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2022 | Evaluation Report

Ethiopia

Evaluation of the emergency initiative in favour of vulnerable populations, refugees, displaced persons and migrants to counter the causes of irregular migration"

(AID 10677)



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The opinions expressed in this document represent the evaluators' point of view and do not necessarily coincide with those of the client.

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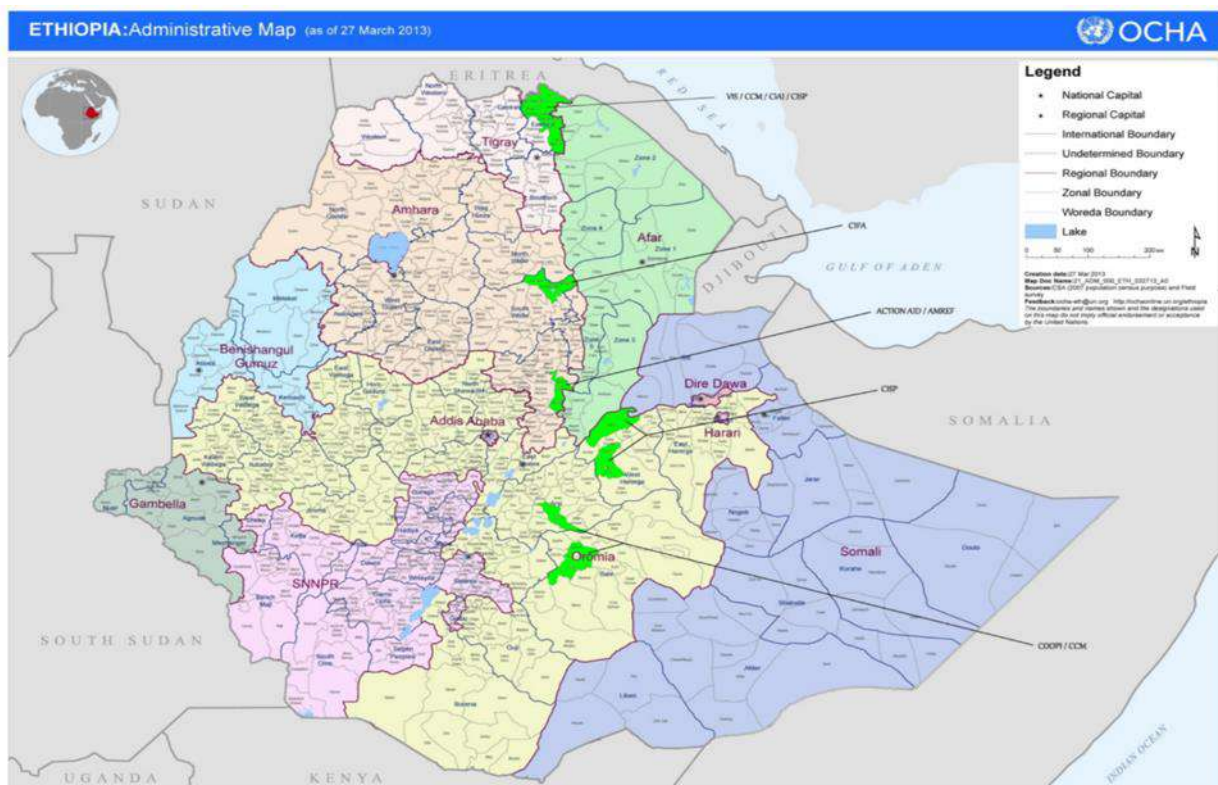
AICS	Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development
AM	Assessment Matrix
AMREF	African Medical and Research Foundation
AOP	Annual Operating Plan
AWD	Acute Watery Diarrhea
BBS	Basic Business Skills
BPs	Good Practices / Best Practices
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CCM	Comitato Collaborazione Medica
CAI	Centro Italiano Aiuti all'Infanzia (Italian Children's Aid Centre)
CoC	Certificate of Competence
DGCS	Directorate General for Development Cooperation (MAECI)
EQ	Evaluation Question
ET	Evaluation Team
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GO	General Objective
GOP	General Operating Plan
HR	Human Rights
HRD	Humanitarian Requirements Document
IFSO	Integrated Family Service Organization (Ethiopian NGO)
IGA	Income Generating Activities
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IR	Inception Report
LF	Logical Framework
LL	Lessons Learned
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAECI	(Italian) Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
MOLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
MS	(EU) Member State
MWCA	Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs Office
SACCO	Saving and Credit Cooperatives
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SINCE	Stemming Irregular Migration In Northern & Central Ethiopia
SO	Specific Objective
SR	Start-up Report
TF	Trust Fund
TL	Team Leader (of the ET)
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
TSC	Teatro Sociale di Comunità
TVEDO	Technical and Vocational Enterprise Development Office (previously known as "Small and Micro Enterprise Development office")
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education Training Center
WASH - CO	Management committees for WASH projects (wells, springs, etc.)
WISE	Women in Self Employment (Ethiopian NGO - Addis Ababa)
YFC	Youth Friendly Center

