

IOM REGIONAL DATA HUB FOR THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

IMPACT Study Report #3

# EVALUABILITY REVIEW AND DEEP DIVE ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY- BASED REINTEGRATION PROJECTS

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## ABOUT THE IMPACT STUDY

The IMPACT Study is the impact evaluation of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative programme in the Horn of Africa. Launched in March 2020 and concluded in March 2023, the study focuses on Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan: the three countries in the region where the programme has the largest reintegration caseload. All the IMPACT Study reports, as well as additional resources such as technical annexes, datasets, data analysis scripts and dissemination material are accessible from the IMPACT Study webpage: <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/impact-study>.

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## ABOUT THE EU-IOM JOINT INITIATIVE FOR MIGRANT PROTECTION AND REINTEGRATION

The EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration was launched in December 2016 and is funded by the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. The programme brings together 26 African countries of the Sahel and Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa, and North Africa regions, along with the European Union and IOM around the goal of ensuring that migration is safer, more informed and better governed for both migrants and their communities. In the Horn of Africa, the programme is implemented primarily in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan. The programme enables migrants who decide to return to their countries of origin to do so in a safe and dignified way. It provides assistance to returning migrants to help them restart their lives in their countries of origin through an integrated approach to reintegration that supports both migrants and their communities, has the potential to complement local development, and mitigates some of the drivers of irregular migration. Also within the programme's areas of action is building the capacity of governments and other partners; migration data collection and analysis to support fact-based programming; as well as information and awareness-raising. Further information on the programme can be accessed at: [www.migrationjointinitiative.org](http://www.migrationjointinitiative.org).

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## ABOUT THE REGIONAL DATA HUB

Established in 2018, the Regional Data Hub (RDH) for the East and Horn of Africa supports evidence-based, strategic and policy-level discussion on migration through a combination of initiatives. In particular, the RDH uses multiple tools and processes to investigate the migration narrative in the region and gain a more in-depth understanding of the actors, dynamics and risks of migration. These initiatives aim to fill existing gaps by strengthening the regional evidence base on migration, which will further improve policymaking and programming. The RDH strategy is in line with the objectives of the IOM Migration Data Strategy (MDS). Publications can be consulted at <https://eastandhornofafrica.iom.int/regional-data-hub>. The RDH is largely funded through the generous support of the European Union, under the terms of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa (EU-IOM JJ), the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and IOM's Migration Resource Allocation Committee (MiRAC).



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

**CBRP** Community-Based Reintegration Project

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**FGD** Focus Group Discussion

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**IOM** International Organization for Migration

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**JI-HoA** EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa

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**KII** Key Informant Interview

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**KPQ** Key Performance Question

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**MEL** Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

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**MSC** Most Significant Change

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**M&E** Monitoring and Evaluation

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**RSS** Reintegration Sustainability Survey

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**SNNPR** Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region

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**ToC** Theory of Change

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## BACKGROUND

In March 2020, Itad was commissioned by IOM to carry out an impact evaluation (hereafter referred to as IMPACT) of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa (JI-HoA), focusing on Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan.

The JI-HoA supports migrants who decide to return to their countries of origin to do so in a safe and dignified way, in full respect of international human rights standards and in particular the principle of non-refoulement. The support provided to returning migrants and their communities through this programme is the first steppingstone in the lengthy and non-linear process of reintegration.

As a flagship evaluation for IOM, IMPACT's objectives are to evaluate the impact of the JI-HoA and provide an accountability mechanism to beneficiaries of the programme, the donor and the wider return and reintegration sector. Other broader objectives are to deepen the understanding of the concept and measurement of sustainable reintegration; to generate substantial learning on evaluating impact of sustainable reintegration programmes; and inform future methodological standards.

This IMPACT Study report captures insights for IOM on the coherence between community and individual-level reintegration assistance, and recommendations to improve the design and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems of community-based reintegration assistance going forward.

### BACKGROUND OF THE CBRPs

Community-based reintegration assistance is intended to support strong community networks and conditions for the sustainable reintegration of returnees. This assistance is implemented using a participatory approach involving returnees and their communities of return to address wider needs and concerns. Since 2018, 54 community-based reintegration projects (CBRPs) have been implemented in Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan under the JI-HoA.

Community-based initiatives are designed to increase support for reintegration among local actors. These initiatives are particularly useful when there is a large number of returnees to a specific community, because community-based reintegration can address tensions between returnees and local communities, or serve as extra capacity when a community has been stretched to accommodate returnees' needs.<sup>1</sup> The CBRPs should be designed and implemented with consideration of the following:

- a. CBRPs should work with communities to **address possible barriers to reintegration**, for example where there is perceived or actual economic competition for jobs, strains on services and infrastructure, or stigmatization of returnees.
- b. CBRPs should be **implemented where local authorities are motivated to support** reintegration and where there is a basic level of infrastructure and security.
- c. CBRPs should **involve and benefit both returnees and non-migrants, and should be participatory** – they should be designed and decided upon in partnership with community members, both returnees and non-migrants, so they are appropriately matched to the strengths, resources, needs and concerns of the community.

CBRPs are intended to complement individual reintegration assistance in the following ways:

1. Focussing on the short and medium term to address community barriers to reintegration.
2. Fostering dialogue, social cohesion and empowerment within and between returnees and non-migrant members of the community.
3. Supporting the resilience of returnees and the community.
4. Supporting the longer-term sustainability of intervention outcomes.

<sup>1</sup> International Organization for Migration. *Reintegration Handbook – Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance* (Geneva, 2019).

As highlighted in the IOM Reintegration Handbook, there is no fixed type or approach to CBRPs as each project should respond to the local context, community needs and profiles of migrants. Approaches differ according to the focus of CBRPs, which can be either of the following:

- CBRPs that **focus on the needs of groups of returnees** and find ways to involve members of the community.

- CBRPs that **focus on the needs of the local community** and seek to involve one or more returnees.

Although CBRPs can be diverse in nature, in order to respond to local needs, all CBRPs should fit into three broad categories (Table 1).<sup>2</sup>

Table 1. CBRPs categories

Thematic Area	Description and Role	Application/Target Group	Approaches
Community level <b>economic reintegration assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These come in many forms, in line with different project approaches.</li> <li>• Designed to <b>use</b> economies of scale, foster a wider economic environment more conducive to sustainable reintegration and partner with and build upon existing local development programming.</li> </ul>	Most appropriate when large numbers of returnees with similar skills and motivations return to the same community within a short time frame, and when the wider economy is doing well and/or there are local development initiatives already in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collective income-generating activities</li> <li>• Community-based local development and livelihood activities</li> <li>• Community financial support activities</li> </ul>
<b>Social reintegration assistance</b> at the community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focused on improving the accessibility and availability of social services in communities of return.</li> </ul>	Can benefit both returnees and community members, especially where there are physical, language or other barriers hindering returnee access to services in specific high-return communities, or the services in these communities cannot meet the specific needs and vulnerabilities of returnees and community members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing and accommodation</li> <li>• Education and training</li> <li>• Health and well-being</li> <li>• Public infrastructure and safety</li> <li>• Justice and rights</li> </ul>
<b>Psychosocial reintegration assistance</b> at the community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes activities that strengthen social networks within communities to empower returnees within those networks and foster wider acceptance of returning migrants within the community.</li> </ul>	Most useful when returnees lack strong social links to communities of return or when community dynamics are not conducive to returnees' reintegration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community mobilization activities</li> <li>• Peer support mechanisms</li> <li>• Community networks</li> </ul>

2 Collated from IOM Reintegration Handbook – Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance, 2019.



## PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This report details the findings from a modified evaluability assessment and qualitative deep dives on CBRPs delivered as part of the JI-HoA in Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan. In order to gather lessons, recommendations and best practice to inform future programming, the objectives of the analysis are to review:

1. The **design** of CBRPs, in order to generate recommendations for further refinement of existing guidance/standards, based on what has worked well/less well and why.
2. The **MEL systems** for CBRPs (individually and as a portfolio) and availability of information, with a focus on outcome and impact assessment and reporting, to identify recommendations for improving MEL systems going forward.
3. The **coherence** of CBRPs with individual support for sustainable reintegration provided to returnees to identify where synergies exist and where improvements can be made.

The first part of this report (chapter 2) focuses on the findings from the modified evaluability assessment. The purpose of the **evaluability assessment** is to help to highlight gaps in the design and MEL systems of the CBRPs, as well as identify potential “domains of change” that the CBRPs may contribute to. The evaluability assessment focuses on objectives 1 (design) and 2 (MEL systems) of the analysis.

The second part of the report (chapter 3) focuses on findings from the **qualitative deep dives** to meet objective 3 (coherence). The deep dives focused on six CBRPs across Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan to further interrogate the coherence of the CBRPs with the individual reintegration assistance provided to returnees and to explore changes (planned and unplanned) that may have occurred as a result of the CBRPs. The deep dives allowed us to hear from the projects’ direct beneficiaries (returnees and community members) about the changes that have occurred in relation to returnee reintegration and how the changes relate to the CBRPs.

## METHODOLOGY

The evaluability assessment was conducted as a first step. Available project documentation was reviewed to assess the design and MEL systems of the CBRPs against a set of design standards and/or expectations of what constitutes “good” design given the context in question. Ideally, the evaluability assessment would have been based on international standards or IOM’s own standards for the design of CBRPs and their MEL systems. However, from consultations with the IOM Regional Office for East and Horn of Africa and the IOM Country Offices in Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan, we understand that such institutional standards and guidance for what constitutes “good” design and MEL for the CBRPs is minimal or does not exist. Therefore, we have applied more general principles of evaluability assessments to provide a set of defined criteria with which to assess (1) project designs and (2) information availability and utility that should inform CBRP MEL systems.

The evaluability assessment was conducted in the following stages:

1. An initial review of available CBRP documentation to adapt and tailor the evaluability assessment criteria as appropriate<sup>3</sup> (see Annex 1 for the adapted evaluability assessment criteria).
2. A full review of the documentation available, completing a matrix including an overall rating for each project in terms of design and MEL systems.
3. Interviews with each country office to further understand the design and MEL system of the CBRPs.
4. A mapping of the CBRPs against IOM objectives to build a picture of potential “domains of change” that these contribute to and how and to what extent these are currently measured.

Once the evaluability assessment was complete, the qualitative deep dives stage began. A modified most significant change (MSC) approach was used, applied through key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) with returnee and non-migrant community members involved in the CBRPs, which encouraged participants to think about positive changes

<sup>3</sup> This evaluability assessment adapted criteria from: Davies, R., (2013). *Planning Evaluability Assessments: A Synthesis of the Literature with Recommendations. Report of a Study Commissioned by the Department for International Development.*

as well as changes that reflect an area of improvement resulting from the CBRP.

The process for using this approach during the deep dives included the following steps:

1. Identification of broad domains of change (3–5) such as “changes in people’s lives” ahead of primary data collection.
2. During FGDs, MSC stories collected from those most directly involved in the CBRPs (returnees and host community members) by asking, for example “during the last XXX [time period], in your opinion, what was the most significant change that took place for participants in the CBRP?”.
3. Participants reported why they consider a particular change to be the most significant one and why they think that change occurred.
4. Changes reported by FGD participants triangulated through KIs with implementing partners.

