some training on gender mainstreaming and GBV. Most of our counsellors are women, which makes our work with vulnerable women easier."* ***Implementing Partner.***

6.3. Although it is difficult to estimate the proportion of the project budget or expenditures allocated to gender equality, this proportion is close to 30% of the project's expenditures if we consider the percentage of female beneficiaries per output expenditure. Satisfaction level with the reintegration assistance was much higher for female beneficiary respondents (79% vs. 54% for male respondents), which can be considered as an indication that female beneficiary needs and expectations were better identified and addressed by the project's different activities.

6.4. Overall, the project showed efforts to consider gender mainstreaming in the implementation of its activities. There were some challenges in terms of gender balance, but the project made efforts to address them. Stakeholders identified different needs for female beneficiaries compared to male, and individualized need-based support was provided to female beneficiaries. Stakeholders recognized the importance of gender equality and empowering women groups and preventing GBV. To further enhance the project's impact, the evaluation recommended continuing efforts to ensure gender equality is mainstreamed throughout the project design and implementation, and to increase male participation to ensure equal representation. The project should also continue to consider the different needs and priorities of women, girls, boys, and men in its activities, and work towards promoting their equal participation as decision-makers and increasing their access to and control over development resources and benefits. As such, the project design and its implementation can be rated as **Gen 1** ("***Project with some but insufficient inclusion of gender issues***") on the Gender Marker scale.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Relevance

For IOM Management:

- In any future similar intervention, better align the initiative's ultimate objectives with the SDGS and IOM CGM objectives, and map the intervention output and outcome indicators to IOM Strategic Results Framework (SRF) indicators.
- For any future projects, better mainstream gender equality in the project design and its related Logic Model and result matrix.

Effectiveness

For IOM Management:

- Provide continuum of care for returned migrants needing long-term medical or mental support and social protection.
- Base the provided complimentary reintegration assistance on the level of sustainability at the start of the project and conduct systematic baseline assessment at the individual level.
- Put the focus on digital marketing and digital transformation in the business skills training provided to returned migrants.
- Support families and provide them with group support and information on how to support returnees, especially those with vulnerabilities.
- Design a comprehensive and integrated system to monitor the results and outcomes of business and technical skills' trainings and to follow up on their contribution to the sustainable reintegration of the beneficiaries.
- Revise and re-adjust the SOPs to account for differences and contexts across states and potentially develop state-specific SOPs.
- Involve the communities, including youth at risk, in the reintegration of returned migrants to improve their social reintegration sustainability and to raise awareness around irregular migration and its risks.
- Consider increasing the economic reintegration amount allocated to beneficiaries and adjust it to the inflation rate.
- Engage the private sector in community reintegration projects and support for migrant reintegration, including employment referral.
- Improve the coordination and communication between monitoring teams and case workers.

Efficiency

For IOM:

- Better budget certain management functions such as M&E, case management and liaison with the private sector.
- Draft a Management Response Matrix to propose action plans to address the evaluation recommendations, and systematically monitor and follow up on the proposed actions by the project management.
- Plan and design any impact assessment at the start of the project, with the appropriate quantitative and qualitative data collection rounds to be conducted throughout the project implementation in order to enhance the assessment reliability and scientific rigor.

- Collect more qualitative data on the beneficiaries' reintegration processes and results in order to enrich the understanding of the causal links between the project, its environment and any observed results or outcomes on the beneficiaries' reintegration and its sustainability.

Impact

For IOM:

- For any similar future intervention, design a comprehensive and rigorous impact assessment at the start of the project, with multiple rounds of data collection on the reintegration results and sustainability before and after the intervention, and with the appropriate financial and human resources and strict quality controls of the reintegration data and its reliability.
- Conduct at least another round of data collection on the reintegration sustainability to assess whether the observed changes on the various dimensions of sustainability endures six months to one year after the end of the project.
- Further investigate the differences of the sustainability scores by gender and by state to identify and address their underlying causes.

For the Federal/State Governments:

- Consider a mechanism to continue monitoring the economic, social and psychosocial reintegration of the project beneficiaries and to provide any needed further support for their sustainable reintegration.

Sustainability

For IOM:

- Develop a hand-over or an exit strategy, detailing the measures to be taken by the relevant government and CSO partners to ensure the results of the project will be sustainable on the longer-term.
- Continue supporting the strengthening of the capacities of reintegration federal and state coordination and monitoring structures such as the WGRRR, TWG, RCs, CMETs or TEMs.

For the Federal Government:

- Complete the evaluation and the revision of the NMP, with clear recommendations on how to further strengthen the coordination and monitoring structures and to improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the migration and reintegration governance.

For the Donor

- Consider funding a third phase of the project, integrating lessons learned and best practices from its two phases, to continue strengthening the capacities of government and CSO partners and supporting the sustainable reintegration of beneficiaries.

