



Final Evaluation
AGAMI PROJECT
19/10-10/11 2016



AGAMI – Agadez Migration Project

Final Evaluation

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Although commissioned by IOM Niger, the views and analysis contained in this report do not necessarily represent the views of IOM Niger and/or IOM in general. If the reports contains errors or partial analysis that do not correspond to the reality the responsibility shall be charged only on the evaluator reputation.

ACRONYMS

AFD	<i>Agence Française de Développement</i>
AGAMI	Agadez-Migration
ANESJ	<i>Association Nigérienne pour l'Entraide et la Solidarité avec la Jeunesse</i>
ANLTP	<i>Agence Nationale de Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes</i>
AVR	Assisted Voluntary Return
CEDEAO	Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
CEMAC	Central African Economic & Monetary Community
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale
DFID	Department for International Development
DDG	Danish Demining Group
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
DST	<i>Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire</i>
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FDS	Force de Défense et de Sécurité
FED	<i>Fond Européenne de Développement</i>
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FMP	Flow Monitoring Point
FRC	French Red Cross
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HACP	High Authority for the Peace Consolidation
HCR	High Commission for Refugees
HQ	Headquarters
IcSP	Instrument Contributing to the Stabilisation and Peace
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MRRM	Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism
NFI	No-Food Items
NGO	No-Governmental Organization
NRC	Niger Red Cross
RIP	Regional Indicative Programme
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Niger commissioned a final evaluation of the project titled "Niger: Strengthening governance of migration and the response to mixed migration flows in the region of Agadez (AGAMI)" (1.7 Million EUR over a year) financed by the "Instrument Contributing to the Stabilisation and Peace (IcSP)" of the European Union and under the supervision of the "High Authority for the Peace Consolidation (HACP)".

The overall objective of the final evaluation was to assess the efficiency and impact of the AGAMI pilot project and the pertinence of the Migration Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) approach to support migrants transiting in Niger or voluntarily returning to their community of origins and to provide recommendations for future programming.

Secondary sources of information were consulted and used to design the evaluation questions related to the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria. Accordingly, IOM staff involved in the project were consulted and particular attention was given to procedures and tools applied to the AGAMI pilot project implementation. A field visit in Agadez was carried out to see the ongoing activities and to meet authorities and stakeholders involved in the project. A focus group was undertaken with the community mobilisers in charge of migrants and community outreach and sensibilisation. A questionnaire was designed and submitted to IOM staff in charge of the reintegration community projects implementation in the migrants' countries of origin (Senegal, Mali, Gambia and Nigeria). In Niamey EU and HACP responsible for the AGAMI project monitoring were met.

Through the implementation of the AGAMI project, IOM aimed to enhance the efficiency and to reinforce the services for vulnerable migrants in the existing transit centers and to expand the MRRM approach to create better socio-economic conditions in both country of transit and countries of origin. The MRRM is a multifaceted approach, combining voluntary return, direct assistance, and information campaigns. It increasingly links migration to development opportunities in countries of migrants' origin, as an alternative to migration, by supporting community development initiatives based on the interactions between migrants and their communities. Simultaneously, the MRRM's flow monitoring supports evidence-based planning to humanitarian partners and Government by providing quantitative and qualitative information on migrants and complete analysis on migratory flows. AGAMI pilot project wanted also to provide stakeholders with a map of all the actors active in the Agadez region and in depth studies on the "Migration impact on the Agadez region economy" and on the "Employment opportunities in the countries of migration origin" in order to animate a regional debate for the development of a working plan aiming at enhance the legal work mobility within the region.

IOM Niger handled the unexpected boost of migration flow in 2016 thanks to the synergies built among different donors around AGAMI pilot project such as the Italian Ministry of Interior and DFID, whose complementary supports enhanced the impact of services provided in terms of quality and quantity while allowed IOM to completely develop the MRRM multi-layered approach.

IOM is well positioned to capitalise on acquired experiences and enlarge existing synergies with other partners, donors, initiatives. In particular it should invest internally for IT/monitoring tools to boost efficiency and transparency; it should set up a reintegration partners network in all the migrants' countries of origin to strengthening beneficiaries trust and allow longer project follow up period, while it should establish partnerships with private sectors (national and international) for the development of sustainable initiatives with a higher man power absorption; it should involve the University of Niger and the Universities in countries of migrants' origin (regional university at large) in future studies; and it should reach an agreement with Niger Government for the direct involvement of Government staff in the IOM operations in order to boost authorities technical expertise in managing migration flow and allow ownership to deal with migration related issues.

1. Introduction

1.1 Final evaluation purpose:

The evaluation is intended as a final evaluation of the project titled "Niger: Strengthening governance of migration and the response to mixed migration flows in the region of Agadez (AGAMI)" implemented by the International Organisation for Migration with funds of the "Instrument Contributing to the Stabilisation and Peace (IcSP)"¹ of the European Union represented by the European Commission. The IcSP fund is under the supervision of National Authorities through the "High Authority for the Peace Consolidation (HACP)"².

The evaluation aims at:

- A) Serving as an accountability tool towards the donor and Niger Authorities
- B) Identifying lessons learned and good practices
- C) Providing recommendations to the MRRM³ phase II approach and implementation model
- D) Providing recommendations for IOM Niger country strategy

The overall objective of the final evaluation is to assess the efficiency and impact of the AGAMI project and the pertinence of the MRRM approach to support migrants transiting in Niger or voluntarily returning to their community of origins to provide recommendations for future programming.

In particular the evaluation will assess:

- i) The relevance⁴ of the AGAMI project and of the MRRM approach;
- ii) Concrete project achievements;
- iii) MRRM approach strengths and weaknesses
- iv) The regional IOM reintegration procedures.

Further, the evaluation will provide recommendations that might be applied on a wider scale during the MRRM II implementation and that shall provide useful points of discussion with National authorities and stakeholders working on migration (see Annex 1 Terms of Reference of the evaluation).

1.2 Context and scope of AGAMI project

Because of its geographical location, Niger has always been a migratory crossroad of West Africa and Central Africa into the Maghreb and lately to Europe. Niger is mainly a country of migration origin and transit, although, despite its low development level, the country generated more emigration than immigration. In addition, the country has become the major center for migrants wanting to go into the Maghreb and across the Mediterranean.

In the latest years the political situation of the Mediterranean African countries have been characterised by several crises, including political and security unrest. The fragile political context in Algeria and Libya have been at the origin of massive returns of migrants to their countries of origin or the choice of these to transit to Europe (no border security measures in place particularly in Libya after Gheddafi's death in 2011).

Nowadays, many migrants are stranded in Niger and especially in the Agadez region due to a shortage of means (money) to continue their journey back home. The massive mixed flow of migrants (in and out, national and from CEDEAO & CEMAC countries) overwhelmed the already fragile local community in terms of food availability, wash facilities including potable water accessibility and social services especially medical services. On the other hand, different incomes and transactions associated with the migration flows are

¹ In French : *Instrument contribuant à la stabilisation et à la Paix*

² In French : *Haute autorité à la consolidation de la paix*

³ Migrant Resource and Response Mechanism

⁴ For the purpose of this evaluation **Relevance** is defined as: "The extent to which the objectives of a project/programme remain valid and pertinent either as originally planned or as subsequently modified".

means of survival for many people, who found in the “migration business” the substitute to the decayed tourism industry and the closure of several mines (gold and uranium).

The AGAMI project, considered as a pilot project, wanted to address the most urgent needs of migrants and of the Niger Government in order to develop a solid, complete, as well as coordinated and long term response to the migration movement.

IcSP financed a yearlong project with an initial contribution of 1.5 Million EUR that in May 2016 was revised up to 1.7 Million EUR to allow full coverage of the increase in vulnerable cases (medical and psychosocial support).

Through the implementation of the AGAMI project, IOM aimed to reinforce the services for vulnerable migrants in the existing transit centers and to expand the Migration Resource and Response Mechanism (MRRM) to create better socio-economic conditions in both country of transit and countries of origin. The MRRM operations reinforcement was strongly considered by the donor as a pilot experience from which lessons learned would have been recorded and recommendations developed to improve the implementation of the second phase of MRRM (phase II). The MRRM is a multifaceted approach, combining voluntary return, direct assistance, and information campaigns. It increasingly links migration to development opportunities in countries of migrants' origin. Simultaneously, the MRRM's flow monitoring supports evidence-based planning to humanitarian partners and Government by providing quantitative and qualitative information on migrants and complete analysis on migratory flows. Add to the migrants direct support, AGAMI project wanted to provide stakeholders with a map of all the actors active in the Agadez region and in depth studies on the “Migration impact on the Agadez region economy” and on the “Employment opportunities in the countries of migration origin” in order to animate a regional debate for the development of a working plan aiming at enhance the legal work mobility within the region.

In addition to its usual institutional collaboration with the Niger Government during the AGAMI project implementation, IOM closely coordinated the activities and worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace, the Ministry of Justice and in particular at regional level with the Governorate of Agadez, the Agadez Regional Council and the Agadez Regional Council for Repatriations (set up by the Governorate). IOM also collaborated closely with the Nigerien National Commission and the Agency on Counter-Trafficking of human beings (both under the Ministry of Justice) and at local level with the mayors, prefects and traditional chiefs.

