



IOM Development Fund
DEVELOPING CAPACITIES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

IOM DEVELOPMENT FUND IN CENTRAL ASIA:

PROJECT ACTIVITY FROM 2013 – 2017

A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OBJECTIVE

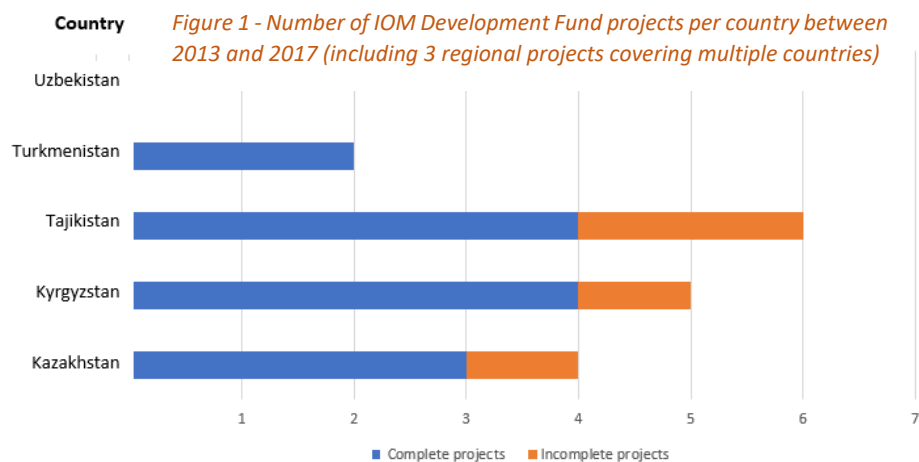
The [IOM Development Fund](#) is a unique global resource which supports eligible developing Member States in their efforts to strengthen their migration management capacity. This review aims to provide an analysis of the broader migration trends in Central Asia, while simultaneously reviewing active and completed projects funded by the IOM Development Fund from 2013 to 2017 as well as highlighting best practices and notable successes of these projects. Findings and recommendations from the review will inform future project development and implementation and ensure efficient use of funding to achieve the goal of the Fund as seed funding in enhancing migration management practices and promoting humane and orderly migration. Importantly, this review will also identify challenges and risks pertaining to project design and implementation in Central Asia, so they can be mitigated against in the future.

METHODOLOGY

Parameters

This review provides an analysis of IOM Development Fund projects under the jurisdiction of the Regional Office (RO) Vienna, Austria, which covers South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEECA). For consistency, depth and breadth of analysis, this review focuses on projects spanning multiple thematic areas funded between 2013 and 2017 – amounting to 13 projects in total. The countries in Central Asia noted in this report are as follows:

1. Kazakhstan
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. Tajikistan
4. Turkmenistan
5. Uzbekistan



Data collection

The review will primarily rely on mapping exercises to collect qualitative and quantitative data based on project summaries, interim and final reports, among other reporting materials which synthesised variables such as funding level, project duration, thematic area, desired outcomes, challenges, and extent of project revisions. The projects covered in this review are in different stages of completion and more recent projects are still on-going and therefore may not have interim or final reports at the time of this review.

Analysis

Due to the varying levels of project completion, the extent to which certain data points have been reported also varied. For this reason, some findings and conclusions were formed under one or more of the following three tiers:

1. Completed projects
2. Projects in progress (with at least one interim report available)
3. Projects in progress (with no finalized interim reports to date)

The data analysed in this review is organised by thematic area under the corresponding IOM divisions:

1. Labour Mobility and Human Development Division (LHD)
2. Immigration and Border Management Division (IBM)
3. Migration Health Division (MHD)
4. Migrant Protection and Assistance Division (MPA)
5. Transition and Recovery Division (TRD)

Limitations

Although this review aims to provide a detailed analysis of IOM Development Fund projects in Central Asia, there are certain limitations to consider. One of them is the inherent difficulty of gathering accurate data from standardised reports which may be - in some ways - insufficient in capturing the nuances of every project. Another limitation is the difficulty in operationalising qualitative variables, especially with a sample size of 13 projects. Therefore, qualitative categories such as challenges, objectives and evaluations were not coded, but rather discussed thematically.

CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Central Asia encompasses the States of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and is one of the regions which has witnessed mixed migration flows of refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants. Across the region, people engage in a variety of movements with regard to the duration, geographical scope and purpose¹ and the region has seen a significant increase in the number of migrants over the last decade who seek employment opportunities overseas including among Central Asian States themselves. Migration trends in the region are characterised by certain



Figure 2 - Map of Central Asian Countries

¹ "Addressing Mixed Migration Flows through Capacity Building in Central Asia", International Organization for Migration Project Folders- [link](#) last accessed 27/08/2018.

persisting factors: high population growth in the southern rim (especially in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) and subsequent youth unemployment as well as imbalance on the local labour markets, particularly in certain sectors including agriculture, construction and child and elderly care.² According to the official statistics of the Republic of Tajikistan, 800,000 Tajiks sought employment abroad in 2013, compared to 262,000 in 2001. The national statistics of the Kyrgyz Republic demonstrate that, by 2010, over 900,000 Kyrgyz nationals had left the countries, the majority of which was for employment related reasons, and this emigration trend still continues. Kazakhstan has over 1 million foreign residents, the majority of them from Central Asian States and other neighbouring countries while a large number of Kazakh nationals also reside overseas (e.g. 627,000 in the Russian Federation as of March 2015). Uzbekistan is predominantly a country of emigration and the major factors fuelling emigration are lack of local employment opportunities, higher wages abroad, visa-free movement and similarity in culture and mentality (in case of neighbouring countries).³

Migration management has increasingly become a priority for Central Asian States in the last decade, with migrant workers contributing to economic development and poverty reduction in the region.⁴ A number of challenges still exist in the field of migration management and in a report addressing migration and remittance flows, the majority of Central Asian States required assistance in building technical capacity and strengthening legislative policies, particularly for improving the protection of migrants in vulnerable situations.⁵ As of 2017, it is estimated that there are over 10 million migrants in Central Asia⁶ and Migration in the region is characterised not only by individuals moving out of the region but also movements within the region; Kazakhstan, for example, has seen a drastic increase in the number of migrants from other Central Asian States working in construction and service industries. As previously mentioned, migration in this region is often fueled by factors such as youth unemployment and imbalance on local labour markets. As a result, various stable migratory patterns have emerged, including the following:

- Large-scale labour migration from Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan to the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan
- Local cross-border trade and seasonal work between neighbouring countries
- Return of migrants to their countries of origin and family reunification

In a report from the Federal Migration Service of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan, data suggests that as many as 4,268,000 nationals of the five Central Asian countries resided in the Russian Federation as of March 2015 and 607,662 individuals from four Central Asian countries were temporary residents in Kazakhstan in 2013.⁷

The Regional Strategy for the IOM Regional Office for South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia states that emerging migration trends indicate an increase in economic migration without sufficient

² "Addressing Mixed Migration Flows through Capacity Building in Central Asia", International Organization for Migration Project Folders- [link](#) last accessed 27/08/2018.

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Migration and Remittance Flows in Europe and Central Asia: Recent Trends and Outlook, 2013-2016", World Bank Group- [link](#) last accessed 27/08/2018.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "Migration Takes Centre Stage in Central Asia", International Organisation for Migration-- [link](#) last accessed 27/08/2018

⁷ Data of the Federal Migration Service of Russia and of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan.

policy and legislation regulating migration in the region.⁸ Migrants being often unaware of their rights and facing integration issues is a prevalent challenge in Central Asia. The Regional Office Vienna supports Central Asian governments in their migration management efforts through:

- Addressing their capacity building needs
- Ensuring active government contribution
- Coordinating responses with UN partners
- Engaging with non-governmental actors
- Prioritising needs of migrant populations and addressing the knowledge management gap

The objective of this is to facilitate labour mobility focusing on the developmental impact of migration, protect existent migrants and enhance migration and border management systems.⁹