LESSONS LEARNED & BEST PRACTICES

The project can be generally assessed as having attained most of its outputs and contributed to an important extent to its expected outcomes. Some good practices and lessons learned can be derived from this evaluation to inform future interventions or to be considered by IOM management to sustain the observed results:

- **Mapping and debt Studies -** provided valuable information on the beneficiaries' needs and expectations, as well as to scope and target the project's main activities.
- **The Reintegration Monitoring and Sustainability Baseline –** measurement allowed the project to assess its initial output and outcome sustainability levels, to inform the design of certain activities and to be able to more consistently measure its outcomes and impacts. More waves of data collection should, however, be conducted before and after the project implementation, and more careful attention given to the sampling strategies.
- **Counselling kit was streamlined across partners (government, CSOs, etc.) -** and was a best practice that allowed a relative standardization of reintegration support across partners implementation areas.
- **Adaptive and flexible management-** While the project faced some changes in its direct external environment, its management adopted an adaptive and flexible approach that allowed the project to be successful in achieving most of its outcomes and to expect a good probability of good long-term impacts and sustainability.

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Impact Assessment Design

CONTEXT

As per its final evaluation terms of reference (ToRs), Impact is one of the evaluation criteria of the ex-post evaluation of the SRARP project, and the evaluation questions include the following:

- What are the likely long-term impacts of the project? (in particular, to what extent have migrant returnees achieved sustainable reintegration in their communities?)
- How much of the impact can be attributed to the intervention? (or, what would have happened in the absence of the GIZ project?)
- If any, which unintended effects can be observed, whether positive or negative?

Reintegration of returned migrants and their sustainability are relatively new areas of migration management, and there is still a lack of agreement among practitioners on their key concepts and definitions, as well as empirical studies measuring sustainability outcomes against specific interventions. Recognizing this knowledge and empirical gap, IOM has recently launched a series of methodological reflections on how to rigorously measure the sustainability impacts of reintegration, as well as reintegration impact studies of some of its AVRR interventions. For instance, a methodological report, developed in April 2021, proposed a holistic and systematic approach to measure the impacts of the EU-IOM joint initiative in the Horn of Africa, combining a quasi-experimental design with a control group to a natural experiments design and a qualitative framework (xxx, 2016) (Horn of Africa). A more recent methodological report proposed a longitudinal design, collecting frequent data on reintegration sustainability from beneficiaries and control groups over a relatively long period (longitudinal ref). Empirical studies include longitudinal studies piloted by IOM Bangladesh, Iraq, or Afghanistan.

What these methodological reports or empirical studies have in common is that they were developed long before the impact evaluation was or is to be conducted, carefully constructing the comparison groups and collecting the necessary data for a scientific and robust analysis of the impact on the sustainability of reintegration with adequate resources. Conversely, the present evaluation, for its impact criterion, is designed ex-post (after the end of the project), attempts to use the available sustainability data without additional data collection except for the qualitative aspect, and has very limited resources to implement a rigorous design with sufficient and quality data.

In addition to applying an impact assessment quantitative design as robust as possible with regards to the resources and data limitations, this impact assessment section of the evaluation is also expected to inform IOM's understanding of sustainable reintegration metrics through testing of the relatively new Reintegration Sustainability Index (RSI) and its related survey (Reintegration Sustainability Survey (RSS)), introduced in 2018 by IOM to better monitor and compare individual reintegration outcomes.

MEASURING REINTEGRATION

IOM defines sustainable reintegration as follows:

"Reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial wellbeing that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity."[17] This definition highlights the importance of multidimensionality in the concept of reintegration (economic, social, and psychosocial)

[17] See: IOM. (2016). Towards an Integrated Approach to Integration in the Context of Return. Available at: https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DMM/AVRR/Towards-an-Integrated-Approach-toReintegration.pdf.

and incorporates a multilevel approach (individual, community, and structural) towards attaining a sustainable reintegration. At the individual level, which is the focus of the present impact assessment, IOM considers the impact of personal characteristics (age, gender, family situation, etc.) and individual pre-existing vulnerabilities (including physical and mental health issues) as factors in the process of reintegration.

In 2017, IOM commissioned Samuel Hall to develop and operationalize a new approach to measure reintegration[18]. The study designed and piloted 15 individual subjective and objective indicators, grouped into the three economic, social and psychosocial dimensions, along with its data collection surveys. More specifically, the Reintegration Sustainability Survey (RSS), a self-assessment by returned migrants collecting information on 30 core indicators, allows the computation and generation of a composite reintegration score, as well as three dimensional scores, measuring reintegration in economic, social, and psychosocial dimensions. The dimensional scores measure sustainability in specific dimensions of reintegration and can highlight discrepancies in progress between these dimensions. Reintegration scores (composite or dimensional) are generated through the application of weights to the relevant indicators and always take values between 0 and 1. An extreme score of 0 indicates that a returnee does not demonstrate any signs of reintegration, while a 1 suggests that a returnee is perfectly reintegrated, and seems to have achieved a state of complete economic self-sufficiency, full social stability within the community, and/or excellent psychosocial wellbeing[19].