IOM Niger handled the unexpected boost of migration flow in 2016 thanks to the synergies built among projects funded by other donors different from the EU such as:

The Italian Ministry of Interior: Italy has enabled the rapid startup of MRRM - Phase I, with a contribution of 1 million euros. The project started in August 2015 for a duration of 7 months (August 2015 to March 2016). This funding helped provide direct assistance to migrants in distress (shelter, health care, food, NFI etc.) in the IOM transit centers (Agadez, Dirkou, Arlit, Niamey), as well as the implementation of return and reintegration projects in the main zones of origin (Niger, Senegal and Gambia).

The United Kingdom: DFID financed the strengthening of MRRM - Phase I with a contribution of 1.3 million GBP, for a duration of 8 months (January to September 2016). In addition to strengthening the return and reintegration activities, the project allowed the implementation of new activities in support to the Government such as small development projects around Agadez town as well as activities against human trafficking and communication and sensibilisation campaigns.

At the same time IOM could assure the continuation of the MRRM I into MRRM II over 36 months (August 2016- August 2019) thanks to the contribution of 7 Million EURO of EU “Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa”.



“Le Sahara a mille chemins” (The Sahara has one thousand roads) ANESJ president, Agadez

2. Findings

2.1 RELEVANCE: To what extent the project continues to make sense in light of current reality, and to what extent its objective and project purposes remain valid and pertinent (make the project more responsive to problems to be solved).

Were the objectives corresponding to the contextual needs?

The general objective of the AGAMI pilot project is “To contribute to Niger’s security and improve stability through the development of an efficient approach to manage migration flows” while the specific objective is “To contribute to the improvement of migration flow management through the reinforcement of services provided in the transit centres in the Agadez region”.

The general and the specific objectives are considered to be in line with the contextual needs based on the following findings, estimations and evidence: i) “[...] in 2015, the number of international migrants worldwide – people residing in a country other than their country of birth – was the highest ever recorded, at 244 million (up from 232 million in 2013)⁵” and ii) IOM Niger estimated the passage of more than 150.000 migrants (mixed migration) over the country. In Niger, during 2015 IOM provided assistance to 1.500 non-Nigerien migrants and 6.000 Niger internal migrants in its transit centres while the migration flow prediction for 2016 was of 200.000 migrants due to the regional and national geopolitics dynamics such as: i) the closure of the Algerian borders, ii) the instability of Mali, iii) the porosity of the Libyan borders due to the lack of border control resulting from the socio-politic internal situation, iv) the migrants perception of Agadez as the “Door to Europe”, v) the increased strength of the regional smugglers network governing the migration flow. At the end of 2016, OIM-Niger factual base analysis confirmed that 300.000 migrants transited in and out Niger while 3.400 Migrants (ECOWAS & CEMAC) and 9.200 Nigerien were provided with assistance in IOM transit centres.

Was the project implementation strategy consistent with stated objective and IOM priorities and mandate?

IOM Niger’s articulated strategy is in line with the IOM mandate, Regional Strategy for West and Central Africa 2014-2016 (Annex 2 A & B) and with Niger Government migration legal framework⁶. It is also well

⁵ <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-releases-global-migration-trends-2015-factsheet> (...By the end of 2015, the EU as a whole received over 1.2 million first-time asylum claims, more than double the number registered in 2014 (563,000), and almost double the levels recorded in 1992 in the then 15 Member States (672,000). The increase in 2015 is largely due to higher numbers of asylum claims from Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis.)

⁶ All the official law and legal framework applied respected by Niger Government:

designed to respond to the country numerous migration challenges and needs. IOM Niger's set of interventions aims at the same time to efficiently prevent migrant trafficking and smuggling, to ensure protection of migrants and to foster legal migration and opportunities for economic development in both Niger and the countries of migrants' origin. AGAMI pilot project implementation strategy was designed not only to allow IOM to enhance the efficiency of its transit centres and assure service provision to the increased number of migrants but allowed IOM to develop two of the missing aspects of the country strategy such as the Flow Monitoring Point (FMP) and migrant/community socio-economic reintegration in the country of origin. The FMP is a data collection and analysis mechanism meant to support government and stakeholders working in the migration field with sound information in view of enhancing planning and render the response more efficient to identified and quantified needs. The support to community development initiatives in the countries of origin based on the interactions between migrants and their communities is seen as the link between migration and development and therefore a sustainable initiative to prevent migration.

Was the project complementary to other agencies and government activities?

The interviews with EU, HACP and Agadez authorities made it clear that AGAMI pilot project was complementing not only agencies and government's activities but it was perfectly matching donor country strategy and partners efforts to mitigate the negative impact of the migration on the country stability and security. As mentioned above IOM was able to build around AGAMI pilot project synergies among different donors such as the Italian Ministry of Interior and DFID whose complementary support boosted the impact of services provided in terms of quality and quantity while allowed IOM to completely develop the MRRM multi-layered approach.

The partners' cartographies: «*Cartographie des interventions sur la migration au Niger - niveau national et régional*⁷» (Annex 3) and the «*Cartographie des acteurs présents dans la région d'Agadez*⁸» (Annex 4) are a basic evidence that IOM operates in synergy and in collaboration not only with Niger authorities but with international actors involved in the country migration response such as: GIZ, French Red Cross, the UN Agencies (HRC, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO among others), Danish Demining Group (DDG), LUXDEV and AFD.

To what extent is the project still consistent with the reality and needs (including migration corridors and flow, national and regional government policies, donors' country strategy)?

Since 2007 an inter-ministerial committee was nominated to develop a migration policy to better manage internal and international migration flows, this process however held still for some years. It was reactivated, with the support of the European Union, after the Summit in Valetta (Valletta Action Plan in 2016).

The Government of Niger recognized the urgency of addressing the migration issue, particularly since the death of migrants in the Sahara (the latest official incidents were registered in May and June 2016) and in

Droits de l'Homme du 1948

Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples de 1981

Traité révisé de la Communauté Economique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEDEAO) du 24 juillet 1993

Constitution de la VIIe République du Niger, 25 novembre 2011

Protocole sur la libre circulation des personnes, le droit de résidence et d'établissement A/P1/5/79 (CEDEAO), entré en vigueur en 1980

Décret N° 87-076/PCMS/MI/MAE/C du 18 juin 1987 règlement les conditions et de séjour des étrangers au Niger

Ordonnance N° 81-40 du 29 octobre 1981 relative à l'entrée et au séjour des étrangers au Niger

Décret N° 81-191 du 29 octobre 1981, réglementant les conditions d'entrée et de séjour des étrangers au Niger

Convention des Nations Unis contre la criminalité transnationale organisée et protocoles s'y rapportant, 2000

Traité de l'Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine (UEMOA), modifié en 2003

Ordonnance N° 2010-86 du 16 décembre 2010 relative à la lutte contre la traite des personnes

Loi N° 2015-36 du 26 mai 2015 relative au trafic illicite de migrants

⁷ Source "Danish MFA"

⁸ IOM document

the context of the deteriorating regional security situation. Since August 2016, the Government has also made a clear commitment to combat the smuggling of migrants through the confiscation of vehicles and to control irregular migration of ECOWAS migrants going into Libya or Algeria without valid documentation (basically, forcing the migrants present in the north of the region to return to Agadez). It is expected that these interventions will increase the demand for voluntary return and assistance since their extremely vulnerable situation. The journeys in the desert are already dangerous and nowadays the risks is higher due to the exploration of new corridors passing through landmine and bandit owned areas to avoid the official controlling points. Add to this migrants are faced with all types of abuse (exploitation, confiscation of documents or even money, abuse etc.) and the authorities have not the logistic and operational capacity to provide assistance.

During the Agadez field visit the following statements were collected:

“The centre of Agadez has registered up to 30 migrants per day in the last two months (September and October) against an average of 20 migrants per day in the first six months of the year. Today the centre hosts 379 migrants of which 250 migrants from 14 different countries should leave Agadez next week (8 November) to return home, however we are expecting around 300 migrants from the IOM transit centre in Dirkou as the FDS prevent them to continue their journey to Libya”⁹.

“After the Ministry of Interior visit to Agadez in August (2016) the actions towards the implementation of the law on counteracting migrant smuggling promulgated last May¹⁰ have boosted. The authorities state that around 60 vehicles have been confiscated within these 2 months and that 57 migrants’ transporters have been arrested while rumours are that the operations will be intensified at regional level in the coming months. One issue for IOM is that migrants are transported in front of the IOM centre and people are already talking about the collaboration between IOM and FDS¹¹. In addition to this, there is a security concern for the community as the centre is open only to the migrants willing return home and therefore it is expected that the number of migrants residing in Agadez will increase and the consequence for the community are unaccountable considering the already limited and weak city infrastructures. Last but not least, the transportation price raised up to 300,000 CFA (545 USD) as transporters want to insure the car cost in case it gets confiscated and migrants will have to spend more time in the city to gather the total sum”¹².

According to the Head of Agadez Regional council, Mr Anacko Mohamed “The situation is tense as migration generates the income for many people. The law was applied without preventive information campaign and without setting up any alternative economic opportunities. The police and the community relation is tense and can escalate. A sense of mistrust is growing towards authorities as the people affirm that Europe migrant crisis brought a lot of money to Niger but they are not seeing it at all. Another important aspect, that IOM shall to take into consideration, is the hazard that transporters and migrants are taking to avoid the control posts, taking new roads heading towards zones controlled by bandits, the risk is that the number of unrecorded casualties will increase without being reported. IOM has to support the Government to inform the migration related “workers” and to support local development to create alternative income generation activities to Agadez region population”.