1 Geographical location of the initiative

The “**Emergency Initiative for Vulnerable Populations, Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants to Counter the Causes of Irregular Migration in Ethiopia**” (AID 10677) programme was implemented from 2016 to 2017 in conjunction with approved projects in the following regions of the country:

- Amhara, Northern Shewa area (Ankober and Tarmaber Woredas) and South Wollo area (Ambassel, Tehuledere and Worebabo Woredas).
- Oromia, West Hararghe (Habro, Daro Labu and Mieso Woredas) and Bale (Sinana, Robe and Goba Woreda)
- Tigray / East Tigray (Saesi Tsaedaemba Gulomakeda, Ganta Afeshum, Irob Woreda; Atsbi Wemberta)

Figure 1 - Programme intervention areas



2 Summary

Italian cooperation in Ethiopia has defined the fight against migration as one of the main priorities for action. Starting from this priority, the Italian government has long cooperated with the European Union to improve policies and strategies aimed at regularising and governing migration flows. These cooperation policies created the first pilot programme “Emergency initiative in favour of vulnerable populations, refugees, displaced persons and migrants to counter the causes of irregular migration” (AID 10677) with a total financial allocation of 2,000,000 euro. This programme, which is in fact the subject of this evaluation, has been implemented by 5 consortia of Italian and Ethiopian NGOs in 3 key migration regions.

The initiative was designed to address the root causes of irregular migration by improving the living conditions of the population in areas with high migration potential, returning migrants, and host communities. The fight against irregular migration (General Objective) has been articulated through direct actions, aimed at promoting local development, creating new job opportunities, improving access to basic services, including through a massive awareness campaign on the risks related to irregular migration (Specific Objective).

During its 12-month duration (2016 – 2017), the Programme involved mainly women (50%), young people between ages 18 and 35 (70%), returnees (30%) and potential migrants for a total of 80,072 direct beneficiaries and 580,000 indirect beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries the Programme reached are mainly women; young people between the ages of 18 and 25; returnees (mainly women); and potential young migrants. Women and young people, normally returnees and potential migrants, were involved mainly through training activities and support aimed at the creation of new job opportunities (Income Generating Activities - IGAs).

Minors were involved through awareness-raising activities in schools and basic health at Health Centers and Youth Friendly Centers (YFCs). When interventions were implemented with local authorities and decentralised institutions, these are also identified as indirect beneficiaries for improved access to and dissemination of basic services and implementation of development policies.

The programme was funded under AICS’ emergency provision, and despite the typically emergency approach of the programme, in the national context and for Italian Cooperation, this programme was a clear and innovative strategic turnaround with a manifestly pilot character and potentially able to guide future actions, in terms of combating irregular migration.

The methodological criteria of the evaluation process have remained those indicated in the inception report. Unfortunately, the concomitance of the pandemic and the recent resurgence of the armed conflict has unexpectedly led to the cancellation of the planned field visit and interviews with beneficiaries, due to the difficulty of reaching them remotely but also to not expose them to risks (‘do no harm’ criterion). The evidence of the evaluation is therefore based mainly on documentary sources, on the information gathered during the preparatory phase and on interviews with AICS

officials in Addis Ababa and the NGOs of the 5 consortia responsible for implementing the actions.” The documentation collected consists essentially of the planning documents of Italian Cooperation generated during and after the implementation period of the programme, and the final and intermediate narrative reports of the actions integrated with the external monitoring and evaluation reports carried out by AICS and the implementing organisations.

2.1 Main conclusions of the evaluation

2.1.1 Design Relevance and Quality

The evaluation results confirm that the programme is relevant as it directly addresses the beneficiaries’ needs, especially potential young migrants and returnees (mostly women).

