



EVALUATION BRIEF

December 2022

EX-POST INTERNAL EVALUATION OF THE IOM PROJECT “MIGRANT REGISTRATION SUPPORT FOR TANZANIA (MiReG)”

This evaluation brief presents a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as identified by the evaluator for use by key stakeholders, including internally by IOM staff and externally by project partners. More details can be found in the full evaluation report.

Commissioned by: IOM Tanzania Country Office

Evaluation purpose: The objective of this ex-post evaluation is to review the results achieved by the project, Evaluative enquiry focused on impact and outcome level analysis. This evaluation will facilitate increased transparency and accountability, ensuring adherence to IOM evaluation requirements and demonstrating the results of the project to both beneficiaries and the donor. The evaluation also documented key lessons learned and recommendations for future programming

Evaluation criteria: Effectiveness, sustainability, and impact. The evaluation identified lessons learned and best practices.

Evaluation methodology: The evaluation involved desk review of project documents and remote key informant interviews with project stakeholders to document both qualitative and quantitative information. Due to data collection limitations, no interviews with direct beneficiaries were conducted.

Evaluation type: Internal independent ex-post

Evaluator (s): Ms. Marta WALKOWIAK
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Field visit dates: Remote interviews May–August 2022

Final report date: 30 December 2022

PROJECT SUMMARY

The main objective of the project was to enhance the United Republic of Tanzania’s migration management capacities with regards to irregular migration and the promotion of humane and orderly migration.

In 2013-2015, IOM Tanzania successfully carried out a pilot project titled – **Humanitarian Support to Western Tanzania (HSWT)** on the regularization of the status of irregular migrants in western Tanzania. The project registered 22,282 migrants residing in the Kigoma region and provided them with personalized registration cards of a two-year validity, renewable for another two years. Following this success, IOM in coordination with the government of the United Republic of Tanzania launched a second phase, with this new project. The project objective is expected to be achieved through the following two outcomes:

Outcome 1: Tanzania has improved its ability to successfully manage migration in line with international human rights standards, including through biometric registration.

Output 1.1: Updated Comprehensive Migration Management Strategy (COMMIST2) is available and accessible.

Output 1.2: Immigration Government personnel have the skills and knowledge to conduct migrant registration using latest and updated peripherals and technology.

Output 1.3: Verification fairs were conducted for HWST-registered migrants for an inclusive MiREG implementation

Output 1.4: Improved capacity of Tanzanian Authorities to ad-

Project information:

Geographical coverage: United Republic of Tanzania

Project type: IB

Project code: IB.0080

Project period: 01 April 2019 to 31 August 2021

Donor: DFID (now FCDO)

dress the challenges of mixed migration

Outcome 2: Migrant registration assistance improves the protection of migrants' rights and enables access to social services and status determination.

Output 2.1: Migrant registration is accessible to undocumented persons.

Output 2.2: Migrant Data is available and accessible by government officials for inclusion in status determination processes.

Output 2.3: Assisted voluntary return is made available to irregular migrants not deemed eligible for regularization by the government.

Outcome 3: COVID-19 RESPONSE - MiREG Reprogramming

Output 3.1: Strengthening Points of Entry and Exit (PoE)

Output 3.2: Procure medical tools and equipment

Output 3.3: Training on traveller PoE screening

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Effectiveness

The evaluated project built on from a pilot phase (2014-2015), which demonstrated the feasibility of implementing protection-sensitive approaches to documentation of irregular migrants. The evaluation found that the design of the project was overambitious in scope. Effectiveness could have been improved through better choices between a narrow and deep intervention, as opposed to a wide and shallow intervention to better suit the available funding and implementation timeframe. A late project revision to refocus the project in line with the government's expectations unfortunately did not bring back the project on track and the project was prematurely terminated by the government. Despite the limitations in achieving the project objective, there is strong evidence of achievement within the project across outcome and output areas. The key success factor was the project's alignment with the government's priorities. Overarching challenges to achievement were primarily related to the project design and implementation: failure to seeking the government's endorsement at the project inception stage, failure to share the detailed project description with the government stakeholders, and failure to seek explicit approval from the project's technical working group on the detailed workplan including project locations. Finally, the project did not critically assess the government's capacity to provide status determination despite the government's apparent willingness to document and regularize migrants in irregular situation.

Sustainability

The evaluation found indications of sustainability in the project's work, especially with regards to capacity-building of the migration authorities. However, the project's sustainability was compromised by the lack of institutional support from the government, lack of clarity over the future of migrant registration and the underfunding of the relevant activities on the government's side. The evaluation found no evidence of any sustainability plan developed by the project team to determine roles and responsibilities once the project ended.

Impact

The evaluation found that the stakeholders were unanimously in agreement that the most significant change observed was the project's contribution to the improved capacity of the government to manage migration. The evidence available to the evaluator demonstrates the project achieved only positive changes, in line with the desired project goals.

Unfortunately, due to the unavailability of data from indirect beneficiaries (irregular migrants, including those registered under the project), the evaluation was unable to assess whether the project achieved the desired outcome. More follow-up and advocacy work is needed with the government to assess the impact of the project on the migrant communities.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Within the next six months, the IOM Tanzania Country office is recommended to:

1. Continue advocacy with the government on the status determination process, requesting to release the data on how many migrants of those who had undergone the registration in Tanga have had their status determined. Further advocacy and dialogue with the government is needed to confirm what impact the project had on the 5,689 irregular migrants in Tanga who were registered under this project.
2. During the project design phase, actively engage the government partners in the development of the proposal, workplan, and budget. If a project is designed without sufficient input from stakeholders, there are likely to be oversights or miscalculations, both in terms of designing activities that accurately reflect the government's priorities and in terms of budgeting.
3. Consider including a pre-project assessment of beneficiary needs at project design stage and pre-project national consultation at the beginning of implementation to ensure continued engagement with stakeholders and beneficiaries.
4. Promote community participation and ownership (in addition to the government ownership) of the project for the sustainability of outcomes and impact by ensuring buy-in and internalization of the project objectives and results.
5. Share the project documents officially at project inception stage, request letters of endorsement and design a joint workplan with the government to avoid any misunderstandings over the scope of the project and responsibilities of the project partners. Inception stage, request letters of endorsement and design a joint workplan with the government to avoid any misunderstandings over the scope of the project and responsibilities of the project partners.
6. Future interventions should make informed choices between wide but shallow and narrow but deep activity coverage, considering the available budget, the government's preferences and a realistic project timeframe.
7. A sustainability plan or exit strategy should be developed to support the continuation of results after a project end. The plan should include clear roles and responsibilities of the management and use of project products, information sharing, and maintenance of hardware and software. The exit strategy should be adequately designed and related to the project results, and not funding.
8. Strengthen the engagement of key government stakeholders in programming and activities as partners, and not participants, in any future trainings and workshops with government officials, especially at the pre-project needs assessment stage.
9. For any follow-up or similar projects in Tanzania, ensure a regional or sub-regional strategy is in place to inform project design, stakeholder consultations, areas for priority interventions and donors' decisions on funds allocation to maximise on the project's impact and sustainability.
10. Apply a more coordinated regional cooperation approach by linking migrant registration with integration programming in countries of origin to support migrants who will opt for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration. Consider regular coordination activities with neighbouring IOM missions, e.g. IOM Burundi, to ensure sufficient information exchange and coordination during the project design and project implementation.
11. Build on existing political commitment and IOM's established presence in Tanzania to continue support efforts towards status determination of irregular migrants.