

# NIGERIA: STRENGTHENING ASSISTANCE FOR RETURNEES AND POTENTIAL MIGRANTS AND PROMOTING SAFE MIGRATION PRACTICES IN COMMUNITIES OF ORIGIN

## FINAL INTERNAL EVALUATION

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## ABREVIATIONS

AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
AWR	Awareness Raising
BST	Business Skills Training
C4D	Communication for Development
C4W	Cash for Work
CBR	Community-Based Reintegration
CMET	case management expert team
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ETAHT	Edo State Taskforce against Human Trafficking
EUTF	European Trust Fund
FMLE	Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HVR	Humanitarian Voluntary Return
IOM	International Organization for Migration
LEG	The Office of Legal Affairs
LGA	Local Government Area
LSETF	Lagos State Employment Trust Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MaM	Migrants as Messenger
METS	M&E Expert Teams
MIMOSA	Migrant Management Operational System Application
MRC	Migrants' Resource Centre
NACCIMA	Nigeria Association of Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Person
NCE	No-Cost Extension
NCFRMI	National Commission for Refugees Migrants and IDPs
NGCs	Nigerian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration & Reintegration
NOA	National Orientation Agency
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
SMEs	Small & Medium Enterprises
ToT	Training of Trainers
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
VoT	Victims of Trafficking

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Evaluation Objectives

- Examine to what extent the project has contributed to the sustainable reintegration of the returned migrants in Nigeria.
- Examine the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the project.
- Provide recommendations for future AVRRR projects in Nigeria.

### Evaluation Methodology

- Project's document review.
- Administration of AVRRR surveys (Annexes 6, 7 and 8) to a Random sample of 100 beneficiaries. Sustainability end line data compared to baseline data.
- Fifteen (15) semi-structured interviews with the project beneficiaries.
- Fifteen (15) interviews with beneficiaries of community-based reintegration (CBR) projects.
- Twenty (20) semi-structured interviews with the project's various stakeholders.

### Findings & Recommendations

#### Relevance

- The potential continued return of migrants, along with the current economic crisis provide a rationale for the continued need for the intervention.
- The project is responding to the expressed needs of the beneficiaries by providing targeted and complimentary assistance to reintegration.
- The theory of change of the project is coherent and consistent, linking its various activities to its outputs and outcomes.

#### Coherence

- The project is in synergy with other IOM AVRRR interventions, as well as with its main reintegration frameworks and approaches.
- The project is also well aligned with the donor's priorities and country migration and reintegration assistance strategy, as well as well integrated in Nigeria migration ecosystem.

#### Effectiveness

- The project attained most of its planned outputs and outcomes.
- The complementary assistance mostly reached its targeted beneficiaries and the assistance is mostly tailored to beneficiaries' needs.

#### Recommendation 1.

##### Generalize the accommodation assistance and better target the psychological assistance.

- The referral strategy is successful, effectively providing complementary assistance and referring identified beneficiaries to GIZ and other partners' relevant trainings.
- Private partnership is an innovate and promising approach, which impacts, and concrete results need time to materialize.

#### Recommendation 2.

**Continue engagement with the private sector and document the challenges, the best practices and the results of these partnerships for future interventions.**

- Debt relief component is not yet finalized, and its findings could have positively informed the project's approach and activities.

### **Recommendation 3.**

**Complete the debt study and integrate its findings and recommendations in any potential new phase of the project or any new AVRR initiatives.**

- Community-based reintegration projects have the potential for more sustainable results but were late to be designed and implemented.

### **Recommendation 4.**

**Implement the pilot IOM CBR monitoring system to document the implementation challenges and best-practices of the CBB projects, as well as their results and impact.**

- Awareness raising activities were effectively implemented; however, their lasting impacts have yet to be assessed.
- The project contributed to building the capacities of its main implementing partners, in particular its government partners on reintegration, C4D and M&E.
- The project's M&E system is mostly effective and collects required data to monitor its performance and results. However, certain component, such as CBR and AWR, need to be more systematically monitored.

### **Recommendation 5.**

**Collect more systematic and periodic monitoring qualitative data on the results of the assistance and the social and economic sustainability of reintegration.**

### **Recommendation 6.**

**Maintain and continue building the capacity of the M&E Expert Teams (METs) to leverage their skills and engagement in any future or existing AVRR initiatives in Nigeria.**

### **Efficiency**

- The project's financial resources were enough to attain its targets and objectives but their allocation could have been more balanced.
- The project's human resources were not always enough to maximize its effectiveness and to reach more beneficiaries.

### **Recommendation 7.**

**Ensure returnees are provided by the sending missions with more detailed and accurate information on the assistance to be expected and its nature and processes.**

### **Impact**

- Overall, it is too early to assess the project's impacts and not enough data were available for AWR and CBR activities.
- Most beneficiaries who implemented a micro-business have their business still functional, even though many respondents identify the current COVID 19 pandemic as a threat to the sustainability of their businesses.

- Few data are available on the impacts of the AWR activities, and some beneficiaries believe that these activities should not be terminated for their impacts to be concrete.
- Beneficiaries and community leaders are generally satisfied of the CBR projects and think they have positive impacts on community cohesion and the perception of returned migrants by their communities.
- Most beneficiaries are satisfied of their decision of volunteer return and focused on the success of their economic reintegration.

### **Sustainability**

- The project improved the overall sustainability of the average beneficiaries, as well as their economic, social and psychosocial reintegration.

### **Recommendation 8.**

**Continue monitoring the economic situation of the beneficiaries and provide, to the extent possible, emergency support during the COVID-19 crisis.**

### **Recommendation 9.**

**Ensure all beneficiaries who are eligible based on their vulnerability assessment have access to accommodation assistance and any other relevant social assistance.**

- Sustainability mechanisms implemented by the project (capacity building, coordination, private partnership, etc.) have the potential of increasing the likelihood of its results and impacts being more lasting.

### **Gender**

- The project applied a gender mainstreaming approach to its design, implementation, monitoring and reporting.



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## INTRODUCTION

### Evaluation Context

The International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Migration Agency, began operations in Nigeria in 2001 with the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Programme, one of the organization's global initiatives, which helps stranded migrants who wish to voluntarily return home safely and supports the most vulnerable to get back on their feet. In 2002, IOM signed a cooperation agreement with the government of Nigeria and launched the country mission. Ever since then, IOM has continued to assist stranded migrants in host countries to return voluntarily to their home countries through the AVRR programs. Since 2017, IOM under its Humanitarian Voluntary Return (HVR) and Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes, in partnership with the Government of Nigeria, has facilitated the voluntary return of over 17,000 stranded migrants from Libya, Niger and other transit country destinations.

Under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Nigeria (EU IOM JI, referred to as EUTF), reintegration support is provided to returning migrants. However, those considered vulnerable are also eligible for enhanced reintegration in the form of education or housing support. IOM has increasingly identified returnees who upon arrival have no accommodation or network to support with accommodation. Therefore, the “Strengthening Assistance for Returnees and Potential Migrants and Promoting Safe Migration Practices in Communities of Origin” project (hereinafter “the GIZ project or initiative”) providing those returnees who do not fall within a vulnerable category with complimentary reintegration support, such as access opportunities for further education and support for adequate accommodation upon arrival until the returnee has initiated their economic reintegration assistance. Additionally, as not all returnees are individuals with high business potential, meaning not everyone is suited to run their own business, opportunities for job placement and vocational, skills training (in close coordination with the Nigerian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration & Reintegration (NGCs) to avoid duplication of effort), and community based livelihood projects are vital to contribute to the economic self-sufficiency of returnees and their communities.

IOM and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), in coordination with the Government of Nigeria, aiming to contribute to the government of Nigeria's efforts to sustainably reintegrate returning Nigerians migrants, provided educational and employment perspectives for potential migrants and promoted safe migration among aspiring youth and targeted source communities. To establish a more sustainable system of reintegration support and provide socio-economic perspectives and support to potential migrants through aligning IOM and GIZ interventions, the project is complementing ongoing AVRR Programmes through provision of training, topping up of in-kind assistance and strengthening referral systems and through providing assistance to beneficiaries that have not yet received any assistance under a different programme (including referrals from GIZ/NGCs). The project is, therefore, intended to address gaps and expand assistance delivery by providing comprehensive gender-sensitive support to selected beneficiaries in the project regions. The project started in January 2019 and was extended until 30th October 2020, reaching 345 beneficiaries for a total budget of 1.7 million euros. Since its inception, the project hasn't yet undergone any systematic evaluation of its results and expected outcomes or impacts.

## Evaluation Objectives

This final evaluation is commissioned by IOM Nigeria country office. It is conducted to assess the overall performance of the project, including the extent to which the project's activities and outputs were achieved and if and how they contributed to any observed impacts on the reintegration of the beneficiaries as well as its sustainability.

More specifically, the objectives of the evaluation are to :

- Examine to what extent the project has contributed to the sustainable reintegration of the returned migrants in Nigeria.
- Examine the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the project.
- Provide recommendations for future AVRRI projects in Nigeria.

## Evaluation Scope and Audience

The evaluation covers the full project implementation period from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 to October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in the targeted local government areas (LGAs) in Lagos, Edo and Delta states.

The main audience of this evaluation is the project management, IOM Nigeria management and the project's donor (GIZ) to use its findings, lessons learned and recommendations for any future AVRRI initiatives in Nigeria or a potential extension of the project. Nigeria Federal Government and its agencies, implementing partners, the civil society and other relevant stakeholders can also benefit from this evaluation findings to inform their policies and programs' design and implementation.

## Evaluation Questions

The evaluation was conducted in accordance with OECD-DAC evaluation criteria (Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, Sustainability) in addition to a gender evaluation criterion. These criteria are assessed against the overall objective and specific goals set within the project's log frame. Specific evaluation questions include:

### Relevance

- Do the project's expected outcomes and outputs remain valid and pertinent either as originally planned or as subsequently modified?
- Are the project activities and outputs consistent with the intended outcomes and objective? Do the project activities and outputs take into account relevant policies and guidelines?
- Are the reintegration activities implemented under the project appropriately tailored to the needs (both immediate and longer term) and priorities of beneficiaries and their communities (including economic, social, psychosocial programming)? Does the project still respond to the needs of the project beneficiaries?
- Are coordination and capacity-building activities focused on reintegration of migrants and awareness raising interventions relevant to the operational needs of IOM partners? Does the project still respond to the needs of the other target groups/stakeholders?

### Coherence

- What other projects/initiatives have been implemented in support of and in parallel to the implementation of the project? What worked and what did not work in coordinating the set-up and implementation of the project and complementary projects/initiatives?

- (Internal Coherence): To what extent the project synergizes and interlinks between other interventions being implemented by IOM regarding the project's thematic area; and to what extent the project's interventions correspond to SDG's target 10.7, the Global Compact for Migration, and other relevant human rights treaties?
- (External Coherence): To what extent the project synergizes and interlinks between interventions of the Government and donor communities regarding the thematic area?

### Effectiveness

- Have the project outputs and outcomes been achieved in accordance with the stated plans?
- Are the target beneficiaries being reached as expected? Are the target beneficiaries satisfied with the services provided?
- To what extent has the project adapted or is able to adapt to changing external conditions in order to ensure project outcomes? any unplanned positive effects? any unplanned negative effects?
- To what extent have the government been involved and engaged to plan and achieve the objectives and interventions of the project?
- In which areas has the project been successful in identifying and addressing key gaps in the targeted institutions? What are the areas needing further development and review, and how?
- When and how are monitoring and evaluation activities carried out? Are the M&E resources (human and financial) sufficient and appropriate? What are M&E lessons learned and good practices?