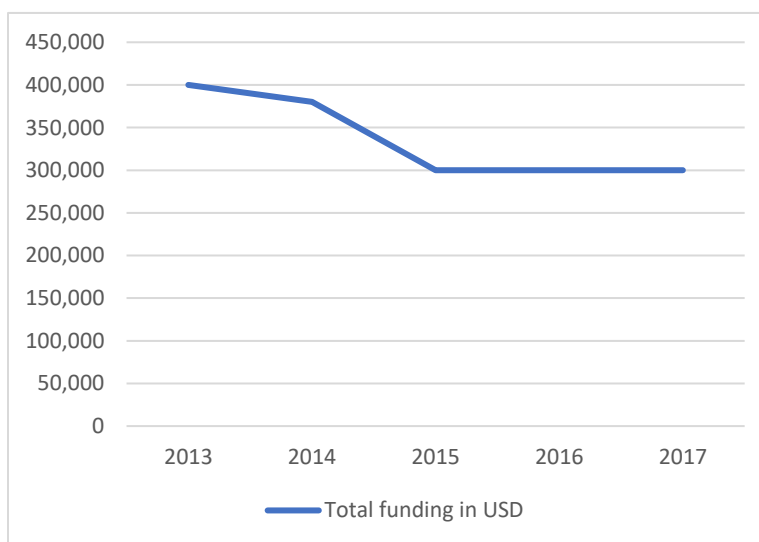
IOM Development Fund Project Synthesis

2013-2017 ACTIVITY

The IOM Development Fund's global funding from 2013 to 2017 was close to USD 41 million, of which approximately 3% was allocated for projects in Central Asia. Annual funding for the region has been in the range of USD 300,000 – 400,000 during this period. From 2013 to 2015, there were three projects each year and in 2016 and 2017 there were two projects per year, each having a longer duration and larger budget.

Figure 3 represents the funding allocated for the region each year in USD (labelled 'Total Funding'). Average project duration of these 13 projects in Central Asia is 14.4 months, with the longest being 24 months and the shortest being four months. Most projects in this region are implemented and completed on time with minimal project revisions. Out of the target projects for this review, only two of them had project revisions: one was a project duration

Figure 3 - Total Funding from 2013-2017 in USD



⁸ "Regional Strategy", International Organisation for Migration- Regional Office for South- Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia- [link](#) last accessed 27/08/2018.

⁹ Ibid.

revision with four month no cost extension and the other was a budget revision for having leftover funding which could be reallocated for the implementation of additional activities.

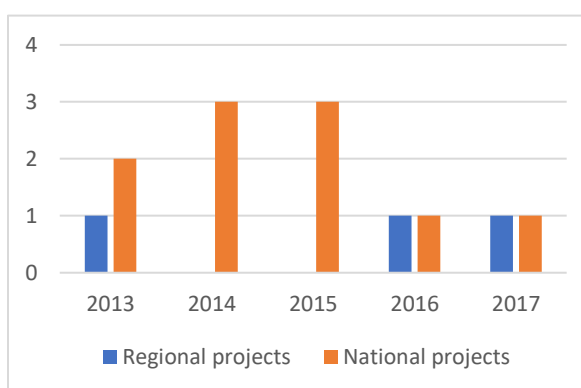
As per the IOM Development Fund's financial guidelines¹⁰, out of the total funding spent during these five years (USD 1,225,891), 30% of expenditures were administrative costs (staff and office costs) and 70% were operational costs (as derived from financial reports). Two projects from 2016 and 2017 funding allocations are still on-going at the time of this review and information on project expenditures will need to be updated upon progress.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

This review targeted 13 projects in total with three regional projects and 10 national projects. Two regional projects and one national project are still active, making it more difficult to extrapolate data based on outcomes and challenges. The three regional projects from 2013 to 2017 have involved the following countries:

1. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan
2. Tajikistan, the Russian Federation
3. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan

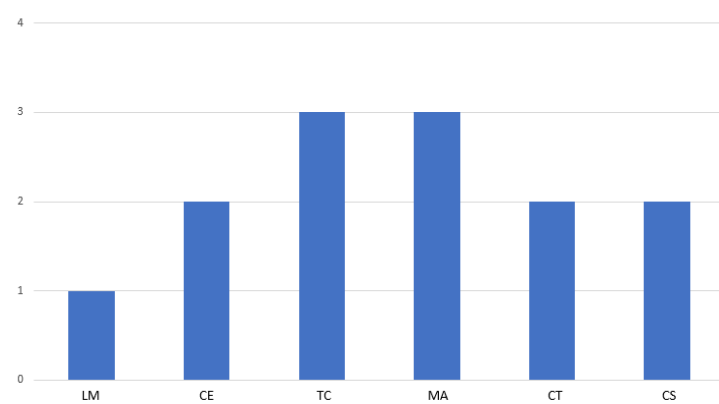
Figure 4 - Geographical coverage of projects per year at regional and national levels



