





# Independent Mid-term Evaluation: Better Regional Migration Management Programme – Phase II

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Countries: Ethiopia, Djibouti, South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Evaluation date: 31 August 2024

Evaluation type: Project

Evaluation timing: Mid-term

Administrative Office: Addis Ababa

**Technical Office:** MIGRANT, SKILLS, STAT, SOCPRO, SOCIAL FINANCE, SME, ACTEMP, ACTRAV, CO Dar es Salam, Regional Office for Africa, DWT-Cairo, DWT-Pretoria

Evaluation manager: Benson Mangeni

Evaluation consultant(s): Anna Ohannessian-Charpin (PhD) and Medareshaw Tafesse

DC Symbol: RAF/21/10/GBR

Donor(s) & budget: UK Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO); GBP 11,200,000.00

Key Words: Regional migration management, labour migration governance, labour migration statistics, Labour migration Technical working groups, Labour migration advisory group, Bilateral Labour Migration agreement, Labour migration Information system, Tripartite framework, skills development, Skills partnership, Skills recognition and harmonization, social protection, potential and returned migrants, fair recruitment initiative, ILO Conventions, international labour migration conventions and standards.

This evaluation has been conducted according to ILO's evaluation policies and procedures. It has not been professionally edited, but has undergone quality control by the ILO Evaluation Office.





BACKGROUND & C	ONTEXT
Summary of the project purpose, logic and structure	Commissioned by the ILO, this independent mid-term evaluation is for the BRMM project, phase II, funded by the FCDO. The project started in July 2022 and is intended to terminate by the end of March, 2026. The general objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of countries of East and Horn of Africa (EHoA) to govern labour migration.
Present situation of the project	The BRMM II project builds on the achievements of Phase I in enhancing East African countries' capacities to govern labour migration. It focuses on improving labour migration statistics, skills development and recognition, and the protection of migrant workers' rights for better development outcomes at both national and regional levels. The project is implemented in 7 countries of EHoA together with the Regional Economic Committees (REC).
Purpose, scope and clients of the evaluation	The purpose of the Midterm evaluation was to assess the implementation of the project so far, review the coherence, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and Impact orientation and sustainability and cross-cutting themes of interventions and its progress. It aims to contribute to enhanced learning, ensure successful achievement of the project's objectives and generate conclusions and related recommendations. In support of the 2030 Agenda, the evaluation looked at how the UNEG ethical principles of Integrity, Accountability, Respect and Beneficence <sup>1</sup> are considered in the design and implementation, governance and monitoring while examining their, interlinkage and mutual reinforcement.
Methodology of evaluation	The evaluation used an inclusive, participatory and transparent approach and combined it with results-based and theory-based approaches and engaged various partners and stakeholders nationally and regionally. It is based on the six OECD/DAC criteria. <sup>2</sup> It examined the extent to which "leaving-no-one-behind" and "do-no harm" approaches and relevant conventions and international standards are mainstreamed. The evaluation process involved a comprehensive document review, including project reports, policy documents, and monitoring data. Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with ILO staff, tripartite constituents, implementing partners, and beneficiaries, capturing diverse perspectives. Additionally, field visits were carried out in selected project countries to gather first-hand insights into implementation progress and challenges.
MAIN FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS	<ul> <li>RELEVANCE, VALIDITY OF DESIGN, COHERENCE AND STRATEGIC FIT</li> <li>The BRMM project remains highly relevant to labour migration governance in the EHoA region. The project effectively addresses the demand for labour migration data and policy frameworks, aligning with ILO conventions, SDG targets (8.8, 10.7, and 8.10), and regional migration frameworks and agreements such as the AU Free Movement Protocol.</li> <li>The project's design and tripartite approach ensure coherence, fostering collaboration between governments, employers, and workers' organizations. It integrates labour migration into national policies, reinforcing social protection, fair recruitment, and skills recognition.</li> </ul>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>https://procurementnotices.undp.org/view\_file.cfm?doc\_id=302194#:~:text=The%20four%20UNEG%20guiding%20ethical,Accountability <u>%2C%20Respect%2C%20and%20Beneficence</u>. <sup>2</sup> Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Assistance Committee's OECD.2021. *Evaluation Criteria*. <u>https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm</u>





### **EFFECTIVENESS**

Through capacity building and strengthening, the Labour Market Migration Information System (LMMIS) contributes to improving labour migration governance, through informed policy making and programme development.