### Efficiency

- What challenges have been faced in the delivery of reintegration assistance and how could implementation be improved?
- Were the designed activities, implementation and other resources in terms of time, finance and expertise adequate to achieve sustainable project objectives and results?
- How well are the resources (funds, expertise and time) being converted into results?

### Impact

- Which positive/negative and intended/unintended effects can be attributed to the project?
- Did the project take timely measures for mitigating any unplanned negative impacts?
- Do current results demonstrate potential for future higher-level change?
- To what extent has the project contributed to transform behaviours of beneficiaries and their communities on safe migration practices and the risks and consequences of irregular migration?

### Sustainability

- What mechanisms did the project put in place to guarantee sustainability of the AVR program in Nigeria? Will the benefits generated by the project continue once external support ceases?
- Do beneficiaries report sufficient levels of economic independence, social stability, and psychosocial wellbeing in their community?
- Do partners have the financial and technical capacity to maintain the benefits of the project to guarantee sense of ownership and interest in the sustainability? If

not, what continued programme support is needed to ensure sustainability, as well as replicability, at the local level (e.g. financial, coordination, technical, human resources)?

- Is the project supported by local institutions and well-integrated into local social and cultural structures? How far is the project embedded in institutional structures that are likely to survive beyond the life of the project?
- If the services/results have to be supported institutionally, are funds likely to be made available?

## Gender

- To what extent was a gender sensitive approach used in the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the project?
- What were the benefits and opportunities of taking gender into consideration?
- What were the gender equality objectives achieved (or likely to be achieved) and mainstreaming principles adhered to by the project?

## EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

### Evaluation Approach

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the evaluation implemented a mixed approach towards data collection. The principal evaluator conducted interviews with the project key-informants (project staff, implementing partners, the donor) remotely from Dakar via videoconference, while a Nigerian consultant specifically hired for the evaluation conducted field interviews with a sample of beneficiaries from the different states either by phone or face to face. This qualitative collected data was triangulated with baseline and available monitoring quantitative data already collected by the project's M&E team, complemented by field quantitative data collection conducted by the field evaluator with a random sample of beneficiaries.

The evaluation relied for data collection mostly on the IOM AVRR standardized monitoring and evaluation tools, which were tested and validated as part of the MEASURE project and are being widely used to monitor and evaluate IOM AVRR interventions, including in the West-African region. These include, for the quantitative portion of collected data, the Reintegration Monitoring Questionnaire (Annex 6 in the terminology of the IOM AVRR M&E system), the Reintegration Satisfaction Questionnaire (Annex 7) and the Reintegration Sustainability Questionnaire (Annex 8). Qualitative interview guides developed by the West-Africa regional M&E unit for each type of respondents were adapted when necessary and deployed for the evaluation. Further details on the data collection tools and their administration are provided below.

### Data Sources

To address the evaluation questions, the study relied on a mix of qualitative and quantitative data, either directly collected by the evaluation consultants or provided by the project staff.

### Desk Review

A detailed analysis of the project documents initially assessed the extent to which the project is aligned with the identified needs and the priorities of its main stakeholders (IOM, GIZ, Nigeria Federal Government Agencies, etc.), as well as the coherence of the interventions and the synergies created with the various partners to ensure the sustainability of its results. Project documentation included the project document and logical framework, the project budget, the interim financial and narrative reports, activity reports, documents related to the project's outputs such as visibility material, relevant brochures and other publications related to the project.

### Project Data

The evaluation used the project implementation data provided by the project's management to establish a profile of the beneficiaries as well as to assess whether its target has been achieved. The project data also included some high-level variables on the project's sustainability (sustainability baseline and end-line scores) and the overall beneficiaries' satisfaction regarding reintegration. Another dataset provided sustainability scores and satisfaction levels from other AVRR project implemented by IOM Nigeria (mostly EUTF and DFID). When relevant, these variables were analyzed and compared across projects.

### **Quantitative Surveys**

As mentioned above, the evaluation used IOM reintegration monitoring, satisfaction and sustainability surveys (Annexes 6, 7 & 8 of the AVRR monitoring system) to collect mostly quantitative data on the results of the reintegration and its sustainability with a random limited sample of 20 beneficiaries, to attain a final sample of 100 beneficiaries surveyed at the different stages of implementation. The three surveys were administered by the fieldwork evaluators face to face or by phone.

It was not possible for the project's data manager to extract the three surveys' full datasets for the GIZ project surveyed beneficiaries (around 80) in order to be merged with the quantitative data collected by the fieldwork evaluator. Instead, the project dataset provided included only the sustainability scores and the overall satisfaction level. This quantitative information was, when relevant, analyzed separately or merged with the additional data collected by the fieldwork evaluator.

### **Qualitative Interviews with Beneficiaries**

Fifteen (15) semi-structured interviews with the project beneficiaries were conducted face to face or by phone by the local consultant. With each beneficiary, the fieldwork evaluator administered a qualitative semi-structured interview guide on the results of the reintegration and another one on its sustainability. The list of interviewees was purposefully selected to account for variation in gender, geographic localization, nature of the reintegration assistance, etc.

Another fifteen (15) interviews were conducted with beneficiaries of community-based reintegration (CBR) projects, collecting more in-depth data on the implementation and results of this type of reintegration projects and using a qualitative CBR monitoring tool developed by the regional office. The sample of respondents included 04 female beneficiaries or community leaders.

### **Key-informant Interviews**

Semi-structured interviews were conducted remotely by the principle evaluator with the project's main stakeholders. The interviews collected qualitative data from the various stakeholders of the project (IOM staff, donor, implementing partners, etc.) related to the relevance, the coherence, the effectiveness, the impacts and the sustainability of the intervention. A total of nearly 20 key-informants' interviews were conducted and their list by category of respondents can be consulted in Annex 1.

### **Case Studies**

Five case studies on selected reintegration projects will further inform and document the project's successes, challenges and best practices. Three cases have been already completed by the project's M&E unit, and data on the remaining two were collected by the local evaluator. Gender, level of perceived success and nature of assistance were sought when selecting the cases.

### **Limitations**

The following limitations should be accounted for when interpreting the results and findings of the evaluation:

- **Partial remote data collection:** Due to the current health emergency situation of COVID 19, the evaluation was partially conducted remotely, with the principal evaluator coordinating and controlling the quality of the fieldwork performed by

the local evaluator. Key-informant interviews were conducted via videoconference and part of the surveys and interviews with beneficiaries over the phone due to accessibility issues. While the data collection phase of the evaluation went smoothly and without major difficulty reaching the respondents or any serious data quality issues, it should be kept in mind, when interpreting the evaluation results and findings, that there might be a lack of “socialization” of the evaluator responsible for data analysis and interpretation with the project, its staff, its beneficiaries, its real context, etc. A thorough immersion in the project’s literature and documents might partially mitigate this “distance” issue but cannot completely eliminate it.

- **Survey Sample:** During the inception phase of the evaluation and its design, it was agreed that the evaluation will use the quantitative data already collected by the project M&E unit (around 80 items for each of the three surveys discussed above) and complement the quantitative data collection to reach a total sample of 100 respondents. However, it was realized that the project can only provide high-level sustainability scores, or satisfaction levels extracted from the AVRR database (MiMOSA). When relevant and feasible, these data were merged with the newly collected data and analyzed; otherwise each cohort of quantitative data were analyzed separately. The reduction of the total sample size might have an effect of the statistical significance of the results, but should not, given the sampling methodology, threaten their relative representativeness.



## RELEVANCE

### Key findings

- The potential continued return of migrants, along with the current economic crisis provide a rationale for the continued need for the intervention.
- The project is responding to the expressed needs of the beneficiaries by providing targeted and complimentary assistance to reintegration.
- The theory of change of the project is coherent and consistent, linking its various activities to its outputs and outcomes.

### Continued Need for the Project

In its initial proposal, IOM Nigeria provided a detailed analysis of the rational of the project, reiterated and enhanced in the No-Cost Extension (NCE) approved by the GIZ in October 2020. First of all, since 2017, IOM under its Humanitarian Voluntary Return (HVR) and Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes, in partnership with the Government of Nigeria, has facilitated the voluntary return of over 17,000 stranded migrants from Libya, Niger and other host or transit country destinations. If the flow of returns decreased during the last months due to travel restrictions across the world, its rhythm might resume to its previous levels before the COVID-19 pandemic.

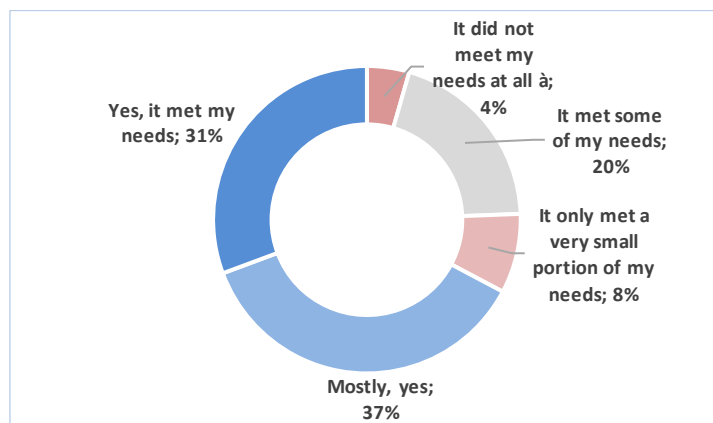
Under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in Nigeria (EU IOM JI), reintegration support is provided to returning migrants. However, those considered vulnerable are also eligible for enhanced reintegration in the form of education, medical, or housing support addressing specific vulnerabilities or needs. The GIZ initiative provided complimentary reintegration support to returnees from Germany and other host countries, such as access to opportunities for further training and education and support for adequate accommodation upon arrival that they couldn't have received under other IOM AVRR projects. Several beneficiaries, for instance, highlighted the importance of the support provided by the GIZ initiative to access adequate housing for their ability to stabilize and focus on their reintegration project.

*“I reside in a one room apartment with my daughter. The accommodation is adequate, and I was able to get it through the support provided by IOM. IOM paid for a one year's rent.” Female beneficiary, Italy, Microbusiness and Housing Assistance*

The project also established a referral mechanism for returnees who were referred to the Nigerian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration & Reintegration (NGCs) for further counselling and access to GIZs employability and entrepreneurship trainings. This was in response to targeted beneficiaries' need to develop their business and indentureship skills to be able to more effectively manage their economic reintegration.

