

PROJECT EVALUATION LEARNING BRIEF

February 2020

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

Evaluation type:	External independent ex-post evaluation
Evaluator(s):	Glenn O'Neil Owl RE
Evaluation visit:	6-10 January 2020
Final report:	18 February 2020
Commissioned by:	IOM Development Fund ("The Fund")

Managed by: Ricardo R. Casco, Mission Coordinator/
National Programme Officer, Manila, the Philippines

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

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

Evaluation methodology: Document review, focus group discussion and semi-structured interviews

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Philippines is known to have sophisticated programmes at the pre-employment, pre-departure and employment stage of migration, but remains weak in socio-economic reintegration.

Despite legal provisions that mandate the Department of Labour and Employment (DOLE), through the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) and the National Reintegration Center for Overseas Filipino Workers (NRCO), to provide reintegration services, there is proportionately low evidence of substantial numbers of migrants who have been effectively reintegrated into society and the economy. Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) with both capital and skills learned remain hesitant to return home as information on jobs and business prospects is lacking.

The project aimed to contribute to efforts in reinforcing the socio-economic reintegration programme of the Government of the Philippines under the migration and development, as well as crisis management, frameworks.

The core activities included developing an improved national reintegration policy and operational framework endorsed at a National Reintegration Summit and reinforced services for returning OFWs supported by a pool of trained duty bearers, a services menu and a new counselling handbook.

Enhancing the Reintegration Programme for Overseas Filipino Workers in line with the Migration and Development, and Crisis Management Frameworks in the Philippines

Geographical coverage: The Philippines

Project type: Migration and health

Project code: PH10P0002/LM.0310

Project period: 30 November 2016 to 29 November 2018



National Reintegration Summit, August 2017

KEY FINDINGS

Overall, the project was well aligned with national priorities and strategies of the Philippines responding to the recognition that improvements were needed at both the policy and service delivery levels for OFW reintegration. Despite some limitations seen, the project did contribute to improved policies and services delivery for OFW reintegration. The long-term impact of these results could be significant if supported by further sustainability measures from the main project partner, OWWA-NRCO and stakeholders with the support of IOM in advocacy, expertise and technical advice.

Relevance (rating: Excellent - 5): The project was well aligned with national priorities and strategies of the Philippines. The importance of reintegration is recognised while it is an area where improvements were needed at both the policy and service delivery levels.

Effectiveness (rating: Good - 3): The objective and two outcomes were assessed as being partially achieved. Despite some limitations seen, the project did contribute to improved policies and services delivery for OFW reintegration providing an important foundation for the future. Throughout the project's duration, collaboration and coordination with partners was effective. The main challenge faced was the reorganisation of OWWA-NRCO that led to delays in the project and difficulties to implement some activities.

Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness (rating: Excellent - 5): The project was found to be managed efficiently and cost-effectively with the use of financial resources appropriate and all activities carried out within budget. The project benefited from some activities being co-financed by partners, allowing the project to fund additional activities. The workplan and timeline were adjusted and updated in line with the six months no-cost extension. The results achieved were found to be proportionate to the costs expended.

Impact (rating: Good - 3): At the policy level the project put in place several key elements for reintegration which had the short-term impact of providing a higher profile for reintegration and creating a common strategic direction and priorities. At the service delivery level, the project provided 'front line' duty bearers with resources to support a more comprehensive and cohesive approach for OFW reintegration services.

Sustainability (rating: Good - 3): The project's outputs

were designed to be sustainable beyond the duration of the project and the majority were still in use after project closure. There was a formal hand-over ceremony and event at the closure of the project.

Conclusions

The project was designed to make a significant contribution to improving the reintegration aspect of the migration cycle in the Philippines. The project did put in place some fundamental foundations for improving the policies and services delivery for OFW reintegration. The long-term impact of the results seen to date could be significant if supported by sustainability measures.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Sustainability measures

- IOM Philippines to ensure that the Project Manager has time allocated to advocate and provide technical expertise to OWWA-NRCO and other stakeholders to progress with the project's results
- IOM Philippines to support OWWA-NRCO and other stakeholders with sustainability measures including:
 - Carrying out the training to 'frontline' duty bearers in the remaining 14 regions and for labour attaches
 - Revising the content of the handbook ("Part II") in late 2020
 - Putting in place a promotional plan for the infomercial (short video ad) with other communication actions
 - Considering the measures needed to have a ISO certification for OWWA-NRCO reintegration services
 - Clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all actors providing reintegration services
 - Considering that August 2020 will mark three years since the Reintegration Summit, use the occasion to bring together the declaration signatories to discuss progress and set in place some initiatives, such as a coordination system/mechanism.

B. Reintegration within the migration cycle

- For all IOM units implementing IDF projects on reintegration it is suggested to consult the range of activities and outputs developed by the IOM Philippines project on reintegration.

C. Project follow-up and handover

- For all IOM units implementing IDF projects it is suggested to develop a sustainability and follow-up plan as part of the final report.