

BIENNIAL EVALUATION PLAN 2023-2024

Central Evaluation Unit
Department of Strategic Planning and Organizational
Performance
January 2023

BIENNIAL EVALUATION WORKPLAN

2023-2024

PREPARATION OF THE WORKPLAN

The IOM Biennial Evaluation Plan 2023-2024 includes a selection of central evaluations that will be conducted by the IOM Central Evaluation Unit of the Department of Strategic Planning and Organizational Performance (EVA/DPP). It covers the years 2023 – 2024, with the possibility of reviewing it at the end of 2023 if external factors prevent EVA to conduct the selected evaluations or if new evaluations are considered of major importance to be included in the plan. It should be noted that Covid-19 did not affect the conduct of the evaluations that were included in the previous biennial evaluation plan 2021-2022 and no evaluations will be carried forward from the previous plan.

The plan has been established through a consultative process involving IOM Regional Directors and Directors of Departments, inviting them to send proposals in line with IOM central evaluation selection criteria:

- It is a strategic activity, policy, or pilot project/programme with high institutional visibility, of interest to IOM Member States or with a potential to be replicated elsewhere
- There is a critical connection with IOM's strategic vision/goals and there is a potential for important operational and institutional impact on the Organization
- It is a thematic area, policy, programme, or intervention raising important questions and/or challenges for its implementation, or with high risks for the organisation being institutional, operational and/or reputational.

In addition to these criteria, EVA also considers the interest of Member States and donors for specific topics as expressed in various occasions, of the international community as debated for instance within the UN Evaluation Group or based on commitments taken through IOM policies and/or Council resolutions.

During the consultations, EVA received proposals covering thematic, strategic and programmes areas and after a close review, a summary message was shared with the participants of the consultation including reflections on their suggestions and priorities. EVA also included in the plan its own selection of topics.

INDEPENDENT SELECTION OF EVALUATIONS BY THE CENTRAL EVALUATION UNIT

Following these exchanges, some proposals have been merged and EVA has selected three evaluations resulting from this consultation covering: *i) IOM support to a regional consultative process; ii) the IOM Development Fund; and iii) IOM role in the framework of the UN Migration Network.*

Two proposals made during the consultations held for the preparation of the previous plan 2021-2022 and kept on hold as EVA limits the number of evaluations to eight, have been included in the current plan as they are still relevant and of high importance to IOM's work and operations: i) *IOM Data Strategy and Global Data Institute*; and ii) *IOM Cash-based initiatives*.

In addition to the topics proposed through consultations, EVA has selected three evaluations related to: i) *Accountability to Affected Populations and protection*; ii) *Mental Health and psychosocial support*; and iii) *a regional strategy*.

INDICATIVE OBJECTIVE AND TIMELINE OF THE SELECTED EVALUATIONS

The points below provide indications on the objective, scope and timeline of the selected evaluations, which will be further discussed and refined when resuming discussions for developing the Terms of Reference. Different perspectives were also proposed for the scope of some of the evaluations stemming from the consultations and they were analysed considering their feasibility.

A final round of discussions took place with the concerned Departments and Regional Offices to confirm the conduct of the evaluations and for fine tuning the global approach, including for those selected by EVA.

- 1) ***“Evaluation of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) in IOM”*** - IOM provides direct MHPSS to migrants, emergency affected and host communities and has designed and implemented capacity-building initiatives in various aspects of MHPSS and population mobility for humanitarian, law enforcement, social welfare, educational, cultural, health, mental health and psychosocial professionals. This is an institutional area of growing importance and IOM varied programmatic areas to guarantee the availability and accessibility of psychosocial support and mental health care for all migrants deserve to be evaluated. (First semester 2023)
- 2) ***“Evaluation of IOM’s contribution to the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa (MIDSA) Regional Consultative Process”***- this is in relation to migration governance and management in Southern Africa and IOM support. IOM Southern Africa Regional Office has consistently invested financial and technical resources towards MIDSA for the past 20 years and never conducted a robust evaluation of its role mainly due to budget constraints. An internal short review was conducted by RO Pretoria but was limited in terms of funding and methodological rigor. MIDSA is a strategic engagement and advocacy forum and one of the strongest RCPs in the African continent. The findings of the evaluation could be presented at the 2023 MIDSA meeting and could inform any changes in IOM support. (First semester 2023)
- 3) ***“Evaluation of IOM global commitment to Accountability to Affected Populations (AAC) and the centrality of protection”*** - the topics are high on the agenda of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and it could be strategically important to have a comprehensive view of IOM’s work and performance in that regard. Both topics are also part of the work priorities of the Operational Policy and Advocacy Group (OPAG) of IASC, and several UN agencies have

conducted corporate evaluations related to these topics to document their work. (Second semester 2023)

- 4) **“Evaluation of IOM role in the establishment and operationalisation of UN regional networks on migration within the framework of the UN Network on Migration”** - the focus will be on IOM’s coordinator and secretariat roles, which can be seen as a replication at the regional level of the UN Network on Migration and its secretariat created within the GCM. It will examine the progress in the support to Governments for the GCM implementation in coordination with UN agencies and other stakeholders and including review processes. The evaluation may also look at IOM resource mobilization and allocation to strengthen IOM’s operational effectiveness and performance on GCM regional engagement. The Vienna Regional Office who has made the proposal explained that fifteen country networks and one regional network for Europe and Central Asia have been established to date with support of the regional office. (Second semester 2023)