A select number of CBRPs were purposively sampled for the deep dives to further explore the coherence and alignment between the CBRPs and individual

reintegration assistance provided to returnees. CBRPs selected for the deep dives were first identified based on a number of selection criteria:

- *Visibility* (that is, CBRPs that are particularly well-known to returnees and/or host community members) based on the results of the survey used for the IMPACT natural experiment-based evaluation (IMPACT Study Report #2) and/or the Reintegration Sustainability Survey (RSS).
- *Evidence of particularly successful/less successful CBRPs* (through feedback gathered from consultations with IOM country offices and evaluability assessment findings).
- *Accessibility* (considering logistics and security constraints).
- *Range of objectives* (domains of change) covered by the CBRP.

From a longlist of projects and in consultation with IOM country offices, we identified one successful and one less successful CBRP for each country. Table 2 details the selected projects selected.

Table 2. Project selected for deep dives

Country	Project Title	Location	Successful/ Less Successful
Ethiopia	Unlocking job opportunities for migrant returnees and potential migrants through fish farming in the Gibe Dam basin	Oromia, Jimma Zone	Successful
Ethiopia	Community-based mental health, psychosocial and livelihood support	SNNPR, Silte Zone	Less successful
Somalia	Community-based psychosocial support in Hargeisa	Hargeisa	Successful
Somalia	Promoting waste management whilst fostering social cohesion between migrant returnees and communities of return	Mogadishu, Wadajir district	Less successful
Sudan (the)	Rehabilitation of the Um Baddah Community Multi-Purpose Centre	Khartoum, Um Baddah district	Successful
Sudan (the)	Vocational training and provision of toolkits in El Geneina Technical School	West Darfur, El Genina	Less successful

**Data collection:** In-person primary data collection for Ethiopia and Somalia was conducted between October and November 2022 and due to unforeseen circumstances, data collection in the Sudan was delayed and subsequently completed in February 2023. Across all three countries, we held six KIIs with implementing partners and nine FGDs with returnees and host community members (see Annex 5). In less successful projects, FGDs were conducted with returnees and host community members separately to allow both groups to speak openly and mitigate potential tensions.

**Data analysis:** Given this is a review and not a full evaluation, the deep dives have been guided by the Review Framework (see Annex 4) to identify key focus areas and lessons. The qualitative data have been collated against the review framework, which will serve as a guide to collate lessons and examples of good practice, as well as to make informed recommendations about the relevance and coherence of the projects and the suitability of project design to the context. In addition, we have used the RSS and data from the survey administered for the IMPACT natural experiment-based evaluation (IMPACT Study Report #2) to look at responses from returnees and

non-migrants to understand the relative reach and awareness of the projects at scale. Collating all data sets, the analysis has been used to further develop the domains of change and to understand how CBRP interventions are influencing change and how they can be improved.

**Limitations:** The scope for the deep dives of the CBRPs is small (looking at one successful example and one less successful example in each country); therefore, hard conclusions will not be drawn but rather recommendations provided based on insights gathered through this process. Information gathered through the deep dives could help to identify additional “change areas” or outcomes for IOM to consider in the planning and design of future CBRP interventions.

Additionally, it is not within the scope of the analysis to undertake an evaluation of the CBRPs that would provide detailed evidence of impact and outcomes based on a wide range of data sources, nor to address the whole range of the evaluation criteria of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development / Development Assistance Committee.



Two boats in the Gibe Dam basin, part of the recreational boating aspect of the project run by JI-HoA beneficiaries. © IOM 2022

## EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT

### OVERARCHING FINDINGS

**Finding 1: Most CBRPs supported community level economic reintegration assistance that addressed barriers to reintegration with a focus on capacity-building and livelihood support, presenting layers of “domains of change” that can be explored further.**

At the time of conducting the evaluability assessment, the review team had received data on 40 CBRPs across the three countries. The initial project mapping showed that out of these 40 projects, **22 CBRPs were primarily focused on community level economic reintegration assistance, two on psychosocial reintegration assistance at the community level, 14 on social reintegration assistance at the community level and two included elements across all three thematic areas.** The majority of projects included in the mapping aligned with two out of the three key considerations for the CBRPs previously presented (see the Background of the CBRPs section), in particular: consideration (a) relating to working with communities to address possible barriers to reintegration, and consideration (b) ensuring projects involve and benefit both returnees and non-migrants. The mapping also highlighted that CBRPs most commonly focused on providing capacity-building and training as well as livelihood opportunities for returnees and host community members.

**Finding 2: The quality and consistency of documentation across all projects was poor, raising concerns about MEL systems.**

Due to limited available documentation,<sup>4</sup> it was only possible to conduct the evaluability assessment on 17 CBRPs out of 40 identified projects across the three countries (see Annex 2). Additionally, the research team found that the **MEL systems for 14 CBRPs were to some extent robust, and three to a limited extent. The limited documentation available proved a challenge**

**in terms of evaluating the MEL systems,** particularly around evidence of baseline measures and data, or plans for when this will be conducted. Additionally, there was only some or limited availability of critical data in 13 of the projects, meaning that there was limited evidence that data gathered on outcome or impact-level change were being adequately monitored, recorded and reported. However, there were some outlier projects where to a large extent their MEL systems were in place in terms of regular project monitoring at output and outcome level, learning and adaptation based on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) data.

**Finding 3: Where documentation exists, the design of projects was considered robust, with clear and plausible outcomes. However, what was measured and reported did not always align to the original outcomes.**

Out of the 17 projects included in the evaluability assessment, **the design of 10 projects was deemed to be robust to a large extent, and that of seven to some extent** (Table 3). Of those projects considered, overall the design of the projects was clear in terms of the identified long-term impact and outcomes, their relevance to the needs of returnees and community members and locations selected, and the plausibility the project objective could be achieved given the planned interventions within the project’s lifespan. However, the research team found that in terms of validity and reliability, the design of the CBRPs overall had mixed results as there was not always a direct relationship between the project activities and what is being measured. Additionally, the design of 12 out of the 17 projects was to some or to a limited extent contextualized with the assumptions about the roles of other actors outside the project not made explicit. Lastly, in 10 projects evidence of participatory engagement from returnees and community members and/or local authorities in the design of the CBRPs was limited, but this varied across the three countries (more discussed below).

<sup>4</sup> The research team needed at least the project document or proposal, and a monitoring/narrative report to complete the evaluability assessment.

Table 3. Rating of projects eligible for evaluability assessment against evaluability assessment criteria

PROJECT CODE	PROJECT TITLE	DESIGN								MEL SYSTEMS								OVERALL RATING	
		Clarity	Relevant	Plausible	Validity and reliability	Contextualized	Complexity	Agreement	Participatory engagement	Documents available	Baseline measures	Monitoring data	Indicator data	Critical data available	Gender disaggregated data	MEL budget	Learning	MEL systems capacity	Design
SO8	Promoting Waste Management Whilst Fostering Social Cohesion Between Returning Migrants and Their Communities of Return																		
SD4	Vocational training (Youth/skills training)																		
SD5	Community-based interventions to promote the reintegration of Sudanese migrant returnees and enhance the overall resilience of their communities of return																		
SD7	Vocational Training in Nyala																		
SD8	Garbage management and community hygiene campaigns																		
SO1	Rehabilitation of Local Government offices (Bossaso's Mayor Office)																		
SO4	Construction of Kerowfogi bridge in Baidoa																		
SO5	Bee-Keeping and Prevention to Deforestation in Balcad District																		

PROJECT CODE	PROJECT TITLE	DESIGN								MEL SYSTEMS								OVERALL RATING	
		Clarity	Relevant	Plausible	Validity and reliability	Contextualized	Complexity	Agreement	Participatory engagement	Documents available	Baseline measures	Monitoring data	Indicator data	Critical data available	Gender disaggregated data	MEL budget	Learning	MEL systems capacity	Design
SO7	Support the Climate Adaptive Community Based Reintegration of Returnees and Communities of Return in Burao																		
ET2	Rehabilitation Assistance for Ethiopian Migrant Returnees																		
ET1	Integrated Sustainable Reintegration Assistance Project for Ethiopian Migrant Returnees in Amhara region (ISRAP)																		
ET9	Construction of irrigation canal																		
ET10	Reintegration and Protection of Migrant Children Returnees in Jimma Zone of Oromia Region																		
ET11	Sustainable Socio-Economic Re-integration Support for Migrant Children																		
ET14	Gibe Dam Fish Farming																		

PROJECT CODE	PROJECT TITLE	DESIGN								MEL SYSTEMS								OVERALL RATING	
		Clarity	Relevant	Plausible	Validity and reliability	Contextualized	Complexity	Agreement	Participatory engagement	Documents available	Baseline measures	Monitoring data	Indicator data	Critical data available	Gender disaggregated data	MEL budget	Learning	MEL systems capacity	Design
ET16	Enhancing Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation of Returnee Migrants, Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities																		
ET24	Provision of Sustainable Reintegration Assistance of Ethiopian Children Returnees/minors Returnees																		

= To a limited extent eligible
  = To some extent eligible
  = To a large extent eligible
  = Unable to say

## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC FINDINGS: ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, the evaluability assessment was conducted with eight CBRPs. Overall, the design for most projects was found to be robust to a large extent. However, the MEL systems for most projects were found to be robust to some extent only.

In terms of design, most projects provided clarity to a large extent, with impact and outcomes and steps to achieving them clearly detailed. Additionally, **all but one project was found to be highly relevant to returnee and host community needs and locations selected in high-return areas.** The complexity of most projects was also found to be to a large extent clearly defined, with multiple interactions between different project components clearly linked. The contextualization of most projects met the criteria to some extent as assumptions about the roles of other actors outside the project were usually made explicit but there were no clear plans in place to monitor these assumptions. **For all projects, returnees and community members and/or local authorities were involved to some or limited extent in the design process.** While interviews with the country office detailed strong local community engagement and consultation, the research team found limited evidence of such engagement in the available documentation.

The limited documentation also meant that most projects did not meet the criteria for complete document sets in the MEL systems assessment. There was a mixed picture in terms of baseline measures, monitoring data and indicator data, with some evidence of these data or plans to collect data in project documents. The country office confirmed that implementing partners report monthly to IOM and community-based integration surveys are conducted annually. However, these data were not available and the frequency of data collection for specific projects was not clear for most projects included in the evaluability assessment. Where information of indicators was available, beneficiary data were disaggregated by gender to a large or some extent across all project activities. Overall, **most projects included in the evaluability assessment were found to meet minimum MEL requirements** with plans put in place to collect data and use this for project learning.

## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC FINDINGS: SOMALIA

In Somalia, four CBRPs were included in the evaluability assessment with three found to be overall robust to a large extent, and one to some extent. For the MEL systems, three were to some extent robust and one to a limited extent.

The clarity of three projects in terms of impact and outcomes was achieved to some extent, but the logical steps between outputs and outcomes were not always clear. **All projects met the criteria to a large extent for complexity, agreement and participatory engagement.** The research team found a clear link between the different project components and there was evidence that returnees, host communities and local authorities had been involved in the CBRP community consultations and design processes, their views considered and concerns/challenges addressed. Interviews with **the country office noted that labour market assessments were carried out ahead of project design and community action plans were used in consultation with the community to define priority needs.** There was more of a mixed picture in terms of plausibility, validity and reliability and contextualization. Two projects met all three criteria to a large extent but the other two either met the criteria to some or limited extent. The assumptions about the roles of other actors outside the project were not made explicit nor clearly defined the approach for achieving the long-term objectives within the project's domain of change.