The intervention logic, focused on the development of economic opportunities alternative to migration, access to basic services and young people’s and communities’ awareness on the risks of irregular migration, was and remains relevant.

Based on the experience of working with women returnees in this first pilot programme, the need emerged to support integration processes not only at the economic level but also at the social level, also considering the psycho-social aspect for returnees who suffered trauma and abuse during their migration journey.

Coherence

The programme is aligned with the country’s development policies (the Second Growth and Transformation Plan - GTP II), youth and women’s policies, a law against trafficking and illegal immigration and sectoral development strategies, such as creating jobs and developing micro-enterprises and cooperatives.

Efficiency

The efficiency was good. The implementing bodies showed excellent ability in the implementation of the activities and the involvement of all stakeholders. A virtuous example is the interesting cooperation established with the training institutes associated with the Federal Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Agency.¹

In this regard, it should be noted that the initiative has benefited, as a whole, from the significant added value represented by a close and effective collaboration between international and local NGOs.

Effectiveness

The effectiveness was satisfactory. The development of micro-enterprises (IGAs) and the strengthening of credit and savings cooperatives (SACCOs) have been at the heart of the programme’s economic component, along with vocational training to favour access to the labour market offered by a dynamic private sector.

¹ <https://pefop.iiep.unesco.org/en/network/actors/federal-technical-and-vocational-education-and-training-tvet-agency>

Concerning the basic services promoted by the programme, access to water for domestic use accompanied by information on hygiene and nutrition practices and the strengthening of the Youth Friendly Centers network are the most successful interventions.

The awareness component of the programme has seen the production of effective participatory communication tools such as THE GAME and theatre shows, set up in collaboration with professional and specialised organisations. These components were subsequently reproduced and disseminated in other programmes to combat irregular migration.

Sustainability

Sustainability is the most problematic criterion. The financial and credit grants allocated to the development of IGAs and SACCOs is considered insufficient. This calls into question the IGA and cooperatives' sustainability after completion of the project activities. The strengthening of SACCOs and IGAs is also a medium-term process that needs continuity, which, it seems, the local technical services are not always able to ensure.

Regarding other components, the programme sought to create virtuous processes within true institutional sustainability. The action addressing Youth Friendly Centers is a contribution to national policy that continues to be supported and promoted in terms of resources.

The strategy of promoting the creation of platforms for interinstitutional consultation and cooperation with training institutes (TVET) led to practices that have then been widely duplicated, and still presents fewer sustainability issues, as they are based on the mobilisation of the public administration's existing human resources.

Finally, awareness-raising in schools through effective and reproducible participatory communication tools (THE GAME and theatre shows) can also, in this case, use available and already trained human resources. Unfortunately, despite many other projects duplicated these awareness-raising practices in different areas of Ethiopia, it was not possible to verify whether these initiatives continued in the same schools after the programme ends.

Impact

The analysis of the pilot programme's overall impact, which has been characterised by its pilot nature in the fight against migration, focused on the real impact of good practice and lessons learned during its implementation, to improve cooperation strategies and the design of subsequent programmes about migration.

In the economic sector, the main impacts are due to the systematic duplication of Best Practices such as the promotion of IGAs, the promotion of the practice of savings among beneficiaries, and the strengthening of SACCOs to improve financial products and increase the flow of resources via credit and savings to the rural economy.

Regarding access to basic services, rural communities' drinking water availability has increased, with significant repercussions on improving the most vulnerable families'

nutritional status and strengthening of Youth Friendly Centers' services in favour of adolescents.

The impact of awareness campaigns in schools and communities has been very significant thanks to the use of innovative communication strategies developed by the programme and systematically duplicated in subsequent programmes. Similarly, the creation of interinstitutional platforms on migration has certainly contributed to increasing the coverage and dissemination of messages related to the risks of irregular migration.

In conclusion, implementation of the programme allowed greater knowledge of the migration sector and, consequently, of returning women's needs. This has contributed to the improvement of Italian Cooperation's intervention strategy by integrating the migrant social integration and protection components.

Similarly, the programme's lessons learned and good practices contributed to defining the intervention strategy of SINCE, an important European Union Trust Fund initiative².