THEMATIC AREA COVERAGE

In general, there is a fairly even number of projects per thematic area from 2013 to 2017, considering the limited number of projects implemented in Central Asia. Figure 5 is a visual representation of the number of projects funded by the IOM Development Fund by thematic area:

Figure 5 - Number of projects funded from 2013- 2017 by thematic area



1. **LM** - Labour Migration
2. **CE** - Migration and Economic/Community Development
3. **TC** - Immigration and Border Management
4. **MA** - Health Promotion and Assistance to Migrants
5. **CT** - Counter-Trafficking
6. **CS** - Community Stabilisation

¹⁰ Financial Guidelines for IOM Development Fund Projects:

https://developmentfund.iom.int/sites/default/files/documents/Financial%20Guidelines/IOM%20Development%20Fund%20Financial%20Guidelines_2017_PRIMA_FINAL.pdf

PROJECT ANALYSIS BY THEMATIC AREA

LABOUR MIGRATION

IOM aims to maximise the benefits of labour migration for the countries of origin and destination as well as for migrants themselves. This can be achieved through building capacities in migration management, supporting legislative and policy-based development, assisting governments in promoting safe practices for migrants and facilitating ethical recruitment and integration of workers in their new societies.

The current labour migration model in Central Asia involves migrants filling gaps in the labour market in their countries of destination (mainly in the Russian Federation or Republic of Kazakhstan) by engaging in jobs which are less attractive for the nationals, often in the informal sector, where they lack access to legal protection and are uninformed of their rights, leaving them vulnerable to potential exploitation by recruiters and employers.¹¹

The Kyrgyz Republic and Republic of Tajikistan have signed bilateral agreements with Kazakhstan to regulate labour migration and protect migrants' rights. In addition, Kyrgyzstan specifically intends to aim labour market policy at ensuring social and economic development, having solid legal and legislative bases, and recognising international agreements in order to create enabling conditions for the dynamic development of communities and the country.

During the period of 2013-2017, one labour migration project was conducted in Kyrgyzstan with the 2013 funding allocation of the Fund: *"LM.0226- Best Practices in Managing the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Systems as a Component of the Organized Labour Migration Scheme"*. The project aimed to place the devised curricula for new professions into practice. Participating vocational schools applied the knowledge they gained from the study visits for effectively managing their own schools. Overall, all planned activities were implemented and completed utilising the planned budget, even surpassing a few output targets and achieving others successfully. A few key beneficiaries of the project included the Agency for Vocational Education and Training (AVET) under the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Youth, the Republican Scientific Methodology Centre, pilot vocational schools and potential migrant workers. The outcome of the project was positive with activities implemented successfully and efficiently without much difficulties.

MIGRATION AND ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Projects under this thematic area aim to harness the benefits of migration for the development of countries of origin and destination. Initiatives often focus on building the capacity of governments and other stakeholders in countries of origin to communicate with their diaspora communities and engage them in initiatives related to home country socio-economic development, and on contributing to the establishment of more development-oriented migration policies. Activities aim to address root causes of economically motivated migration, by enhancing the ability of governments and other key actors to focus development actions more strategically on home country migration dynamics.

¹¹ "Labour Migration"- International Labour Organisation publication- [link](#) last accessed 27/08/2018.

In Central Asia there were two projects undertaken in Tajikistan between 2013 and 2017, both focused on engaging migrants and raising awareness on development initiatives which were mutually beneficial to their countries of destination and their communities of origin in Tajikistan. Both projects were successfully implemented and had long term effects such as improved practical engagement between the Government of Tajikistan and the diaspora community and increased coordination among government agencies to maximise positive benefits of migration. These projects also contributed to further mobilisation and networking of governmental and non-governmental organisations, increased network capacity for children and their parents in pursuing education and enhanced awareness on the importance of education for the future generation.

The Government of Tajikistan requested IOM's assistance with their "2011-2014 Action Plan" which was provided to them in the form of the IOM Development Fund project "**CE.0219- Engaging the Tajik Diaspora in Development**". The project focused on improving practical engagement of the Government of Tajikistan with the Tajik diaspora in development processes and increasing coordination among governmental agencies and ownership in maximizing positive benefits of migration. The project also supported female migrants in entrepreneurial activities and conducting youth support groups for younger members of the diaspora community.