Protection of migrant workers' rights is ensured through the support in the development of Labour Migration Policy and Bilateral Labour Migration Agreements (BLMAs) in line with international labour standards.

The involvement of social partners in negotiations of BLMAs and in protecting migrant workers' rights has in its turn empowered these partners. This is critical influencing policies, promoting standards and government programmes in a sustainable way.

The entrepreneurship trainings and business development services received by potential and returned migrants have been essential to their integration and gaining self-esteem. In addition, the unexpected, positive and important effect of these trainings, had a multiplier effect with demands from other NGOs and associations involved in supporting potential and returned migrants in reintegrating them into the labour market. More importantly, the trained returnees are ready to actively reach others at the grass-root level and transmit the knowledge they have acquired.

#### **EFFICIENCY**

The implementation design and intervention modality of the project ensures its efficiency and coordination through the two tiers structure at the national and regional levels. The project has experts backstopping that ensure the quality and efficiency of its intervention structure and design. The BRMM project utilized 98.5% of the total released budget during the evaluation period.

#### **IMPACT ORIENTATION & SUSTAINABILITY**

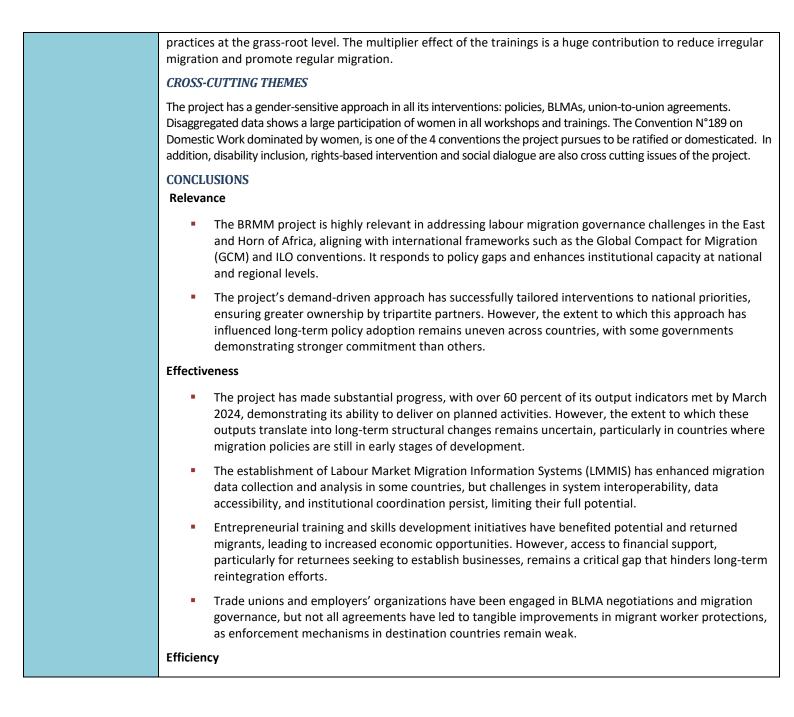
The tripartite structure, the interconnectedness of the outcomes and the implementation approach altogether ensure sustainability and ownership of the project's interventions.

Different levels of ownership are already attained. There is a strong ownership from involved governments of having an LMMIS. There is a real ownership of the social partners in their involvement in negotiations of BLMAs, agreements and partnerships.