Consistency of the AGAMI project with other ongoing and planned in country interventions is confirmed by the EU document: “*Présentation des actions de la Commission Européenne au Nord Niger*”¹³ detailing the

⁹ IOM ex-responsible of Agadez transit centre Mr Azaoua Mahaman

¹⁰ Law N° 2015-36 of 26 May 2015 related to counteracting migrant smuggling

¹¹ French: Force de Défense et de Sécurité

¹² IOM Agadez office chef Mr. Maurice Armel Miango-Niwa

¹³ In french: Présentation des actions de la Commission européenne au Nord Niger

contribution to different interventions for the north Niger Region of FED, IcSP and *the EU Trust Fund for Africa* from 2008 to 2020 for the North Niger Region amounting at 413, 7 M€ (Annex 5).

Are there any elements which could lead to the conclusion that the overall objective or (one of) the project results have to be dropped, revised, amended or new ones added in order to make the project more in line with the current reality and needs?

According to findings and the literature research, it might be confirmed that the AGAMI project objective is still relevant and MRRM II pertinent to the current needs and expected results. This said, in light with the "Agadez round table on migration (October 2016)" it is advisable that a "Government support and capacity building" component shall be included as a cross cutting subject. IOM should enhance national and regional authorities' capacity to develop a migration law information campaign and to boost ownership of the implementation of the MRRM. Authorities should be capable to advocate for more sustainable development initiatives as a preventive measure to youth migration and extreme violence.

Seeing the possibility of transporters escaping police toward "desert new roads", IOM should augment the number of FMP in order to collect direct information on the migration flow and therefore be able to provide Niger migration stakeholders with trustworthy data and analysis. The data collection should also have a strong governance component and official (national own) data should be collected in order to increase confidence and transparency.

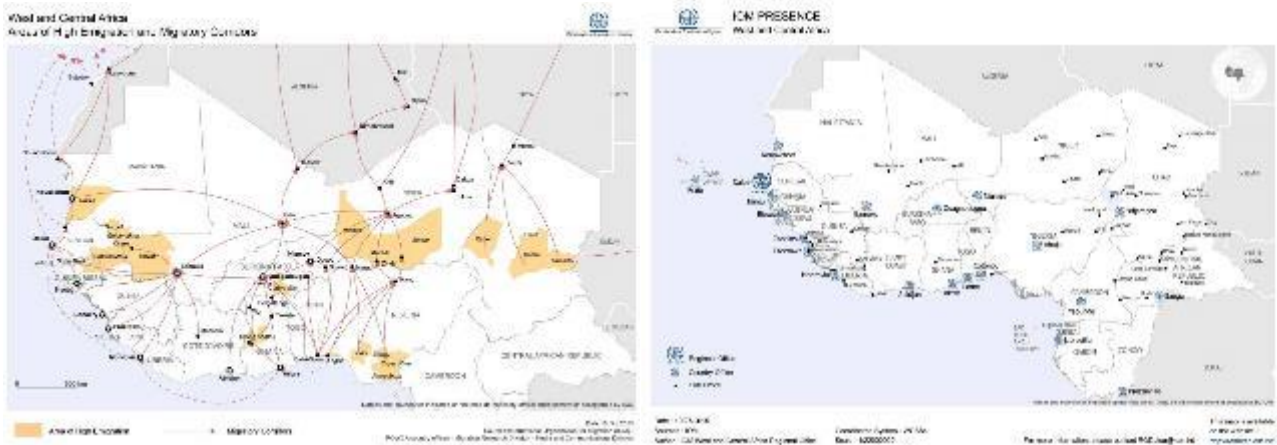
Reintegration project versus community stabilisation projects should be implemented also in Niger not only in migrants 'countries of origin. Niger internal migration origin zones (i.e. Zinder region) shall be prioritized and IOM should capitalize on the Development Plan for Agadez region 2016-2020 of the Minister of Interior (Annex 6) to enhance Government ownership.

Is the MRRM approach pertinent to the needs and operational resources available?

The MRRM approach is intended as a complex combination of social aid and sustainable actions aiming at responding to the increased migration flow and at the same time promoting viable socio-economic alternatives to prevent irregular migration. The MRRM integrates direct assistance to migrants in transit centres and to vulnerable cases, assistance with voluntary return and reintegration, data collection and analysis, but also aims to strengthen or establish development community based frameworks in countries of origin. The approach is found to be pertinent to the needs on the ground and it responds to specific case load necessities, at the same time the approach responds to the socio-economic development needs identified in the countries of migrants' origin as cause of migration. In Niger and in its neighbouring countries resources are currently available as the European Union (and European countries such as Germany, Italy, Netherlands and France etc...) allocate specific efforts to improve migrants assistance and migration flow control. The EU is already looking into the feasibility of supporting the Priorities Partners' Countries (Senegal, Gambia, Mauritania, Cameroon, Burkina, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Mali) through the EU Trust Fund for Africa (FFEU). This shall avail in a cross regional coordination mechanism to address the growing needs for voluntary return of stranded migrants in transit countries to their countries of origin and their referral to sustainable reintegration and / or development initiatives. In this regards, it shall be noted that IOM and EU signed a Cooperation Agreement for the reinforcement of Government capacity in dealing with migration and the sustainable reintegration in the Priorities Partners Countries.¹⁴

¹⁴ Additional information: The total financial resources of the 11th European Development Fund amount to €30.5 billion for the period 2014-2020 of which through the current Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) (2014-2020), the EU will make available to West Africa, €1.15 billion, with priorities centred on contributing to reduce poverty through supporting better growth and regional economic integration among countries of the region (http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/west-africa_en). While the "Migration pact" (signed in 2008)

The maps below: “Map of areas of high emigration and migratory corridors” makes it clear that the migratory corridors are defined and the migrants’ assistance is needed all over the region. It is worth of noting that comparing this map with the “Map of IOM main offices in west and central Africa” demonstrates how IOM is covering all the countries affected by the phenomena and is well located in relation to emigration areas and migratory corridors.



2.2 EFFECTIVENESS: To what extent the project expected results were achieved and how they contributed to achieve the specific objective? (Do the right thing)

Were operation procedures standardized (including: centre reception, profiling, centre assistance, NFI distribution, medical and psychosocial support, transportation of voluntary returnees, centre expenses monitoring, FMP data collection and analysis, convoy and staff movement escort coordination, community reintegration in country of origin, HCR referral)?

AGAMI pilot project procedure standardization benefitted from IOM Niger’s consolidated experience in assisting migrants. It is worth to recall that AGAMI project supported:

- a) Migrants assistance in the transit centres (shelter, food, water, medical ad psychosocial support, NFI);
- b) The rehabilitation of centres in Agadez region (Agadez, Dirkou and Arlit);
- c) The assistance to voluntarily return to the community of origin (Travel documents, transportation and pocket money for the journey)
- d) The socio-economic reintegration of migrant returned in their community of origin and the community members
- e) The informed migration system includes:
 - i) Community and migrants outreach sensibilisation,
 - ii) The establishment of an information and counselling office (Agadez);
 - iii) The development of a migration flow data collection and analysis;
- f) The development of procedure and referral with HCR for migrants asking asylum;
- g) The production of 3 studies:
 - i) The impact of migration on Agadez region,
 - ii) The Agadez region actors cartographies,

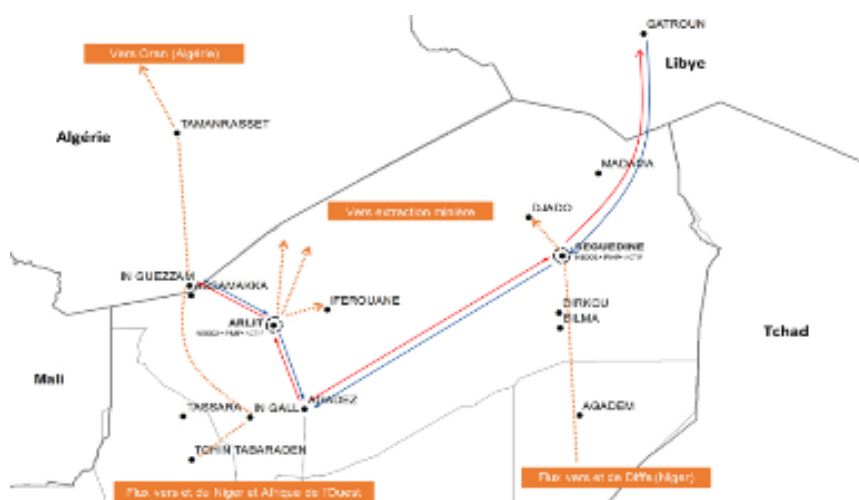
supports 5 African countries (Niger, Nigeria; Senegal; Mali and Ethiopia) to reduce the migration flow with a support of 500 Million Euro.

- iii) The work market potentialities in the 5 countries targeted by the project (Niger, Senegal, Mali, Niger and Gambia),

IOM Niger manages 4 migrants open-type transit centres (open only to migrants wishing to go back home) in Arlit (300 places), Dirkou (150 places), Agadez (1,000 places) and Niamey (50 places). The migrants' reception, profiling, NFI distribution, basic assistance (water, food and centre hygiene) provision and centre expenses monitoring are all following standardized IOM procedures; tools have been designed to collect, compile and transmit information to the central administration and operation unit in Niamey for follow up and coordination.