Lessons learned

Development of IGA micro-enterprises and SACCO cooperatives requires considerably more time than the project duration, especially in terms of continuous training and adaptation of financial products to the needs of new IGAs;

The efforts made to increase the financial resources for the sustainability and growth of IGAs focused on the promotion of savings, and on their integration as members in the SACCO cooperatives without, however, providing for an adequate increase in their capital.

Trying to broaden the social base of cooperatives without foreseeing a corresponding increase in credit resources constitutes a strong limit in terms of sustainability and, therefore, impact.

The consortium approach with Italian and local NGOs with strong thematic and geographical specialisation has contributed to designing and implementing quality projects.

The "integrated project" approach is confirmed as a valid cooperation instrument migration control as it addresses a complex problem through multisectoral initiatives but has highlighted its limits when the initiatives promoted required interventions of greater duration and specialisation (see development of IGAs and SACCOs).

Cooperation between technical vocational institutes (TVET) promoted by the programme proved to be essential for potential young migrants' vocational training.

The promotion of interinstitutional coordination platforms accompanied by technical training of officials proved to be a practice that has allowed multi-sectoral dialogue and integration in favour of target groups.

Awareness-raising in schools and communities on the risks related to irregular migration developed through effective, sustainable communication tools (all

² https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/region/horn-africa/ethiopia/stemming-irregular-migration-northern-central-ethiopia_en

implementable with local human resources), and highly appreciated by students and communities has had significant impact potential.

The recommendation of the five research projects on migration identifying the “care drain” aspect as relevant is interesting and should be studied to possibly design specific initiatives.

The observations of the research concerning better use of family remittances are interesting. These remittances would be used mainly for household consumption and much less for productive investments and savings.

2.2 Recommendations

- 1) Maintain the consortium and multisectoral approach appropriately integrated with psychological support, protection and social integration for migrant women.
- 2) Identify specific programmes to respond to medium and long-term development needs of actions promoted in the economic component such as vocational training of young people and liaison with the private sector and strengthening SACCOs and IGAs’ capacities.
- 3) In the case of vocational training and IGAs of migrants and returnees, carefully evaluate and, as appropriate, improve cooperation with technical vocational institutes (TVET).
- 4) Regarding capitalisation of SACCOs, even if there is room for improvement thanks to additional external support in terms of training, provide for capitalisation mechanisms on an objective basis of credit activity performance to be able to provide adequate loans to members and allow the consolidation and growth of IGAs.
- 5) Strengthen existing links and explore the possibility of linking awareness-raising activities with all relevant local government structures, especially primary and secondary schools, including through the use of the tools developed by the programme.
- 6) Systematise and evaluate in terms of effectiveness, sustainability and impact, and through mainly quantitative and statistically significant methods, information relevant to the improvement of policies and initiative for cooperation and to combat migration. Many good practices were identified by the programme and subsequently duplicated by other cooperation programmes. For example, among the most relevant are the promotion of IGAs, strengthening of SACCOs, support to Youth Friendly Centers, access to drinking water, and awareness in schools.

3 Background

3.1 Country Situation

Ethiopia is an important country of departure for irregular migration, mainly to the Middle East, South Africa, North Africa and, to a lesser extent, Europe. The migration rate is, however, relatively lower than other countries in East Africa or the Horn of Africa, but the population of Ethiopia, the second largest in Africa with an estimated 110 million and a diaspora of over two million scattered around the world, make the country an important basin - in terms of absolute numbers – for migration flows.

This is mainly economic migration closely linked to economic conditions. For a clear picture of the migration model, it is therefore important to assess the country's overall demographic and economic situation.

Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa, after Nigeria with a population (as of 2016) estimated at 103,126,159 (2.53% growth rate) of which 43.71% is between ages 0 and 14, 29.45% between 25 and 54 and 20.04% between 15 and 24.

Most people (about 80.5%) live in rural areas, while the remaining 19.5% live in urban areas.

The Ethiopian economy is mainly based on rain-fed and subsistence agriculture, due to the low use of water resources and technologies, which leads to low productivity. Agriculture remains a dominant sector (38.8% of the GDP) while the service sector (46.6%) and industrial sector (15.2% in 2014/15) are increasing. According to the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), the Ethiopian economy continued to register a remarkable growth rate of 10.2% in 2014/15, which implies a nominal growth of GDP per capita of 691 USD.