More generally, only a small portion of surveyed beneficiaries claim that the received reintegration assistance, under its different forms, didn't meet their needs (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Does the reintegration respond to your needs? (n=20)



“The GIZ project has been vital in providing assistance to returnees in a time when other IOM or non-IOM projects were not, for different reasons, able to support. For instance, medical support was crucial to number of beneficiaries given the high cost of health services in Nigeria. Private sector strategy was also important to engage partnerships with private organizations to provide employment and entrepreneurship opportunities to migrants (e.g. partnerships with US, UK and other commerce chambers).” **IOM Manager.**

The current pandemic and its subsequent economic and social crisis are worsening the economic conditions of various categories of the population in Nigeria and other countries in the region. Youth (aged 15 to 35) is one of the most vulnerable social groups to such economic situation, with an increase of the appeal for irregular migration to Europe and other destinations in search for better livelihood opportunities. According to IOM’s rapid needs assessment of 100 beneficiaries currently receiving reintegration support, over 90% indicated their economic situation is worse or much worse since the pandemic started. The project, in coordination with Nigeria Federal Government and in line with IOM other initiatives, targeted communities to sensitize their leaders and members, especially the youth at-risk, on the dangers of irregular migration, the options for safe migration, the livelihood alternatives in their communities, educational and employment perspectives in Nigeria and clarify the crucial roles that community members play in contributing to the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants.

### Adequacy of the intervention with respect to the objectives

According to the project’s document, the main objective of the GIZ initiative are:

**Objective:** To contribute to the government of Nigeria’s efforts to sustainably reintegrate returning Nigerian migrants and promote safe migration among aspiring youth and source communities, especially in Edo and Delta states.

**Outcome 1:** Returning migrants, potential migrants and their communities of origin in Abuja FTC, Lagos and Edo States achieve economic self-sufficiency, social stability and psychosocial wellbeing.

**Outcome 2:** Returnees, potential migrants and their communities make safe and informed migration related decisions

Table 1 below associates the project's desired goals to its operations and activities, as defined in the project document and as subsequently implemented<sup>1</sup>. It indicates that the project has, overall, a clear and consistent theory of change linking its activities and outputs to its desired outcomes that remains relevant in its present context.

Table 1. GIZ project's objectives and activities

Objectives	Activities
<b><i>Objective:</i></b> To contribute to the government of Nigeria's efforts to sustainably reintegrate returning Nigerian migrants and promote safe migration among aspiring youth and source communities, especially in Edo and Delta states.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build the capacities of government and civil society's partners on reintegration and awareness raising through training, coordination and co-implementation.</li> <li>- Establish partnerships with the private sector and its main actors to engage them in the reintegration of migrant returnees.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Outcome 1:</i></b> Returning migrants, potential migrants and their communities of origin in Abuja FTC, Lagos and Edo States achieve economic self-sufficiency, social stability and psychosocial wellbeing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide complementary assistance (in-kind) to returning Nigerian migrants and potential migrants (housing, education, family support, equipment, stock, etc.)</li> <li>- Establish a referral mechanism to facilitate vocational trainings for returnees and potential migrants at capacitated TVET institutions and CSOs and GIZ's NGCs.</li> <li>- Refer returnees and potential migrants to GIZ's NGCs</li> <li>- Conduct financial literacy trainings for returnees</li> <li>- Provide community-based reintegration support targeting returnees and unemployed youth in prioritized source communities.</li> <li>-</li> </ul>
<b><i>Outcome 2:</i></b> Returnees, potential migrants and their communities make safe and informed migration related decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduce the Community Dialogue approach in 40 prioritized communities (including community leaders and religious leaders, parents, returnees and youth aged 15-35)</li> <li>- Organize a social cohesion and safe migration community engagement event (Music Concert in Benin City)</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Source, the Project's three Interim Narrative Reports (IOM Nigeria, August, 2020), (IOM Nigeria, June 2019), (IOM NIGERIA, January 2020).

## COHERENCE

### Key findings

- The project is in synergy with other IOM AVRR interventions, as well as with its main reintegration frameworks and approaches.
- The project is also well aligned with the donor's priorities and country migration and reintegration assistance strategy, as well as well integrated in Nigeria migration ecosystem.

### Alignment with other IOM initiatives

As part of IOM Nigeria AVRR portfolio and in accordance with IOM reintegration frameworks, the GIZ project tried to leverage, by its own design and in practice, the existing and newly created internal synergies with other IOM main AVRR initiatives such as EUTF and DFID. First, the GIZ project is not duplicating efforts by other interventions, but rather providing complimentary assistance to targeted eligible beneficiaries who might not, otherwise, receive it under any of IOM initiatives. Indeed, given the important case load and the limited human and financial resources, returnees eligible for more specific EUTF social and psychosocial reintegration assistance matching their needs and vulnerabilities don't necessarily receive it, reducing their chances of more sustainable reintegration. Second, beneficiaries who already received their reintegration package under EUTF or any other AVRR initiative are not eligible for the GIZ complementary assistance, in line with IOM approach and reintegration framework advocating the multidimensional and simultaneous nature of reintegration assistance, and hence of its desired sustainability. Finally, by design and in practice, the project tried to leverage and reinforce the structures and institutions created under other IOM initiatives to share costs and resources, co-fund certain activities, expand its reach and maximize its effectiveness<sup>2</sup>. An important example to highlight in this regard is the partnership the project established with the Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs), structure created by IOM under DFID in Abuja, Lagos and Edo States to support government's efforts in managing organized labour migration by providing services that will enable migrants and potential migrants to protect themselves while also empowering them to contribute to sustainable development. The GIZ project built the capacity of the MRCs' staff on Community for development (C4D) approaches, tools and practices, and worked closely with the Centres to expand the reach of targeted populations and raise their awareness on issues related to irregular migration, its risks and its alternatives.

"The GIZ initiative was a brilliant concept partnering with the ministry of labour and the MRCs. The career-path is a relevant tool to improve migrants on the regulations and the available opportunities then go through a second stage of assessment to match their training needs to the existing opportunities. Not an open-ended training, as in other similar initiatives, but an approach based on continual assessment of needs and monitoring of processes, results and impacts. The MRC has a clear framework on monitoring how beneficiaries after they ended their training. An important step towards ensuring the sustainability of the intervention. Employers are also involved in the process and contribute to the assessments. A very strategic partnership for GIZ with the MRC and ministry of labor." **Project Implementing Partner.**

Another instance of internal synergies is the use of Communication for Development (C4D) resources, tools and approaches developed under EUTF and Migrants as Messenger (MaM)

<sup>2</sup> For further details, see the Effectiveness and Efficiency sections on the project's synergies with other IOM AVRR interventions.

projects to train MRC staff and community leaders and of community dialogue sessions in targeted LGAs in close collaboration with the two initiatives. EUTF coverage and reach were also used by the initiative to identify and target areas with enough returned migrants where community-based reintegration (CBR) projects are being implemented. EUTF experience with this kind of projects was also mobilized to design projects more adapted to the needs and realities of the communities.

### Synergies with government and donor initiatives

As per the project's document and interviews with the donor's representative, the GIZ project is well aligned with *"the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development's (BMZ) global project "Programme Migration for Development" (PMD), which is being implemented by the GIZ"*. PMD is part of the BMZ programme for return and reintegration, "Returning to new opportunities", which aims at creating opportunities for returning migrants as well as the host communities in countries of origin. BMZ also commissioned GIZ to complement PMD's interventions by measures carried out by the project "Sustainable Economic Development in Nigeria" (SEDIN) and GIZ's TVET project "Skills for Youth Employment in Nigeria" (SKYE) in Nigeria.

Via its different coordination mechanisms, as well as partnerships with various governmental and non-governmental organizations, the GIZ was well situated within the Nigerian national migration system. Such organizations include the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE), and the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, and the National Orientation Agency (NOA) who played various roles in the design, implementation and monitoring of the project's activities.

*"The project complements other projects and is well integrated to the overall microcosm of migration assistance in Nigeria. The project doesn't work in silo. High level of coordination with other initiatives and partners."* **Project Donor Representative.**

## EFFECTIVENESS

### Key findings

- The project attained most of its planned outputs and outcomes.
- The complementary assistance mostly reached its targeted beneficiaries and the assistance is mostly tailored to beneficiaries' needs.
- The referral strategy is successful, effectively providing complementary assistance and referring identified beneficiaries to GIZ and other partners' relevant trainings.
- Private partnership is an innovative and promising approach, which impacts, and concrete results need time to materialize.
- Debt relief component is not yet finalized, and its findings could have positively informed the project's approach and activities.
- Community-based reintegration projects have the potential for more sustainable results but were late to be designed and implemented.
- Awareness raising activities were effectively implemented; however, their lasting impacts have yet to be assessed.
- The project contributed to building the capacities of its main implementing partners, in particular its government partners on reintegration, C4D and M&E.
- The project's M&E system is mostly effective and collects required data to monitor its performance and results. However, certain component, such as CBR and AWR, need to be more systematically monitored.

Table 2 below summarizes the extent to which the project's planned outputs and outcomes have been achieved. It shows, as per the available data, that the project -except for the debt relief related output- mostly managed to attain its expected outputs and outcomes. The main components of the project, and the extent to which they were effectively implemented are presented in the following sub-sections.

**Table 2. The project's results versus planned outputs & outcomes**

Objective	Indicator	Target	Result
<b>Outcome 1:</b> Returning migrants, potential migrants and their communities of origin in Abuja FTC, Lagos and Edo States achieve economic self-sufficiency, social stability and psychosocial wellbeing.	% of assisted beneficiaries who report to have reached sufficient levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability and psychosocial wellbeing in their community of return.	75%	79.5%
	% of surveyed community members reporting that they feel involved in the implementation of community-based reintegration support.	70%	87%
	# of stakeholders involved in the provision of reintegration assistance to returning migrants.	10	6

<b>Output 1.1:</b> Returning migrants, potential migrants and their communities of origin have increased access to a variety of economic and social reintegration opportunities.	# of returnees and potential migrants receiving complimentary assistance	225	224; Male= 188, Female= 36, (220 returned migrants, 4 potential migrant)
	# of referral mechanisms put in place to access services offered by TVET, CSOs and the employability training	1	3 IOM to GIZ; GIZ to IOM; IOM to Halogen Group Academy)
	# of beneficiaries referred to employability, vocational and TVET trainings (disaggregated by country of voluntary return)	At least 80% (#TBD) of from REAP GARP and Starthilfe Plus programmes assisted by IOM in Nigeria programme are considered for referral (who provide consent)	136 (113 Germany, 19 Libya, 2 Guinea Bissau, 2 Potential migrant)
<b>Output 1.2:</b> Returning migrants and their families have enhanced financial literacy and access to debt mediation support.	# of returnees, their family members, community members, religious leaders, and local financial institutions who participated in the debt mediation and financial literacy FGD (disaggregated by sex and age, category)	200	0
<b>Output 1.3:</b> Returnees, potential migrants, and their communities of origin have access to community-based livelihood opportunities.	# of returnees and unemployed youth receiving complementary and community-based reintegration support (disaggregated by type of support, sex, type of project: individual, collective and community (migrants and community members).	250	NA
	# of CBR projects initiated	6	6
	# of beneficiaries benefiting from CfW opportunities	120	NA
<b>Outcome 2:</b> Returnees, potential migrants and their communities make safe and informed migration related <u>decisions</u>	% of migrants and aspirant migrants who report the information received during their visit to the MRC was useful.	80%	NA
	% surveyed community members reporting that perceptions of migration have changed within their communities.	70%	90%
<b>Output 2.1:</b> Returnees, potential migrants and their communities have knowledge on safe migration practices, the risks of irregular migration, and options available at home.	# of MRC and Job Centre staff trained (disaggregated by sex and organization).	30	37 (including 20 females)
	# of community members engaged in community dialogue on migration issues.	800 (40 per community)	968 (including 388 females)
	# of social cohesion and safe migration community engagement events organized.	1	1



## Reintegration Complementary Assistance

By the end of June 2020 (i.e. before the project's extension)<sup>3</sup>, 225 beneficiaries were identified by the project as eligible to complimentary reintegration assistance (of which 154 returned from Germany, and 51 were females). Of the total project beneficiaries, 25 (including 8 females and 8 beneficiaries returning from Germany) received medical assistance, 41 (including 9 females and 26 returning from Germany) received accommodation assistance, 126 (including 30 females and 120 returning from Germany) attended IOM Business Skills Training (BST), 41 (19 returning from Germany) were referred to GIZ Career Path training or other trainings by partners and 165 completed an economic individual or collective economic reintegration project. It is worth noting that while 13.5% of the beneficiaries were identified as Victims of Trafficking (VoT) and 5% as suffering from a psychosocial vulnerability. Basic psychosocial support was provided through psychoeducation activity in the BST.

