

The present evaluation summary provides a synthesis of the main findings, conclusions, and recommendations derived from the analysis of interventions, lessons learned, and best practices. The report can be utilized by stakeholders, coordinating agencies and project partners.

Evaluation type: Final Evaluation.
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Developed by: SIMPLE — ANALÍTICA DE DATOS.
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Commissioned by: IOM Ecuador, UN Women Ecuador, and UNDP Ecuador.
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Objective of the evaluation: Conduct an external evaluation of the Socioeconomic Integration Project for migrants in Ecuador.

Evaluation criteria: The criteria used were: Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability. For best practices, these criteria were considered in relation to areas concerning the replicability and coordination of the inter-agency project implementation process.

Evaluation methodology: The final evaluation employed a mixed-methods approach, incorporating both quantitative (survey data collection) and qualitative methods (participatory workshops, focus groups, and interviews with coordinating agencies and implementing partners). Information had three sources: documentary review, qualitative information (19 interviews and 6 focus groups), and quantitative information (521 surveys from the mid-term evaluation).

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Constitution of Ecuador guarantees equal rights between migrants and Ecuadorian citizens. This underscores the need to develop policies and projects that facilitate access to decent employment for migrants. Ecuador has thus implemented various policies to safeguard the human rights of migrants, but these have yielded unsatisfactory results in addressing the current wave of Migration.

In this context, International organizations such as IOM, UNDP, and UN Women play a crucial role. IOM works on Migration governance and the protection of human rights, UN Women works on eliminating gender discrimination and empowering women in human mobility, and UNDP aims to create sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable populations.

Thus, under this joint objective of protecting the human rights of migrants, these agencies have implemented the Project “Enhanced socio-economic integration of migrants and host community members (with an emphasis on women and youth) focused on entrepreneurship opportunities through innovation and community-based approached in Imbabura and Sucumbíos” to meet the needs of migrants. The actions of this Project are strategically guided by the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) in rela-

Project Information:

Geographical Coverage: Ecuador (Ibarra, Imbabura; Lago Agrio, Sucumbíos).
Project type: Interagency
Project period: January 2022 — March de 2023.
Budget: USD 1,500,000

tion to promoting well-being and ensuring a safe, regular and orderly Migration.

Regarding the results of the evaluation, several findings were determined based on the four evaluation criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability.

According to the effectiveness criteria, the project activities met their indicators and objectives. The second criterion highlights the importance of communication in overcoming challenges. The third criterion indicates that the project activities have generated a social and economic impact on the beneficiaries. Finally, the fourth criterion revealed that some programs implemented have sustainable results.

MAIN FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Effectiveness.–

The joint programme has met all its indicators. The interventions achieved their objectives, met the expected outcomes and outputs, and contributed to the socioeconomic integration of the participants, according to the beneficiaries' perception. Additionally, risks identified during the implementation of the programme were gradually managed, and the Risk Plan helped mitigate potential issues. Finally, gender and rights considerations were integrated into the programme guidelines and the project's implementation.

C1: The project has achieved its expected outcomes per intervention and has significantly contributed to the socioeconomic integration of the beneficiaries, both from the host community and migrants.

Efficiency.–

The programmatic budget allocated similar amounts to each PUNO (Participating United Nations Organization) and took into consideration gender equality and women's empowerment. Additionally, the average cost per intervention remained within the planned budget. Monitoring was conducted to ensure the fulfillment of the proposed indicators, and implementing partners ensured adequate data collection and corroborated outreach reports. Interagency and intersectoral collaboration was substantial for the project's implementation, as were the evaluation matrices for the HRBA components and Child Sensitivity.

C2: The monitoring tools allow for detailed tracking of the project's progress and facilitate the development of authentic reports during and after the implementation period.

Impact.–

The interventions and activities have generated an economic and social impact on the beneficiaries. Additionally, the interventions have integrated gender equality and human rights approaches, and they have promoted human rights. It is also noteworthy that various organizations collaborated to ensure the project's implementation.

C3: The significant economic and social impact detailed by the beneficiaries is based on the improvement of their living conditions, strengthening their personal and business economic situation, and promoting their social inclusion.

Sustainability.–

The knowledge acquired through the project's implementation is practical and fundamental in improving results and expanding the beneficiaries' business. Additionally, the interventions used heterogeneous methodologies and content that encourage the adoption of inclusive behaviors. It is noteworthy that the impact of the Ethical Recruitment and Employability Program, and the Communication Campaign have not been verified post-intervention; however, certain interventions have sustainable results over time, as perceived by the beneficiaries.

C4: Activities that involve the adoption of behaviors of acceptance, inclusion, or hiring employees are not easily corroborated factually and are limited to the immediate viewpoints of the beneficiaries or institutions.

GOOD PRACTICES

1. Define characteristics of participants to ensure the intervention has the best possible effect.
2. Assign roles to agencies according to their expertise to ensure they contribute most effectively to the joint Project.
3. Maintain informal interagency communication channels (e.g. WhatsApp) to facilitate and expedite communication and the resolution of any issues.
4. Be flexible during the implementation process, allowing modifications to be compatible with the local realities and cultures of the various communities.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1: Establish improvement proposals for those indicators and products with more challenges or contingencies that may have caused delays to the implementation of the socioeconomic integration activities.
- R2: Maintain the RBA, gender, and nationality focus in future projects. Additionally, expand the project participation criteria based on physical and psychosocial disability for greater socioeconomic integration.
- R3: Establish a dedicated monitoring and analysis team to measure and quantify the benefits of the programme through impact evaluations.
- R4: Continue and strengthen local interventions that have had positive impacts on personal business and finances. This could include training and support programs to ensure that digital and business skills are maintained and improved over time.