For the purpose of this impact assessment, Reintegration Sustainability Indexes (RSI), as operationalized and measured by the reintegration scores, are retained as the main outcome measures to assess the project's impacts on the sustainability of its beneficiaries' reintegration:

Table 8. Reintegration Sustainability Outcome Indicators

Reintegration Outcome	Outcome Indicator Description
Overall reintegration sustainability score	The composite reintegration sustainability score (between 0 and 1), measuring the overall reintegration
Economic reintegration sustainability score	The economic reintegration sustainability score (between 0 and 1), measuring aspects of reintegration which contribute to economic self-sufficiency. These include the ability to borrow money, the debt-to-spending ratio, need for food rationing, adequacy of employment, ownership of productive assets, etc.
Social reintegration sustainability score	The social reintegration sustainability score (between 0 and 1), measuring the extent to which returnees have reached social stability within the community, including access to services relating to housing, education, justice, health, and other public infrastructure services.
Psychosocial reintegration sustainability score	The psychosocial reintegration sustainability score (between 0 and 1), measuring the emotional, mental, and psychological elements of reintegration.

REINTEGRATION SUSTAINABILITY DATA

Given its limited resources and its post-intervention design, the impact component of this evaluation could not but rely on existing baseline and end-line reintegration sustainability data collected either by the project's M&E staff or their MET partners. This entails a set of limitations related to the quality of the data, to selection and data collection biases, as well as to the inability to account for all potential confounding factors. The potential limitations related to the impact design are listed below.

The evaluation used the reintegration data provided by the project management, collected through the RSS at the baseline and end-line stages both for samples of the GIZ beneficiaries and a calibration group

[18] Samuel Hall. (2017). Reintegration monitoring toolkit. Commissioned by the International Organization.
[19] IOM. (2019). Annex 3 - Methodological Note: Scoring Reintegration Sustainability.

of EUTF beneficiaries. The baseline RSS questionnaires were administered to samples of both project beneficiaries, described in the table below.

Table 9. Impact Assessment Samples

	Baseline		End-line	
	Sample Size	**Period**	**Sample Size**	**Period**
GIZ	281	June 19-September 21	102	October 21-August 22
EUTF	29	November 20-March 21	831	July 22

COMPARISON GROUP

In a typical quasi-experimental approach, the impact of the intervention is estimated by comparing the outcome measures of a treatment exposed group and a non-treatment exposed (or control) group that is drawn from a population deemed to be similar to the treatment group. This non-treatment exposed group is typically referred to as a counterfactual group. Since the GIZ project provides complementary reintegration assistance to migrants supported on their return under the EUTF project, the beneficiaries eligible for EUTF constitute, in this case, the general population. It is therefore reasonable to form a comparison group of EUTF recipients. GIZ and EUTF share mostly the same characteristics in terms of their migration journey, return and reintegration experience, as well as exposure to the reintegration eco-system. The main difference between the two groups is the criteria for which GIZ beneficiaries were selected to receive the complementary assistance, namely their vulnerabilities and their need for specific social or psychosocial assistance. Comparing the two groups might as well provide the evaluation with some insights on whether the screening and the vulnerability assessment processes were efficient, selecting the right category of beneficiaries to receive GIZ complementary assistance.

Furthermore, the composition of the comparison group was also motivated and guided by the availability of data on the sustainability of reintegration. Indeed, due to the post nature of the evaluation and its impact assessment design, it was not possible to carefully constitute and sample the comparison EUTF group before the start of the intervention, neither to consistently collect data on important confounding factors such as vulnerability, history of migration and post-return experience.

IMPACT DESIGN

While there is currently no consensus on an analytical framework to measure reintegration and its impacts in terms of sustainability, the present impact assessment is ambitioning to apply an impact measurement design as scientific and robust as possible, building on the scientific literature in the field and driven by the context of the project and the available resources for this evaluation. The proposed impact assessment approach will apply a sequence of methods: First, the RSI scores before and after the intervention will be compared to measure whether a significant change can be observed without necessarily being able to attribute it to the intervention. Second, a quasi-experimental design will compare the RSI scores before and after the project both for the GIZ beneficiaries and the available RSS baseline and endline data for a comparison (or calibration) group of EUTF beneficiaries surveyed during the same periods. Finally, a post-intervention qualitative framework will be implemented, collecting and triangulating qualitative information collected with a limited sample of the GIZ beneficiaries to gain a more in-depth understanding of how and why reintegration might occur. Each of these three methodologies comes with its shortcomings and limitations discussed below.