### Recommendation 1

**Generalize the accommodation assistance and better target the psychological assistance.**

## Referral System

According to most key-informants, the referral mechanisms implemented under the project were effective and constitutes one of its most important achievements. The referrals go both ways, IOM referring beneficiaries to GIZ or other TVET partners (such as Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) funded by the GIZ or Google Digital Skills) for business, vocational or entrepreneurship training, and the GIZ referring migrants to the IOM for complementary or economic reintegration assistance. The coordination structure also refers beneficiaries to other government or CSO structures for the appropriate required assistance. What makes the referral designed and implemented system so effective, according to some key-informants, is the tight and equally effective coordination structure which meets regularly to discuss reintegration assistance at the case level (partially because of the limited number of beneficiaries), IOM constantly following up on referred cases with partner organizations and the use the GIZ initiative made of referral systems designed by other IOM AVRRI initiatives.

*“Referral mechanisms worked very well for the GIZ initiative referring beneficiaries to a varied set of training opportunities. Collaboration with GIZ has been smooth and effective. A lot of referral has been established under EUTF, DFID, Private Engagement. GIZ initiative has been able to capitalize on these existing referral mechanisms. GIZ initiative also worked with different government agencies. The project is well situated within the national and state level referral mechanisms (e.g. TVET).” IOM Staff.*

Some respondents, however, have some reservations on whether the trainings beneficiaries are referred to respond to their needs or are adapted to their skills. Another issue identified by some key-informants is that returnees who already received reintegration assistance by IOM were not eligible for GIZ support limiting the access of some potential beneficiaries in need for crucial complementary assistance.

*“The referral strategy was effective (from GIZ to IOM) and the project surpassed its targets. The other way around, the referral can be improved; for example, GIZ*

<sup>3</sup> Sources: GIZ Dashboard (30 June 2020) and Interim Narrative Reports.



Career Path was not that effective because it didn't match some beneficiaries' skills. Having a clear idea on the opportunities offered by GIZ could've enhanced the referral mechanism. GIZ training did not necessarily lead to jobs or livelihoods opportunities." IOM Staff.

## Private Partnership

Attempts by the project to establish and expand partnerships with the private sector is considered, by most key-informants, as one of its most innovative approaches. Discussions on partnerships with the private sector were initiated in October 2019 with representatives from various Chambers of Commerce including, the German, American, British and Lagos State and continued thereafter involving other stakeholders such as Nigeria Association of Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA). The objective being to explore more collaborative channels to strengthen private sector engagement in a sustainable reintegration of returned Nigeria migrants. To date, 68 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) indicated their interest in fostering partnerships with IOM for the sustainable reintegration of returned Nigeria migrants. Among them, IOM is in advanced discussions with Reohob Nigeria Limited, a renewable energy company, to train referred migrants on solar energy installation and provide them with one year free subscription to engineering support after training and a one year subscription to dealership using Reohob platform for business. The most concrete private sector partnership the project is implementing to date is with Halogen Group, a private security company, to provide trainings, job placement and employment opportunities targeting 200 returnees. A total of 136 beneficiaries (including 67 females) were referred both from the IOM BST and GIZ Career Path trainings to the company to start their training.

The private sector partnership is seen by the donor and other stakeholders as an innovative adjustment to the project's approach, diversifying the reintegration offer, building a bridge with an economic and social sector usually little involved in the reintegration ecosystem and enlarging the circle of civil society engagement with the reintegration of migrant returnees. Some key-informants regret that the development of these partnerships was a little late in the project's implementation and further hindered by the current pandemic. Its full results and potential impacts on migrants and their communities will certainly not materialize before a potential second phase of the project.

"The collaboration effort to engage the private sector in the reintegration process (results still to be seen because of delays due to COVID) allowed the project to diversify the reintegration offer and engage the private sector in supporting migrant returnees. The impacts will be seen in Phase II when the partnerships will be more mature. Also seek innovative partnerships to support migrants with less skills and opportunities." IOM Staff.

### Recommendation 2

**Continue engagement with the private sector and document the challenges, the best practices and the results of these partnerships for future interventions.**

## Debt relief & financial literacy

A study on the dynamics of debt and its effects on the sustainability of reintegration was planned aligning with an ongoing regional initiative funded by DFID in other countries of the region. The study seeks to understand under which processes (decision-making) returned migrants have contracted debts, which actors/stakeholders are involved in the

process, at which stages of their journey along the migration routes, and how it impacts their reintegration process. Nearing the end of the project, the study has not yet been fully finalized due in large part to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some interviews and focus groups have been organized as part of the study and some high-level results are presented in the project's most recent dashboard shared with the donor. A preliminary phone survey on debt (co-funded by the EU-IOM JI) was also administered to 500 returnees in Edo and Delta states (29 from Germany) to inform the data collection tools of the study. The study findings could have been a valuable source of evidence for the project management, the caseworkers and the implementing partners to guide the counselling, the development of the training modules and more generally to work with migrant returnees to integrate debt relief strategies in their management practices.

“It would be useful to have the results of the debt study to inform the design of the phase II of the project. The findings of this research will be used to develop debt managed plans and support to migrants in mediation. It would've been great to have the study during the course of implementation to design innovative approaches to mitigate the impacts of debt on migrants' ability to successfully complete their reintegration. “ **Donor Key-informant.**

### Recommendation 3

**Complete the debt study and integrate its findings and recommendations in any potential new phase of the project or any new AVRR initiatives.**

All the 153 beneficiaries who attended the mandatory five-days IOM BST attended a module on financial literacy. It is not clear, however, how the training influenced beneficiaries' managerial skills and practices since no data were available to assess its effectiveness and results.

### Community-based Reintegration

As per IOM reintegration framework, “*community-based approaches can address community level factors of reintegration and thus facilitate effective reintegration [...]* Such interventions do not only contribute to a community's absorption capacity of their returning members but may also reinforce the links between return migration and local development. They encourage the participation of returnees and non-migrant population alike and thus support social cohesion between returnees and their communities” (IOM, 2016). The GIZ project approach towards community-based reintegration (CBR) was somewhat hesitant and concrete design and implementation didn't start until a later stage of the project. The reasons explaining these delays are that certain stakeholders saw the GIZ project as a mostly individual-centered initiative responding to specific needs of select category of migrant returnees, the difficulty of finding enough beneficiaries in specific LGAs to justify the implementation of a CBR project, the large financial resources to implement such projects and the complex and lengthy processes to design, plan and implement a CBR project.

“Community-based reintegration was not started early, and the project is lagging behind on this aspect. The project focused on individual reintegration. “ **IOM Staff.**

Nonetheless, the GIZ project identified six (6) Local Government Areas (Owan East, Egor, Etsako East, Etsako West, Igubeben and Oredo LGAs) for CBR projects and the same number of LGAs has also been identified for cash for work opportunities. These CBR projects were built from ideas identified under EUTF, focusing on smaller scale projects following a mini

feasibility study. An expression of interest for private sector that will lead the implementation of the identified small-scale community projects was published and selection process is in progress. Similarly, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a cash for work activity (face mask production) was implemented as a short-term response involving both returnees and potential migrants in the indicated LGAs.

“Community-based approach to reintegration is a new and innovative approach to expand the reach of reintegration and its range. Under the GIZ project, a fish farming project has been implemented, in coordination with state actors, involving other beneficiaries from the community. Another project is beneficiaries producing PPE masks distributed to the community along with AWR activities around COVID. Cash for work-based projects and environmental projects are also innovative projects involving CSO/gov actors in addition to the community.” **IOM Staff**

It is too early to judge the CBR projects’ design and implementation effectiveness, to measure their results, not to mention their longer-term impacts. Very few data are available on this reintegration option and the present evaluation attempted to narrow this gap by conducting a limited number of interviews with CBR projects’ beneficiaries. A summary of their findings is presented in the Impact section of this report. It is important for the project, and IOM Nigeria overall, to deploy an efficient monitoring system for its CBR projects and to collect more systematic data on their implementation challenges, their results and their impacts.

#### Recommendation 4

**Implement the pilot IOM CBR monitoring system to document the implementation challenges and best-practices of the CBB projects, as well as their results and impact.**

Stakeholders’ perceptions regarding this type of reintegration are mixed: Some think that they have, by design, the most intrinsic potential to produce sustainable benefits for the community at-large as well as for the individual beneficiaries, migrants or non-migrants. Others, on the other hand, including IOM staff, believe that they are not adapted to this kind of interventions because of their complexity, their resource-intensiveness and the fact that they need more time to be implemented and for their results to materialize.

“Community-based reintegration is the way to go. To give to the community what can last, expand the benefits and sustain the impacts. Intensive in terms of financial and procurement effort but worthy in terms of results and impacts.” **IOM Staff**

“Individual reintegration is more sustainable when the case is properly managed. Collective reintegration is less sustainable because the collective groups rarely stay together (except of family members). Community-based reintegration has potential, because it provides more jobs, benefit larger groups and minimize stigma. The problem is that it requires longer-term efforts and it takes a lot of time to lay the ground and have the buy-in by community leaders.” **Donor Key-informant.**

### Awareness Raising

An effective partnership of the project with the NOA, the MRCs and other implementing partners (e.g. Edo State Taskforce against Human Trafficking (ETAHT)) allowed it to attain its targets in terms of community awareness raising and sensitization around the risks of irregular migration and its legal alternatives. MRC staff from Lagos, Abuja and Benin were

trained on the use of Communication for Development techniques (C4D) towards creating awareness about the dangers of irregular migration and engineering behavioral changes towards safe migration practices. The project also mobilized resources developed by other IOM AVRR initiatives and shared costs with them to effectively design and implement its C4D approach. For instance, community dialogue facilitator's trainings were co-funded together with the EU-IOM JI and benefitted 485 community leaders (including 212 females) from Edo State. The trainings involved trainers from different government and civil society organizations including the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Person (NAPTIP), National Commission for Refugees Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI), Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE) and National Orientation Agency (NOA) and focused using the Community Dialogue Facilitation Manual (which has been developed under the EU-IOM JI) to train community leaders to facilitate discussions on issues of irregular migration, including human trafficking, and create home grown solutions and action plans to tackle these issues in their communities.

Community dialogues were subsequently organized in 15 targeted communities gathering nearly 964 community members (including 425 females), engaging in discussions facilitated by the trained community facilitators on irregular migration and its risks, ways to tackle human trafficking and the need to support returning migrants in their reintegration in the communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, community dialogues were, at the initiative of the community leaders, leveraged to broadcast live interactive talk shows in the covered states featuring community members and experts discussing and answering questions on COVID-19 preventive and safety measures.