- 5) **“Evaluation of IOM Migration Data Strategy and IOM Global Data Institute support role”** - the topic of migration data has been increasing in importance since 2016 when IOM joined the UN System and IOM is called to reinforce its position in the coming years being one of the key areas of work and reference for the organisation. The evaluation will examine the initiatives and tools available to support this role as a leading organisation in data management on migration, such as the World Migration Report and Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM). The Strategic Vision (2019) includes the reinforcement of IOM capacities in data collection and management among its objectives. (First semester 2024)

- 6) **“Evaluation of the IOM Development Fund”** - the proposal has been made by the unit in charge of the fund with the support of Deputy Director General for Operations. This will not be the first evaluation of the fund as it has been regularly evaluated at the requests of Member States or as part of the Council Resolutions related to the fund (initially called ‘The 1035 Facility’). The fund has proved to be a very effective tool for Governments’ capacity building in migration management, also noting the increased attention on migration management in recent years and reliance on IOM’s guidance for support as illustrated with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) for instance. Reviewing the official scope of the fund, which dates back from November 2020 and not really adjusted since then, its financing model, which is from the early days of the fund with the creation of ‘line 2’ in 2008, and finally its project budgets’ levels and co-financing model that have not changed much since years. The management of the fund has also evolved in reporting, communication and evaluation. (First semester 2024)

- 7) **“Final evaluation of the IOM South Asia Sub-Regional Strategy”** - in the biennial evaluation plan 2021-2022, a mid-term evaluation of the East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) Regional Strategy was included given the importance of this strategic planning process on IOM institutional strategic approaches. In the justification given in the plan, it was mentioned that the development of Regional Strategies is contributing to the implementation of the IOM Strategic

Vision and the evaluation will be a pilot exercise that may be replicated in other regions on a regular basis, as it is also a common practice in other UN agencies to do central evaluations of country strategies or programmes. As the focus of the EHoA evaluation was on the mid-term implementation, EVA is proposing to conduct a final evaluation of the South Asia Sub-Regional Strategy. (Second semester 2024)

- 8) **“Evaluation of IOM Cash-based initiatives”** - the topic started to be in the forefront of humanitarian interventions following several international initiatives such as the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, the Grand Bargain, the Common Donor Approach for Humanitarian Cash Programming and the UN Common Cash Statement (UNCCS). As an important humanitarian actor, IOM has paid high attention to the topic but also decided that it can be used in other settings such as the reintegration of migrants, as a means to ensure dignity, empowerment and choice for migrants. The evaluation will use the IOM Cash-Based Interventions Strategy as a main reference and framework, which should be available in 2023 and well on-going in 2024. (Second semester 2024)

BUDGET PROVISIONS

Staffing resources: in addition to the Chief Evaluation who supervises the implementation of the plan, the Central Evaluation Unit has two Senior Evaluation Officers in charge of the management and conduct of evaluations selected for the plan, with the support of externally recruited consultants. The staff positions are funded by the core budget of the organisation. Another core position is established within the unit for managing the IOM Evaluation repository, among other tasks.

Financial provisions: the effective implementation of the biennial evaluation plan also requires financial resources to recruit external consultants with relevant expertise, with an average of USD 40,000 per evaluation (estimated total of USD 320,000 for eight evaluations). A yearly budget allocation of USD 250,000 is provided by IOM core funding for this purpose, giving a total budget of **USD 500,000** for the implementation of the biennial plan. Should these amounts not be sufficient, fundraising will be made by EVA (see also below).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In addition to the implementation of the biennial plan, EVA participates to the Inter Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Steering Group (IAHE-SG) initiatives, often as a member of the Management Groups (MG). IOM financial support is also provided including through the budget allocated to the unit, with funds available after the coverage of costs of the central evaluations. In 2023, EVA will be part of the management groups of IAHE evaluations conducted in Northern Ethiopia and Afghanistan (financial contribution of USD 40,000 already allocated to the two evaluations) and soon of the MG for Ukraine (contribution of USD 45,000 already transferred too). These exercises are quite complex

with relatively high budgets and they allow IOM to be active in the publication of these reports, which are usually well received by the IASC as well as by UN country teams in the field. Several key activities related to the conduct of these evaluations will take place in 2023. Other IAHE initiatives may also be added during the year in case of new emerging crises and for thematic topics.

EVA also fundraises to complement its evaluation work. In 2023, an evaluation of IOM L3 responses will be finalised with such separate funding allocations, and additional contributions are currently under discussion (estimated amount of USD 120,000 for 2023).

Finally, EVA contributes to UN joint initiatives for instance for the conduct of system-wide SDG evaluations. EVA will participate in 2023 to the launch of the *“5 SDG Pillar Syntheses initiative of the Global Coalition on Evaluative Evidence”* under UNDP’s leadership. As with IAHE evaluations, other participations may be required during the year, which are not yet firmly planned.

This is the status of the evaluations plan(s) of the unit. The success of their implementation is also possible thanks to the support of the organisation and IOM colleagues to EVA for the conduct of its evaluations and for its work in general.