For the MEL systems, it is a mixed picture across all criteria and projects but limited available documentation meant that the research team was unable to make judgements on indicator data or the MEL budget. **In terms of monitoring data, one project met the criteria to some extent, two to a limited extent and for one, the research team was unable to determine.** For two projects, there was evidence that baseline measures had been conducted, for one project documented plans for measures were available and for one project there was no evidence of baseline data. However, the country office did mention that there is a requirement for a baseline questionnaire for each CBRP, and each should establish an M&E plan at inception phase. The country office also asks implementing partners to report halfway through the project and produce a final report. This documentation was not available



for all projects. **All projects met the minimum MEL requirements to some extent and three out of four had evidence that M&E data informed learning to some or a large extent.**

## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC FINDINGS: THE SUDAN

The evaluability assessment was carried out on four CBRPs in the Sudan. Overall, the design of three projects was found to be robust to some extent while one project met the criterion to a large extent. The robustness of all CBRP MEL systems in the Sudan was found to be limited.

The design of all projects was found to be to a large extent relevant to the needs of returnees and community members, and the location of the projects identified appropriate according to these needs. While all projects had finished when the evaluability assessment was conducted, achieving the objectives for all projects, given the planned interventions, within the project's lifespan was found to be plausible to a large extent. **Interviews with the country office highlighted that community consultation was a key part of the design process.** The research team found that two projects to a large extent and two to some extent involved returnees, community members and local authorities in the CBRP design. **All projects, to some or limited extent, met the validity and reliability criteria in**

**terms of MEL systems,** because a clear link between project activities (outputs) and the factors that were being measured and monitored was not always present – not all project outputs were adequately monitored.

**The set of documents available for CBRPs in the Sudan was relatively good compared to Ethiopia.** The terms of reference, project agreement, progress reports and final reports were available for most of the CBRPs reviewed in the Sudan but at least one or more of these documents were missing in the majority of CBRPs reviewed in Ethiopia. However, in both countries, the inclusion of critical data, that is data gathered on outcome or impact-level change that are adequately monitored, recorded and reported, was limited for all projects. This meant that the research team was unable to provide a judgement for indicator data, and there were no baseline measures and data nor plans for when baselines would be conducted for all projects. Additionally, there was **limited evidence of M&E data informing learning or adaptation taking place in the projects.** While the country office noted that there are regular field visits and monitoring reports from implementing partners, the research team found limited evidence of this in the available documentation. However, **the country office did share a PowerPoint presentation that highlights best practice from the CBRPs with the research teams,** indicating there is learning generated at the country level.



Youths practicing basketball in the Community Multi-purpose Centre Khartoum. © EU-IOM Joint Initiative 2022

## DEEP DIVES

### OVERARCHING FINDINGS

**There is limited reach and recognition of the CBRPs in Ethiopia and the Sudan, whereas in Somalia awareness of CBRPs among survey respondents is significantly higher.** Data collected through the RSS (non-migrants only) as part of the main impact study shows that only 11 per cent of participants in Ethiopia had heard of the CBRP in their region, and 10 per cent in the Sudan,<sup>5</sup> while in Somalia the figure was significantly higher at 44 per cent. Additionally, only 4.5 per cent of non-migrant survey participants had participated in a CBRP in Ethiopia, while in Sudan the figure rose to 29 per cent and was significantly higher again in Somalia to 67 per cent. Interestingly, although overall all recognition was low in Ethiopia, the highest awareness (23%) was in Oromia, where the successful project identified for the deep dives was implemented.

Results from the survey administered for the IMPACT natural experiment-based evaluation (see IMPACT Study Report #2) showed that 24 per cent of returnees surveyed in Ethiopia had heard of any local CBRPs and 18 per cent of returnees surveyed had participated in a project.<sup>6</sup> Results from the same survey implemented in Sudan showed that only 19 per cent of returnee respondents were aware of any CBRPs but of those nearly half (47%) had contributed to a project. Again, Somalia had the highest recognition at 60 per cent but only 44 per cent of those asked had participated in a project. Although very few returnees had benefited or were aware of community-based projects, as highlighted in the IMPACT Study Report #2, many of those surveyed indicated that they were favourable to the idea of having them.<sup>7</sup>

**While variations exist in the perceived benefit of participating in CBRPs across the region, training was widely reported as the biggest benefit of participating in a CBRP across all three countries.**

Across both RSS and survey data collected for the IMPACT natural experiment-based evaluation, of those who participated in a CBRP, only 14 per cent in Ethiopia said they benefited from the project while 46 per cent did so in Somalia and 55 per cent in Sudan. In the three countries, of the 149 respondents (both non-migrants and returnees) who reported they benefited from the CBRPs, the most cited benefit from participation was the training received (70 respondents). This was followed by improved access to food in Ethiopia (24/29), increased income in Somalia (31/97) and better housing in the Sudan (8/33). The qualitative data collection highlighted that the trainings provided through CBRPs were primarily vocational, such as in business management or on irrigation agriculture and poultry production.

**The CBRP deep dives highlighted that the CBRPs had contributed positively to improving the quality of people's lives and improving the nature of relationships between returnees and host-communities.** First, project participants in five of the six projects across the region reported that their quality of life has improved because of the CBRPs. This was primarily due to increased income from the jobs and livelihood opportunities brought about by the projects. Additionally, increased incomes have meant that project participants and their families have been relieved from economic and psychological stresses of unemployment. Counselling and mental health support also helped to improve people's lives, particularly for returnees who suffer from the challenging experiences relating to their migration. However, it is important to note that one project in Somalia was reported to have negatively affected people's quality of life due to raising their expectation of obtaining jobs, which never materialized (see below and the *To what extent has the CBRP helped address community barriers to reintegration?* section).

5 Out of a total of 376 respondents for the RSS, 194 were in Ethiopia, 104 in Somalia and 78 in the Sudan.

6 Out of a total of 1,220 respondents of the survey, 675 were in Ethiopia, 225 in Somalia and 320 in the Sudan.

7 COVID-19, returnees and IOM in the Horn of Africa: a natural experiment-based evaluation.

Second, deep dive respondents reported that the CBRPs had supported improvements in the nature of relationships between returnees and host communities. In three of the four projects in Somalia and Ethiopia, they helped to increase community awareness of migration and its negative impacts, and facilitated open dialogue between returnees and host-community groups. This type of dialogue had enabled better understanding of returnee experiences by host community members and helped to reduce discrimination. In addition, by engaging in CBRPs, returnees and host community members were able to experience the benefits of working together and of increased collaboration. Where interactions between the two groups occurred, FGD participants in both Somalia and Ethiopia reported having “a better sense of community” as a result of the projects. In the Sudan, CBRPs helped to change the views of host community members towards returnees as their perceived benefits for the community were improved.

**In the successful projects, no unexpected changes were identified; however, the less successful project in Somalia highlighted some negative changes as a result of the CBRP.** Both host community members and returnees who participated in the less successful project in Somalia reported disappointment that the project in Mogadishu did not result in the changes they expected. They reported that the project had negatively changed their lives as it had raised their expectations of securing an income. As this had not materialized, they felt that their involvement in the project had been a waste of their time. Respondents claimed that the implementing partner for this project had not provided the training or equipment that was initially promised. Overall, FGD respondents felt that the project had negatively affected the participants’ quality of life and it had not provided opportunities for returnees and host community members to interact.

**There is evidence of coherence between the objectives of individual- and community level reintegration assistance, particularly in relation to economic assistance.** The changes the CBRPs contributed to align with reintegration support provided to returnees, namely the three thematic areas: economic, social and psychosocial. The deep dives showed greatest coherence with economic assistance provided by the JI-HoA. For instance, respondents (returnees and host community members) consistently highlighted increased income as one of the most significant changes resulting from the CBRPs across the region. This change is clearly linked to the individual economic support provided by IOM. In Somalia, participants of one project reported that IOM first supported them to set up a business; this phase was then followed up with additional subsidized support from the implementing partner. The economic assistance provided by the CBRPs contributed to a better sense of reintegration by reducing the stresses of unemployment and improve the livelihoods of both returnees and host community members.

However, there are also examples of coherence between the CBRPs, and individual, social and psychosocial support provided by the JI-HoA. In Ethiopia, all returnee FGD participants confirmed that they had received psychosocial support by IOM, which includes activities addressing community barriers to reintegration, enhancing relationships and working collaboratively within and between returnees and non-migrant members of the community. The psychosocial support provided links to the support provided through the CBRP that ran group counselling sessions for returnees as well as community awareness programmes to help improve attitudes of host community members towards migration. Returnees reported that the project was able to increase the awareness of the host communities about the negative impacts of migration and helped improve relationships between returnees and host communities.<sup>8</sup>

8 FGD2: Returnees; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

## ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, the project *Unlocking job opportunities for migrant returnees and potential migrants through fish farming in the Gibe Dam basin (ETH-1)*, implemented in Oromia, was identified as a successful project for the deep dive. The project intended to contribute to a reduction in unemployment and migration through job creation for potential migrants and migrant returnees using an aquaculture/fish farming approach.<sup>9</sup>

The second project selected was *Community-based mental health, psychosocial and livelihood support (ETH-2)*, implemented in SNNPR. The community-based psychosocial component of this project included group counselling sessions, community conversations and social events to raise awareness on mental well-being

and stigma related to return migration. Under the livelihood component, participants were trained on poultry management, irrigation techniques and financial and enterprise management. Although this CBRP was identified as a less successful project through the evaluability assessment component of the analysis and verified in consultation with the Ethiopia Country Office, respondents gave overall positive feedback of the project during data collection and perceived that it had helped to address community barriers to reintegration.

Table 4 provides a summary of the CBRPs along with the reference that will be used in the following sections to detail the findings from the qualitative deep dives.

Table 4. Selected CBRPs in Ethiopia

Name	Location	Type	Successful/ Less Successful	Reference
Unlocking job opportunities for migrant returnees and potential migrants through fish farming in the Gibe Dam basin	Oromia, Jimma Zone	Economic	Successful	ETH-1
Community-Based mental health, psychosocial and livelihood support	SNNPR, Silte Zone	Psychosocial	Less successful	ETH-2

### To what extent has the CBRP helped address community barriers to reintegration?

**Both CBRPs covered by the deep dive have supported participants (returnees and host communities) to find employment and secure and/or improve their livelihoods.** ETH-2 has engaged participants in vegetable farming and/or gardening as well as poultry production. In Oromia, ETH-1 has created job opportunities in fish farming, transportation, recreation, cattle food processing and chicken production. FGD participants stated that the job creation has increased the income

and improved the livelihoods of both returnees and host community members.<sup>10</sup> For ETH-2, some project participants have also been able to save money and engage in additional side businesses, such as breeding animals and/or sheep and vegetable gardening, through renting land from the surrounding host communities. All respondents deemed this increased income as the most significant change created by both projects.<sup>11</sup>

**Beyond removing economic barriers, both CBRPs in Ethiopia also addressed infrastructure issues that helped increase business opportunities.** In Oromia, ETH-1

9 Project narrative document.

10 FGD1: Returnee/Host community; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project; 2: Returnees; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project; 3: Host community; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

11 FGD1: Returnee/Host community; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project; 2: Returnees; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project; 3: Host community; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

supported the community by improving transportation links across the dam. The project provided five modern boats that the community now uses to collect fish and for transportation across the dam. Previously, people had to travel long distances to go from one woreda to another, especially during market days. These boats have now reduced travel times to nearby communities and created easier avenues for goods distribution. FGD participants highlighted that they considered this impact as one of the key outcomes of the project.<sup>12</sup> In addition to providing boats, ETH-1 also constructed a market-shade where project beneficiaries could sell products such as fish and soup, as well as a cattle feed processing plant.<sup>13</sup> This was an important element of the project's success, as participants could continue to produce, transport and distribute their products easily. Additionally, ETH-2 improved access to irrigation water through the provision of water pumps. This helped the returnees and host communities to save time and resources (labour), and in turn increase their productivity and income.<sup>14</sup>