In addition to community dialogues, a safe migration and social cohesion music concert was organized in partnership with the Edo ETHAT on 31 January 2020 in Benin City. A total of 1,134 persons (including 378 females) attended the music concert. The concert recorded musical fanfare, presentations by returned and potential migrants, comedy, and dance drama. The objective of the concert was to inform potential migrants and their communities about the dangers and risks involved in irregular migration and enable them to make informed decisions about their migratory journey. The concert served as an avenue for influential local music celebrities with interest in social causes to engage the audience aged 15-35. The concert also promoted social cohesion between returned migrants, family members and their communities of origin. Sensitization activities were also conducted by MRCs in the targeted states, in collaboration with the project, targeting both beneficiaries and potential migrants.

AWR activities are generally seen as successful and effective by most key-informants. Synergies with other IOM programs such as EU-IOM JI and Migrants as Messenger (MaM), Aware Migrants allowed the project to syndicate resources, to expand its reach and to apply best practices and lessons learned from other projects. The immediate results and the impacts of the AWR are discussed in the impact section.

*“The main success of the project is the improved community cohesion through the community gatherings and the reintegration of returnees. One of the biggest needs of the migrant returnees is to reconnect with their community. The project helped alleviate the stigmatization of the migrants in their communities and changed community members perceptions of migrant returnees and their migration journey.”* **Project Implementing Partner.**

## Capacity Building

Building the capacity of implementing partners, as well as other CS and government organizations, was a specific objective of the project, with a specific dedicated output. It proved, indeed, to be not only a valuable outcome with the potential for sustaining the project's longer-term results, but also a good tool to improve its effectiveness. For instance, socio-economic training was provided to nearly 29 organizations (including 19 state actors) to build the capacity of the government and non-governmental agencies that are involved in rehabilitation and reintegration management in Nigeria. The MRC staff in Lagos, Abuja and Benin were also trained on C4D approach and techniques to enable the MRCs to improve the planning and implementation of their awareness raising activities to effectively reach the right target audience. As a result, MRCs jointly developed and implemented communication strategies for effective dissemination of information as well as key messages which were adopted as a national document for MRCs. The project's different coordination structures (reintegration committees, case management team (CMET), M&E Expert team (MET)) were also excellent fora to train partners on IOM reintegration and M&E approaches and practices, and more generally on reintegration challenges, frameworks and best practices.

“The mentoring and the follow up system put in place by the organization and IOM is the most effective and useful tool to ensure the reintegration of migrants is successful and the challenges are timely tackled. IOM building the capacity of CSOs in this regard is a very important aspect, changing the paradigm and the way reintegration is conducted. “ **Project Implementing Partner.**

“Case management team was a way to build CSO and government capacity in providing counselling and supporting migrants to develop business plans. Coordination is also a good capacity building mechanism.” **IOM Staff.**

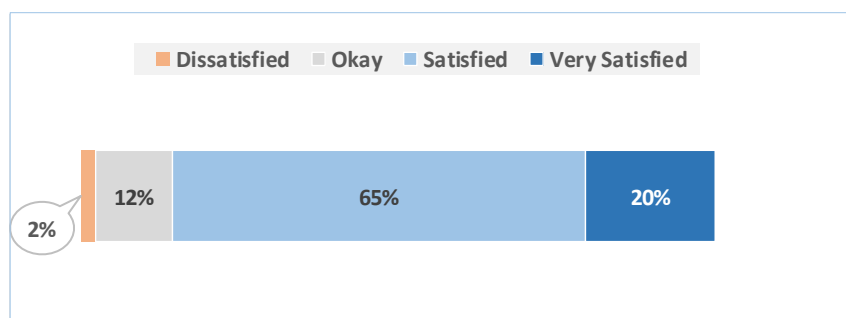
While implementing partners are generally satisfied with the technical trainings and their benefits for their staff, some think that there is a need for more material and financial support to sustain their capacity to continue working on reintegration of new returnees.

“Not enough support, but IOM has provided some capacity building support, financial help and technical training. Psychosocial training has also been provided; but more is needed given the scope of work and number of human resources to be trained in MRCs. Need to improve knowledge and understanding of reintegration work and processes.” **Project Implementing Partner.**

## Beneficiaries' Satisfaction

A large majority of beneficiaries (85%) is overall satisfied or very satisfied with the reintegration assistance received under the project (Figure 2).

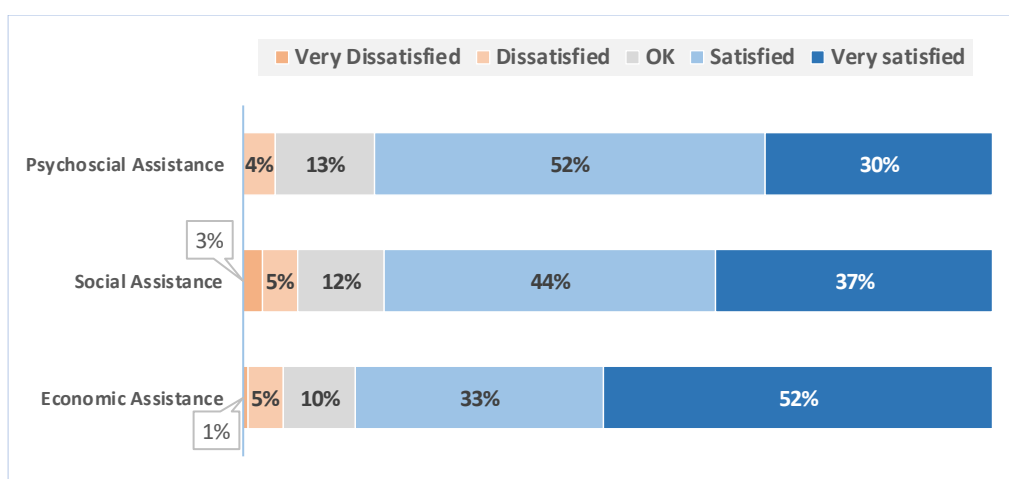
Figure 2. Beneficiaries' overall satisfaction with reintegration assistance (n=80)



As shown in Figure 3 below, the project beneficiaries' satisfaction with the processes and the results of the economic reintegration assistance is slightly higher (85%), compared to social (81%) and psychosocial assistance (82%). This can be partially attributed to certain beneficiaries not receiving the adequate social assistance upon their return. For instance, during the interviews with beneficiaries, many stated that they didn't receive any assistance for accommodation and that they had to use their savings or their own social network to access acceptable housing conditions for them and their families:

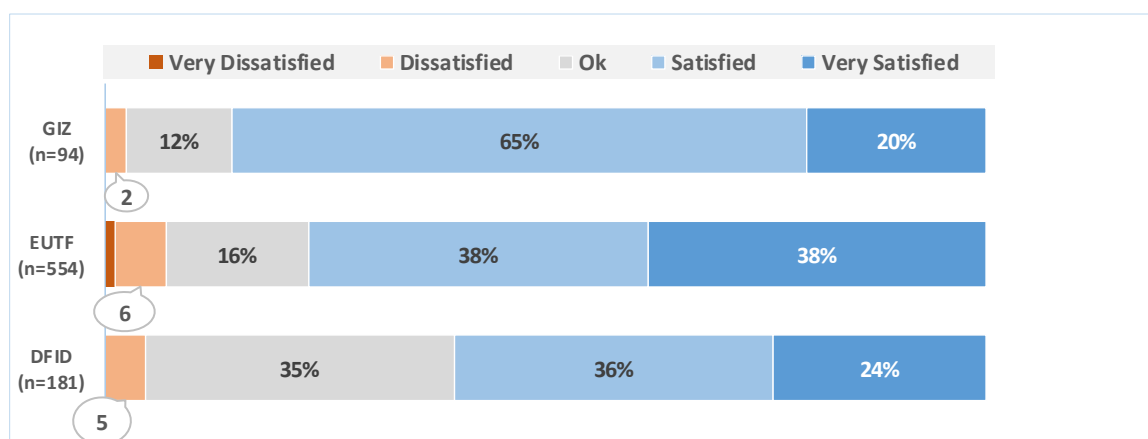
"I did not receive any housing support from IOM; I used the funds I came back with to rent a place as I did not feel comfortable going to stay with the family. However, I am presently finding it difficult to pay the house rent, hence contemplating looking for a less expensive place, but I do not even have the money to look for one. " **Male beneficiary, Germany, Microbusiness project.**

**Figure 3. Beneficiaries' satisfaction by type of reintegration assistance (n=200)**



Finally, level of overall satisfaction with the reintegration assistance under the GIZ initiative was compared with other IOM flagship AVRR projects (Figure 4). It shows that beneficiaries' satisfaction with the GIZ project reintegration services and processes is considerably higher (85% vs. 76% for EUTF and 60% for DFID). This higher level of satisfaction vindicates, at least partly, the project's design and its effectiveness of implementation as it is intended to respond to carefully assessed needs of beneficiaries through tailored and targeted assistance.

**Figure 4. Overall satisfaction with reintegration by main IOM AVRR projects**





## Monitoring & Evaluation

As the case for most IOM AVR programs, the GIZ project used the AVR monitoring and evaluation Framework (guidance and tools described in the methodology section of this report) developed by IOM under the DFID funded MEASURE Project. An excellent initiative by the project's management and its M&E team is the administration of a baseline sustainability survey at the start of the project with a sample of 30 beneficiaries from Germany. This allowed the management to identify vulnerability dimensions and weakness areas on which it focused its interventions both at the individual level, for certain categories of beneficiaries and at the project's larger level. This best practice was subsequently replicated by new IOM AVR initiatives.

During the implementation and at the ending phases of the project, the M&E team was consistently monitoring the results and the sustainability of the reintegration, administering the AVR monitoring tools with around 80 beneficiaries. However, while the project was collecting success stories on beneficiaries' experience and reintegration pathways, the use of the qualitative standardized tools on reintegration results and sustainability was not systematic<sup>4</sup>.

### Recommendation 5

**Collect more systematic and periodic monitoring qualitative data on the results of the assistance and the social and economic sustainability of reintegration.**

As for the Awareness Raising (AWR) component of the project, a robust M&E system was in place, leveraging collaboration with the implementing partners (especially the NOA) to systematically conduct pre/post surveys of trained community facilitators and post-surveys with community members after each community-dialogue session, along with key-informant interviews. The collected data were not, however, available to the evaluation to assess their quality and use them to measure the AWR activities immediate outcomes and impacts.

Another good M&E initiative by the project, sharing the costs with other IOM AVR projects, is the constitution of the M&E Expert Teams (METs), comprised of state and non-state actors from Abuja, Edo, Delta and Lagos States to support the monitoring of the project's outcomes and the sustainability status of the socio economic reintegration assistance provided to the returned migrants. The various partners in the new structures were trained on IOM AVR M&E systems and tools and some of them were involved in the monitoring of the AWR activities. Unfortunately, due to data sharing and protection issues, the METs were not able to effectively engage in the monitoring of the reintegration activities.

<sup>4</sup> These are tools developed by the Regional M&E Unit who advocated conducting ten Reintegration Monitoring and Ten Reintegration Sustainability qualitative interviews with beneficiaries per month. The tools were adapted and used for the evaluation.