IOM Niger protection unit is responsible for the vulnerable cases (medical and psychosocial support, minors, women and victims of trafficking). Despite each vulnerable case being treated individually, the procedure and tools have been standardized for each caseload. Severe medical and psychosocial cases are referred to equipped and specialised public or humanitarian structures (i.e. *Médecins du Monde* and COOPI). A standard operation procedure was signed with UNHCR on the 16 of January 2016 for the "Procedure of Asylum referral mechanism between IOM-HCR" (Annex 7) and since referral of migrants requesting asylum follow the established procedure. In regards to the fight against human trafficking, it's of notice that the "National Referral Mechanism" document was validated by ANLTP¹⁵ at the end of September 2016 in a workshop organised by IOM in Zinder. The IOM-HCR procedure for migrants requesting asylum was respected and applied.

The IOM information unit is responsible for gathering, compiling and analysing all the information related to migrants. The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) IOM global standard procedure is applied. IOM's DTM is a methodology designed to continuously track and analyse human mobility in different displacement contexts, the Flow Monitoring Points (FMP) established during AGAMI project is part of IOM's DTM. The two



FMP were set up in Arlit and Séguédine thanks to the AGAMI project as a research exercise and not a border management exercise. In fact Arlit is located half way from Agadez to the Algerian border while Séguédine is located on the road from Agadez towards Libya. Selected staff (10 in total) was trained and instructed on standard procedures and tools. The collection of data is based on standard questionnaires and with

specific deadline aiming at gathering quantity and qualitative data relating to the intentions of migrants, their profiles, and migration experiences. The procedure in place allows IOM to build a more comprehensive profile of migrants and the migration flow. The procedures major change concerned the transmission of data. In Niger the internet signal is consistently dysfunctional and not reliable therefore the phone is used to transmit data from Séguédine to Dirkou where the database is populated and transmitted to Niamey.

During the implementation of AGAMI a security procedure was also set up with UN for the provision of escort, in fact IOM staff traveling between Dirkou and Séguédine benefitted of the UN escort and no incidents were recorded.

¹⁵ ANLTP: Agence Nationale de Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes

The Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) is a standardized IOM procedure finalised to assist migrants (internal or third-country nationals) to return home. This assistance includes liaison with consulates and Embassies for obtaining travel documents or *laissez-passers*, booking of transportation means and distribution of small pocket money to cover small expenses (e.g. for food) during the journey. The procedure in place is built to minimize the migrants' permanence in the transit centres and the cost of transportation.

IOM has a long lasting experience in socio-economic individual or community based reintegration projects as a backbone of migration prevention. In fact, the reintegration per se followed IOM standard procedure (i.e. identification of community, set up of local committee, call for proposal for implementing partners, monitoring) and a unique reintegration guideline was drafted by IOM Niger specifically for AGAMI project and shared among offices in the country of origin. From the evaluation carried out in Mali, Nigeria and Gambia between August and October 2016, the respect of the procedure results are:

- Communities were selected within the most important zones of departure in each country (except Senegal that faced implementation time constrain and limited the implementation to Dakar)
- Communities and beneficiaries were selected according to their high vulnerability (based on socio-economic indicators and indications from the local partners and authorities).
- The beneficiaries' identification and selection was participatory, inclusive and based on standard criteria.
- The selection of local partners was done through a national call for proposal according to IOM administrative procedure (Nigeria, Mali) or through local actors' availability and capability assessment. The priority selection criteria aside partners' expertise and capability was their proximity with the target community (which ensured community trust and close monitoring).
- The reintegration project selection was highly participative and correspondent to the community priority needs.
- The IOM administrative and procurement procedures were respected although this generated delays in implementation.

The IOM Niger, IOM representatives in the third country and implementing partners joined these evaluations as it wanted to be a moment to draft lessons learned to contribute to the identification of good practices and lessons learned, particularly focused on the integrated planning.

AGAMI allowed IOM Niger to focus on the finalisation of regional coordination procedures to monitoring both reintegration and administration activities in several countries. IOM built from the AGAMI experience a procedure that will be used during the implementation of MRRM II¹⁶.

Were the centre rehabilitations finalised?

The field visit in Agadez transit centre allowed the consultant to appreciate the rehabilitation works undertaken during AGAMI project. A training centre was rehabilitated and equipped. A solar panel system installed (at the moment of the visit no generator was functioning and the offices were operating thanks to the system). The football field have been levelled, television connected to canal+ and all sort of table games bought to enhance the psychosocial activities and migrants' distress in the centre. The Arlit and Dirkou centres rehabilitation was not undertaken as the buildings are not own by IOM and agreement was not found with the owners.

¹⁶ All the mentioned procedures including tools are available at IOM Niger office and ready to be shared.



Training rooms rehabilitated and equipped



Above and below: Solar batteries alimenting Canal+, TV and internet connection and office spaces



How have the authorities contributed to the project results?

Agadez authorities met during the field mission were all well informed about IOM's mandate and about AGAMI project. They all insisted that IOM has all their support whenever needed. However the national authorities' implication in the project implementation was limited and recommendations are done to boost governance and Government ownership.

Which benefits were generated by the reintegration projects in respect to the migrants and which one to the communities?

Under AGAMI pilot project, 37 reintegration projects were implemented in 4 regional migrants' country of origin (Mali, Senegal, Nigeria, Gambia) for an overall expenditure of 301,009 Euro and benefitting 186 migrants and 136 members of the communities (overall 322 of which 107 women and 215 men)¹⁷.

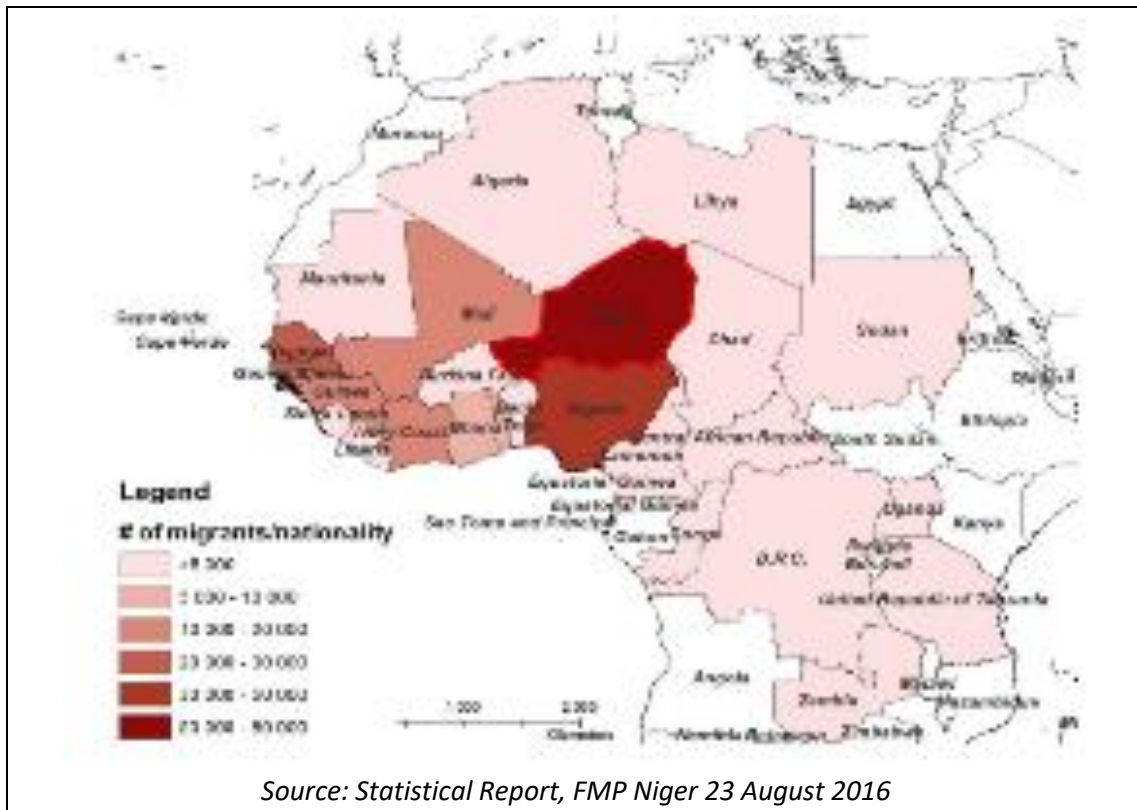


Table 1 shows the location, the type, the number of beneficiaries and the expenditure of each project in each country of origin. A variety of reintegration projects have been implemented demonstrating that IOM and implementing partners provided beneficiaries with a range of reintegration options and that beneficiaries choice was not limited by operative procedure. Of notice the huge number of locations covered by the intervention, 19 in total in the 4 targeted countries, which show the capability of IOM and the Implementing partners to reach migrants in their community and cover different areas at the same time.