**The changes brought about by the CBRPs in Ethiopia were facilitated by the inclusion of key stakeholders throughout the project.** In both projects, returnees and host community members were involved in the design and implementation of the project, which helped to ensure that project outcomes aligned to the needs of these groups. Moreover, both projects engaged and partnered with other key stakeholders such as government bodies and the private sector. For example, the implementing partner for ETH-2 organized consultative meetings with the existing development association ahead of the project, and reported that they also had strong coordination among government stakeholders and technical working groups. These consultations were used to identify project participants, follow up and support the project through implementation. The implementing partner commented that these relationships were key to achieving the changes brought about by the project.<sup>15</sup>

Additionally, the implementing partner for ETH-1 worked closely with the government (who provided land for project participants' businesses), the national aquatic office (who supported in increasing fish stock in the dam), the Ethiopian electric power corporation (who granted permission for businesses to operate near the dam) and Jimma University (who implemented the project and provided technical assistance). As noted by the implementing partner, *"this was a good project where good partnership among stakeholders was created. Each of us have contributed something for the successful implementation of the programme. This is the reason that it was able to become so successful."*<sup>16</sup>

**Although both CBRPs were perceived overall by participants as being successful, participants encountered a number of challenges related to external factors, including: shortages of goods, lack of access to health services and issues with infrastructure, which impacted the sustainability of the support received.** While largely out of the project's control, there were issues in both regions with shortages of goods such as fuel for generators and chicken fodder, due to rising prices. Additionally, FGD respondents mentioned the lack of access to equipment to ensure the sustainability of their businesses.<sup>17</sup> For example, ETH-1 participants worry that they do not have accessories for adequate maintenance or repairs of their boats. While the project's aim was not to improve access to health-care facilities, FGDs participants noted they would have benefited from improvements in health care to support their reintegration experiences. However, they did note, the project created awareness amongst participants on how to protect themselves from accidents related to their work which, alongside the provision of modern boats, has helped to reduce such accidents.<sup>18</sup> FGD participants of ETH-2 noted the above issues as well as limited access roads to main cities and school infrastructures which had affected the productivity of their businesses. While large-scale infrastructure projects are beyond the scope of the

12 FGD1: Returnee/Host community; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project.

13 FGD1: Returnee/Host community; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project; 2: Returnees; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project; 3: Host community; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

14 FGD 2: Returnees; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project; 3: Host community; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

15 KII2: IP; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

16 KII1: IP; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project.

17 FGD1: Returnee/Host community; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project.

18 FGD1: Returnee/Host community; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project.

CBRPs, FGD participants did highlight concerns that limited access would impact their income and might lead or revert them back to the pre-project situation.<sup>19</sup>

### To what extent has the CBRP helped to foster dialogue, social cohesion and empowerment within and between returnees and non-migrant members of the community?

**There is evidence that both CBRPs in Ethiopia have helped to improve relationships between and among returnees and local community members.** By bringing returnees and host community members together, the projects provided space for each group to discuss the challenges they face through open dialogue.<sup>20</sup> Additionally, the projects helped host communities to learn things from the returnees such as their experiences of migration and the possible negative impacts, enhancing the communities' awareness and understanding to better support returnees and work together.<sup>21</sup> Improvements in these relationships are evidenced in ETH-2, for example, as before the project intervention, returnees tended to be excluded from attending special community events (such as weddings) by host communities, but now after the project, they are invited to attend these events more frequently.<sup>22</sup>

**Increased understanding among returnees and host communities has also helped to reduce stigma and discrimination towards returnees.** In both projects, respondents reported that host communities' increased understanding and awareness of the negative impacts of migration has helped to reduce discrimination against returnees. This was most evident in ETH-2, where host community members reported learning about the negative effects through different mechanisms such as the provision of education and trainings including peer discussions, as well as awareness raising messages

through music and billboards. FGD respondents of this project noted that this was the third biggest change brought about by the project.<sup>23</sup>

**As a result of the projects, returnees and host-community members are working collaboratively together, which has helped to foster social cohesion and empowerment in both regions.** As highlighted above, the CBRPs have brought together both groups and helped to foster a better understanding between them. Community members and returnees have discovered the benefits of working together and securing and/or improving their livelihoods in their community. In the FGD with returnees for ETH-2, all participants confirmed that currently there are no barriers to collaboration between them and host community members.<sup>24</sup> Additionally, one of the aims of ETH-1 was to create good relationships between the returnees and the host community as both groups benefited from the project. The project aimed to show the benefits of working together as in each of the cooperatives, returnees and potential migrants were included.<sup>25</sup> Increased collaboration and cohesion was also noted by FGD participants as one of the key changes brought about as a result of this project.<sup>26</sup>

Lastly, ETH-2 has contributed to improved feelings of acceptance of the returnees and perceptions of belonging in the community. Nearly all FGD participants strongly agreed that their participation in the project helped them to increase their sense of belonging in the host community.<sup>27</sup> They listed several reasons for this change, such as that after their return or before their participation in the project, the host community used to treat them differently because they were seen as less successful and had lost everything they had. However, after the project, they have been able to reverse this situation. Additionally, returnees, themselves used to see or consider themselves as economically less successful

19 FGD3: Host community; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project

20 FGD2: Returnees; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

21 FGD 1: Returnee/Host community; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project; 3: Host community; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

22 FGD2: Returnees; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

23 FGD3: Host community; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

24 FGD2: Returnees; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

25 KII1: IP; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project.

26 FGD1: Returnee/Host community; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project.

27 FGD2: Returnees; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

than other people in their community but as a result of the project's various supports or their involvement in the project interventions, they have been able to secure and even improve their livelihoods as well as maintain their dignity and social relationships with the host community.<sup>28</sup>

### To what extent has the CBRP supported the resilience of returnees and the host community?

**One of the main ways the two CBRPs have supported the resilience of returnees and the host community is through relieving economic stresses and increasing participants' ability to solve problems.**

In both projects, participants noted that the job opportunities created by the projects have relieved returnees and host community members from the economic and psychological stresses of unemployment. For instance, ETH-1 has enabled returnees and host community members to gain a regular income from fish farming as well as chicken and cattle production and therefore has reduced the pressure of securing income.<sup>29</sup> The project has also had a ripple effect within the community as families of project participants have also benefited through reducing their worry about their children's unemployment and the prospect of them migrating.<sup>30</sup> FGD participants also noted that ETH-1 helped them to improve their knowledge on how to resolve their problems, which was noted as the fourth biggest change.<sup>31</sup>

The projects have reduced the desire of non-migrants to migrate or the intention of remigration amongst returnees. Both CBRPs have provided opportunities for regular income generation as well as increased awareness amongst returnees and host communities, including potential migrants, about the negative impacts of migration, which has helped to reduce the desire

to migrate. Significantly, host community members reported they had become free from economic stress and changed their intention to migrate as they had been able to get employment. Although the Kebele where ETH-2 was implemented is known for high rates of out-migration, respondents believe that out-migration has been significantly reduced as a result of the project's interventions.<sup>32</sup> This was noted as the second biggest change as a result of ETH-2.<sup>33</sup> Moreover, the implementing partner noted that there were examples of potential migrants who reversed their decision to migrate as a result of the project.<sup>34</sup> The increase in quality of life was also reported as a key factor in this change. FGD participants from ETH-1 noted that as non-migrants were also part of the project, they are equally beneficiaries of the project and they do not think about going on migration: "When the returnee starts living a better life through the involvement of the project in their home country, it makes the returnee and others in the community able to change their living through living in their country."<sup>35</sup>

### What can we say about any country-level domains of change?

As highlighted above, the CBRPs in both regions have facilitated a number of domains of change. Primarily, changes are evident in the **quality of people's lives** as the projects have helped returnees and host communities secure employment and/or improve their livelihoods. Additionally, the **nature of the relationships between returnees and host communities** has improved significantly as the projects have helped to increase understanding and awareness amongst the groups and facilitated effective collaboration between the two groups. Lastly, the CBRPs have supported **changes in the resilience of returnees and the host community** through relieving economic stresses, which has in turn **reversed their desire to migrate.**

28 FGD2: Returnees; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

29 KII1: IP; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project.

30 KII2: IP; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

31 FGD3: Host community; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

32 FGD3: Host community; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

33 FGD3: Host community; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

34 KII2: IP; SNNPR, Ethiopia; less successful project.

35 FGD1: Returnee/Host community; Oromia, Ethiopia; successful project.

## SOMALIA

In Somalia, the project *Community-based psychosocial support in Hargeisa (SOM-1)* based in Hargeisa was identified as a successful CBRP for further investigation. The project focused on providing psychosocial support to returnees in their community of reintegration by capacitating community members and leaders on gaining a better understanding over mental health and psychosocial support as well as supporting the roll-out of a peer-to-peer approach of training selected returnees to become mentors.<sup>36</sup> The project *Promoting*

*waste management whilst fostering social cohesion between migrant returnees and communities of return (SOM-2)* in Mogadishu was selected as the less successful project. The project aimed to create livelihood opportunities and skills for vulnerable returnees through capacity-building and the creation of a waste management business.<sup>37</sup>

Table 5 provides a summary of the CBRPs along with the reference that will be used in the following sections to detail the findings from the qualitative deep dives.

Table 5. Selected CBRPs in Somalia

Name	Location	Type	Successful/ Less Successful	Reference
Community-based psychosocial support in Hargeisa	Hargeisa	Psychosocial	Successful	SOM-1
Promoting waste management whilst fostering social cohesion between migrant returnees and communities of return	Mogadishu, Wadajir district	Social	Less successful	SOM-2

### To what extent has the CBRP helped address community barriers to reintegration?

**Where social and psychosocial projects were connected to economic support (either intentionally or unintentionally), respondents felt this added greater value in helping them address barriers to reintegration, for example through the provision of business subsidies or opportunities for skills development.** Although not in the scope of the project, FGD participants of SOM-1 reported that the project had first provided them with material support and subsidies to advance and grow their businesses.<sup>38,39</sup> The same implementing partner of the SOM-1 project

also provided further support during the COVID-19 pandemic through the provision of more business materials. However, one FGD participant claimed the implementing partner helped them only once despite promising to support in paying rents. Nevertheless, most FGD participants reported that the business assistance was one of the most significant changes brought about by the project, which allowed them to improve their livelihoods and reduce one of the push factors for migration – unemployment.<sup>40</sup> Although overall a less successful project for reasons detailed below, FGD participants of SOM-2 did nonetheless report that the project had provided them with training and/or the skills that would be useful in creating jobs.

36 Project proposal.

37 Project final report.

38 FGD4: Returnee/Host communities; Hargeisa, Somalia; successful project.

39 Further follow-up with the IP revealed that they were implementing two parallel projects in the community; one to implement SOM-1 as listed in table 5, and another to provide economic reintegration assistance. Both projects targeted the same beneficiary group, though participants of the two projects were not aware of the distinction, so potential benefits were accidental.