**Recommendation 6**

**Maintain and continue building the capacity of the M&E Expert Teams (METs) to leverage their skills and engagement in any future or existing AVRR initiatives in Nigeria.**

The project's database (MiMOSA) is well maintained and up to date. However, some indicators of the GIZ initiative are not covered by MiMOSA, forcing the project to continue maintaining a separate database. For example, the project had to maintain a separate dataset to capture AWR indicators, activities and monitoring data.

According to key-informants, human resources were generally sufficient to implement the project's M&E system and to collect required data to effectively monitor and measure its performance. The project's M&E team was comprised of one full-time staff, while sharing staff with other IOM programs. However, certain outcome data (e.g. satisfaction with the information received by the MRCs, monitoring of training outcomes) were not available, AWR activities were less monitored than required and CBR activities were not systematically monitored.

Finally, the project has an efficient reporting and internal knowledge mobilization system (Monthly updates, Monthly Dashboards, Interim Narrative Reports, etc.), satisfactorily fulfilling the requirements by its donor. Knowledge sharing on the project's results and impacts with the external stakeholders (especially the implementing partners) could, however, be improved to ensure their ownership and continuous engagement.



## EFFICIENCY

### Key findings

- The project's financial resources were enough to attain its targets and objectives but their allocation could have been more balanced.
- The project's human resources were not always enough to maximize its effectiveness and to reach more beneficiaries.

### Adequacy of resources versus objectives

For most internal respondents, while the project's funds were enough to attain its targets and achieve its objectives, their allocation was not always balanced. Human resources were sometimes lacking, especially during the early times of the project, and efficiency could have been strengthened by increasing the staff of certain units.

One of the elements contributing to the project's perceived level of efficiency is its ability to leverage the synergies created with other IOM interventions to share costs and expand its reach. This includes sharing resources to conduct counselling, case management, AWR and monitoring activities, as well as capacity building activities targeting community leaders, government agencies and CSOs.

### Main implementation challenges

Implementation and operational challenges identified by the various categories of respondents are summarized below:

- The project effective start date was delayed a while due to political considerations. Sometimes, huge time elapsed between the start of the reintegration process and the provision of the assistance. This caused frustration for the beneficiaries. The drop rate remains, however, very low for the GIZ project (not more than nine cases).
- Reaching some beneficiaries, especially non-IOM beneficiaries, remain a challenge because their contacts are not up to date.
- Returnees have sometimes difficulties providing the required documentation (IDs, invoices, rent proof, etc.) causing delays in the implementation of their economic projects. Verification by other units also takes time, causing further delays. The process has been improved and accelerated compared to a year ago; however, the COVID-19 outbreak seriously hindered implementation before the issue was partially resolved by allowing beneficiaries to send electronic documentation.
- Getting some migrant returnees to accept the nature and the amount of assistance to be received was sometimes challenging. In some instances, beneficiaries claimed that the sending missions didn't provide them with enough information on the reintegration services and processes. This required lot of work by caseworkers to clarify the in-kind nature of the assistance and how its amount is to be used.

## Recommendation 7

**Ensure returnees are provided by the sending missions with more detailed and accurate information on the assistance to be expected and its nature and processes.**

In some states or locations, there were no list of vendors to supply beneficiaries with inputs and goods. Some needed to travel as far as to Lagos to buy material for their starting businesses.

- Some community members were not willing to engage in community dialogues without instant gratification. Liaison with community leaders and collaborating with the government partners (especially the NOA) to select and train the relevant community leaders helped improve the engagement by the communities.
- Community-based reintegration projects have been challenging to design and implement. It takes a lot of time to engage with local leaders, government, secure land, etc. Adjustments to the approach have been made by selecting lower skill projects and by targeting locations where there were more EUTF eligible migrants. External consultants hired to conduct initial assessments and to develop the projects' implementation approaches took time to deliver. Other partners (e.g. government) were not very implicated during the early stages but were brought up during the implementation phase.
- Signing and approving data sharing agreements with some implementing partners (e.g. partners part of the METs) took too long as part of IOM review and approval processes by LEG, and some were not finalized at the end of the project, in some instances preventing the project from taking full advantage of its built partnerships.
- Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic and its subsequent restrictions on movements and social interactions greatly impacted and delayed the implementation of all project's components and remote monitoring, adopted as a mitigation measure, proved to be less effective than expected.

## IMPACT

### Key findings

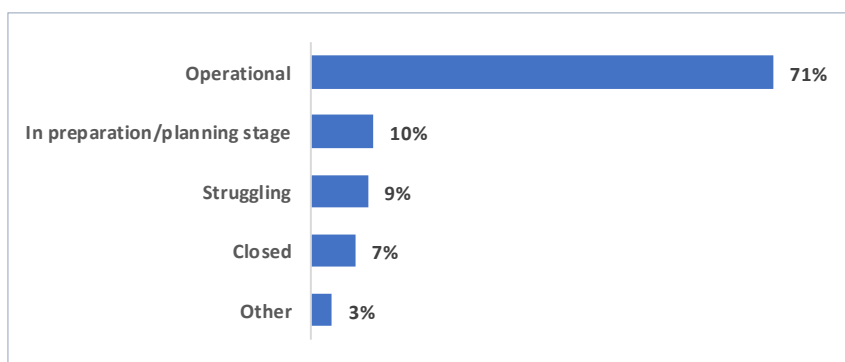
- Overall, it is too early to assess the project's impacts and not enough data were available for AWR and CBR activities.
- Most beneficiaries who implemented a micro-business have their business still functional, even though many respondents identify the current COVID 19 pandemic as a threat to the sustainability of their businesses.
- Few data are available on the impacts of the AWR activities, and some beneficiaries believe that these activities should not be terminated for their impacts to be concrete.
- Beneficiaries and community leaders are generally satisfied of the CBR projects and think they have positive impacts on community cohesion and the perception of returned migrants by their communities.
- Most beneficiaries are satisfied of their decision of volunteer return and focused on the success of their economic reintegration

It is premature, at the end of such a short-timed intervention, to expect any meaningful medium or longer-term enduring impacts. Furthermore, the evaluation didn't have access to the full AWR and training M&E data and will rely on high-level reported data. It will, therefore, attempt to sketch any early impacts as reported by the beneficiaries in the interviews and in the reintegration survey, as well as on perceptions by key-informants.

### Economic Reintegration

A large majority of respondents who implemented a small business have their business still operational (Figure 5). Micro-businesses implemented by beneficiaries cover a variety of revenue-generating activities ranging from grocery shops to catering, sale of phones and their accessories to agriculture and stock breeding projects. For 65% of the respondents, their business is generating enough revenue to cover their household needs, 25% of them hired one or more staff to help managing their microbusiness and 12% used their personal savings to further develop their business.

Figure 5. Current state of business



While only a minority of beneficiaries closed their businesses, most interviewed respondents reported struggling to make ends meet due to the devastating effects of the current global pandemic on the economic activity in Nigeria:

“I am into the sale of FMCGs. I bought a caravan and got a spot in a school. I was able to set up the business through personal savings, support from well-wishers and reintegration grant provided by IOM. However, as the business does not provide enough to make ends meet, I am considering going into driving taxi so my wife can manage the business, hence we can have multiple sources of income.”

**Male beneficiary, Germany, Microbusiness**

“With the support of IOM, I opened a hairdressing saloon and hair accessories. The business has been good, and I have two persons working with me. I have reinvested my profits into the business to grow it. However, I have been affected by two incidents. The first was when my shop, along with two other shops, got burnt and I had to renovate it. The second is this pandemic which resulted in a lockdown which greatly impacted on my business. My aspiration is to go into importation from China and other places because that is where the profit is.”

**Female beneficiary, Germany, Microbusiness**

“I was initially put in a collective group of three and we planned to engage in the sale of hair products. However, due to issues with the other two group members, the group had to be disbanded, hence I decided to collect my goods, sold them and decided to go into fish farming. But the business was impacted by COVID-19 and lack of fund to buy the food and clean the water, hence all the fishes died. Presently I make the hair of kids in the area to get by.”

**Female, Italy, Microbusiness**

#### **Female Beneficiary, 31 years, returned from Morocco**

##### **Economic, accommodation and children education assistance**

Maria (name changed) had started making hair since she was in secondary school but the difficulty in making ends meet motivated her to want to seek greener pasture outside the country. However, she was tricked into travelling irregularly by a client who told her that she would take her to Europe to work as a hairdresser. It was only after she got to Algeria that she realized it was a lie, then she made her way to Morocco. She was in Morocco for 16 years and during that period she met her husband and had three children. Unfortunately, her husband passed away and she was finding it difficult to make ends meet, which informed her decision to return to Nigeria. She returned to Nigeria in 2017 through the support of IOM and was supported with in kind support to start a business, as well as housing and educational support for two of her kids. She decided to open a beauty shop and hired two full-time staff. The business was doing well until the onset of COVID-19. She used to make between N50,000 to 80,000 profit monthly after paying her staffs. But despite the trying time she is passing through now, she is hopeful. When asked about her aspirations, she responded that *“my aspiration is to go into importation from China and other places because that is where the profit is and diversify into the sales of bags and creams”*. About her decision to return she said: “I am happy, my life has improved since I returned, things are much better. If I had known about the support provided by IOM, I would have come back much earlier”. She wrote about her experience travelling by dangerous roads and hopes to share with the world.

## **Change of perceptions**

As mentioned above, few data are available on the immediate impacts of the AWR activities on the perception or behavior of the targeted population of migrant returnees or “potential” migrants regarding irregular migration, its risks and its alternatives. An impact evaluation, planned later in 2022 by the MaM project, will also target communities where the community dialogues were organized as part of the GIZ project and will potentially provide more robust analyses of the immediate and intermediate impacts of the community dialogues.

During the music concert organized in Benin City, a random perception survey was administered to 28 young attendees (including 39% females). The survey shows that 46% of the participants were very well informed and 50% quite informed about the risks of irregular migration as a result of the public event, and 96% of the respondents stated that they would not migrate through irregular channels.

More generally, while most of the key-informants agree on the relevance and the effective and participatory implementation of the AWR activities, some are doubtful about their sustainable impacts, especially for such a short timed intervention heavily impacted by a global pandemic and its subsequent economic deterioration.

“Sensitizing potential migrants on the risks of irregular migration. MaM helped spreading the message on a larger range. Community theater and dialogues are also having impact, but not as huge as desired. Not being able to reach as many communities as desired, especially the remote communities.” **Project Implementing Partner.**

“The main success of the project is to improve community cohesion through the community gathering and reintegration. One of the biggest needs of the migrant returnees is to reconnect with their community. The project helped alleviate the stigmatization of the migrants in their communities and change community members’ perceptions of migrant returnees and their migration journey. Leaving right now will not be appropriate because the impacts have just start to materialize.” **Project Implementing Partner.**

### Community-based reintegration

CBR activities are still on early implementation stages and virtually no M&E data are available on their early results at the time of this evaluation. Nonetheless, most beneficiaries and community leaders interviewed as part of the evaluation expressed their satisfaction regarding CBR projects’ relevance, the consultation process to design and implement the projects and their immediate perceived impacts on community cohesion and its perception of returned migrants. Cash for work (CFW) projects were particularly appreciated by the beneficiaries for providing a valuable source of revenue while they are awaiting the implementation of the community projects, and by the community leaders for benefitting community youth other than the migrant returnees, in addition to their immediate environmental and social benefits.