The second project, "**CE.0275- Awareness-raising and Local Stakeholder Mobilisation about Social Impact of Migration on Children from Migrant Households in Khatlon Oblast, Tajikistan**" facilitated the Government of Tajikistan's efforts to safeguard children's right to education, launched activities related to counselling and support in education for children and their parents and raised awareness on the value of education for the country. This was delivered through prioritising mobilisation and networking of government institutions, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), teachers, religious leaders and diaspora members.

Both projects were successful and reached intended outcomes, however **CE.0219** required a project duration revision of four months (without any additional funding allocation). A few other challenges faced by this project include the cancellation of two activities due to budget constraints and the restructuring of government ministries and departments as a result of the presidential elections in November 2013, which affected the project implementation. **CE.0275** experienced a few different challenges. The leading ministry of the project requested for a change in the target geographical area of the project and in the end the project chose a district to ensure high activity impacts as well as no additional expenses incurred. There was also a change in activity focus relating to the summer school: instead of learning Russian, participants were informed of the value of education, given the school dropout rate which was associated with a lack of awareness about their educational rights.

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

The main aim of the Immigration and Border Management Division (IBM) is to build the capacity of governments and other relevant institutions to address migration issues through comprehensive and coherent approaches to immigration and border management processes. Key projects often entail the improvement in border management systems and providing training programmes for immigration and border officials which aim to enhance security and facilitation as well as to ensure respect for the rights of migrants.

In Central Asia, trends suggest a slight decrease in funding from 2013 to 2017 for IBM projects. The first project in 2013, **“TC.0729- Mapping on Irregular Migration in Central Asia”** was a result of government authorities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan aiming to adopt effective measures to counter irregular migration in a manner aligned with international standards. Project beneficiaries included the government ministries of all three countries. During the second project, **“TC.0893- Gender Mainstreaming for Secure Borders in Tajikistan (GEMSBO)”**, gender mainstreaming was addressed at the policy level by implementing an institutionalised gender self-assessment within the border management system of Tajikistan. Both these projects were successfully implemented, achieving all set outcomes. There is no project interim report available to date for **“TC.1080- Strengthening Border Management in Turkmenistan by contributing to a Modernised Visa System and Pre-Arrival Exchange of Information”** as it started on 1 January 2018.

Challenges faced in **TC.0729** include the reluctance of government agencies to share statistical data, scarcity and limited comparability of qualitative data and change in the government personnel. **TC.0893** had a budget balance after completing all planned activities and requested for utilisation of the remaining budget on additional activities. The implementing mission completed all the activities within the project duration after a budget reallocation for the new activities.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS

The Migration Health Division (MHD) of IOM promotes health programmes which are comprehensive, preventive and equitable for migrants and mobile populations. Often migrants do not have access to health care services due to several reasons including social and linguistic barriers, immigration status or a lack of migrant-inclusive health policies.

From 2013-2017, there were three migration health projects in Central Asia. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the Russian Federation are listed among the top eight World Health Organisation’s high Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) burden countries. These Central Asian countries are mainly countries of origin of labour migrants heading to the Russian Federation and needs are identified for an increase in cross-border activities to combat tuberculosis and its multi-resistant strains.

Tuberculosis is a major health concern in Central Asia, posing a severe threat to 10 million migrants in the region. Migrants face health hazards throughout the migration process- their limited access to health services leads to late detection of the disease, irregular and unfinished treatment and often relapses. There are also an increasing number of patients with MDR-TB, which is difficult to treat without adequate healthcare. IOM Tajikistan provides support to Tuberculosis patients through capacity building of primary healthcare and social workers in the community in order to produce improved results from treatment. This is demonstrated in the active project **“MA.0375- Technical Support and Capacity Building to Improve Cross Border TB Control and Care of Tajik Migrant Workers”**. This project aims to ensure the right to healthcare for Tajik migrants, especially tuberculosis patients, in partnership with the health, labour and border management sectors of the Governments of Tajikistan and the Russian Federation. Through the planned activities, the project contributes to improved primary healthcare, tuberculosis services, case detection and treatment adherence among Tajik migrants.

