EVALUATION BRIEF

EX-POST EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT:
NIGERIA: STRENGTHENING REINTEGRATION FOR RETURNEES (SRARP)
- PHASE II

May, 2023

This evaluation brief presents a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as identified by the evaluator(s) 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.

Evaluation type:	Ex-post Evaluation
Evaluator(s):	Mr. Abderrahim El Moulat
Field visit dates:	January 2023
Final report date:	May 2023
Commissioned by:	IOM Nigeria
Managed by:	Ruth Mbugua

Evaluation purpose: To assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency , impact and sustainability of the project and the extent to which it achieved its objectives as set out in the project documents. The evaluation also needed to identify key lessons and good practices.

Evaluation criteria: Relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability as well as gender mainstreaming.

Evaluation methodology: The evaluation used a combination of methods: (1) Review of project documentation and reports submitted by IOM; (2) Fifty two (52) Interviews with the project's main stakeholders, including direct beneficiaries; and (3) Quasi-experimental design using reintegration monitoring and sustainability data to compare reintegration sustainability of the project beneficiaries to a calibrated group of returned migrants. .

PROJECT SUMMARY

Despite the significant efforts the Government of Nigeria has placed in improving migration governance, irregular migration remains common place. Many Nigerians leave through porous land borders, travelling through Niger and Libya en route to Europe in search for better economic prospects. However, irregular migrants are at an increased risk of trafficking and often subjected to gross human rights violations, most notably in Libya. Since 2017, IOM under its Humanitarian Voluntary Return (HVR) and Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes, in partnership with the Federal Government of Nigeria, has facilitated the safe voluntary return of over 18,000 stranded migrants from Libya, Niger and other transit and destination countries.

Building on the successful first phase of the IOM-GIZ cooperation, this project will continue to contribute 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 GIZ will join efforts 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 sus-

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	West and Central Africa
Project type:	RR - Return and Reintegration Assistance for Migrants and Governments
Project code:	RR.0163
Gender marker:	N/A
Project period:	15 December 2020 – 15 December 2022
Donor:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
Budget:	EUR 1,400,000

tainable 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.

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Relevance

- 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 assistance.

- Gender equality was not systematically and clearly articulated in the project's design as represented in the Logical Framework and the result matrix.

Effectiveness

- Average Reintegration sustainability scores 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 at the end of the project.

- 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.

- Targeted and need-based business and vocational training was effectively provided to beneficiaries by various confirmed implementing partners.

- 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.

- 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.

Efficiency

- The project was 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.

Impact

- The project beneficiaries' reintegration sustainability generally improved, especially their average overall and social reintegration.

- 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.

Sustainability

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

- 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,

GOOD PRACTICES

- **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** allowed the project to assess its initial sustainability levels, to inform the design of certain activities and to be able to more consistently measure its outcomes and impacts.

KEY-RECOMMENDATIONS

1. For any future projects, better mainstream gender equality in the project design and its related Logic Model and result matrix.
2. Involve the communities, including youth at risk, in the reintegration of returned migrants to improve their social reintegration sustainability .
3. Engage the private sector in community reintegration projects and support for migrant reintegration, including employment referral.
4. Better budget certain management functions such as M&E, case management and liaison with the private sector.
5. Conduct at least another round of data collection on the reintegration sustainability to assess whether the observed changes will endure after the end of the project.
6. 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.