Pre-Post Reflexive Design without Control Group

The baseline levels of Reintegration Sustainability Scores (RSS) give us information about where the beneficiaries started before receiving the complimentary reintegration assistance. The end-line

measures of the same indexes allow us to assess whether beneficiaries' scores on the outcome measures have changed from before receiving the project assistance. As a major weakness, this design lacks a control group and, moreover, random assignment to treatment and control groups; for these reasons, this design is not considered (quasi-)experimental; usually referred to as a *reflexive design*. Consequently, this design doesn't give us much confidence that any change we observe was due to the intervention itself – as opposed to natural maturation and developmental processes or other confounding factors.

A ***paired-samples t-test*** is used to compare the mean of the differences between the two measures of the RSI scores before and after the project. The statistical assumptions that should be met prior to running and/or interpreting estimates from a paired-samples t-test include:

- The difference scores based on the two outcome measures (e.g., pre-test, post-test) are independent of each other, suggesting that the beneficiaries are randomly sampled from the underlying population;
- The difference scores have a univariate normal distribution in the underlying population.

```
ttest(RSI_Baseline, RSI_Endline, data=RSI, paired=TRUE)
```

Difference-in-Differences (DID) Quasi-Experimental Design

Given the impossibility to conduct a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT), Difference-in-Differences (DID) remains a popular and often used quasi-experimental design to identify and assess the causal relationships between the outcome measures and a given intervention. DID compares the changes in outcomes over time between units that are enrolled in a program (the treatment group, in our case GIZ beneficiaries) and units that are not (the comparison group, here EUTF beneficiaries). This allows to correct for any differences between the treatment and comparison groups that are constant over time.

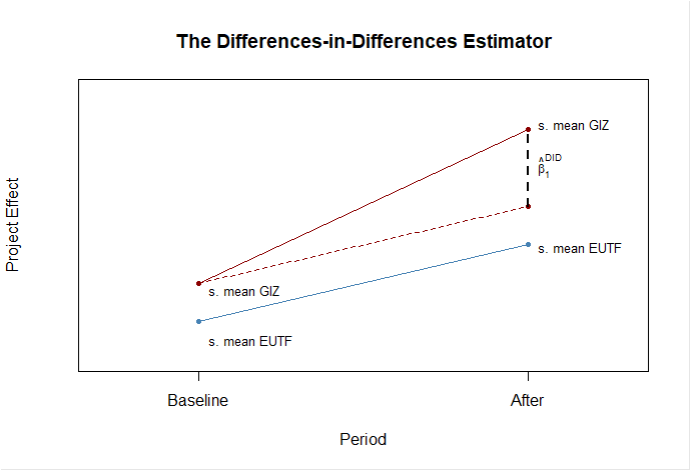
Applied to the evaluation, the estimated effect of the project would be:

$$\beta_3 = (RSI_{GIZ\ endline} - RSI_{GIZ\ baseline}) - (RSI_{eutf\ endline} - RSI_{eutf\ baseline})$$

And can be written in a regression notation as:

$$\Delta Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_i + \beta_2 T_i + \beta_3\ (X_i * T_i) + \cdots + \beta_{1+r} W_{ri} + u_i$$

Where ΔY_i denotes the difference in pre- and post-treatment outcomes of individual i, β_0 a constant term, X_i a binary variable representing the treatment indicator (i.e. support received under GIZ or EUTF), T_i a binary variable representing baseline and endline time variations, $X_i * T_i$ the interaction between the intervention and time and W_r are other factors that may have influenced the outcome (RSI). The impact assessment is, therefore, interested in estimating β_3, coefficient of ($X * T$) demonstrating the overall effect of the CNP intervention under the ordinary least squares. The estimation of the project's effect on the outcome measures can be visualized as below:



The set of covariates (or confounding factors) captured in X are the contextual and socio-demographic variables that can confound the relationship between the GIZ project and the RSI outcomes of interest. They are selected in this analysis based on the available data, mostly at the individual level, consisting of age, gender, state and type of received reintegration (individual, collective, community-based). Unfortunately, data on some important individual or contextual variables such as vulnerability status, level of education or level of income before reintegration were not consistently collected in the data provided by the project data management team to be included in the regression model. Given the continuous nature of the outcome measurements, a linear regression model was applied, and the results reported both without and with the covariates.

Matched DID

As noted above, as a calibration (or comparison) group, the DID design uses the available baseline and end-line reintegration sustainability data of the joint-initiative (EUTF) beneficiaries collected during approximately the same time-periods and constituting the same cohort of returned migrants. As a robustness check, the evaluation also uses a propensity score matching in conjunction with the difference-in-differences estimation procedure (a matched DID design). The matching was done using the available reintegration data and the exact matching function in R.