“Returnees face the challenge of mixing with community members because community members sometimes view them in an unpleasant manner. Furthermore, community members are reluctant to assist returnees because they feel they returnees ought to be the one to assist community members since they are returning from abroad.” **Community leader.**

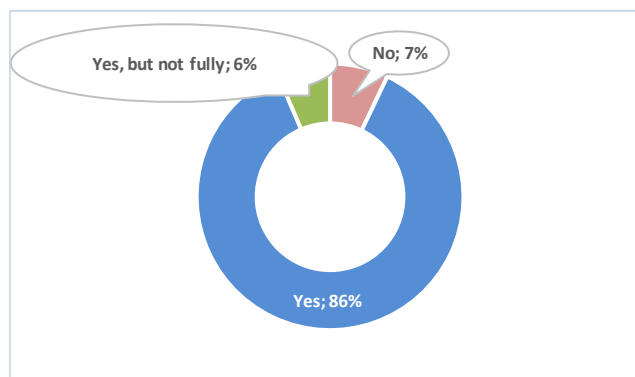
“It was an opportunity for mutual learning (the group and environmental officers) and sensitization of the larger community. The impact is even being felt in the larger community, because when we sensitize people about the need to clean their environment, we find out that places where there were heap of rubbish are cleared by other community members. Even now the local government does not want the project to stop.” **CFW beneficiary, Ehor.**

“Community and returnees have been working hand in hand. Community provided the plot of land for the community project and are happy that the structure has been erected.” **CBR beneficiary, Iguzabuwa.**

## Decision to return

86% of respondents who returned voluntarily think their decision to return was the good one (Figure 6).

**Figure 6. Was the decision to return a good decision?**



“I am happy I returned as it has afforded me the opportunity to partake in a lot of skills acquisition exercises organized by IOM and GIZ as well as access support provided by GIZ.” **Female beneficiary, Italy, Microbusiness**

“I am very happy that I returned as I wants to settle down with my family and start a business. The reason I decided to return was because I was tired of suffering and I had attempted to cross the Mediterranean Sea on three occasions and could have died.” **Male Beneficiary, Morocco, Microbusiness**

“Initially I was not happy about returning but now I am happy I returned. This is due to the micro-business I now have which provides me with a sense of hope that things can get better if I manage the business well.” **Male Beneficiary, Germany, Microbusiness**

### **Male Beneficiary, 36 years, returned from Germany**

#### **Economic assistance**

Obi (name changer) had a decent life running his building materials business in Nigeria. According to him, “I got enticed by tales from friends of making more money outside the country, so I proceeded to sell all I had to fund my trip to Europe” explained the 36 years old. He decided to travel with the help of a local travel agent in 2014 through Libya by land and by the Mediterranean Sea to Europe. “Upon embarking on the trip, I realized I have been deceived by the local agent because the trip was very dangerous unlike what I have been told” he added.

Arrived in Germany in 2015, Obi had a hard time getting and keeping a job throughout his threeyear stay in Europe because of his lack of proper travel documents and employability skills. According to him, because his living conditions were difficult in Europe, he decided to come back voluntarily to Nigeria from Germany in 2018 after a friend introduced him to the IOM. Upon his return to Nigeria he went through counselling and business skills training and was supported to start his building material business again. “I really thank God and IOM for giving me hope as my current business has supported my livelihood, from which I was able to fund my marriage” he explained.

On his plans for his future he said “I would not like to travel again except to go and make purchases for my business, I would like to grow my business to become a major dealer in the industry. I have now realized that it is not a matter of where you are, it’s a matter of how well you are living.”

## SUSTAINABILITY

### Key findings

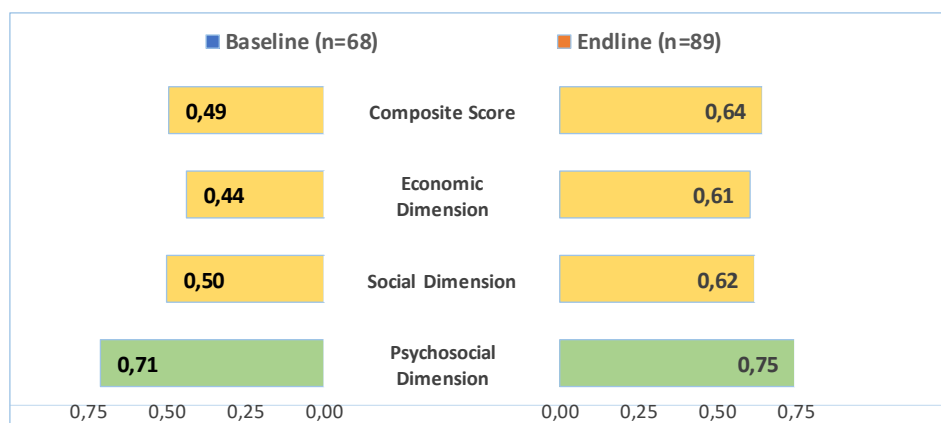
- The project improved the overall sustainability of the average beneficiaries, as well as their economic, social and psychosocial reintegration.
- Sustainability mechanisms implemented by the project (capacity building, coordination, private partnership, etc.) have the potential of increasing the likelihood of its results and impacts being more lasting.

As per IOM reintegration approach (IOM, 2016), “*reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity.*”

### Sustainability Scores

Data collected from beneficiaries through the reintegration sustainability survey are coded and fed into a scoring system to generate a composite score for reintegration, as well as economic, social and psychosocial dimensional scores. As illustrated in Figure 7 below, the overall average sustainability level of the sample of beneficiaries surveyed at the end of the project is highly acceptable, close to a fully sustainable reintegration<sup>5</sup>. The overall reintegration sustainability improved sensibly for the average beneficiary compared to its level at the start of the project. This is a strong indication that the project’s activities and outputs had a decisive effect on its beneficiaries’ capacity to sustain any of its produced results or impacts. Similarly, the project seems to have significantly improved the average beneficiary’s economic and social reintegration, which are at its end close to their sustainable levels. The psychosocial dimension, already at its sustainable level on average, further improved thanks, at least partly, to the project’s influence.

Figure 7. Baseline vs. End-line average sustainability scores



<sup>5</sup> Reintegration on any of its dimensions is considered to have achieved a high level if the score is superior to 0.66. managers can apply a hands-off approach to this category of beneficiaries. Between 0.33 and 0.66, the reintegration is still in need of a certain level of intervention to be more sustainable. Below 0.33, the beneficiary or group of beneficiaries still need intensive assistance to achieve a sustainable reintegration. For more details see (IOM, 2018) ANNEX3 -Methodological note: Scoring reintegration sustainability.

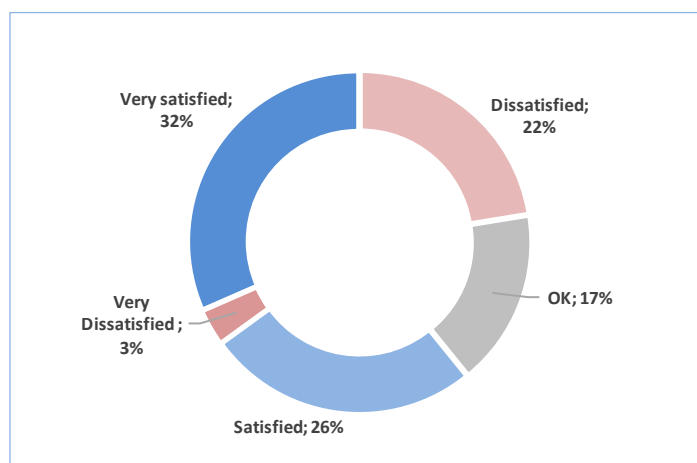
Average sustainability scores don't show any significant difference by gender or state of residence. Only the economic level of sustainability seems to be slightly better for younger beneficiaries.

### Economic Sustainability

The economic dimension of reintegration covers aspects of reintegration which contribute to economic self-sufficiency. These include the ability to borrow money, the debt-to-spending ratio, need for food rationing, adequacy of employment, ownership of productive assets, etc.

Only 58% of the sample beneficiaries are satisfied with their current economic situation (Figure 8). It is worth noting that the survey was conducted during a global pandemic which dramatically impacted the livelihood of the most vulnerable population. Any progress made by the project's beneficiaries towards a successful economic reintegration can be seriously threatened by the present economic crisis.

Figure 8. Satisfaction with the current economic situation (n=264)

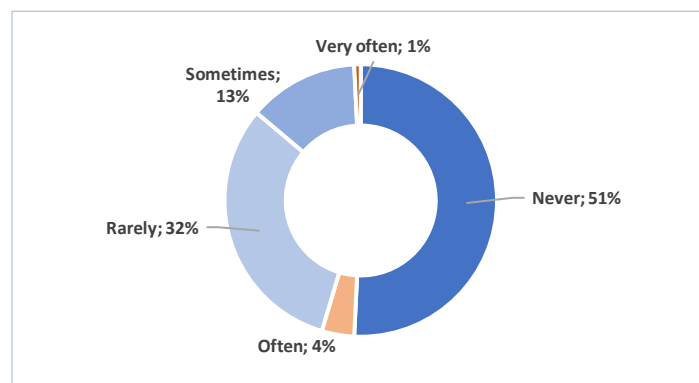


“I am dissatisfied because I am finding it difficult to meet the basic immediate needs of my family. I can't afford to rent a place, buy household items like TV that we took for granted in Germany and feeding sometimes could be difficult. For instance, while in Germany, I had a car which I used to carry my children to school now they either walk or we use a tricycle. I even had to sell my personal items such as clothes, shoes and wristwatch to make ends meet.” **Male beneficiary, Germany, Microbusiness**

“I am suffering as I cannot afford my needs. I eat once a day most times and had to send my wife and kids to the village. I even had to sell my personal belongings to make money.” **Male beneficiary, Germany, Microbusiness**

Only 50% of the respondents can afford borrowing money from family or friends to meet their needs, and only 5% often do despite their difficult situation.

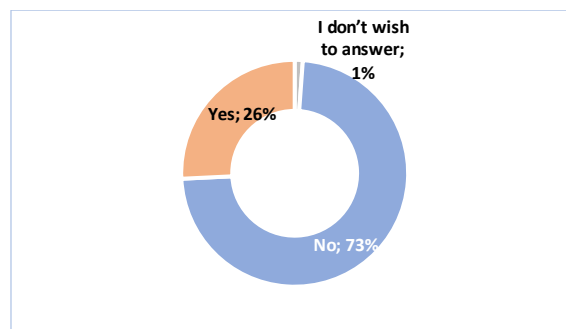


**Figure 9. How frequently do you borrow money? (n=260)**

Regarding their employment status, 35% of the respondents are currently unemployed and 25% are currently looking for a job (Figure 10). The potential explanation for these relatively higher proportions is that certain microbusinesses implemented by the beneficiaries suffered greatly during the lockdown and its subsequent economic crisis that they had to look for alternative or concomitant sources of revenue.

