

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

This evaluation brief presents a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as identified by the evaluator(s) for use by key stakeholders, including internally by IOM staff and externally by project partners. More details can be found in the full evaluation report.

Evaluation type:	Final Internal Evaluation
Evaluator(s):	Mr. Abderrahim El Moulart
Field visit dates:	Remote evaluation
Final report date:	04 January 2021
Commissioned by:	IOM Nigeria
Managed by:	Ms. Alex Cole

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

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

Evaluation methodology: The evaluation used a combination of methods: (1) Review of project documentation and reports submitted by IOM; (2) 20 Individual Key Informant Interviews with all stakeholders: IOM, GIZ, Implementing partners, etc.; (3) AVRR quantitative surveys with 100 beneficiaries; (4) Interviews with 20 beneficiaries; (5) Five case studies with select beneficiaries.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The 'Nigeria: Project Strengthening Assistance for Returnees and Potential Migrants and Promoting Safe Migration Practices' commenced in January 2019. The project aims 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, Lagos, Abuja FCT and Ogun States. The project has two specific components: **Support (1) returning migrants, potential migrants and their communities of origin to achieve economic self-sufficiency, social stability and psychosocial wellbeing ; and (2) Returnees, potential migrants, and their communities to make safe and informed migration related decisions.**

The first component has three main results: (1) Returning migrants, and potential migrants have increased access to a variety of economic and social reintegration opportunities; (2) Returning migrants and their families have enhanced financial literacy and access to debt mediation support; and (3) Returnees, potential migrants, and their communities of origin have access to community based livelihood opportunities.

The second component has one main expected result: (1) Returnees and their communities have knowledge on safe migration practices, the risks of irregular migration, and livelihood options available at home.

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Nigeria
Project type:	Return Assistance to Migrants and Governments (RT)
Project code:	RR.0043
Gender marker:	N/A
Project period:	1 January 2019 – 30 October 2020
Donor:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

The project engaged and coordinated with relevant Government Ministries and Agencies involved in reintegration process such as 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), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Youth and Sports, and the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, and the National Orientation Agency (NOA). The project also benefited from the technical follow-up and support from the existing working groups on Return and Reintegration and Labour Migration.

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

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 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.

Effectiveness

- 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.
- 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.

Efficiency

- The project's financial resources were enough to attain its targets and objectives but their allocation could have been more balanced.

Impact

- 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.
- Beneficiaries and community leaders are generally satisfied with 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.
- 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.

GOOD PRACTICES

- Private partnership is an innovative and promising approach, which impacts and concrete results need time to materialize.
- Baseline sustainability survey allowed the project to target its intervention and to more effectively assess its performance.
- Cost sharing with other IOM AVRR allowed the project to improve its efficiency and increase its reach.
- Efforts were made to mainstream gender and provide gender-disaggregated data.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Generalize the accommodation assistance and better target the psychological assistance.
2. Continue engagement with the private sector and document the challenges, the best practices and the results of these partnerships for future interventions.
3. Complete the debt study and integrate its findings and recommendations in any potential new phase of the project or any new AVRR initiatives.
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.
5. Collect more systematic and periodic monitoring qualitative data on the results of the assistance and the social and economic sustainability of reintegration.
6. Continue monitoring the economic situation of the beneficiaries and provide, to the extent possible, emergency support during the COVID-19 crisis.
7. Ensure all beneficiaries who are eligible based on their vulnerability assessment have access to accommodation assistance and any other relevant social assistance.