LIMITATIONS

- The parallel trend assumption (i.e. that the outcome measures for both groups have the same increasing or decreasing trend) incumbent in DID methods could not be directly tested because only two waves of data were available for analysis. No proxy measure was available to test this assumption.
- The impact assessment does not control for the activities of other donors or projects that may have been active in the project or comparison areas, such as the COMPASS project or other similar initiatives by national or international development actors supporting the reintegration of returned migrants.

REGRESSION TABLES

Table 10. Regression Models for the Full Sample

	Composite RSI		Economic RSI		Social RSI		Psychosocial RSI	
	DID	Covariates	DID	Covariates	DID	Covariates	DID	Covariates
GenderM		0.014**		0.012		0.012		0.025***
		(0.007)		(0.011)		(0.009)		(0.007)

Age				0.001		-0.0002		0.0004
				(0.0004)		(0.0003)		(0.0003)
StateAbuja		0.033		0.041		-0.070		0.013
		(0.059)		(0.092)		(0.082)		(0.061)
StateAkwa Ibom		0.058		0.065		0.032		0.129
		(0.078)		(0.121)		(0.108)		(0.081)
StateAnambra		0.088**		0.103*		-0.030		0.116***
		(0.037)		(0.057)		(0.051)		(0.038)
StateBayelsa		-0.070		-0.121		-0.172**		-0.069
		(0.054)		(0.085)		(0.075)		(0.057)
StateBenue		-0.059		-0.179		-0.172		0.054
		(0.106)		(0.165)		(0.147)		(0.110)
StateBorno		0.104***		0.187***		0.017		0.005
		(0.040)		(0.062)		(0.055)		(0.041)
StateCross River		0.058		0.227**		0.037		0.157**
		(0.066)		(0.103)		(0.092)		(0.069)
StateDelta		-0.015		-0.001		-0.139***		0.031
		(0.031)		(0.048)		(0.043)		(0.032)
StateEdo		0.004		-0.015		-0.098**		0.024
		(0.030)		(0.047)		(0.042)		(0.031)
StateEkiti		0.151***		0.137*		0.051		0.045
		(0.051)		(0.079)		(0.071)		(0.053)
StateEnugu		-0.022		-0.093		-0.070		-0.035
		(0.044)		(0.068)		(0.061)		(0.045)
StateFCT		0.022		0.027		-0.074		0.025
		(0.034)		(0.053)		(0.047)		(0.035)
StateImo		-0.083**		-0.119**		-0.200***		-0.014
		(0.035)		(0.054)		(0.048)		(0.036)

StateKaduna		0.149***		0.180**		0.070		0.089*
		(0.049)		(0.076)		(0.067)		(0.050)
StateKano		0.117***		0.148***		-0.001		0.077**
		(0.031)		(0.048)		(0.043)		(0.032)
StateKwara		-0.031		-0.051		-0.173**		0.014
		(0.059)		(0.092)		(0.082)		(0.061)
StateLagos		0.015		0.005		-0.073*		0.002
		(0.031)		(0.048)		(0.042)		(0.032)
StateNasarawa		0.116		0.138		0.005		0.088
		(0.106)		(0.165)		(0.148)		(0.110)
StateNiger		-0.019		-0.079		-0.127		-0.060
		(0.106)		(0.165)		(0.147)		(0.110)
StateOgun		0.052*		0.008		-0.003		0.038
		(0.031)		(0.049)		(0.043)		(0.032)
StateOndo		-0.004		-0.025		-0.120**		0.069*
		(0.035)		(0.055)		(0.049)		(0.037)
StateOsun		0.058		0.088		0.019		0.033
		(0.038)		(0.059)		(0.052)		(0.039)
StateOyo		-0.004		-0.010		-0.145***		0.042
		(0.033)		(0.051)		(0.046)		(0.034)
StateRivers		-0.018		-0.012		-0.143***		0.034
		(0.032)		(0.051)		(0.045)		(0.034)
StateYobe		0.130***		0.317***		-0.010		0.066*
		(0.037)		(0.058)		(0.052)		(0.039)
TypeCommunity		-0.074**		-0.036		-0.105**		-0.041
		(0.035)		(0.054)		(0.049)		(0.036)
TypeIndividual		0.023***		0.026**		0.035***		-0.003
		(0.008)		(0.013)		(0.012)		(0.009)