*“I am not satisfied with my job as I barely make enough to cater for the household. I am looking for other opportunities so my wife can manage the business.” Male beneficiary, Germany, Microbusiness.*

*“I presently make the hair of kids in the area due to the collapse of my business. I have submitted my CV to many organizations, but I have not been able to get a job.” Female beneficiary, Italy, Microbusiness and housing support.*

**Figure 10. Respondents looking for a job (n=260)**

## Recommendation 8

**Continue monitoring the economic situation of the beneficiaries and provide, to the extent possible, emergency support during the COVID-19 crisis.**

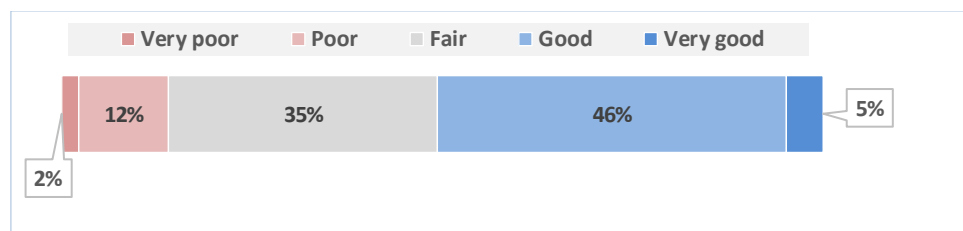
## Social Sustainability

The social dimension reflects the extent to which returnees have reached social stability within the community, including access to services relating to housing, education, justice, health, and other public infrastructure services.

Housing continue to be a source of concern for certain beneficiaries. Indeed, 14% of the respondents are currently living in an accommodation of poor or very poor standard (Figure 11). Access to clean water was also problematic for a number of beneficiaries. As

mentioned above, number of interviewed beneficiaries didn't receive any accommodation assistance. Others stated that due to their economic situation, they couldn't afford housing in areas with more quality public services.

**Figure 11. Beneficiaries standard of housing (n=262)**

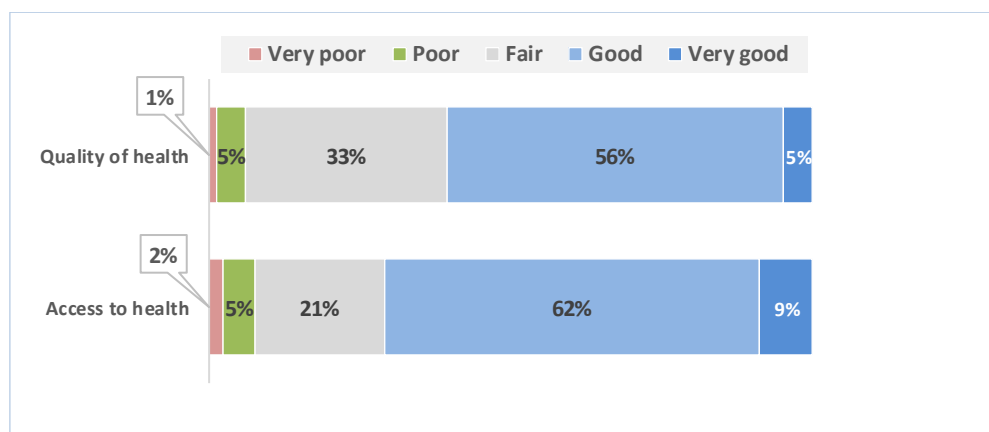


“I currently stay with my sister in a two-bedroom apartment. The location is okay, and the house is of acceptable standard within the Nigeria context.” **Female beneficiary, Germany, Microbusiness**

“I presently stay in a rented apartment. Although it is not what I would want but it is manageable. There is water only when there is light, so I fetch from my neighbor most times.” **Female beneficiary, Italy, Microbusiness**

With regards to health services, a majority of respondents have good access to health facilities and few express negative opinions about the quality of health services they have access to (Figure 12).

**Figure 12. Access to and quality of health services (n=260)**



## Recommendation 9

**Ensure all beneficiaries who are eligible based on their vulnerability assessment have access to accommodation assistance and any other relevant social assistance.**

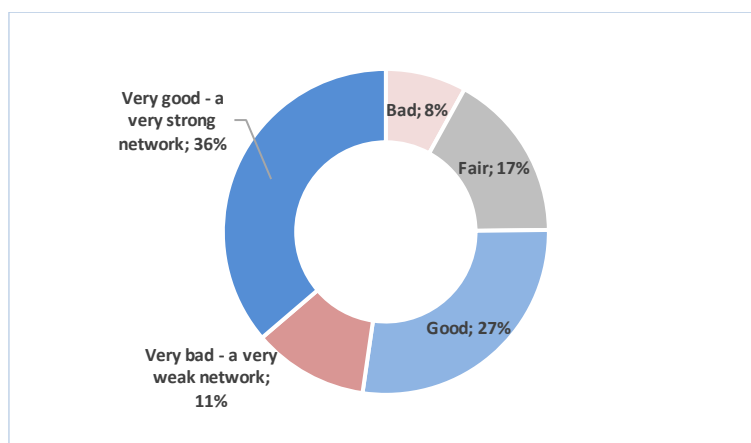
## Psychosocial Sustainability

The psychosocial dimension encompasses the emotional, mental, and psychological elements of reintegration. “Psychological”-related needs -such as the need for therapy due to a mental health concern -are just one component of the broader psychosocial dimension.

A majority of respondents (80%) report having a fair to very strong support network, ranging from family to supporting religious or social institutions (Figure 13); 85% feel

welcome in their community and very few report conflicts with their families or larger communities.

**Figure 13. Beneficiaries' social network (n=263)**



“The social life is good; my friends were supportive on my return and I attend events when invited.” **Male beneficiary, Germany, Microbusiness**

“I feel welcomed. I am an only child, so I like people around me. My family and friends have been supportive, and I socialize frequently.” **Female beneficiary, Germany, Microbusiness**

However, when asked about their sense of being discriminated against, almost a third of the respondents reported feeling sometimes or often stigmatized. This perception can take the form of being shamed by friends and family for returning with little or being reminded of their status as returned migrants during discussions or arguments.

### Sustainability mechanisms

As mentioned in the previous sections of the report, the project’s coordination structures, capacity building activities targeting partners and the partnership with the private sector were not only part of the project’s main successes, but also mechanisms on which any new phase of the project or other IOM or non-IOM reintegration initiatives can build on to ensure the results produced by the project are sustainable and continue to benefit beneficiaries and communities. For instance, the case management expert team (CMET) and the monitoring and evaluation expert team (MET), structures established by IOM under other projects and reinforced by the GIZ initiative, are led by the government, encouraging ownership of the case management process and its monitoring by the Federal Government of Nigeria and increasing the chances of the project’s results to be more sustainable in the longer term.

The various capacity building activities of the project which benefited government agencies, MRCs, CSO partners and community leaders are also an important mechanism to ensure the project’s accomplishments and its impacts won’t progressively disappear after its termination. The continued engagement of certain stakeholders can already be observed such as the initiative by community leaders to use the community dialogues to raise awareness around the COVID-19 pandemic

“The project is confident about the sustainability of its reintegration assistance by building the capacity of partners of different kind. For example, the MRC continued to organize their own sensitization activities (including online activities)

far after the end of the training. Local and traditional leaders continue using their own platforms to continue raising awareness around irregular migration. ToT were also administered to some partners so that they can train their own partners. “  
**IOM Staff.**

However, when asked about their organization’s human and financial resources and capacity to continue engaging with migrant returnees and potential migrants, some implementing partners are skeptical. While they valued IOM support and its efforts integrating them in the project’s coordination structures and building their capacities in case management, M&E and C4D, they think that their organizations simply don’t have the financial resources to continue working on reintegrating migrant returnees at this scale without external support

“Without IOM support, the organization’s ability might be reduced to continue working on awareness raising or reintegration activities. If IOM choose to let go of the baby, it might just die. It’s a behavioral changing initiative that takes time to materialize or have concrete impacts. If IOM pulls out at this time the results might just fade away. “ **Government Partner.**

“There is 1% chance for us to continue working on reintegration after IOM support. What government can provide is technical capacity. The agency is overstretched, collaborating with many actors from different horizons. Reintegration cannot be done by the government; it’s impossible without involving a variety of CSOs. Our resources are scarce versus the needs and the level of work.” **Government Partner.**

By design, and if properly planned and implemented, community-based reintegration projects have also the potential to produce larger and more sustainable results and impacts for the beneficiaries and their communities. While the project was a little late in implementing CBR projects, focus should be on documenting their implementation challenges and closely monitoring their impacts.

## GENDER

### Key findings

- The project applied a gender mainstreaming approach to its design, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

While most of the project's beneficiaries are male, a gender mainstreaming approach is applied during all the phases of the beneficiaries' journey towards reintegration. Given the individual-centered approach to assistance and reintegration, gender remains an important factor. During the screening and counselling phases, VOTs, who are mostly female, along with single mothers and pregnant females, and are primarily targeted by the intervention to identify their immediate needs (medical support, psychological support, accommodation assistance) and be referred to the appropriate partners. However, one of the challenges during the vulnerability assessment phase is that male VoTs don't, sometimes, have access to the same services. After the completion of the training, reintegration assistance is provided based on individual counselling that takes gender-specific needs into consideration.

The AWR activities of the project also ensured balanced gender representation for the trained community facilitators, the trained MRC staff and more generally for all its AWR events.

“C4D approach ensures adequate representation of women in all various events, including training and capacity building. All materials produced by the project are gender sensitive. Music for social cohesion concert ensured an appropriate representation of women. This resulted in a more active participation by women. Females are more comfortable speaking. It helped, during community dialogues, to increase engagement and attendance by the overall community.” **IOM Staff**

METs are gender balanced and gender equity is maintained when dealing with partners and other stakeholders. Field monitoring teams are also gender balanced when conducting site visits to ensure female projects are properly monitored and documented. In the various project reporting products, data is always disaggregated by gender and type of vulnerability.

## ANNEXES

### Annex 1. List of Key-informants

List of Stakeholders	Name	Location
<b>Project IOM Staff</b>		
Project Manager	Alex Cole	Lagos
Migrant Protection and Assistance Officer	Saskia Kok	Lagos
Assisted Voluntary Return & Reintegration (AVRR) Unit Senior Staff	Elizabeth Onyinyechukwu Ajuonuma	Lagos
AVRR Caseworkers	Bose Ibirinde Oyinda Tihamiyu	Abuja, Lagos, Edo
Project M&E	EZE Hyginus	Lagos
MHPSS Unit	AYU Narulita Olufunke OGUNDERU	Lagos
Protection Unit	MBUGUA Ruth	Lagos
Awareness Raising Unit	CHEPTEPKENY Cyprine OSUBOR James	Lagos
Head of Benin Sub-Office	Wintana Tarekegn	Benin
Data Management Unit	OLOKODE Oluwaseyi	Lagos
Procurement & Logistics Unit	ZAVERTANA Iuliia	Lagos
Finance Unit	Michael Abdul	Lagos
<b>Implementing Partners</b>		
National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI)	Joyce Opara	Abuja
Patriotic Citizens Initiative	Osita Osemene	Lagos
Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment - Migrant Resource Centre) (MRC)	Joyce Opara Magaret Ukagbu	Abuja, Lagos
Edo State Taskforce Against Human Trafficking (ETAHT)	Lilian Garuba	Edo
National Orientation Agency	Alile Hepzibah Osariemen Gladys Omokhodu	Edo, Delta
Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment FMLE (MRC Lagos and Benin)	Owie Mienye Badejo	Lagos, Benin
<b>Donor</b>		

GIZ	Sandra Vermuijten	Lagos
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