40 FGD4: Returnee/Host communities; Hargeisa, Somalia; successful project.



However, there was never an opportunity to practice those skills and they commented that the implementing partner did not provide them with the necessary materials and equipment to start their businesses, nor with transportation costs to cover travel.<sup>41</sup>

**Counselling and family reunification were also key factors in helping to reduce barriers to reintegration through SOM-1.** The implementing partner for SOM-1 provided telephone counselling to 90 returnees; some returnees received face-to-face counselling to help build their confidence and increase their understanding of how they could improve their lives. The project also included mentorship seminars from former returnees who trained, mentored and supported the newer returnees.<sup>42</sup> As detailed above, counselling seminars and mentoring sessions were key in helping returnees deal with the challenging experience lived during the migration.<sup>43</sup> The effects of the counselling were deemed to be the most significant change as a result of the project. Additionally, FGD respondents highlighted that the project had helped find migrants who had returned to Somalia and connect them with their families. This was reported as having a huge impact on the community as families were no longer worried about their relatives, and it helped those returnees to better reintegrate.<sup>44</sup>

**One of the key challenges highlighted by both CBRP deep dives was the lack of support provided by implementing partners or IOM (such as training, financial support or equipment) and adequate follow-up by IOM.** For both projects, returnees and host community members reported that there was a lack of proper training provided by implementing partners or IOM that affected the success of the projects. Although outside of the scope of SOM-1, participants reported that a lack of education support or vocational trainings was a missed opportunity alongside the psychosocial support and would have helped their reintegration further through building capacity and acquiring new skills to improve their lives.<sup>45</sup> For SOM-2, FGD

participants reported they were not given materials and equipment nor provided transport to attend classes and therefore did not receive the training they expected. Additionally, participants did not receive the financial support they expected nor equipment needed to start their businesses. As highlighted by one FGD respondent: *“We required financial support, especially at the start of this project, which we didn't receive. There was no follow up by IOM. Yes, IOM supported us by giving us education and equipment but that is not enough”*. Another respondent said: *“the machinery and equipment did not have any electricity. There was no rent payment. IOM needs to fulfil promises given to us. This project was half-baked. It was mostly words, and not actions.”*<sup>46</sup> Participants also said they felt that the implementing partner had used the equipment promised for photo opportunities rather than delivering the support promised.

**In fact, FGD respondents of SOM-2 perceived that the project had negatively affected the quality of life of returnees and host community members.** As highlighted above, participants of SOM-2 reported a number of challenges but the biggest two were that the project contributed to unemployment and/or lack of livelihood opportunities and consequently reduced quality of life. FGD respondents highlighted that the promise of jobs negatively affected them: *“They gave me hope and education, but I am not using it now. This is a challenge I wake up with every morning.”*<sup>47</sup> The project raised the hopes of participants and when the objectives did not come to fruition, they were left demotivated, discouraged and with negative mindsets. Many participants claimed they were back to the same place they were before the project, and for some, their circumstances had subsequently worsened.

41 FGD 5: Returnees; Mogadishu, Somalia; less successful project; 6: Host communities; Mogadishu, Somalia; less successful project.

42 KII3: IP; Hargeisa, Somalia; successful project.

43 FGD4: Returnee/Host communities; Hargeisa, Somalia; successful project.

44 FGD4: Returnee/Host communities; Hargeisa, Somalia; successful project.

45 FGD4: Returnee/Host communities; Hargeisa, Somalia; successful project.

46 FGD6: Host communities; Mogadishu, Somalia; less successful project.

47 FGD6: Host communities; Mogadishu, Somalia; less successful project.

### To what extent has the CBRP helped to foster dialogue, social cohesion and empowerment between returnees and non-migrant members of the community?

**While SOM-1 has helped in some way to improve relationships between returnees and non-migrant members of the community, primarily through awareness-raising, issues still exist around stigma and discrimination towards returnees.** Through SOM-1, the implementing partner provided awareness campaigns to help target communities understand the challenges returnees face and identify ways to address these challenges to support returnees' smoother reintegration into the community of return. The implementing partner developed community inclusion programmes to improve reintegration between host communities and returnees. They selected community focal points from each village to be trained in basic psychosocial counselling and sensitize local communities with referral mechanisms. These programmes aimed at reducing the sense of isolation among returnees in the community and facilitate social interaction between the returnees and host community members.<sup>48</sup> FGD participants reported that the project did help to raise awareness amongst host communities and returnees and to improve interactions between the two groups: *"Now we are a community, and we have a committee that works to connect the returnees to each other."*<sup>49</sup> However, they also highlighted that discrimination against returnees still continues and that the awareness campaigns did not reach enough people within the community to change perceptions. These campaigns would have benefited from a wider scope beyond the immediate community, in order to reinforce the message. Additionally, respondents highlighted a continued lack of trust from employers towards returnees as the host community are afraid that returnees may steal or take their money before migrating again.<sup>50</sup>

**There was limited interaction between returnees and non-migrant community members through SOM-2, which resulted in few or no opportunities to foster dialogue, social cohesion or empowerment between the two groups.** The lack of continued support from the

implementing partners and IOM (that is, through training or other check-in meetings) meant that returnees and host community members did not have the opportunity to interact or collaborate through the project. Host community FGD participants said that they were only formally brought together with returnees only on the last day of the project,<sup>51</sup> while returnees said they only met other returnees.<sup>52</sup> As such, there were no reported opportunities to build relationships between the two groups to help facilitate more dialogue or social cohesion.

### To what extent has the CBRP supported the resilience of returnees and the host community?

**There is evidence that one of the CBRPs in Somalia has contributed to more well-being that has supported the resilience of returnees and host community members to withstand pressures.** As highlighted above, SOM-1 has supported returnees with counselling that has enabled them to manage the psychological consequences resulting from their migration experience. This is a key factor in supporting their resilience and reducing the chances of remigration. Additionally, the project provided opportunities for returnees and non-migrants to have conversations to learn about challenges and difficulties faced by returnees – increasing awareness and understanding amongst the community.

### What can we say about any country-level domains of change?

There is evidence that SOM-1 has supported participants to improve their **quality of life**, through jobs creation as well as psychosocial support. The **nature of relationships between returnees and host-communities** has also been improved as the project helped to increase understanding and awareness amongst the groups. However, given the challenges presented, no observable domains of change emerged from SOM-2 and in fact **negative effects** resulted from the project's mismanagement, which had negative impacts on participants' **quality of life**.

48 KII3: IP; Hargeisa, Somalia; successful project

49 FGD4: Returnee/Host communities; Hargeisa, Somalia; successful project.

50 FGD4: Returnee/Host communities; Hargeisa, Somalia; successful project

51 FGD6: Host communities; Mogadishu, Somalia; less successful project

52 FGD5: Returnees; Mogadishu, Somalia; less successful project.

## THE SUDAN

In the Sudan, the project *Rehabilitation of the Um Baddah Community Multi-Purpose Centre* based in Khartoum, Um Baddah district (SUD-1) was identified as a successful CBRP for further investigation. The project included a number of activities focused around a multi-purpose community centre.<sup>53,54</sup> While the project *Vocational training and provision of toolkits in El Geneina Technical School* based in West Darfur, El Geneina (SUD-2) was

selected as the less successful project. It provided four different training courses on car maintenance, welding, local perfume making and leather goods making for youth (both returnees and host community).<sup>55</sup>

Table 6 provides a summary of the CBRPs along with the reference that will be used in the following sections to detail the findings from the qualitative deep dives.

Table 6. Selected CBRPs in the Sudan

Name	Location	Type	Successful/ Less Successful	Reference
Rehabilitation of the Um Baddah Community Multi-Purpose Centre	Khartoum, Um Baddah district	Economic	Successful	SUD-1
Vocational training and provision of toolkits in El Geneina Technical School	West Darfur, El Geneina	Economic	Less successful	SUD-2

### To what extent has the CBRP helped address community barriers to reintegration?

**In the Sudan, both CBRPs were perceived to have helped to address barriers to reintegration by fostering job opportunities, increasing incomes and facilitating skill development.** CBRP participants of SUD-2 commented that they benefited from the vocational training provided under the project, although this project was considered less successful. The acquisition of new skills has improved the level of services they can provide to their clients. Many of the participants have found job opportunities following this training and are now working in various workshops. Participants of the SUD-2 project reported that increase in job opportunities was the most significant change they had seen as a result of the CBRP, as it had helped

to reduce unemployment, which had an impact on the entire community. Similarly, participants of the SUD-2 project reported that the training provided and the subsequent increase in job opportunities, were the key changes resulting from the project. They were trained in soap making, which opened new job opportunities and sources of income for them.<sup>56</sup>

**The rapid provision of equipment following training was one of the key factors contributing to the changes brought about by SUD-2 as well as linking trainees' preferences for the focus of their business to market needs.** Participants of SUD-2 reported that the provision of materials and equipment to continue their perfume production businesses after the training was one of the key factors in the success of the project.<sup>57</sup> The implementing partners also reported that

53 Specific activities include the rehabilitation/construction of two rooms at a multi-purpose community centre to be used for income generating activities; capacity-building training and job creation; provision of equipment to start-up laundry and liquid soap making businesses; setting up a committee to run and manage the centre; provision of tools and equipment for a food processing business run by women and for a watch club for youth; organization of at least two community events to promote social cohesion among various groups of population in different profile; and establishment of volley ball and basketball yard in the centre with provider of kits and tools.

54 Project proposal.

55 Project final report.

56 FGD8: Returnees; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project; FGD9: Host community; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project.

57 FGD8: Returnees; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project; FGD9: Host community; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project.

for the community, the ownership of the equipment by trainees represents an additional accumulation of capital to the local economy. They also said that a key factor for success was ensuring that trainees' preferences for the focus of their businesses were linked to the labour market, to ensure there was demand for the products they wanted to produce.<sup>58</sup>

**Although participants perceived both CBRPs as overall being successful, participants encountered a number of challenges, including: insufficient capital, price instability and conflict.** Participants of SUD-1 were pleased with job opportunities generated by the project; however, they reported that the initial capital was insufficient for establishing the projects. This shortage led to an overall decline in income and a decrease in the number of workers engaged in the project until leaving only two project participants, compared to the nine that had initially received business support. Additionally, for those involved in the laundry service business, there were difficulties in obtaining raw materials at competitive prices and issues with electricity due to rising costs; however, IOM later started covering 70 per cent of the electricity costs.<sup>59</sup> The success of the SUD-2 project was hampered due to instability and the localized conflict situation. While outside of IOM's control, looting and destruction meant that most projects were unable to continue and this negatively affected the trainees' lives as their opportunities to gain an income were diminished.<sup>60</sup>

### To what extent has the CBRP helped to foster dialogue, social cohesion and empowerment within and between returnees and non-migrant members of the community?

**There is evidence that both CBRPs in the Sudan have helped to improve relationships among returnees and between returnees and local community members.**

The SUD-2 project brought together returnees and non-migrant communities to discuss issues related to the project. Although there were challenges with the implementation of the project, meetings to discuss issues helped to facilitate interactions between the two groups, thus presenting valuable opportunities for the two groups to collaborate, build trust and improve relationships.<sup>61</sup> In addition, the fact that the project was implemented because returnees were present in the community helped to change host community members' perceptions of returnees. In the FGD, respondents acknowledged: *"If it were not for the returnees, these projects would not have come to us and we would not look at them [the returnees] positively"*.<sup>62</sup> Similarly for SUD-1, host community members reported that, as the whole community had benefited from the project, it had helped to improve relationships with returnees. Additionally, part of the project included a space for a TV viewing club that provided the community with a space to come together.<sup>63</sup> The implementing partner reported that as a result, both returnees and host community members felt that as they were all beneficiaries, this encouraged social cohesion within the community and avoided previous divisions.<sup>64</sup>

58 KII6: IP; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project.

59 FGD7: Returnees/Host Communities; Khartoum, the Sudan; successful project.

60 FGD8: Returnees; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project; FGD9: Host community; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project.

61 FGD8: Returnees; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project; FGD9: Host community; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project.

62 FGD9: Host community; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project

63 FGD7: Returnees/Host Communities; Khartoum, the Sudan; successful project.

64 KII6: IP; Khartoum, the Sudan; successful project

### The CBRPs have helped to change the views of host community members towards returnees, which in turn helped to reduce stigma and discrimination.