¹⁷ IOM Niger reintegration monitoring sheet

#	Country	Localisation	Type of the project	# of direct beneficiaries	Budget (EUR)
1	SENEGAL	Dakar	Poultry farm	40	66,197.00
2	GAMBIA	Salikenni	Poultry farm	15	5,350.00
3		Busumbala	Poultry farm	17	5,350.00
4		Kuntaur	Poultry farm	14	6,740.00
5		Wuli	Horticulture Garden	35	35,297.00
6		NIGERIA	Bagemu	Tailoring	8
7	Magama		Tailoring	8	6,000.00
8	Katsina		Tailoring	5	5,000.00
9	Katsina		Tailoring	5	5,000.00
10	Katsina		Catering	5	5,000.00
11	Apeno		Hairdressing/barbing	5	3,750.00
12	Oke Ara		Hairdressing/barbing	8	6,000.00
13	Ikotun		Hairdressing/manicure/pedicure	3	2,250.00
14	Ikotun		Barbering	5	5,000.00
15	Ikotun		Barbering	5	5,000.00
16	Benin		Catering	5	3,750.00
17	Benin		Tailoring	5	5,000.00
18	Benin		Tailoring	5	5,000.00
19	Benin		Tailoring	5	5,000.00
20	Benin		Hairdressing	5	5,000.00
21	Benin		Hairdressing	5	5,000.00
22	Benin		Doors and Windows construction (Aluminium)	5	5,000.00
23	Benin		Catering	5	5,000.00
24	Benin		IT training	5	5,000.00
25	Igarra		Tailoring	5	3,750.00
26	Igarra		Hairdressing	5	3,750.00
27	Igarra		Barbering	5	3,750.00
28	Iguobazuwa		Tailoring	5	3,750.00
29	Iguobazuwa		Welding	5	3,750.00
30	Iguobazuwa		Catering	5	3,750.00
31	Ekpoma		IT training	6	5,250.00
32	Ekpoma		Tailoring	7	4,500.00
33	Abuja		Online radio	15	13,000.00
34	MALI	Sokan	Horticulture Garden	19	11,904.00
35		Diabé	Transport - Taxi Moto	7	5,171.00
36		Bamako	Transport - MiniBus	9	15,000.00
37		Bamako	Transport - MiniBus	6	12,000.00
TOTAL				322	301,009.00

Table 1. Reintegration projects

Table 2 shows the average number for project, the average cost per project and the average project cost per capita. The analysis shows that each country applied a different methodology on the ground, in fact average number of beneficiaries and cost per project and capita are different from country to country.

Country	Total # of beneficiaries per country	Total # of projects	Average beneficiaries per project	Total cost per country	Average total cost per # of project	Average project cost per capita
SENEGAL	40	1	40	66,197.00	66,197.00	1,654.93
GAMBIA	81	4	20	52,737.00	13,184.25	651.07
NIGERIA	160	28	6	138,000.00	4,928.57	862.50
MALI	41	4	10	44,075.00	11,018.75	1,075.00

Table 2. Reintegration project average data

For example while Senegal decided to implement an unique project with a relevant number of beneficiaries (40) Nigeria preferred to implement a relative high number of projects (28) with a small number of beneficiaries per project (6 beneficiaries on average). The operational capacity of Nigeria implementing 28 projects in 11 locations and managing the higher budget is outstanding in respect to the other countries. This can be explained by the IOM Nigeria office capacity but also to the country specific context (i.e. in Mali security restriction do not allow a full coverage of the area of return).

Average project costs are different for each country going from 66.197,00 EUR in Senegal to 4.928.57 EUR in Nigeria resulting in a sound difference on average project cost per capita: Senegal 1, 654 EUR, Gambia 651 EUR, Nigeria 862 EUR and Mali 1,075 EUR.

The difference in number of beneficiary per project and project cost per capita in each country is due to the fundamental principle of flexibility that must be applied to the implementation of community projects in order to assure viability and beneficiaries' ownership. In fact, although a unique reintegration guideline was shared among IOM offices (Annex 8), the methodology was revise according target community contest, partners and resources availability and most, on beneficiaries and community will.



Nigeria, Apeno community: In front of the hair saloon with the beneficiaries

During the reintegration project implementation each country was visited by IOM Niger office to launch activities and afterward for monitoring activities and gather recommendations for future programming¹⁸.

An IOM-HACP joint evaluation was also carried out in Mali in October 2016 while EU didn't establish a monitoring plan with offices in the target countries¹⁹.

Although no data related to the reintegration project income generation are available, socio-economic benefits for migrants, youth at risk of migration and community can be retrieved from

the evaluation reports:

¹⁸ All the reports are available in IOM for further consultation

¹⁹ The report is available in IOM office for further consultation

1) Authorities, community, migrants and youth at risk recognized that the project restored hope and dignity both to individuals and community, since getting a job is seen as a possibility to fight poverty.

In this regards we quote the mayor of Diangounté Camara commune, Village de Sokan, Mali:

«The remittances of migrants are supporting the local population and are used to build infrastructures in the commune. However we wish to have more reintegration projects in the commune in order to create real alternatives to migration which is due to lack of opportunities for the youth”.

2) All the projects have a positive impact on the community as they fill in a services gap in the zone.

3) The reintegration projects are generally considered as prevention to community stigmatization against migrants returning to their community. (It is known that returning back home is normally considered a failure from both migrants, families and community who often collect money to finance these journeys and focus all their hopes of a better life, in the remittance).

How have the flow monitoring points contributed to provide stakeholders with sound data on the migration flow?

Thanks to AGAMI project, in February 2016, IOM has been able to set-up Flow Monitoring Points (Arlit and Séguédine) as recognised to be placed on the migration corridors towards and from Libya and Algeria.

Information gathered on a daily basis in these 2 strategic Nigerian towns are meant to provide stakeholders with snap shot on migrants’ movements (in and out the cities and only potentially in and out Niger borders).

Up to the 30 of September 2016, 394,715 migrants have been observed transiting through the two cities. The FMP teams are also carrying out surveys on a monthly basis to gather qualitative information relating to migrants intentions, their profiles, and migration experiences. Up to the 30 of September 2016 as far as 2,437 individuals have been interviewed, information compiled and analysis produce and shared on a web page (<http://www.globaldtm.info/niger/>) at the benefit of the stakeholders working in the migration field both at national and international level. During AGAMI project, IOM broadcasted on its webpage 31 reports of which one is a complete analysis from February to June 2016.

Mixed statements have been collected during the evaluation:

- EU officer stood that IOM flow monitoring data were the only source of information on migration flow and therefore the ones reported to Head Quarter in Brussels and used for official documents.
- HACP since its visit in October to Séguédine put in doubt the quality of information as the FMP IOM worker was observed collecting data on piece of paper and not on tablets (purchased by AGAMI project), however “no other institutions were providing information more trustful than IOM”.

As of now, no other NGO/UN Agencies are “counting migrants” or providing information on the migration corridors and flows. The national police²⁰ are registering departures and arrivals in Séguédine but it is unlikely these reports are reflecting the reality as transporters and migrants avoid the check points (now more than ever).

What have been the results of the intervention?

The logic frame work revised on May 2016 has been taken as reference for the results analysis (Annex 9). This is due to discrepancy noticed between the narrative, the logic frame work and the budget and to the EU and HACP monitoring sheets difference.

²⁰ *Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire (DST)*

In this regard, it is of notice, the EU officer acknowledgement of IOM prompt response in providing AGAMI data whenever requested and IOM availability in sharing data towards indicators not included in the AGAMI project document.

Overall the project achievements exceeded the expected results.

Expected and achieved results
General objective indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 25,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries reached by information outreach, advice, orientation and referral <p>Achieved: 18,000 migrants were reached directly by information outreach, advice, orientation and referral in Agadez Region of which 15,800 in the transit centre and 2,500 by the community mobilisers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 3,300 beneficiaries direct and indirect (families in the target community have received a voluntary return support and up to 3,200 people (migrants, their families and their communities) benefit of a socio-economic reintegration support. <p>Achieved: 2,660 direct beneficiaries have received support to their voluntary return of which 2,365 to third countries and 295 Nigerien migrants voluntarily returned and transported to their community. 19 communities in 4 countries of migrants' origin benefitted of socio-economic reintegration support.</p>
Specific objective indicators
<p>Number of migrants benefitting of direct assistance in IOM transit centre :</p> <p>Expected: 600</p> <p>Achieved: 15,800 migrants assisted by IOM under this and a UK-funded project (50/50 for the assistance in the transit centres) of which 2,660 migrants voluntarily returned, out of which 2,365 TCNs who returned to their countries of origin in West Africa</p> <p>Number of migrants benefitting of services of counselling, orientation and referral in Agadez region.</p> <p>Expected: 5,000</p> <p>Achieved: 18,000 migrants were reached directly by information outreach, advice, orientation and referral in Agadez Region of which 15,800 in the transit centre and 2,500 by the community mobilisers</p> <p>Number of migrants benefitting of consular services to obtain the travel documentation</p> <p>Expected: 300</p> <p>Achieved: Up to 1,774 (more than 75% of migrants do not have travel documents)</p> <p>Number of migrant and community members benefitting of the reintegration in their community assistance.</p> <p>Expected: 320 migrants and 320 community members</p> <p>Achieved: 322 direct beneficiaries including 192 migrants returned and 19 communities in 4 countries</p>
Results indicators
<p>Number of migrants profiled during 12 months per gender, age and nationalities</p> <p>Expected: 2,000</p> <p>Achieved: 15,800</p> <p>Number of beneficiaries benefitting of medical consultation, food, hygiene kits during the project life</p> <p>Expected: 600</p>

Achieved: Medical consultation and 15,800 migrants benefitted of psychosocial support, shelter, food, water and hygiene kits; of which 4,200 migrants benefitted of AVR package and 11,600 were Nigerien deported from Algeria. 1,000 migrant received medical consultation and assistance.