Another project, “**MA.0377- Towards an Effective Migrants’ Right to Health in Central Asia: Assisting Governments in Enhancing the Provision of Health Services for Migrants**” aimed at protecting migrants’ right to health by increasing availability and accessibility of health services for migrants in Central Asia through effective health policies and legislation. The project achieved significant results, contributed to raising awareness on the importance of migrant health issues in Kyrgyzstan and laid the foundation for improving future migrant health in the region by developing a network of strategic cooperation with government and non-governmental stakeholders.

Challenges encountered during these projects included limited availability of local expertise on migrant health issues at the national level, which led to difficulties in securing commitments from the stakeholders for resources and policy development, delays in signing cooperation agreements between countries involved (**MA.0375**), and a delay in acquiring informational, educational and communication materials to be distributed among migrants.

Overall, the two projects have been completed within the budget, maintaining quality standards, achieving significant success and raising awareness for future actions in the health sector. The on-going project, **MA.0375**, has successfully implemented several activities, which will be reporting in the first interim report.

COUNTER TRAFFICKING

Prevention, protection and prosecution are the key responses for countering human trafficking and cooperation among governments, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and development partners is crucial for combatting trafficking practices globally. IOM approaches the issue of human trafficking with respect for human rights while ensuring physical, mental and social wellbeing of individuals. IOM’s interventions aim at achieving these objectives by developing the respective governments’ capacities in strengthening policies and procedures to identify and protect trafficked persons, improving legislation, preventing occurrences of human trafficking and ensuring the prosecution of perpetrators.

In Central Asia, the IOM Development Fund has supported two projects between 2013 and 2017, one of them being a special report on combating trafficking in Kazakhstan and the other a regional project in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The first project, “**CT.0770- Special Report on Combating Trafficking in Persons in Kazakhstan**” aimed to strengthen anti-trafficking response in Kazakhstan by conducting and publishing a study assessing the national response and identifying gaps in the current anti-trafficking practices. The project “**CT.1061-Combating Trafficking in Persons by Addressing Online Recruitment in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan**” is an ongoing project with the objective of improving national legislation for countering potential trafficking taking place through online recruitment. The project aims to achieve it by having trained law enforcement and NGOs employ skills and knowledge gained in project activities to implement current and future anti-trafficking strategies on the Internet. Main beneficiaries of both projects include officials from national government institutions.

The project **CT.0770** successfully implemented project activities and achieved its intended outcomes within the timeframe and without encountering major challenges. For **CT.1061**, experts are in the process of conducting assessments examining the use of the Internet by recruiters in all three countries. There has been a delay in the creation of terms of reference for the development of the mobile application for

human trafficking awareness, however all stakeholders actively support the implementation of the project. During the next reporting period, a review and discussion of the assessment is planned, which will gather inputs from stakeholders to formulate recommendations for future action.

COMMUNITY STABILISATION INITIATIVES

The main objective of interventions under this thematic area is to assist governments and mobile and vulnerable populations to recover from the effects of natural disasters, environmental degradation, human rights violations, instability and conflicts. Project activities often include support to the formulation and implementation of recovery plans to enable forced migrants, return communities and vulnerable populations to make the transition from the emergency relief stage to mid- and long-term stabilisation through the achievement of durable solutions to displacement and the enhancement of communities' resilience capacity. Project activities also provide technical expertise and assistance on post-crisis needs assessments, social infrastructure and livelihood recovery, return and reintegration efforts, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, conflict mitigation and peace building from a migration-related perspective.

Environmental factors also have had a long-standing effect on migration. IOM approaches this issue by studying patterns and links between environmental changes and migration, thus working to reduce the vulnerability of populations and migrants exposed to potential risks. Climate change is one such factor driving several populations to move within and across borders. Events such as increasingly intense weather, sea-level rise and growth in environmental degradation are major factors contributing to migration.

From 2013-2017, two projects in Central Asia have taken place under this thematic area. Beneficiaries include students, national government institutions, academia, environmental migrants and communities. In the first project, *"CS.0702- Assessing the Current and Future Dynamics of Environmental Migration for Enhanced Policy Making: Kyrgyzstan"*, awareness and capacity were raised among the national research community for research and expertise on environmental emergencies. The team faced challenges pertaining to finding experienced data collectors when field studies were being conducted. This was because the survey planning in place proved to be fairly time and energy consuming and potential risks in terms of data quality were identified, therefore a new research team was hired to focus on the implementation and analysis of the survey. Another challenge was the unanticipated limited analytical capacities of the researchers hired which proved to be problematic, however the primary investigator effectively addressed this issue and this challenge was not detrimental to the overall project.