Host community members in both regions reported that the CBRPs helped to change community views of returnees. Previously, returnees were viewed as failures, but associating returnees with the implementation of projects that benefit the whole community helped shift community members' perceptions of returnees and the added value the presence of returnees would bring to the wider community.<sup>65</sup> Returnees in West Darfur (SUD-2) reported that the community's recognition that the CBRP only existed because of their presence – and the subsequent changes in host community views towards them – was the second most significant change brought about by the project.<sup>66</sup> Through the Khartoum project (SUD-1), views towards returnees also changed, as the project helped to ease misunderstandings between host community members and the returnees. The soap project idea came from the returnees, which helped to change the community's views of their perceived value to the community.<sup>67</sup>

### To what extent has the CBRP supported the resilience of returnees and the host community?

Evidence exists that CBRPs in the Sudan have supported the resilience of returnees and the host community in terms of their ability to deal with life pressures and memories of the challenging experiences lived during migration. FGD participants from SUD-2 commented that the skills acquired from the training during the project have contributed significantly to help them cope with pressures thanks to the opportunities for work the training has provided – which were especially beneficial considering the economic instability, high inflation rates and the deterioration of the currency exchange rate.<sup>68</sup>

### What can we say about any country-level domains of change?

Evidence exists that the CBRPs in the Sudan have supported participants to improve their quality of life through the acquisition of new skills, creation of jobs and subsequent increase in incomes. The increase in income and change in livelihood opportunities were reported as the most significant changes as a result of both projects. The **nature of the relationships between returnees and host-communities** has also been improved in both locations and is an important domain of change. The two CBRPs helped to shift the negative views of host communities towards returnees, as their perceived benefits to the community became apparent through the returnees' association with new projects being implemented in the area.

65 FGD7: Returnees/Host Communities; Khartoum, the Sudan; successful project; FGD9: Host community; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project.

66 FGD9: Host community; West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project.

67 FGD7: Returnees/Host Communities. Khartoum, the Sudan; successful project.

68 FGD8: Returnees West Darfur, the Sudan; less successful project.

## CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR IOM

### CONCLUSIONS FROM THE EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT

The evaluability assessment has provided some interesting insights into the design and MEL systems of IOM's CBRPs. Overall, **reliable documentation is lacking, which will make evaluating the projects' impact more challenging.**

However, **those projects that do have sufficient documentation indicate that they are designed robustly**, with clear links to outcomes, relevant to returnees and host community needs and developed through a consultative process. This means that there is value in evaluating these projects and in understanding how they support IOM strategic objectives and the specific objectives of the CBRPs.

Nevertheless, **MEL systems in general are less robust**, primarily due to the lack of documentation, which meant it was challenging for the research team to make judgements across all criteria. Where data were available, they show a mixed picture in terms of MEL systems, with some projects meeting the minimum MEL requirements (regular project monitoring at output and outcome level, M&E data informing learning). **This lack of documentation has implications for the adaptive management of the CBRPs and the extent to which IOM at a regional level can expect to build its evidence base and learn about what works well and not so well, and to understand how the CBRPs add up to more than the sum of the individual interventions.**

### CONCLUSIONS FROM THE DEEP DIVES

Although small in scale and narrow in scope, the CBRP deep dive component of this report has provided some valuable insights into a select number of CBRPs in Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan. Across both countries, there is evidence that the CBRPs have contributed to changes for participants in a number of domains, which closely align with IOM's objectives for the CBRPs.

**Overall, the CBRPs do align with individual reintegration support provided to returnees**, particularly in reducing short or medium stresses for returnees and host community members and creating the space for community dialogue and interaction. This alignment was predominantly evident with the focus of most projects to mitigate the stresses of unemployment through economic assistance. However, CBRPs also complemented individual psychosocial and social reintegration assistance through providing opportunities for returnees and host community members to work collaboratively, improve relationships and by providing psychosocial support.

**CBRPs have the potential to contribute significantly to improvements in the quality of participants' lives and to improvements in the relationships between returnees and host community members.** In FGDs and KIs across all three countries, respondents frequently stated that the CBRPs have helped address barriers to reintegration, such as stigmatization of failed migration from host community members or unemployment. The CBRPs primarily made a difference through the creation of jobs and livelihood opportunities that have in turn increased the income of community members and returnees. The projects have also provided them with psychosocial support, which was stated as one of the key outcomes of SOM-1 in Hargeisa, particularly for returnees dealing with the challenging experiences lived during their migration. Additionally, the successful CBRPs have helped to improve relationships among returnees and between returnees and local community members by raising awareness of negative migration experiences and increasing opportunities for collaboration between returnees and host communities.

**In order for CBRPs to achieve the desired outcomes, the right stakeholders should be engaged, and plans put in place to rapidly respond to challenges as they emerge. Failure to do so can result in worsening of already precarious circumstances.** The qualitative deep dives showed that key elements that helped bring about successful changes as a result of the CBRPs included participation of returnees and host community members as well as other key stakeholders in the

design and implementation of the project. Another key element was ensuring that participants have adequate equipment, training and distribution avenues to continue their businesses once the project has finished. However, several challenges were reported, including lack of support from implementing partners as well as IOM, shortages of goods, issues with infrastructure and impacts of conflict. Although the impact of COVID-19 and inflation were largely outside IOM and implementing partners' control, increases in the price of goods had a significant impact on the success of project outcomes. Additionally, respondents across all CBRPs reported there was limited follow-up support, particularly with training and/or access to equipment. Project participants from SOM-2 in Mogadishu reported the most challenges, as they felt they did not receive what was promised (materials and equipment) and as a result the project has negatively impacted their quality of life.

**Using a modified MSC approach, the qualitative deep dives helped to identify what success looks like for project participants and the need for a sequencing of activities in CBRPs to bring about desired changes.**

The MSC approach involved collecting significant change stories from CBRP participants that proved a useful method to identify and prioritize the importance of various domains of change. Through this approach, it was found that improvements in the livelihood status or income of returnees and host community members was the most significant change for project participants across all countries. This approach also highlighted the importance of sequencing activities during the implementation of the CBRPs in such a way as to deliver economic assistance before any other type of assistance. Doing so helps to reduce the primary key stresses of unemployment and allows more opportunities for future changes in relationships between returnees and host communities, and for improved quality of life.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IOM

Based on the above findings and conclusions, and on the focus of this report to support improvements in the MEL systems for the CBRPs, several recommendations for IOM and future CBRPs can be identified:

### At design stage:

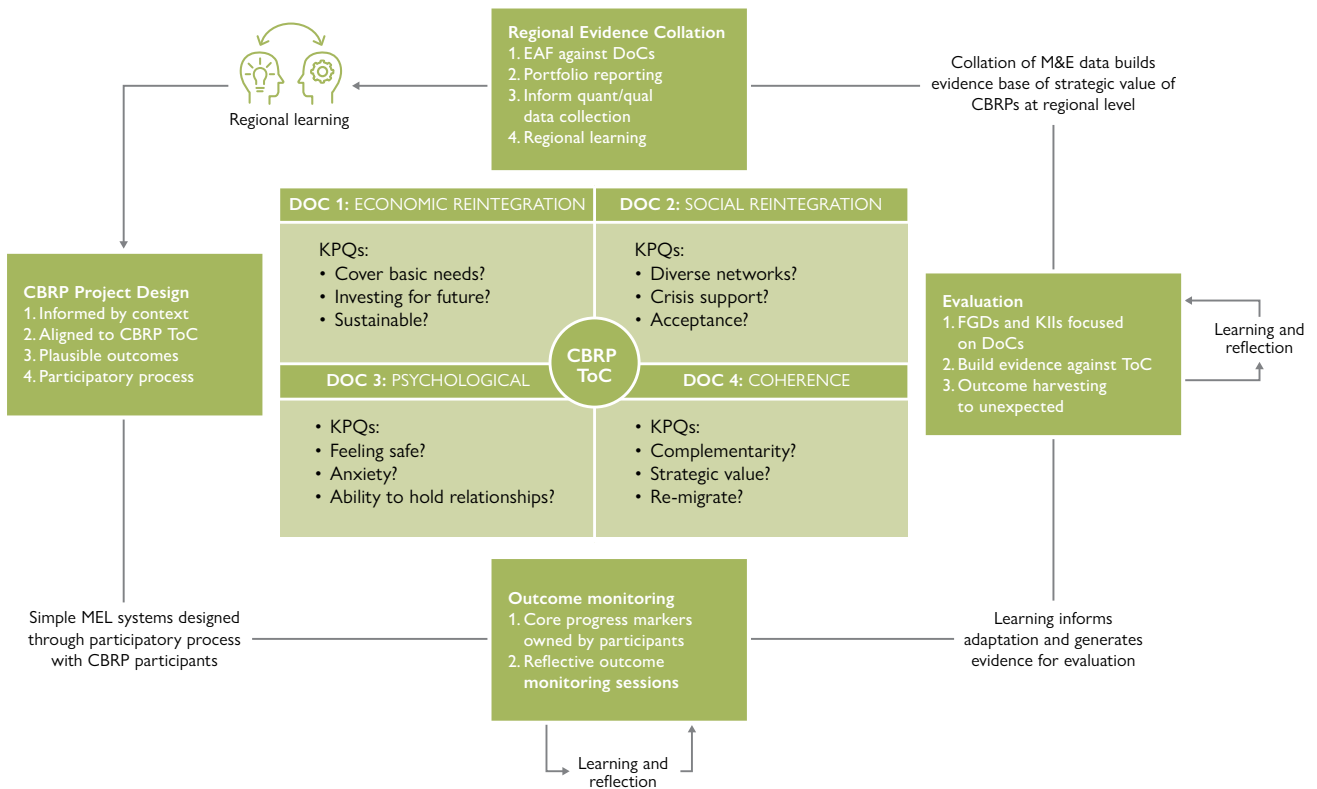
- Ensure that good quality context analysis has informed the design of CBRPs and that the rationale for activity, location and participants, among others, is clearly linked to analysis.
- Demonstrate that good participatory processes have been undertaken and that there is strong buy-in from CBRP stakeholders.
- As part of participatory process, identify clear and plausible outcomes for the project, and propose steps to achieve these.
- Develop a simple MEL system for each CBRP, collaboratively with CBRP stakeholders.
- Ensure a clear community engagement plan for design and implementation and integrate the plan with the MEL system.

### MEL systems:

- At the HQ level, in collaboration with regional and country offices:
  - › Develop a CBRP Theory of Change (ToC) which is clearly aligned to IOM strategic objectives for the CBRPs.
  - › Identify core 'domains of change' and provide a small number of key performance questions (KPQs) that provide standard guiding questions to project teams but allow for context-specific answers.
  - › Create an evidence assessment framework (EAF) that can collate evidence from across multiple CBRPs in line with KPQs and can feed into regional aggregation and reporting requirements
  - › Proactively lead on regional learning, using quantitative and qualitative data to facilitate learning events and ToC reflection sessions.

- At project level, in collaboration with CBRP stakeholders:
    - › Develop simple MEL systems with clear short- and long-term outcomes and progress markers (have to see/like to see/love to see) that are owned and understood by all stakeholders.
    - › Have a clear MEL Plan that describes all key MEL activities, timings and responsibilities.
    - › Focus MEL system on outcome monitoring with frequent learning cycles that can inform adaptive management.
  - › Include light-touch evaluative activity that ties back to CBRP KPQs.
  - › Ensure documentation is readily available and stored systematically across all projects with evidence trail of key decisions (such as project adaptation).
  - › Ensure there is a budget line for MEL activities that is proportionate to the CBRP investment.
- Figure 1 provides an illustration of what this process may look like.

