

EVALUATION BRIEFS

FINAL INDEPENDENT PROJECT EVALUATION

Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants – GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East and GLO.ACT Bangladesh (GLOZ67)

Region: Asia and the Middle East (the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Afghanistan), the Islamic Republic of Iran (I.R. of Iran), the Republic of Iraq (Iraq), the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Pakistan)) and People's Republic of Bangladesh (Bangladesh).

Duration: 12 December 2018 to 31 December 2023 (extension until March 2024)

Donors: EU and Canada

Evaluation team: Eva Otero Candelera

Full report:

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/reports_year_2023.html

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT) projects implemented in Asia and the Middle East, and in Bangladesh aim to enhance countries' ability to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling in vulnerable situations, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5, 8, 10, 16 and 17. They operate in Afghanistan, I.R. of Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, and separately in Bangladesh.

MAIN FINDINGS

Governments acknowledge the need for international support to address the complex challenges in which GLO.ACT works. The design of GLO.ACT projects has been informed by various national assessments and evaluations, however, there

is a risk that this information could become outdated over time. In general, GLO.ACT projects work linking activities all the way to outcomes. The pilot project in Afghanistan is an exception since it is mainly based on hypotheses. These projects collaborate extensively with government entities, which expressed high satisfaction with their relationship with GLO.ACT projects.

Resources contribute to achieving the defined projects outcomes. The distribution of assets within the approved budget is reasonable. The ratio between inputs/cost and contribution to outcomes is very favorable. The coordination, management mechanisms, and management culture of GLO.ACT projects have contributed to achieving results, although there is room for improving administrative processes, as well as work-life balance.

GLO.ACT projects have encountered serious and varied obstacles during implementation. Nevertheless, they maintained a high level of completeness and quality of the planned outputs. GLO.ACT has led to concrete changes in both the personal and institutional spheres, contributing to organizational and high-level changes. In general, the outputs and outcomes of GLO.ACT projects are sustainable, but several challenges impede their full sustainability.

Despite challenges, gender, and human rights integration in GLO.ACT has been nearly flawless, with dedicated efforts to incorporate these perspectives into all project's products. However, disability inclusion has not been comprehensively developed.



GLO.ACT Asia and Middle East illustration

LESSONS LEARNED

Partnership building requires a substantial investment of time and effort, particularly in less institutionalized environments. It involves creating connections, comprehending stakeholder perspectives, and nurturing trust. These elements are essential for fruitful collaborations, and their time-consuming nature requires careful planning.

"(GLO.ACT is) multi-faceted, and they target the ministries, the judiciary and the whole chain of command including the parliament to help push through the adoption of the laws" (EU Delegation)

GOOD PRACTICES

GLO.ACT used a **"connect-the-dots"** approach, focusing on meaningful actions that contribute directly to desired outcomes, rather than completing tasks for the sake of checkboxes. This ensured efficient use of resources and efforts towards achieving concrete results.

Partner satisfaction in GLO.ACT projects were driven by their **direct involvement** in shaping projects outputs and objectives, contributing to their overall contentment.

GLO.ACT's effective and flexible **management approach** valued diversity and inclusivity, fostering productive teams and seamless coordination among country teams, which contributed to overall projects success.

GLO.ACT has effectively promoted **gender mainstreaming** in its initiatives, contributing to legal frameworks, gender-sensitive victim support, and empowerment of women and transgender individuals, even in challenging contexts.

METHODOLOGY

The evaluation used a mixed-method approach, emphasizing data security and informant consent and followed the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) ethical standards. The evaluation included a desk review analysis (334 documents), consultations with key stakeholders (75 interviewed, 17 women), a survey (342 respondents, 93 women), and a disaggregated analysis to assess issues relevant to the evaluation questions.

It minimized environmental impact by embracing a paperless approach and reducing travel. Data analysis involved qualitative analysis software that helped identify key themes based on substantial evidence.

All recommendations are directed to: Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, GLO.ACT teams, UNODC.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) **Afghanistan:** In Afghanistan, a) provide further training on impact monitoring among other issues to IPs to ensure they are well-prepared to execute the project effectively; b) shift focus from tracking project activities to assessing real impact; c) systematically test project assumptions by collecting evidence to validate initial hypotheses.

2) **People living with disabilities:** Prioritize the active involvement of people living with disabilities by seeking expertise for assessments, integrating disability-specific activities, removing barriers for their participation, and consistently addressing disability issues in projects materials.

3) **Work life balance and working culture:** Create a work-life balance policy for the GLO.ACT projects, including measures like strict out-of-office replies on days off, respecting holidays and weekends, and implementing a mutual support system in team meetings.

4) **Expanding outreach:** Consider expanding the initiative by collaborating with border officials and travel agencies, which should be included in the project document or upcoming work plans in the next few weeks or within the next six months.

5) **Qualitative monitoring:** Prioritize enhancing qualitative monitoring and delegating data collection and analysis to field offices while managing their workload effectively.