Agriculture does not generate satisfactory incomes, especially for a young population. The average plot of land worked per family is inadequate. Most of the land is used for food self-sufficiency and to a very limited extent for production of income crops. The increase in the population puts further pressure on the territory, making it harder to achieve families' economic sustainability.

Most young people do not own plots of land and therefore depend on their parents' small farms. Migration is seen as a true opportunity to improve the individual or family economic situation, especially for the younger population, whether men or women.

Most of the irregular flows are directed towards the Middle East, with Djibouti and Somalia, in particular, as the main transit countries for Ethiopians seeking to reach Yemen by sea, then entering the labour market in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Persian Gulf.

Ethiopia is also an important transit country for mixed migratory flows, linking migrants from the Horn of Africa (particularly from Eritrea and Somalia) to Sudan with Libya and Egypt as their final destination. Many of these migrants finally continue to Italy, across the Mediterranean, in an attempt to seek asylum or find work in Europe.

In addition, Ethiopia currently hosts the most African refugees, namely refugees and asylum seekers who enter Ethiopia to escape the repression of authoritarian regimes, armed conflicts and food insecurity.

In 2019, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) registered a total of 744,113 movements from the four countries of the Horn of Africa (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia). Approximately 60% of these movements were recorded along the Eastern route; that is, towards the Gulf countries, and 80% of these were directed towards Saudi Arabia, which is confirmed as migrants' main country of destination in the area.

As a consequence of this significant migration flow from Ethiopia, the number of returnees is also very high. These are usually forced repatriations by the Saudi Government: it is estimated that, from 2017 until January 2019, about 230,000 Ethiopians, including 15,793 minors, have returned to Ethiopia from Saudi Arabia. Of these, only 14% returned voluntarily.

The movement from Ethiopia to the Gulf countries is largely irregular (only about 30% travel through regular channels), so Ethiopian migrants often face great dangers and are exposed to a wide range of risks during these migratory journeys.

A survey in this regard (IOM 2021) found that during the five-year period 2015 – 2020 almost 51,000 migrants are missing; the majority are men (85%) who are believed to have died or disappeared along the route to the country of final destination.

3.2 National and Italian Cooperation Development Policies

Ethiopia is a rapidly growing country with a young population. National policies are strongly oriented towards accelerating economic growth and ensuring access to basic services and education, especially in rural areas.

The most important national development plan that absorbs a large part of the available resources is the second phase of the Growth and Transformation Plan - GTP II, currently implemented for 2015/16 - 2019/20.

GTP's main objective is the country's transformation from a medium-low income situation by 2025, from a lower middle-income country to a country where democracy, good governance and social justice are integral parts of national policies and economic growth.

The realisation of this Vision requires the creation of a competitive, productive and inclusive economy in all its aspects. The overall objective of GTP II is to support accelerated growth through the following specific objectives:

- I. Achieve an actual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) average annual growth rate of 11% in a stable macroeconomic environment;
- II. Improve the productivity, quality and competitiveness of domestic productive sectors (agriculture and manufacturing industries) to accelerate structural transformation;
- III. Further consolidate the population's organised participation to reap the benefits of development;

The GTP II Sectoral Economic Development Plan also foresees a profound transformation of the rural economy. In particular, the agricultural sector development plan has the following objectives:

- I. promoting accelerated and sustained growth in agriculture through increased productivity within the Green Economy's climate resilient strategy;
- II. enable women, young people and other stakeholders to participate in a structured and organised way to contribute their share and to benefit from the results of development.
- III. The following main objectives are set to reach the GTP II objectives: crop productivity and production and livestock production; conservation and use of natural resources and biodiversity; strengthening agricultural research; food security, prevention and preparedness.

Ethiopia is the crossroads of many migration flows and a region characterised by unstable climatic and food security conditions. International donors, the EU and Italian cooperation consider Ethiopia as a priority partner. Its development and relative political stability are necessary primarily for geopolitical reasons.

In 2015, the EU launched the Valletta Action Plan on Migration and Development and set out the conditions for establishment of the Trust Fund on Irregular Migration, based on partnership with countries of origin and transit and the ways to address irregular migration's root causes.

In November 2015, the European Union and Ethiopia signed a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility (CAMM), which commits the parties to increase cooperation for better management of migration from and through Ethiopia, strengthening its asylum system, promoting studies on the phenomenon, encouraging prepared and aware migration to the EU, and cooperating more in the fight against irregular migration and trafficking and smuggling networks.