The second project, *"CS.0738- Strengthening the Capacity in Migration Management in the Regions with Trans-Boundary Water Resources, in the Context of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation"*, was implemented in Kazakhstan to improve legal framework in order to reduce risks and raise awareness amongst migrants, with a view to preventing forced migration caused by environmental factors, particularly those caused by water resources. The project faced a few challenges in the form of change in personnel, human resources constraints and information resource restrictions, which caused a delay in receiving data from the experts. IOM addressed these challenges by building a working relationship with the newly appointed Vice Minister of Internal Affairs and regularly having exchanges with the team on the progress of the project.

Both projects were successful in initiating reforms to address environmental migration as well as effectively working with the government counterparts in this field. They raised awareness and understanding on this topic and provided tools for further research and actions to take place, in order for ‘forced environmental migration’ to be regulated. Long term impact for environmental migrants was ensured as a result of both of these projects.

KEY FINDINGS

Although Central Asia only had 13 projects between 2013 and 2017, there are a number of lessons to be learned from the development and implementation of these projects. Reviewing these projects helps identify common areas of interest and challenges in this region and can contribute to recommendations for future projects, in order to ensure that the funds are best spent and contribute to long lasting impacts.

Key Takeaways:

1. Projects in Central Asia between 2013 and 2017, across thematic areas, have successfully enhanced practical engagement of government counterparts in migration related issues which respond to unique migration patterns and trends in the region, with a particular focus on migrant and diaspora engagement for maximising developmental impact of migration, enhanced border management with relevant gender consideration, migration health awareness raising and policy development, strengthened anti-trafficking response, and addressing forced environmental migration.
2. Common challenges faced in these projects include a change in the government leadership and personnel.
3. All completed projects in Central Asia from 2013 to 2017 have been successful in achieving intended outcomes within the planned budget, with only two project revisions in total (one budget revision and one duration revision of four month no-cost extension).

CHALLENGES

Regional

1. Limited availability of statistical data and reluctance of project partners in data sharing
2. Limited comparability of statistical data and scarcity of qualitative data
3. Difficulties in recruiting qualified migration experts at the national level and discrepancies in technical capacities of project partners
4. Changes in government structures and personnel during project implementation
5. Delays in the government approval or validation of documents, materials and tools developed in the project (e.g. terms of reference, information materials and guidelines) sometimes due to reasons relating to (4).
6. Delay in signing agreements among high profile project partners
7. Budget constraints which hinder conducting all activities the project wished to implement

Country Level

Kazakhstan

1. Change in the government structure and personnel
2. Human resources constraints
3. Information resources constraints.

Kyrgyzstan

1. Insufficient capacity of data collectors which hinders quality data collection and analytical work later on
2. Unanticipated limited analytical capacities of researchers hired
3. Limited availability of knowledge base and local expertise on migrant health issues

Tajikistan

1. Delay in research activities due to changes undergone by diaspora mapping
2. Restructuring of government ministries and departments after elections
3. Change in target geographical area of the project upon request from the government counterpart
4. Unexpected low number of beneficiaries

Turkmenistan

1. No challenges reported

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Thoroughly assess, prior to hiring, the capacity of candidates for data collectors and consultants/researchers in qualitative and quantitative data collection and research, in order to ensure availability of accurate baseline data and quality analysis which is publishable.
- Effectively utilise both international and national expertise in a complementary manner so national expertise is fully recognised and also further developed through projects supported by the Fund.
- Undertake needs assessments and feasibility studies before starting projects to the extent possible.
- Enhance risk analysis and develop a solid risk management plan, particularly to be prepared for and mitigate impacts from “unforeseen” government turnover or election cycles which were often reported in this region.
- Ensure early and constant liaison with stakeholders and partners including government counterparts to build a strong relationship, as well as prevent and quickly address challenges.
- Better assess the amount of time required to implement project activities (and consider limiting the outcomes) and take measures to prepare for the start of the project, to avoid later requesting for a project duration revision (no cost extension).
- Further promote regional projects which address challenges pertaining to migration patterns and trends specific to Central Asia.
- Take note of previous project reports and reviews, in order to build on lessons learned.
- For sustainability:

- Ensure a continued, close and sound relationship with the relevant government counterparts and stakeholders and also establish strong focal points particularly in target governments that can be capitalised on in the future.
- Encourage communication between projects in the region in order to collectively overcome challenges and borrow knowledge from each other.
- Ensure consultation and involvement of civil society in the design, implementation and evaluation of migration related initiatives

ANNEXES

Annex I

LIST OF IOM DEVELOPMENT FUND PROJECTS FROM 2013- 2017

Funding Year	Project Code	Country	Project Name	Budget allocated (USD)
2013	LM.0226	Kyrgyzstan	Best Practices in Managing the Vocational Education and Training (VET) Systems as a Component of the Organized Labour Migration Scheme – Kyrgyzstan.	100,000
2013	CE.0219	Tajikistan	Engaging the Tajik Diaspora in Development.	150,000
2014	CE.0275	Tajikistan	Awareness-raising and Local Stakeholder Mobilization about Social Impact of Migration on Children from Migrant Households in Khatlon Oblast, Tajikistan.	130,000
2013	TC.0729	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan	Mapping on Irregular Migration in Central Asia.	150,000
2015	TC.0893	Tajikistan	Gender Mainstreaming for Secure Borders in Tajikistan (GEMSBO).	100,000
2017	TC.1080	Turkmenistan	Strengthening Border Management in Turkmenistan by contributing to a Modernised Visa System and Pre-Arrival Exchange of Information.	100,000
2014	MA.0311	Turkmenistan	Addressing Migration Related Health Issues in Turkmenistan.	100,000
2016	MA.0375	Tajikistan, Russian Federation	Technical Support and Capacity Building to Improve Cross Border TB Control and Care of Tajik Migrant Workers.	200,000
2016	MA.0377	Kyrgyzstan	Towards an Effective Migrants' Right to Health in Central Asia: Assisting Governments in Enhancing the Provision of Health Services for Migrants.	100,000
2014	CT.0770	Kazakhstan	Special Report on Combating Trafficking in Persons in Kazakhstan.	150,000
2017	CT.1061	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan	Combating Trafficking in Persons by Addressing Online Recruitment in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.	200,000
2015	CS.0702	Kyrgyzstan	Assessing the Current and Future Dynamics of Environmental Migration for Enhanced Policy Making: Kyrgyzstan.	100,000
2015	CS.0738	Kazakhstan	Strengthening the Capacity in Migration Management in the Regions with Trans-Boundary Water Resources, in the Context of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation, in Kazakhstan.	100,000

Annex II

OTHER STEPS TAKEN BY IOM TO IMPROVE MIGRATION MANAGEMENT

The [Regional Migration Programme](#) (RMP) 2010-2015 aimed to contribute to poverty reduction in Central Asia by improving the livelihoods of migrant men and women by protecting their rights and enhancing social and economic opportunities for migrants and their families. RMP was implemented by IOM, UN

Women and the World Bank Group in partnership with state and non-state partners from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Russia as well as other international and regional organisations.

Outcomes have included:

1. Support for the development of 30 policy and legal documents pertaining to labour migration in all four countries;
2. Over 3,700 state and non- state actors improved their skills and knowledge on efficient labour migration management through different awareness events, training and regional seminars;
3. Creation and support for infrastructure assisting migrants through migration services within five years:
4. 253 labour migrants from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan were enrolled in the pilot organised recruitment scheme;
5. Over 500,000 people reached by direct information campaigns to improve legal education and preparedness for labour migration and 10 million people were reached through indirect outreach measures;
6. A course on media and gender-responsive migration in the curriculum of Kazakhstan National University's journalism faculty;
7. Discrimination and xenophobia against migrants and their families were tackled by the Media and Migration Network;
8. Over 21,300 rural women in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan were provided with free legal assistance to ensure protection of their family rights.

RMP has been a cross disciplinary regional programme on labour migration in Central Asia, bringing together countries of origin and destination in the context of regional labour migration in order to initiate dialogue and a regular exchange of experiences on regulating the migration process. RMP has demonstrated that results can be achieved by promoting migration for development with consideration for gender and human rights. The RMP also promotes a human rights-based approach by focusing on the protection of migrant workers' rights, promotion of their social adaptation and integration into their new societies, addressing the needs of families left behind and preventing forced labour and violence against migrants and their families. The RMP was successful in establishing practical models of cooperation between state and non- state organisations, which will have long term benefits for migrants in Central Asia.