Project	-0.047**	0.008	-0.088***	-0.017	-0.108***	-0.060**	0.037*	0.065***
	(0.022)	(0.021)	(0.034)	(0.033)	(0.030)	(0.029)	(0.021)	(0.022)
Period	0.005	0.052***	-0.0001	0.056*	-0.048*	0.002	0.056***	0.075***
	(0.021)	(0.020)	(0.033)	(0.031)	(0.029)	(0.028)	(0.021)	(0.021)
Project:Period	0.013	-0.037	0.061	0.012	0.064*	0.014	-0.085***	-0.105***
	(0.025)	(0.024)	(0.039)	(0.037)	(0.034)	(0.033)	(0.024)	(0.025)
Constant	0.661***	0.564***	0.575***	0.448***	0.654***	0.655***	0.712***	0.635***
	(0.021)	(0.037)	(0.032)	(0.058)	(0.028)	(0.052)	(0.020)	(0.039)
Observations	1,227	1,226	1,229	1,213	1,229	1,213	1,229	1,213
R^2	0.038	0.219	0.043	0.216	0.032	0.185	0.019	0.098
Adjusted R^2	0.036	0.199	0.041	0.195	0.030	0.163	0.017	0.073
Residual Std. Error	0.112 (df = 1223)	0.102 (df = 1194)	0.173 (df = 1225)	0.158 (df = 1180)	0.152 (df = 1225)	0.141 (df = 1180)	0.109 (df = 1225)	0.106 (df = 1180)
F Statistic	16.168*** (df = 3; 1223)	10.794*** (df = 31; 1194)	18.513*** (df = 3; 1225)	10.166*** (df = 32; 1180)	13.483*** (df = 3; 1225)	8.384*** (df = 32; 1180)	8.103*** (df = 3; 1225)	3.986*** (df = 32; 1180)
								*p<0.1 ; **p<0.05 ; ***p<0.01

Table 11. Regression Models for the Matched Samples

	Composite RSI	Economic RSI	Social RSI	Psychosocial RSI
StateDelta	-0.105	-0.187	-0.119	-0.058
	(0.074)	(0.114)	(0.102)	(0.080)
StateEdo	-0.124*	-0.195*	-0.101	-0.107
	(0.072)	(0.111)	(0.099)	(0.077)
StateFCT	-0.036	-0.068	-0.006	-0.072
	(0.080)	(0.123)	(0.109)	(0.086)
StateImo	-0.354***	-0.265*	-0.251**	-0.280***
	(0.087)	(0.135)	(0.120)	(0.094)
StateKano	0.049	0.036	0.065	-0.007
	(0.086)	(0.133)	(0.118)	(0.092)
StateLagos	-0.095	-0.171	-0.071	-0.124

	(0.073)	(0.112)	(0.100)	(0.078)
StateOgun	-0.050	-0.125	0.015	-0.096
	(0.073)	(0.113)	(0.101)	(0.079)
StateOndo	-0.173**	-0.306**	-0.104	-0.111
	(0.087)	(0.135)	(0.120)	(0.094)
StateOyo	-0.156**	-0.262**	-0.149	-0.129
	(0.079)	(0.122)	(0.108)	(0.085)
StateRivers	-0.153*	-0.194	-0.154	-0.090
	(0.078)	(0.121)	(0.107)	(0.084)
Project	0.108	0.190	-0.048	0.125
	(0.076)	(0.118)	(0.105)	(0.082)
Period	0.136*	0.230*	-0.0004	0.117
	(0.076)	(0.117)	(0.104)	(0.082)
Project:Period	-0.139*	-0.198	-0.001	-0.141*
	(0.078)	(0.121)	(0.107)	(0.084)
Constant	0.632***	0.495***	0.692***	0.740***
	(0.104)	(0.161)	(0.143)	(0.112)
Observations	323	323	323	323
R^2	0.185	0.098	0.148	0.077
Adjusted R^2	0.151	0.060	0.112	0.038
Residual Std. Error (df = 309)	0.101	0.156	0.138	0.109
F Statistic (df = 13; 309)	5.401***	2.587***	4.122***	1.990**
*p<0.1 ; **p<0.05 ; ***p<0.01				

Annex 2. Evaluation Scoring Matrix

Evaluation Criteria	Dimensions measured	Rating (1 to 5)	Justification for rating
RELEVANCE IS THE INTERVENTION DOING THE RIGHT THINGS? The extent to which the intervention objectives and design respond to beneficiaries', global, country, and partner/institution needs, policies, and priorities, and continue to do so if circumstances change. VALIDITY OF PROJECT DESIGN The validity and logic of the project design as seen in the results matrix (RM).	- Level of alignment with national priorities, strategies, policies and IOM priorities. - Level of evidence that beneficiaries and stakeholders were involved in project design. - Existence of needs assessment. - Level of integration of human rights and gender equality within the project design and implementation. - The validity and logic of the project design as seen in the results matrix (RM).	**4/5**	- The project was well-aligned with the national priorities in Nigeria (especially with the National Migration Policy), as well as with IOM regional and global frameworks and strategies. - Beneficiaries were involved in the design of the project activities through the vulnerability screening and the needs-based counselling process. Government relevant agencies were also consulted during the design of the project. - Three mappings and the debt study conducted under the JI. - Gender was mainstreamed and not explicitly mainstreamed in the project design. - The Logic Model of the project and its RM were valid, coherent and detailed.
EFFECTIVENESS IS THE INTERVENTION ACHIEVING ITS OBJECTIVES? The extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across groups.	- Extent to which the project objective and outcomes were achieved. - Effectiveness of collaboration and coordination with partners and stakeholders. - Evidence of involvement of beneficiaries in project processes. - Resilience/agility to manage and monitor risks, or unexpected internal/external factors.	**4/5**	- The project objective and outcomes were in a large extent achieved, with the reintegration sustainability of beneficiaries and the capacity of partners having improved, and with his outputs having generally exceeded their targets. - Coordination and collaboration with partners were effective thanks to the project management, the appropriate selection of implementing partners and the various activities conducted to enhance the capacity of coordination structures. - Direct beneficiaries were involved through the need and vulnerability assessments. Government agencies were involved in the design of the project's activities - The project was able to monitor its external risks and to adapt, to an extent, to changes in its immediate and regional environment.