In this context, Italian cooperation has defined combating migration as a priority for action. The Italian government cooperates with the EU to improve policies contributing to African development and the management of migration flows.

In 2016, the Italian government prepared the 'Migration Compact' proposal. The European Commission (EC) translated this into the "new partnership framework" and creation of the Plan for external investments.

In Ethiopia, these policies created a first 'pilot' programme of aid to the rural population, the **"Emergency initiative in favour of vulnerable populations, refugees, displaced persons and migrants to counter the causes of irregular migration"** (AID 10677) with a total financial allocation of 2,000,000 euro. This initiative has been implemented by 5 consortia of Italian and Ethiopian NGOs in 3 key migration regions and is the matter of this evaluation.

Finally, this first experience in combating migration was followed by numerous similar initiatives promoted by AICS, both with national funding (Development Cooperation and Ministry of the Interior) and EU funding (Stemming Irregular Migration In Northern

& Central Ethiopia – SINCE). These initiatives benefited from the Best Practices (BPs) and Lessons Learned during the implementation of the programme in **question (see IMPACT chapters)**

4 Evaluation Scope and Objective

4.1 Initiative Description

The general objective of the “***Emergency initiative in favour of vulnerable populations, refugees, displaced persons and migrants to counter the causes of irregular migration***” was to address the root causes of irregular migration through four sectors: creation of income-generating activities and access to job opportunities, in particular for young people and women; strengthening the resilience of local communities and fostering the quantitative and qualitative supply of basic services, aiming at improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable; development and implementation of information and awareness campaigns and implementation of 5 Research studies on Migration.

The Programme has been implemented in 16 Woredas of 3 Regions (see Figure 1) of the Country: Amhara (Northern Shewa and South Wollo), Oromia (West Hararghe and Bale), and Tigray (Eastern Tigray), and within it, 8 Italian NGOs implemented 5 projects in partnership with local institutions, NGOs and local communities.

During its 12-month duration (2016 – 2017), the Programme involved directly benefitted mainly women (50%), young people between ages 18 and 35 (70%), returnees (30%) and potential migrants for a total of 80,072 direct beneficiaries and 580,000 indirect beneficiaries.

The programme was funded under AICS’ emergency provision in and the national context and for Italian Cooperation, this programme is a clear and innovative strategic turnaround with a manifestly **pilot character and potentially able to guide future actions, in terms of improving living conditions and combating irregular migration.**

4.2 The theory of change

The programme under evaluation was designed in response to the need to contribute to the improvement of the structural causes that fuel migration flows in rural areas of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia has made significant progress on food security and nutrition, although important challenges remain. Despite rapid population growth, the poverty rate fell from 56 percent in 2000 to nearly 30 percent in 2011, but still in 2016, 38 percent of children under the age of five were moderately or severely malnourished.

The country’s economy remains strongly linked to the primary sector: agriculture accounts for about 40% of GDP, 80% of exports and employs about 75% of the workforce. Agricultural production is based on the activity of small producers or small farms in the highlands that manage more than 90% of agricultural land. Cereals account for 63% of total agricultural production.

According to IFPRI, the increase in arable land, the use of fertilisers and selected seeds as well as the increase in unit productivity per unit area are the factors behind the average annual growth of 8.3% in cereal production from 2004 to 2016.

However, future agricultural growth must be based again and above all on increased productivity per unit area, as the availability of new agricultural land is reaching its limit.

Food insecurity and the lack of prospects for the younger generations are factors that have accelerated the drive towards irregular migration. The decision to migrate is also based on other aspects such as the unsustainable management of natural resources, the scarcity of agricultural land and vulnerability to natural disasters such as droughts and floods, as well as a context that could worsen further due to the phenomena related to climate change.

On the economic front, while agriculture has long been the “main engine of rapid and inclusive economic growth and development,” Ethiopia’s next goal (GTP II) is to become a global player in the light manufacturing and service sectors.