Figure 1. Process for developing a holistic MEL system





## ANNEXES

### EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
DESIGN	Clarity?	Are the long-term impact and outcomes clearly identified and are the proposed steps towards achieving these clearly defined?	2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that the long-term objectives (impact and outcomes) are clearly identified and the proposed steps towards achieving them are clearly defined.</li> <li>Evidence that the CBRP contributes to IOM objectives for community-based reintegration support.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: impact and outcomes are clear and steps to achieve them are clear.</p> <p>To some extent: impact and outcomes are clear but steps to achieve them are less so.</p> <p>Not at all: neither the impact and outcomes nor the steps to achieve them are clear</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
DESIGN	Relevant	Is the project objective clearly relevant to the needs of returnees and community members, as identified by community profile analysis? Is the intended beneficiary group clearly identified?	2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that both needs and capacities of returnees and community members are being addressed through the CBRP.</li> <li>• Evidence of situation analysis, baseline study, other evidence or rationale for the CBRP.</li> <li>• Evidence that different stakeholder views have been considered and concerns/challenges addressed.</li> <li>• Evidence that roles of other actors outside the project have been made explicit (both enablers and blockers).</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: project is clearly relevant to the needs of returnees and community members, and location identified is appropriate according to those needs.</p> <p>To some extent: project is somewhat relevant to the needs of returnees and community members, and location identified is appropriate according to those needs.</p> <p>Not at all: project is not relevant to the needs of returnees and community members, and location identified is not appropriate according to those needs.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
DESIGN	Relevant	Has the location of the project been identified appropriately according to returnee and community member needs.	2.1/2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that CBRPs have targeted communities with a high concentration of returnees and/ or where specific problems have been identified that could be addressed by the programme.</li> <li>• Evidence that CBRPs have targeted communities with increased risk of repeat or new migration.</li> <li>• Evidence of feedback to the community and returnees regarding selection of the CBRPs.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: project is clearly relevant to the needs of returnees and community members, and location identified is appropriate according to those needs.</p> <p>To some extent: project is somewhat relevant to the needs of returnees and community members, and location identified is appropriate according to those needs.</p> <p>Not at all: project is not relevant to the needs of returnees and community members, and location identified is not appropriate according to those needs.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
DESIGN	Plausible?	Is there a continuous causal chain, connecting the intervening agency with the final impact of concern?				Not included in assessment due to absence of a ToC that makes testing causal pathway infeasible.
		Is it likely that the project objective could be achieved, given the planned interventions, within the project lifespan? Is there evidence from elsewhere that it could be achieved?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that the long-term objectives (impact and outcomes) are clearly identified and the proposed steps towards achieving them are clearly defined.</li> <li>Evidence that the CBRP contributes to IOM objectives for community-based reintegration support.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: the long-term objectives (impact and outcomes) are clearly identified and the proposed steps towards achieving them are clearly defined.</p> <p>To some extent: the long-term objectives (impact and outcomes) are identified and the proposed steps towards achieving them are somewhat defined.</p> <p>Not at all: the long-term objectives (impact and outcomes) are not identified and/or the proposed steps towards achieving them are not defined.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
DESIGN	Validity and reliability?	Is there a direct relationship between the project activities and what is being measured? Does the data adequately represent the situation the project's domain of change, and are they sufficiently specific?	2.3/3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the long-term objectives (impact and outcomes) are clearly identified and the proposed steps towards achieving them are clearly defined.</li> <li>• Evidence that the CBRP contributes to IOM objectives for community-based reintegration support.</li> <li>• Evidence that monitoring data is being collected at the appropriate frequency on appropriate measures.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: there a direct relationship between the project activities and what is being measured, which adequately represents the situation the project's domain of change.</p> <p>To some extent: there an implicit relationship between the project activities and what is being measured and or data somewhat represents the situation the project's domain of change.</p> <p>Not at all: there is not a clear relationship between the project activities and what is being measured.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	
	Testable?	Is it possible to identify which linkages in the causal chain will be most critical to the success of the project?				Not included in assessment due to absence of a ToC that makes testing causal pathway infeasible.

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
DESIGN	Contextualised?	Have assumptions about the roles of other actors outside the project been made explicit? (Both enablers and constrainers) Are there plausible plans to monitor these in any practicable way?	2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that different stakeholder views have been considered and concerns/challenges addressed.</li> <li>• Evidence that roles of other actors outside the project have been made explicit (both enablers and blockers).</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: assumptions about the roles of other actors outside the project been made explicit and plans are in place to monitor these.</p> <p>To some extent: assumptions about the roles of other actors outside the project been made explicit.</p> <p>Not at all: assumptions about the roles of other actors outside the project have not been made explicit.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	
	Consistent?	Is there consistency in the way the Theory of Change is described across various project multiple documents (Design, M&E plans, work plans, progress reports, etc.)				Not included due to absence of a ToC.

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
DESIGN	Complexity?	Are there expected to be multiple interactions between different project components? [Complicating attribution of causes and identification of effects] How clearly defined are the expected interactions?	2.3/2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that the long-term objectives (impact and outcomes) are clearly identified and the proposed steps towards achieving them are clearly defined.</li> <li>Evidence that the CBRP contributes to IOM objectives for community-based reintegration support.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: multiple interactions between different project components are clearly defined.</p> <p>To some extent: multiple interactions between different project components are somewhat defined.</p> <p>Not at all: multiple interactions between different project components are not clearly defined.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement/Not applicable as project is not complex.</p>	
	Agreement?	To what extent are different stakeholders holding different views about the project objectives and how they will be achieved? How visible are the views of stakeholders who might be expected to have different views?	2.4/2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that different stakeholder views have been considered and concerns/challenges addressed.</li> <li>Evidence that roles of other actors outside the project have been made explicit (both enablers and blockers).</li> <li>Evidence that local authorities have been involved in the CBRP community consultations and design processes.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: different stakeholder, and particularly local authorities, have been involved in the design of the project and there is evidence of their buy in.</p> <p>To some extent: different stakeholder, and particularly local authorities, have been involved in the design of the project.</p> <p>Not at all: different stakeholder, and particularly local authorities, have not been involved in the design of the project.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	Local authorities identified as a stakeholder who might be expected to have different views. Also CBRP objective is not have them involved.

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
DESIGN	Participatory engagement	To what extent have returnees and community members and/or local authorities been involved in the CBRP design? How visible are their views in the project design?	2.1/2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of inclusive and participatory community consultation involving returnees and community members.</li> <li>• Evidence that returnees and community members are satisfied with the consultation process.</li> <li>• Evidence of community and returnee support for the CBRP.</li> <li>• Evidence that local authorities have been involved in the CBRP community consultations and design processes.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: inclusive and participatory community consultation during design phase, with project supported by returnees and community members.</p> <p>To some extent: inclusive and participatory community consultation during design phase.</p> <p>Not at all: returnees and community members are not consulted in CBRP design.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	
MEL SYSTEMS	Is a complete set of documents available?	...relative to what could have been expected? E.g. Project proposal, Progress Reports, Evaluations / impact assessments, Commissioned studies	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of complete sets of documents (project proposals, progress reports, evaluations/reviews/commissioned studies).</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: complete set of documents (project proposals, progress reports, evaluations/reviews/commissioned studies).</p> <p>To some extent: partially complete sets of documents (project proposals, progress reports, evaluations/reviews/commissioned studies).</p> <p>Not at all: large amount of documentation missing.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	



	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
MEL SYSTEMS	Do baseline measures exist?	If baseline data is not yet available, are there specific plans for when baseline data would be collected and how feasible are these?	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of baseline measures and data, or plans for when this will be conducted.</li> </ul>	To a large extent: there are baseline measures and data. To some extent: there are plans to conduct baseline measures. Not at all: there are not baseline measures and data, nor plans for when this will be conducted. Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.	
		If baseline data exists in the form of survey data, is the raw data available, or just selected currently relevant items? Is the sampling process clear? Are the survey instruments available?				
		If baseline data is in the form of national or subnational statistics, how disaggregated is the data? Are time series data available, for pre-project years?				
	Is there monitoring data?	Is it clear how that monitoring data is being collected/will be collected? Are there details of when and how data will be collected and analysed?	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that monitoring data is being collected at the appropriate frequency on appropriate measures.</li> </ul>	To a large extent: monitoring data is being collected at the appropriate frequency on appropriate measures. To some extent: monitoring data is being collected. Not at all: no monitoring data is being collected. Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.	

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
MEL SYSTEMS	Is data being collected for all the indicators?	Are there valid indicators for each expected event (output, outcome and impact levels) according to IOM guidance? I.e. will they capture what is expected to happen? Are they reliable indicators? I.e. will observations by different observers find the same thing? Is data being collected against the indicators? Is it with sufficient frequency?	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that monitoring data is being collected at the appropriate frequency on appropriate measures.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: measures are specific and measurable and time bound, and data is being collected at the appropriate frequency.</p> <p>To some extent: a combination of two of the criteria (specific, measurable, time bound) and/or data is being collected against them.</p> <p>Not at all: There is no evidence of indicators.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	
	Is critical data available?	Are the intended and actual beneficiaries identifiable? Is there a record of who was involved in what project activities and when? Is data is being gathered on outcome or impact-level change is being adequately monitored, recorded and reported?	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that data is gathered on outcome or impact-level change is being adequately monitored, recorded and reported.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: data being gathered on outcome or impact-level change is adequately monitored, recorded and reported.</p> <p>To some extent: data is being gathered on outcome or impact-level change.</p> <p>Not at all: no data is being gathered on outcome or impact-level change.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
MEL SYSTEMS	Is gender disaggregated data available?	In the baseline? For each of the indicators during project intervention? In any mid-term or process review?	3.1/3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that monitoring data is being collected at the appropriate frequency on appropriate measures.</li> <li>Evidence that minimum MEL requirements are being met (regular project monitoring at output and outcome level).</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: gender disaggregated data is available throughout the project life cycle.</p> <p>To some extent: gender disaggregated data is available.</p> <p>Not at all: no data gender disaggregated data is available.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	
	MEL budget	Is the budget adequate and proportionate to the CBRP investment?	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that MEL budgets exist and are proportionate to the CBRP investment.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: a MEL budget exists and is proportionate to the CBRP investment.</p> <p>To some extent: a MEL budget exists.</p> <p>Not at all: there is no MEL budget.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	
	Learning	Is learning and adaptation taking place in the project based on M&E data?	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that M&amp;E data informs learning (at community, country or regional level).</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: evidence that M&amp;E data informs learning (at community, country or regional level) and project adaptation.</p> <p>To some extent: evidence of learning processes are established within the project.</p> <p>Not at all: no evidence of M&amp;E data informing learning (at community, country or regional level)</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
MEL SYSTEMS	Do existing MEL systems have the capacity to deliver?	Where data is not yet available, do existing staff and systems have the capacity to do so in the future? Are responsibilities, sources and periodicities defined and appropriate? Do project documents specify approach to learning from M&E evidence?	3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that minimum MEL requirements are being met (regular project monitoring at output and outcome level).</li> <li>Evidence that data is gathered on outcome or impact-level change is being adequately monitored, recorded and reported.</li> <li>Evidence that M&amp;E data informs learning (at community, country or regional level).</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: MEL requirements are being met (regular project monitoring at output and outcome level, learning and adaptation based on M&amp;E data).</p> <p>To some extent: minimum MEL requirements are being met (regular project monitoring at output and outcome level).</p> <p>Not at all: minimum MEL requirements are not being met (regular project monitoring at output and outcome level).</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	
OVERALL	Design	To what extent is the design of the CBRPs robust?	Q2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that the long-term objectives (impact and outcomes) are clearly identified and the proposed steps towards achieving them are clearly defined.</li> <li>Evidence that the CBRP contributes to IOM objectives for community-based reintegration support.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: 4 or more of the 8 judgement criteria are rated “to a large extent” and there are none rated “not at all”.</p> <p>To some extent: 4 or more of the 8 judgement criteria are rated either “to a large extent” or “to some extent”.</p> <p>Not at all: 4 or more of the 8 judgement criteria are rated “not at all”/unable to say.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	