BRMM's contribution is having its impact on behavioural and mindset changes towards increased protection of migrants' rights. There is increased interest by governments for sound migration management through evidence-based policies. Behavioural changes with migrants who are more aware of their rights and chances to be protected and reintegrated. Major behavioural changes occur with Employers' organizations showing readiness to employ returned migrants recognising that the skills acquired abroad will contribute to develop new sectors in the country. Unions are active in building agreements with counterparts to ensure the protection of migrant workers' rights. All the stakeholders understand that common standards empower sending countries vis à vis impositions of destination countries.

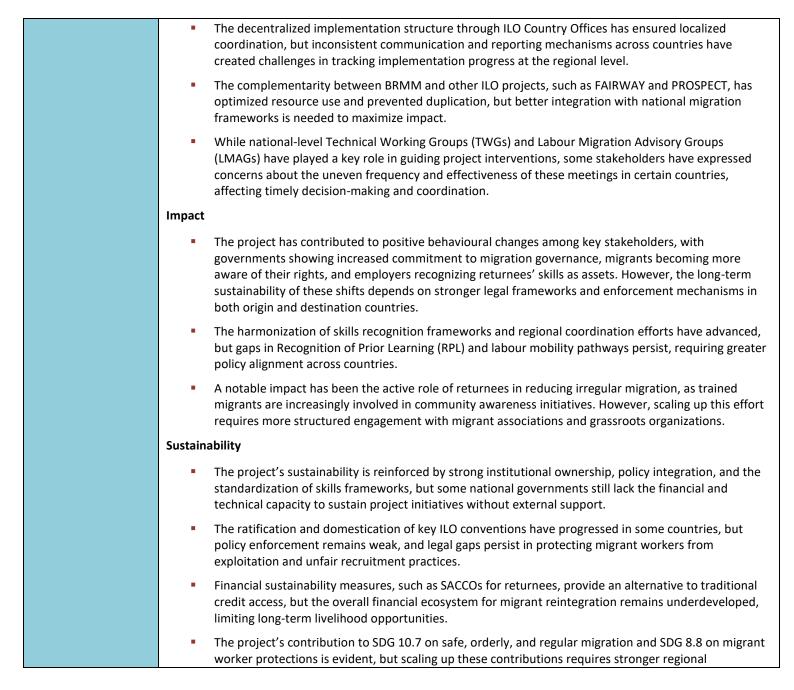
The trainings for returned migrants in business entrepreneurship had also a positive unexpected effect, which is their full engagement in sharing their experience informing and transmitting more informed migration





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Recommendations	Recommendation 1. Strengthen experience-sharing and persustainable impact: The project should strengthen experien constituents, stakeholders, and beneficiaries through peer-tinitiatives. Facilitating cross-country knowledge transfer on and employer engagement in returnee reintegration will en and long-term sustainability of migration governance intervo         Addressed to         BRMM project team.	nce-sharing n to-peer exch LMMIS, MRO hance policy	nechanisms among anges and structure C operations, SIYB tr	tripartite d learning aining adaptation,
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	Addressed to			Priority	Timef	frame	Financial Resources
	BRMM project team		N	/ledium	Second	d half	Medium
	Government partners.						
	<b>Recommendation 3. Enhance the project's Reporting and Monitoring Systems:</b> To improve progress impact assessment, and future programming, the project should adopt a more structured reporting monitoring approach. Implementing bi-annual or annual country-level reports, integrating cross-cut into the ToC, distinguishing stakeholder and beneficiary impact, and developing qualitative indicato exit strategy will enhance data consolidation, strategic planning, and sustainability.						ing and -cutting themes
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<ul> <li>participation to the development of job markets in countries of origin and destination.</li> <li>-<u>2</u>- Training programs have proven essential in empowering potential and returnee migrants, fostering entrepreneurial skills and self-reliance.</li> </ul>	conventions and is to be considered as a good practice in migration governance in general.