EFFICIENCY HOW WELL ARE RESOURCES BEING USED? The extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.	- Economic use of resources (human, physical and financial). - Timeliness of interventions (ability to stick to project timeline). - Respects Reporting requirements.	**5/5**	- The human and financial resources of the project were used efficiently, and the project reached high levels of operational and financial efficiency. - Almost all planned activities were implemented within the planned schedules. The project didn't need to request any NCE to compensate for implementation delays. - Reporting went smoothly and without any substantial delays.
IMPACT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THE INTERVENTION MAKE? The extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended or unintended, higher level effects.	- The significance of short- and long-term effects and changes of the project. - The significance of negative effects/changes.	**4/5**	- The impact analysis showed some slight impacts of the project that need to be capitalized on. - No significant negative impacts were reported, which could be attributed to the project's intervention.
SUSTAINABILITY **WILL THE BENEFITS LAST?** The extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue, or are likely to continue.	- Temporality/ permanence of Outcomes achieved. - Extent to which processes and deliverables put in place by the project continue to deliver benefits beyond its lifecycle. - Extent of integration of project in national/local structures. - Existence of follow up projects/mechanisms and handover. - Evidence of resources within IOM and/or partners to continue to deliver project Benefits.	**3/5**	- Some outcomes can be permanent If appropriate support continue to be provided. - Institutional structures and processes are in place to ensure the project's sustainability; but need to be further reinforced. - No follow-up to the project or exit strategy have yet been developed. Discussions on a second phase are still ongoing. - Limited resources available to government or implementing partners to sustain the project's results.

Annex 3. Evaluation Matrix

Criterion	*Evaluation Question*	*Data Source*
Relevance	How appropriate is project design to achieve its objectives in the context in which it operates? How appropriate are the project's intended results for the context within which it operates?	Desk Review KII - IOM Staff KII-Government Partners KII-Implementing Partners
	To what extent were the needs of beneficiaries and stakeholders taken into account in project design?	
	Which parts of the intervention have been the most appropriate and why?	
	Which were least appropriate and why?	
Effectiveness	To what extent has the project contributed to the sustainable reintegration of the returned migrants in Nigeria?	Desk Review KII – IOM Staff KII – Government Partners KII-Implementing Partners *Reintegration Monitoring Survey* *Reintegration Sustainability Survey* KII-Beneficiaries
	What have been the major factors affecting the achievement and non-achievement of the objectives set for the project? Did the achieved results reach the beneficiaries as planned?	Desk Review KII – IOM Staff KII – Government Partners KII-Implementing Partners KII-Beneficiaries
	What external factors are affecting the implementation of the project and how are they being managed?	Desk Review KII – IOM Staff KII – Government Partners KII-Implementing Partners
	To what extent have the government been involved and engaged to plan and achieve the objectives and interventions of the project?	Desk Review KII – IOM Staff KII – Government Partners
	In which areas has the project been successful in identifying and addressing key gaps in the targeted	Desk Review KII – IOM Staff

	institutions? What are the areas needing further development and review, and how?	KII – Government Partners
Efficiency	Were the designed activities, implementation and other resources in terms of time, finance and expertise adequate to achieve sustainable project objectives and results?	Desk Review KII – IOM Staff KII – Government Partners KII – Implementing Partners
	What are the areas needing further development and review, and how?	
	To what extent have progress be made on the previous recommendations made on phase 1 project?	Desk Review KII – IOM Staff
Impact	What are the likely long-term impacts of the projects?	KII – IOM Staff KII – Implementing Partners KII-Beneficiaries Reintegration Sustainability Survey
	How much of the impact can be attributed to the intervention?	
	If any, which unintended effects can be observed, whether positive or negative?	KII – IOM Staff KII – Implementing Partners KII - Beneficiaries
Sustainability	To what extent has debt affected the sustainable reintegration of the beneficiaries?	Desk Review KII – IOM Staff KII – Implementing Partners KII - Beneficiaries
	How effective were the governance structures assisting in the reintegration of the beneficiaries?	KII – IOM Staff KII – Government Partners
	To what extent has the capacity of MHPSS service providers improved to provide services the beneficiaries in need?	Desk Review KII – IOM Staff KII – Implementing Partners
	What mechanisms did the project put in place to guarantee sustainability of the AVRR programs in Nigeria?	Desk Review KII – IOM Staff KII – Implementing Partners
	Do partners have the financial and technical capacity to maintain the	KII – Government Partners