	ELEMENT		EQ	JUDGEMENT CRITERIA/ INDICATORS	RATING	COMMENTS
<b>OVERALL</b>	MEL systems	To what extent are the MEL system for the CBRPs robust?	Q3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of complete sets of documents (project proposals, progress reports, evaluations/ reviews/commissioned studies).</li> <li>• Evidence of baseline measures and data, or plans for when this will be conducted.</li> <li>• Evidence that monitoring data is being collected at the appropriate frequency on appropriate measures.</li> <li>• Evidence that minimum MEL requirements are being met (regular project monitoring at output and outcome level. These will be determined and agreed with IOM during the desk phase of the analysis.</li> <li>• Evidence that MEL budgets exist and are proportionate to the CBRP investment.</li> <li>• Evidence that M&amp;E data informs learning (at community, country or regional level).</li> <li>• Evidence that data is gathered on outcome or impact-level change is being adequately monitored, recorded and reported.</li> </ul>	<p>To a large extent: 5 or more of the 9 judgement criteria are rated “to a large extent” and there are none rated “not at all”.</p> <p>To some extent: 5 or more of the 9 judgement criteria are rated either “to a large extent” or “to some extent”.</p> <p>Not at all: 5 or more of the 9 judgement criteria are rated “not at all”/unable to say.</p> <p>Unable to say: data is not available to make a judgement.</p>	

## PROJECTS INCLUDED IN EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT

COUNTRY	PROJECT TITLE
Somalia	Construction of Kerowfogi bridge in Baidoa
Somalia	Bee-Keeping and Prevention to Deforestation in Balcad District
Somalia	Support the Climate Adaptive Community Based Reintegration of Returnees and Communities of Return in Burao
Ethiopia	Rehabilitation Assistance for Ethiopian Migrant Returnees
Ethiopia	Integrated Sustainable Reintegration Assistance Project for Ethiopian Migrant Returnees in Amhara region (ISRAP)
Ethiopia	Construction of irrigation canal
Ethiopia	Reintegration and Protection of Migrant Children Returnees in Jimma Zone of Oromia Region
Ethiopia	Sustainable Socio-Economic Re-integration Support for Migrant Children
Ethiopia	Gibe Dam Fish Farming
Ethiopia	Enhancing Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation of Returnee Migrants, Internally Displaced Persons and Host Communities
Ethiopia	Provision of Sustainable Reintegration Assistance of Ethiopian Children Returnees/minors Returnees
Somalia	Promoting Waste Management Whilst Fostering Social Cohesion Between Returning Migrants and Their Communities of Return
Somalia	Rehabilitation of Local Government offices (Bossaso's Mayor Office)
Sudan (the)	Community-based interventions to promote the reintegration of Sudanese migrant returnees and enhance the overall resilience of their communities of return
Sudan (the)	Garbage management and community hygiene campaigns
Sudan (the)	Vocational training (Youth/skills training)
Sudan (the)	Vocational training in Nyala

## IOM COUNTRY OFFICE CONSULTATIONS

NAME	COUNTRY
Kidist Mulugeta	Ethiopia
Wondwossen Jima	Ethiopia
Mohamed Rashid Hussein	Somalia
Awad Aljak	Sudan (the)
Reem Eldwwari	Sudan (the)

## REVIEW FRAMEWORK

REVIEW FRAMEWORK		
Core review questions/ sub-questions	Judgement Criteria/Indicators	Review tools/methods
<b>Q1 COHERENCE: To what extent do the CBRPs for the EU-IOM HoA JI programme align with and support individual reintegration support provided to returnees?</b>		
1.1 To what extent has the CBRP helped to address community barriers to reintegration?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that the CBRP has helped to address perceived or actual barriers to reintegration e.g. by generating jobs, easing strains on services and infrastructure, or by addressing stigmatization of returnees.</li> <li>Evidence that the CBRP has helped improve the local environment with regards to employment, social cohesion and individual reintegration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document review (CBRP concept notes, community consultations, monitoring reports, country offices reports, etc.)</li> <li>KIIs with IOM staff</li> <li>KIIs with CBRP beneficiaries (community members and returnees)</li> <li>FGDs with CBRP beneficiaries (community members and returnees) using MSC</li> </ul>
1.2 To what extent has the CBRP helped to foster dialogue, social cohesion and empowerment within and between returnees and non-migrant members of the community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that the CBRP has helped to improve relationships between and among returnees and local community members.</li> <li>Evidence that the CBRP has contributed to reduction of discrimination towards returnees and/or increased tolerance and understanding.</li> <li>Evidence that the CBRP has encouraged collaboration and/or cooperation between returnees and host-community members.</li> <li>Evidence that the CBRP has improved feelings of acceptance of the returnees and perceptions of belonging in the community.</li> </ul>	
1.3 To what extent has the CBRP supported the resilience of returnees and the host community?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that the CBRP has contributed to behaviours, relationships and habits that allow the returnee and host community to withstand pressures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Document review (CBRP concept notes, community consultations, monitoring reports, country offices reports, etc.)</li> <li>KIIs with IOM staff</li> <li>KIIs with CBRP beneficiaries (community members and returnees)</li> <li>FGDs with CBRP beneficiaries (community members and returnees) using MSC</li> <li>NE survey, KIIs and FGDs</li> </ul>

REVIEW FRAMEWORK		
Core review questions/ sub-questions	Judgement Criteria/Indicators	Review tools/methods
<b>Q2 DESIGN: How robust is the design of the CBRPs and what lessons can be learned for future programming?</b>		
2.1 To what extent and how effectively have returnees and community members been involved in the CBRP selection and design?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of inclusive and participatory community consultation involving returnees and community members.</li> <li>• Evidence of inclusive and participatory community consultation involving returnees and community members.</li> <li>• Evidence that returnees and community members are satisfied with the consultation process.</li> <li>• Evidence of feedback to the community and returnees regarding selection of the CBRPs.</li> <li>• Evidence of community and returnee support for the CBRP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review (CBRP concept notes, community consultations, monitoring reports, country offices reports, etc.)</li> <li>• KIIs with IOM staff</li> <li>• KIIS with implementing partners</li> <li>• KIIs with CBRP beneficiaries (community members and returnees)</li> <li>• FGDs with CBRP beneficiaries (community members and returnees) using MSC</li> <li>• NE survey, KIIs and FGDs</li> <li>• RSS non-migrant survey</li> </ul>
2.2 How have CBRP locations been identified selected?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that CBRPs have targeted communities with a high concentration of returnees and/or where specific problems have been identified that could be addressed by the programme.</li> <li>• Evidence that CBRPs have targeted communities with increased risk of repeat or new migration.</li> </ul>	
2.3 How robust is the CBRP design?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that the long-term objectives (impact and outcomes) are clearly identified and the proposed steps towards achieving them are clearly defined.</li> <li>• Evidence that the CBRP contributes to IOM objectives for community-based reintegration support.</li> </ul>	



REVIEW FRAMEWORK		
Core review questions/ sub-questions	Judgement Criteria/Indicators	Review tools/methods
<b>Q2 DESIGN: How robust is the design of the CBRPs and what lessons can be learned for future programming?</b>		
2.4 How relevant is the CBRP to the needs of the returnees, host community and context?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that both needs and capacities of returnees and community members are being addressed through the CBRP.</li> <li>• Evidence of situation analysis, baseline study, other evidence or rationale for the CBRP.</li> <li>• Evidence that different stakeholder views have been considered and concerns/ challenges addressed.</li> <li>• Evidence that roles of other actors outside the project have been made explicit (both enablers and blockers).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review (CBRP concept notes, community consultations, monitoring reports, country offices reports, etc.)</li> <li>• KIIs with IOM staff</li> <li>• KIIS with implementing partners</li> <li>• KIIs with CBRP beneficiaries (community members and returnees)</li> <li>• FGDs with CBRP beneficiaries (community members and returnees) using MSC</li> <li>• NE survey, KIIs and FGDs</li> <li>• RSS non-migrant survey</li> </ul>
2.5 To what extent are local authorities involved in the selection, design and implementation of CBRPs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that local authorities have been involved in the CBRP community consultations and design processes.</li> <li>• Evidence that local authorities are involved in the implementation of the CBRPs.</li> </ul>	
<b>Q3 MEL systems: How robust is the MEL system for the CBRPs (individually and as a portfolio) and what lessons can be learned for future programming?</b>		
3.1 How complete are the country-level MEL systems for the CBRPs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of complete sets of documents (project proposals, progress reports, evaluations/ reviews/commissioned studies).</li> <li>• Evidence of baseline measures and data, or plans for when this will be conducted.</li> <li>• Evidence that monitoring data is being collected at the appropriate frequency on appropriate measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document review (CBRP concept notes, community consultations, monitoring reports, country offices reports, etc.)</li> <li>• KIIs with IOM staff</li> <li>• KIIS with implementing partners</li> </ul>

REVIEW FRAMEWORK		
Core review questions/ sub-questions	Judgement Criteria/Indicators	Review tools/methods
<b>Q3 MEL systems: How robust is the MEL system for the CBRPs (individually and as a portfolio) and what lessons can be learned for future programming?</b>		
3.2. To what extent to the existing MEL systems for the CBRPs have the capacity to deliver?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence that minimum MEL requirements are being met (regular project monitoring at output and outcome level. These will be determined and agreed with IOM during the desk phase of the analysis.</li> <li>• Evidence that MEL budgets exist and are proportionate to the CBRP investment.</li> <li>• Evidence that M&amp;E data informs learning (at community, country or regional level).</li> <li>• Evidence that data is gathered on outcome or impact-level change is being adequately monitored, recorded and reported.</li> </ul>	<p>Document review (CBRP concept notes, community consultations, monitoring reports, country offices reports, etc.)</p> <p>KIIs with IOM staff</p> <p>KIIS with implementing partners</p>

## PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION

### Focus Group Discussions

CODE	TYPE OF RESPONDENT	LOCATION
FGD1	Returnee/Host communities	Oromia, Ethiopia
FGD2	Returnees	SNNPR, Ethiopia
FGD3	Host communities	SNNPR, Ethiopia
FGD4	Returnee/Host communities	Hargeisa, Somalia
FGD5	Returnees	Mogadishu, Somalia
FGD6	Host communities	Mogadishu, Somalia
FGD7	Returnee/Host communities	Khartoum, the Sudan
FGD8	Returnees	West Darfur, the Sudan
FGD9	Host communities	West Darfur, the Sudan

## Key Informant Interviews

CODE	TYPE OF RESPONDENT	LOCATION
KII1	Implementing partner	Oromia, Ethiopia
KII2	Implementing partner	SNNPR, Ethiopia
KII3	Implementing partner	Hargeisa, Somalia
KII4	Implementing partner	Mogadishu, Somalia
KII5	Implementing partner	Khartoum, the Sudan
KII6	Implementing partner	West Darfur, the Sudan

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