

PROJECT EVALUATION LEARNING

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
Final report:	10 March 2021
Commissioned by:	IOM Development Fund ("The Fund")

Managed by: Rukhshona Kurbanova, Project Manager

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

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

Evaluation methodology: Document review and semi-structured interviews (conducted in-person and remotely).

PROJECT SUMMARY

Tajikistan is among the 27 high burden countries for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in the world. Migration has and continues to influence many of the key social determinants of health, both through progression of TB-related morbidity and mortality among migrants and their communities along all migration pathways. Migrant workers have thus become especially vulnerable to inequalities in provision of health services, poor working and living conditions, ineffective social protection system, TB-related stigma and discrimination and other violations of human rights thus making them more vulnerable to being exposed to TB. Labour migration remains an essential mechanism for employment, economic development and social and political stability for Tajikistan where 32 per cent of the population living below the poverty line (2.8 million people).

The overall goal of this project was to contribute to the improvement of cross-border TB control among Tajik migrant workers. This goal was supported by a range of activities focused on enhancing the capacity of a Clinic Expert Commission, engagement of the Tajik Diaspora for cross-border TB control among migrants, and improving cross-border TB control through intergovernmental cooperation and partnership.

Project title: Technical Support and Capacity Building to Improve Cross-Border TB Control and Care of Tajik Migrant Workers

Geographical coverage: Tajikistan

Project type: Migration and health

Project code: MA.0375

Project period: 1 November 2016 to 31 December 2018



TB awareness activities in Tajikistan

KEY FINDINGS

The project was found to have made a significant contribution to cross-border TB control and care for Tajik workers even if it was unable to achieve its more ambitious outcomes as described below. Positive immediate short term changes were seen and some longer-term impact identified, including contributions to policy improvements. To ensure sustainability of these achievements, support is still needed to conclude the necessary bilateral agreements.

Relevance (rating: Excellent - 5): The project was assessed as being highly relevant and aligned with national health and migration priorities of Tajikistan. The project was designed in collaboration with the main government partners and built on IOM Tajikistan's experience in this area.

Effectiveness (rating: Very Good- 4): The objective and three outcomes were assessed as being mainly achieved. Although the project was unable to achieve its more ambitious outcome of referral mechanisms, data exchange and joint accreditation between Tajikistan and the Russian Federation, it did make a significant contribution to cross-border TB control and care for Tajik workers.

Efficiency and Cost Effectiveness (rating: Very Good - 4): 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. Challenges identified for the project management did not create major obstacles. The workplan and timeline were adjusted and updated in line with the two month no-cost extension.

Impact (rating: Good - 3): Positive immediate short term changes were seen and longer-term impact identified included the cooperation established between state structures, the improvements made to pre-departure health assessment and the level of awareness amongst Tajik workers. An unanticipated impact was the use of the project experience for a similar project with Kazakhstan on migration and health.

Sustainability (rating: Good - 3): The project placed responsibility on state institutions on integrating certain activities within their processes. The project also contributed to policy improvements that could have long-term benefits. However, support is still needed in ensuring progress was made on bilateral agreements.

Conclusions

A significant contribution was made by project with genuine progress seen in TB control and care for Tajik workers. Where the project was not able to advance was at the more high-level area where bilateral agreements were needed between Tajikistan and the Russian Federation. To optimize and maximize the benefits of the project, these agreements are needed.

This evaluation suggests that IOM Tajikistan should continue a follow up that would not be too resource intensive and complement its ongoing work on health and migration.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Bilateral agreements

For IOM Tajikistan

- Consider within its existing activities on migration and health to continue to advocate for the finalization of the necessary bilateral agreements on TB within the relevant high-level forums, where possible and feasible.

B. Regional role

For IOM Tajikistan:

- Consider the possibility to explore further potential regional projects with other IOM missions in the area of migration and health.

C. Diaspora role

For IOM Tajikistan:

- The possibility of further projects in support of the diaspora's role and in line with the Road Map could be further explored by IOM Tajikistan with the relevant authorities.

D. Project management

For IOM Tajikistan:

- For future IDF (and other) projects, foresee any additional project activities (e.g. based on budget adjustments) at least six months before project closure.

E. Collaboration with other IOM missions

For IOM Tajikistan:

- For future IDF (and other) projects, foresee any budget required for other IOM missions involved in the project(s); make sure to coordinate well in advance with the relevant mission from which support will be required to make sure that a) they are on board with the initiative, and b) they have the necessary resources to support.