Number of migrants returned to their community of origin during the 12 months of project.

Expected: 300 third country and 300 in Niger

Achieved: 2,365 third country and 295 in Niger

IOM and HCR procedures adopted for Asylum Seekers.

Achieved: IOM referred 13 asylum-seekers to UNHCR according established procedure. Every migrants receives individual counselling, including on the possibility to seek asylum if they fear persecution. The profiling questionnaire used by IOM includes specific question, developed jointly with UNHCR that aims at identifying needs for international protection.

Meeting training and consultation rooms rehabilitated in Agadez transit centre.

Expected: End of works completed in the first 4 months after contract signature.

Achieved: yes, works completed

Number of migrants benefitting of assistance for the reintegration in their community of origin

Expected: 320

Achieved: 192 migrants benefitted directly of reintegration assistance in their community of origin (together with 130 youth at risk and community members)

Number of community of origin members participating at the community initiative:

Expected: 320

Achieved: 130 community members benefitting directly and 19 community in 4 targeted countries

Number of community initiative completed in the 4 targeted countries

Expected: between 10 and 20

Achieved: 37 reintegration projects

Number of beneficiaries of community initiatives:

Expected: to be indicated once the target area identified.

Achieved: 19 communities benefit of community initiative (the total number of beneficiaries is not available).

Number of community identified and of authorities engaged for the continuation of the intervention after the pilot phase

Expected: to be indicated once the target area identified

Achieved: 19 communities were identified and the communal and community authorities were involved in the project to ensure durability.

Number of reports on the migration flow in Agadez region

Expected: weekly, monthly and final

Achieved : 28 weekly, 3 analysis

Other results

Study on the impact of migrants on the economy of Agadez region

Achieved: The final report was submitted by the contractor on the 10 November 2016

Cartography of Agadez Region actors
Achieved: the cartography is finalised

Study of work market in the 5 target countries
Achieved: the final report was submitted by the contractor on the 10 November 2016

Organisation of a regional conference for the studies 'findings restitution and of coordination of actions to be developed to promote the youth employment.
Achieved: The conference will be at national level

Development of an action plan for youth, related to the work market in the target zones.
Achieved: To be develop in the second phase

2.3 EFFICIENCY: To what extend the operations were set up to minimize waste of time, effort and resources? (Do things right):

Was the project budget respected? What factors influenced any particular discrepancies between project budget and expenses?

AGAMI project agreement was signed by IOM and the EU delegation on the 11 of November 2015 and few days later (15 November 2015) its implementation started. No time extension was requested and IOM Finance Unit Responsible affirmed that the budget amended in May 2016 has been spent according to implementation plan over the project sites (Niger, Mali, Senegal, Gambia and Nigeria). Nonetheless some budget lines are over spent such as: additional cost for convoy, office cost for Agadez and studies undertaken; however other budget lines are under spent as the number of activities expected were less implemented (monitoring trip and technical support for regional reintegration projects).

Was the project chronogram respected?

The chronogram was really ambitious per se and the pressure on operations due to the unexpected number of migrants transiting in Niger resulted in the no respect of the initial proposed chronogram. By the end of the project and final evaluation, all the activities were implemented (and results exceeded expectations) and the 2 studies reports were delivered on time to IOM while editing and comments revision shall be finalised in the next days. The organisation of the regional restitution is the only activity changed and postponed to the second phase. In agreement with the donor, a brain storm session will take place among partners to allow a much more participative development of a youth placement action plan.

Results of the questionnaires, undertaken by the IOM officers in third countries, highlighted that the timing between the reintegration preparation phase (business plan finalisation and approval for funding) and the project set up is too long due to administrative and operations procedures. This fact negatively impacted on the time dedicated to the project follow up, monitoring and evaluation.

Were all the items previewed in the project document purchased? Were the equipment and items purchased in line with the Niger market availability and price?

Only the 2 satellite phones were not purchased while all the equipment, furniture, tools, were mainly purchased in the local market following IOM procurement procedures. The minibus (for migrants' transportation) was purchased with multi-donors' funds and AGAMI project contributed for the 40% of the cost.

Were the project resources (equipment, human resources, and expertise) adequate to the project operations? (If the case, missing resources to be specified).

The information management unit manager stated that both equipment and human resources were deployed on time on site and IOM Geneva and Dakar headquarters provided supervision and expertise, however Niger suffers of communication infrastructures deficiency challenging the regular transmission of data. The information management team is composed of three IOM staff overwhelmed by information, analysis and reporting requests internally and externally. It's recognised that the internally capacity to respond is limited and could be improved by expanding the team for data analysis and reporting. The mobility of FMP staff (nowadays distributed as follow: Séguédine-1 focal point, Dirkou-4 enumerators, Arlit-1 focal point, Arlit-4 enumerators) should be improved as migrants are moving and transporters test new roads (law on counteracting migrant smuggling) this shall assure broader area coverage and provide more reliable and complete data.

IOM offices in the target country of migrants' origin are well equipped and human resources for the community reintegration projects have been recruited on time. However the communities of migrants' origin are generally scattered around the country and national infrastructures represent a challenge for communities accessibility limiting the project follow up, in this sense IOM focal points should be deployed in proximity of the communities target by the reintegration. IOM is already discussing with local authorities in those target countries to have office space in the local administration infrastructures. Placing an IOM focal point within the local administration shall have a positive impact not only on the community support and project monitoring but also on the administration participation and ownership of the project. The reintegration projects visibility should also be improved through sensibilisation and information campaigns in order to reinforce opinion-change toward migration. In this sense human and financial resource should be increased and defined according to each country's reality. The implementing partners selected by IOM should benefit from a training on Reintegration guidelines in order to boost consistency in operations and monitoring/reporting tools.

Was any major project implementation disruption recorded?

No records have been found on any internal or external issue perturbing the project implementation. In August the AGAMI Project Manager, Mrs Fatou Diallo Ndiaye handed over the project to another IOM staff, Mrs Marina Schramm who was already familiar with the project, therefore no interruption or operation discontinuity have been registered during the project life.

2.4 IMPACT: To what extent the project contributed to a change in a situation, intended or unintended, positive or negative:

Is the project document sufficiently well designed to identify which impact was expected from the project and attributable to it?

The project document clearly defines the positive impacts expected by the project.

- 1) *"The project will contribute to support authorities' capability of managing the migration flow".*

Although the technical expertise was not transferred to the authorities (especially to Agadez region authorities) the three centres became the indispensable infrastructures to grant migrants with minimum service and protection while containing the negative impact on the local population. Of relevance the initiative taken by the mayor of Agadez in mid-October to organise a round table to discuss migration issues where IOM was invited as main interlocutor and partner among other 50 participants.

- 2) *"The pilot reintegration phase in the countries of origin shall prepare a durable and efficient response based on the collaboration between countries of origin, destination and transit. The authorities'*

dialogue shall encourage the development of community initiatives which in phase II shall be replicated to cover a significant number of concerned communities and assure the contribution of migrants to the local economy for a durable impact.”

IOM has a long lasting presence in West Africa. AGAMI project allowed IOM to strengthen relationship with local authorities and provided them with concrete support for the socio-economic development of the most migration affected areas. Collaboration between countries of destination and transit were demonstrated by two European countries Authorities visiting Niger. In early October 2016 Germany Chancellor Mrs Angela Merkel, visited Niger and Agadez to boost relations between Germany and Niger in regards to migration and security issues. IOM was part of the welcoming delegation and the centre of Agadez was visited. In November 2016 Mr Paolo Gentiloni (Italian Foreign Affairs Minister) carried out a joint visit with the European Union representative in the framework of “Migration Compacts” and at the same time Italy pledged an extra fund of 200 Million Euro and the Italian Embassy installation. The Government presentations made to the delegation were based on IOM data.

During the AGAMI project IOM commissioned a study aiming at the identification, in the 5 countries targeted by the project, of viable economic initiatives and potential job opportunities. The results of the study will be shared with all stakeholders in the region in order to enhance participation on local development and ownership of local authorities in phase II. In addition to this IOM was able to identify the areas most affected by the youth exodus, as well as of mapping local partners with specific competences to implement socio-economic initiatives. In order to prepare the phase II, during AGAMI project, accent was given to migrants’ awareness on the possibility to undertake reintegration projects in their community of origin and the advantages to become the actors of their community development.

- 3) *“The authorities dealing with migration issues shall benefit of tools to register the migration flow and produce rigorous estimations. In Phase II the acquired competences will be enlarge and consolidate.”*

During AGAMI, two FMPs have been established in Agadez Region and a standard methodology of data collection, transmission, compilation, analysis, reporting and information sharing being drafted and proved. The second phase of the intervention will allow IOM to focus on the transfer of competences to the national authorities having proven the goodness of a sound methodology and tools fitting the Niger context.