	benefits of the project to guarantee sense of ownership and interest in the sustainability? If not, what continued program support is needed to ensure sustainability, as well as replicability, at the local level (e.g. financial, coordination, technical, human resources)?	
Gender	To what extent has the project: 1) advanced women's equal participation with men as decision-makers, 2) promoted the rights of women and girls, and 3) increased women's access to and control over development resources and benefits?	Desk review KII – IOM Staff KII – Implementing Partners KII – Government Partners KII - Beneficiaries
	To what extent has the project improved the capacity of stakeholders to promote gender equality (GE)?	
	To what extent are female and male stakeholders and beneficiaries satisfied with the GE results?	
	To what extent are the GE results consistent with the positions/commitments on GE of key partners/stakeholders in recipient countries (e.g. governments, regional/local organizations)?	
	Did the project reach clearly identified and disaggregated by sex, age, race, ethnicity and socioeconomic group?	
	To what extent were the needs and priorities of women, girls, boys and men reflected in the project overall design and implementation?	

Annex 4. List of the Evaluation Key-Informants

List of Stakeholders	Location
Project Staff	
Project Management	Abuja
Reintegration field officers	Abuja, Lagos, Edo
Project M&E	Lagos
Other IOM Units	Lagos
Government & Implementing Partners	
National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI)	Lagos
Federal Ministry of Labor and Employment - Migrant Resource Centre) (MRC)	Abuja, Lagos, Edo
Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT)	Edo
COSUDOW	Delta
SEYP	Edo
National Orientation Agency	Abuja, Edo, Delta
National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons	Lagos, Abuja, Edo,
Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF)	Lagos
Donor	
GIZ	Lagos

Annex 5. Project Logic Model

	Indicator	*Baseline*	*Target*	*Data Source and Collection Method*
Objective: To contribute the Federal Government of Nigeria's efforts to sustainably reintegrate returning Nigerian migrants	% of stakeholders involved in the project that declare that they are more engaged in the field of reintegration assistance	0.00	75.00	Partner and beneficiary Surveys and evaluation
	% assisted returnees expressing satisfaction with their reintegration	0.00	80.00	beneficiary Surveys and evaluation
Outcome 1: Returning migrants, achieve economic self-sufficiency, social stability and psychosocial wellbeing	% of assisted beneficiaries who report to have reached sufficient levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability and psychosocial wellbeing in their community of return	0.00	80.00	Reintegration Sustainability Survey, case management database, reintegration evaluation
Output 1.1: Vulnerable, returning migrants, potential migrants and origin have access to needs-based rehabilitation support	# of returnees and receiving needs-based rehabilitation assistance	0.00	48.00	Case management database
	# of coordination meetings held	0.00	12.00	Meeting reports
Output 1.2: Returning migrants from Germany, the EU and other transit and destination countries have enhanced access to the labour market either through (short-term) employment and/or self-employment	# of returnees receiving complimentary assistance	0.00	320.00	Beneficiary records
	# job fairs supported	1.00	3.00	Reports
	# sensitization events organized with the private sector	6.00	4.00	Reports
	# of beneficiaries participating in skills training, including business skills and management and needs-based technical and vocational training	0.00	150.00	Training reports

Outcome 2: State and non-state actors provide effective and comprehensive reintegration support to returning migrants and their community members	% of state and non-state actors who indicate they are confident with their capacity to provide effective reintegration support	0.00	75.00	Post training outcome survey
	# of returnees indirectly affected by improved reintegration assistance	0.00	5000.00	Government reports
Output 2.1: State and non-state actors have access to state level coordination structures to provide reintegration and rehabilitation support to women, men, boys, and girls	# of coordination meetings held	0.00	8.00	Meeting minutes
	# of state and non-state actors trained on sustainable reintegration case management	0.00	20.00	Training reports
	% of participants trained who score 75% or higher on post test	0.00	80.00	Training post test
	# of TWGs supported	0.00	2.00	Meeting minutes
Output 2.2: State & non-state actors have the knowledge skills and tools to provide specialized services to vulnerable returnees	# of state and non-state actors trained on specialized services to vulnerable returnees	0.00	10.00	Training reports
	% of participants trained who score 75% or higher on post test	0.00	80.00	Training post test

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