- 4) *“The pull-factors shall be minimized through the engagement of youth at risk in the reintegration projects and through an information campaign aiming at divulgate information on the risks of irregular migration and of the possibilities to participate at local development projects as alternative to migration”.*

Reintegration projects implemented during the AGAMI project targeted migrants and members of the community. Youths and community members at large were sensitized by IOM staff, implementing partners and migrants on the risks linked to irregular migration. Youth were provided with story of returned migrants and their experiences. Accent was given to the dangers of undertaking the journey through dealers and the little chance to make it to European countries. The sensibilisation sought to underline the individual and community benefits of developing economic initiatives in their own community and the positive impact on the general wellbeing of remaining in

the community. In Phase II the campaign will capitalise on the AGAMI experience and messages will be reinforced to enlarge coverage and impact.

Are there sufficient observable elements, evidences and/or data which could lead to a firm conclusion about the positive impact of the project?

The high numbers of migrants assisted (15,800 direct beneficiaries) during the project implementation in the IOM transit centre and of migrants assisted (6,700 direct beneficiaries) to go back home suggest that the impact was positive both in terms of authorities support to deal with migration flow boost and to abate the pressure on the weak community infrastructures and service in Agadez Region.

Either positive or negative, does the impact comes from the project, from external factors or from both?

The positive project impact is due to the synergies among projects (and funds) that IOM was able to create around AGAMI project. Activities implemented in the AGAMI framework could benefit from IOM consolidated experience in interconnecting authorities support, migrants' direct assistance and community development intervention. The impact on communities, both in areas of transit and in countries of origin, is another achievement resulting from the implementation of simultaneous activities funded by different donors. IOM profited of the overall experience to standardize procedures which will be consolidated in future programming.

Does the impact only concern the target beneficiaries or is another target affected by the project?

AGAMI target beneficiaries are: migrants in transit in Agadez Region, Nigerien authorities and third countries authorities, third countries communities, therefore the Agadez region community is consider as an additional beneficiary of the project as indirectly benefiting from the intervention. In fact, the transit centre reduced the pressure on local services by the direct assistance (i.e. medical support, shelter, water, food), while reduced the duration of the migrants permanence in the area (migrants are accepted in the centre only if they wish to go back home and maximum after a week they leave the centre).

3. Methodology

IOM commissioned a final evaluation instead of a mid-term evaluation (AGAMI project document) as the main interest to stakeholders was to provide recommendations to reinforce the MRRM process for phase II.

All relevant information and project documents were provided to the consultant upon arrival in Niger by IOM. Secondary sources of information were consulted and used to design the evaluation questions related to the OECD/DAC evaluation criteria.

During the debriefing meeting with IOM chief of Mission and AGAMI Project manager the evaluation methodology, including the evaluation work plan and tools were discussed, only the Dirkou field mission was cancelled due to limited internal flight availability and the short evaluation timeframe to undertake the trip by road.

The evaluation followed the OECD-DAC criteria such as pertinence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact, while due to the nature of the project (pilot project), sustainability criteria was not taken under consideration however thanks to information gathered recommendations were made to inform MRRM phase II in this sense. Those criteria guided the evaluation questionnaire used by the consultant to gather information (See Annex 10).

All the IOM staff involved in the project were consulted including staff that is not present in Niger anymore and Reintegration officers residing in the migrants' origin countries (Mali, Nigeria, Gambia, and Senegal). The

consultant was briefed on project implemented activities, the methodologies applied, coordination mechanism in place with local and national authorities, partnerships with humanitarian and development actors, internal coordination mechanisms as well as the project challenges, the lesson learned and the recommendations for future programming.

A questionnaire (Annex 11) was designed and submitted to reintegration officers residing in the migrants' origin countries and follow up phone calls were done to clarify information provided.

From the 31st of October to the 3rd November 2016 the field mission in Agadez took place, IOM Sub-office prepared an agenda and meetings were scheduled and undertaken accordingly (Annex 12). A full day was dedicated to the observation of AGAMI ongoing activities both in the Agadez transit centre and in the city. Several migrants hosted at the centre were interviewed (including migrant under medical treatment).

A focus group with the community mobilisers working in Agadez and the "Bureau d'écoute" staff was held.

Several interviews with Agadez authorities (Regional Council director, mayor, Sultan), project stakeholders (EU and HACP both in Niamey and Agadez) and partners (COOPI, NRC, FRC, ANEJS, Youth association, SwissContact) involved in the migration response were undertaken (Annex 13).

4. Recommendations

Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR)

The biggest challenges encountered by IOM during the project implementation was the high migration flows that went beyond expectation. Lessons learned were to improve AVR operation intervention in a more systematic way in order to be able to provide support to a higher number of beneficiaries in a short timeframe allowing to reduce their permanence in the centre and go back home safely.

The AVR procedure is well establish however database and monitoring tool should be improved. Nowadays IOM has a migrant's database where services provided in the transit centres are recorded together with the migrant individual profiling. Another data base is used for documentation for travel and another one for transportation expenses record. IOM is recommended to combine all the information in one data base to improve follow up and enhance transparency. If this is not feasible a feedback mechanism between data information unit and operations unit might be establish in order to compile all the information in a centralised database

Information unit

Medical/protection, reintegration, operation units have all access to a data base and they are populating it with relevant data. However the data base is not on line therefore the excel sheets, individually and with different time schedule, are submitted to an officer who is in charge to compile all the information in a central data base. This procedure is time consuming and might generate data lost and mistakes, therefore it is advisable to establish a timetable for data submission and data compilation and establish as well a schedule for databases check (sub/office, transit centre and HQ office).

At any project planning phase donors and partners should finalised and approve a Monitoring-reporting plan. Clear monitoring objectives, indicators might be fixed as well as a calendar for information sharing. This will reduce duplications of requests and time consuming for data analysis and reporting production.

It is advisable for IOM Niger to have on board, even for a short period, a statistician and an IT expert in dashboard. A database analysis framework and the automatic production of info graphic might be the result of the consultancy.

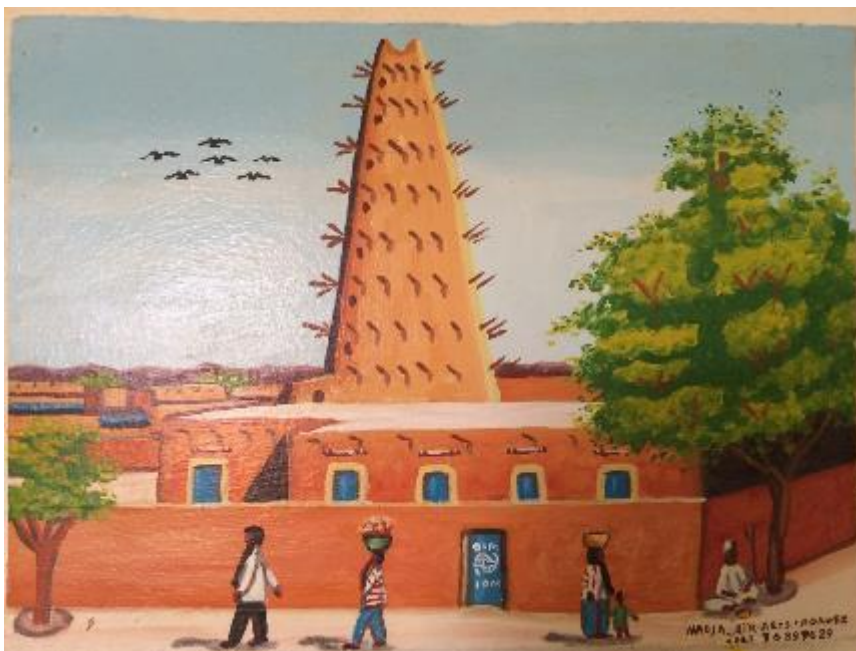
Government staff should be trained and involved in data collection and FMP procedure in order to boost authorities' technical expertise in managing migration flow and allow ownership of relevant data and

information. This action might result as well in enhance government trust in IOM data while giving the possibility to IOM to expand area covered by FMP.

The community mobilisers and enumerators teams should be increase in number, this should allow a broader coverage of Agadez region to better gather information and provide advice, orientation and referral support to migrants, communities and authorities. At the same time it's advisable to provide the teams with visual information tools to be distributed and posted on walls in known and strategic migrants' transit points (writing texts should be limited and/or English, French, Arab and Portuguese languages should be used).

The information outreach (community mobiliser) shall be expanded in other areas of Niger (at the moment only in Agadez). From FMP analysis the 90% of migrants travel by bus. IOM shall enter in agreement with the Bus Commercial Companies to establish an information campaign during the travel on migration risk, Niger and neighbour countries migration laws and IOM activities in the countries. At the bus station and on the bus information material shall be distributed and TV shall be installed permanently broadcasting recorded messages, video, documentary and news on migration related issues.

To reach Niger community at large with IOM keys messages, an agreement shall be reached with Orange or any other major mobile operators (largest coverage) to send synchronized SMS.



Reintegration

The timing space between the reintegration project preparation phase (business plan finalisation and approval for funding) and the project set up is too long due to administrative and operations procedures. This can generate loss of beneficiaries trust towards implementing partners and IOM and most might negatively impact on the project support /monitoring calendar.

The reintegration project support after its set up should be not less than 3 months in order to provide

beneficiaries with guidance in the most sensitive moment of the business (start-up). In order to reduce the delays in implementation and therefore respect the project monitoring timing, IOM should streamline the administrative/operational procedure by establishing link with both NGO and local committees/authorities who will be involved in the project participatory design and that will take charge of the project set up, implementation and monitoring.

IOM should consolidate a network of international and local NGOs (including Community Based Organisations) in each country of return ahead the project implementation or at least in the first months of project implementation (length depending on the overall project duration).

IOM should constantly update the map of the priorities zone of migration origin (triangulating registration data, profiling, national and local authorities' feedback, international and national organisation feedback).

Once the mapping is updated the implementation partners present in the area shall be called to manifest their interest in participating at the community based reintegration projects. In the expression of interest response, the partners should submit a detailed plan of action and estimation cost.

It's at large considered that the regional coordination of community based reintegration projects must be clearly set up in the project planning phase and clear guidance (including tools, formats, deadlines and hierarchy) should be established. Before starting the project implementation itself, the coordinator should call a regional meeting involving all the project regional teams appointed by the mission. At the meeting a "risks/solutions" frame should be clearly defined to provide regional team with a first-hand tool to use in case of need, as well as a monitoring and evaluation plan in order to provide the teams with the same understanding of the implementation methodology.

The challenges experienced by each team shall be recorded by the coordinator who will be responsible to find a solution with IOM missions and/or to adapt procedure to country reality and IOM mission resources. The records of challenges versus solutions should be analysed at the end of the project in order to provide recommendations for future programming.

The IOM reintegration focal points should be as close as possible to the implementation area to undertake close monitoring, therefore it's advisable to search the possibility to have an office space in the local administration infrastructure which will allow at the same time to boost local administration technical capacity and government enhance ownership. This "solution", if viable, might result in a budget saving which might be reverted into the rehabilitation of public infrastructures or equipment.

The reintegration teams (in each country of origin) should closely coordinate with the operation officer in charge of welcoming the migrants and be always present at the moment of the migrants' arrival with ad hoc information material. The best scenario would be to have the Implementing Partner welcoming the migrants as well in order to establish a connection. Voluntarily returned migrants should be provided with a debriefing on the reintegration projects and its process (including procedures time frame in order to reduce expectation and avoid frustration) before returning to their community.

Considering the variance in cost for similar reintegration project in the regional countries, it is advisable to allocate a different project amount to each country. To better address the resource allocation during the planning phase, a standard business plan should be shared among IOM procurement offices and analysis should be undertaken in order to identify the variance in project cost.

The reintegration projects visibility should also be improved through sensitization and information campaign in order to reinforce opinion change toward migration. In this sense human and financial resource should be increased and defined accordingly each country reality. The reintegration projects and community infrastructures construction/rehabilitation shall be introduced and presented as an alternative to migration and the potential way out from poverty.

Community reintegration projects should be embedded into a structured community stabilisation project aiming at empowering authorities' ownership, sensitizing community on migration and boost economic opportunities.

Studies and Researches

The University of Niger and the Universities in countries of migrants' origin (regional university at large) shall be involved in future studies. The capitalisation of University studies and their contextualised knowledge

about social, political, historic topics will serve to complete external/international knowledge, funding and analysis. Further, university students should be granted with an internship which will provide them with a professional experience while contributing to field work research assuring a longer data collection period at lower price.

To IOM Management

IOM is well positioned to capitalise on acquired experiences and enlarge existing synergies with other partners, donors, initiatives, in particular those focusing on the creation of economic and employment opportunities in regions of transit and of high emigration potential. In this regards IOM should establish partnerships with private sectors (national and international) for the development of sustainable initiatives. The firms carrying on “Entrepreneurship social responsibility” strategy might have a privilege chair.

In mid-October 2016 the mayor of Agadez called all the partners to a round table on migration. The focus of the debate was around the application of the law on irregular migration. In general local actors showed their concerns about the repression measures adopted by the Minister of Interior and the police reporting that is causing a huge negative impact on the fragile socio-economic tissue and on the region’s security.

They requested immediate actions to restore peace and reduce the risk of violent protests, such as i) Free from jail those who are arrested (*Passeurs* and transporters); ii) Give back the vehicles; iii) NGOs grants for project managed by local authorities (to provide alternative income to the ones living “on” migration).

They also suggested long term actions such as: i) Dissemination of the anti-smuggling law and ECOWAS protocol; ii) Awareness campaign for migrants and local communities; iii) Social cohesion initiatives including those to strengthen the confidence towards FDS and police; iv) Livelihood and development activities for those involved in the “migration business” as an income generation alternative.

IOM should build on these recommendations and strongly advocate for funding for immediate implementation.

This should be seen as an opportunity to mitigate or prevent escalation of ethnic group conflicts (i.e. Toubou tribe) that might consider the Government restriction an action against them (majority earning a living with activities linked to migration. It’s worth to remind that the transportation was a reintegration option for ex-rebels in the latest DDR program (2011)).

IOM should establish agreement with the Government to hire (mid-time) Government staff to involve directly in the activities implementation (i.e. transit centre management, FMP for data collection and analysis, reintegration project development etc...) in order to boost authorities technical expertise in managing migration flow and allow ownership to deal with migration related issues. Additionally government functions should be embedded directly in the Transit Centre (e.g. health assistance from Minister of Health staff and ID check and documents by DST).

Literature and documentation consulted

AGAMI project document, amendment, agreement, correspondence, information, reports.

IOM Operations procedures

All documents and presentations of the « Round table on migration issue » organised by the Mayor of Agadez, 22-24 October 2016

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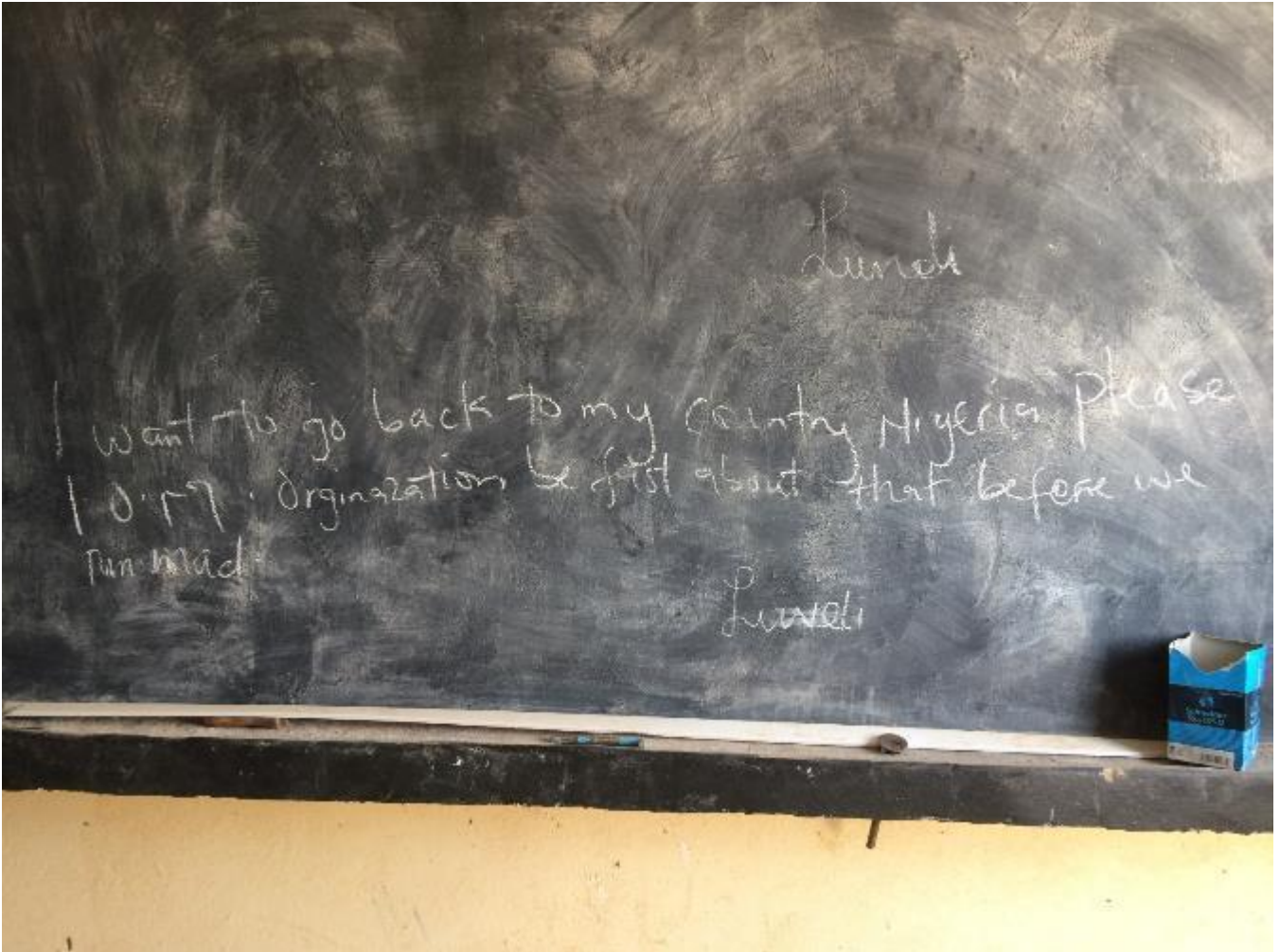
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Migrant message on the black board in IOM Agadez transit centre training room