The programme under evaluation sought to intervene on complex and structural causes that cannot be solved by simple emergency response interventions. Therefore, the programme intervention logic assumes that irregular immigration is caused by an insufficient quality of life that does not allow the continuity and dignified survival of households and that it is not able to meet the expectations of the new generations or job seekers due to:

1. insufficient productivity in the primary sector, which to date represents the prevalent sector and economic activity for small producers’ livelihood;
2. lack of income and training and / or vocational alternatives for young people and migrants (returnees) who do not want to or cannot devote themselves to the primary sector due to the small size of farms and insufficient access to the market;
3. poor access to basic services, which aggravates vulnerable families’ nutritional situation;
4. poor knowledge of the real life and work prospects in the destination countries of migration and the risks associated with irregular migration and human trafficking.

In this context, the methodological approach of the programme was based on the

General Objective (GO) to improve the living conditions of the population in areas with high migration potential, returning migrants, and host communities to counter the phenomenon of irregular migration.

In this context, **the Specific Objective (SO) was then articulated through the mitigation of the main causes (‘root causes’ approach) of irregular migration through actions aimed at local development and the creation of employment and access to basic services associated with a massive awareness campaign on the risks of illegal emigration.**

The programme as a whole has been divided into the following main components (Table 1 presents a summary overview of the programme's interventions and Table 2, the respective main components with the exclusion of the Tigray project):

- diversification of the rural economy through the promotion of income-generating agricultural and non-agricultural activities (IGAs) and employment among young people and women, with special emphasis on returnee women and young people who are traditionally and culturally inclined to take the path of emigration (regular as well as irregular);
- improving access to basic nutrition, water and hygiene, health and education services in rural communities, with special attention to young people;
- increasing the awareness in communities of origin of the risks related to illegal immigration and trafficking in persons, targeting young people and minors.

The initiatives implemented by the programme aim to achieve SDGs 1 (end poverty), 2 (end hunger), 3 (health and well-being), 4 (quality education), 8 (decent work and economic growth).

The beneficiaries the Programme reached are mainly women; young people between the ages of 8 and 25; returnees (mainly women); and potential young migrants.

Women and young people, normally returnees and potential migrants, were involved mainly through training and support aimed at job creation (Income Generating Activities - IGAs). Children were involved through educational activities in schools, awareness campaigns and health at the Health Centers and Youth Friendly Centers (YFCs).

When interventions were implemented with local authorities and decentralised institutions, these are also identified as beneficiaries and actors to be strengthened for improved access to and dissemination of basic services and implementation of development policies.

4.3 The Evaluation General and Specific Objectives

4.3.1 Objectives, usefulness and scope of the evaluation

The evaluation mainly follows the indications provided in the Terms of Reference (ToR), which have been enriched with additional elements specifically related to effectiveness/sustainability and consequent impact.

The evaluation's main objective is to contribute to strengthening the programming and design of future initiatives in migration and related phenomena. The evaluation helps to identify the strengths and weaknesses of this first pilot initiative financed with emergency provisions.

The objectives of the evaluation concern the following aspects:

- the effectiveness of the initiatives, the efficiency in the use of the available resources and the sustainability of the benefits achieved based on the results achieved, also considering the indicators listed in the logical framework;
- the impact of the initiative and changes it has contributed to actually or potentially achieving, directly or indirectly;
- any positive or negative synergistic effects originating as a result of the collaboration among the various projects that participated in the programme;
- how logical and consistent the project design is and its overall validity

Table 1 - Overview of the measures implemented by the programme

Project	Implementers	Title	Intervention Zone	Expected beneficiaries	DGCS Funding
10677/ETH/01	Action AID and Amref	Supporting resilience, food security and the provision of essential basic services for communities in the N. Shewa areas	<i>Region Amhara Zone</i> Northern Shewa <i>Woredas</i> Ankober and Tarmaber	Direct Beneficiaries 16,213 Indirect Beneficiaries 74,000 Strengthening food security: 5,064 Access to drinking water: 10,204 Training and capacity building: 945 producers	€ 456,813
10677/ETH/03	CIFA Onlus	Legal migration: a possible alternative – Project to strengthen the economy of potential migrants and create awareness in the communities of S. Wollo	<i>Region Amhara Zone</i> South Wollo <i>Woredas</i> Ambassel, Tehuledere and Worebabo	Direct Beneficiaries: 10,013 Indirect Beneficiaries: 54,300 Training/economic strengthening: 420 young people and returnees (70% women); SACCO Training/Strengthening: 703 public officials and members of SACCO Management Committees (50% women); Awareness raising	€ 270,000
10677/ETH/04	CISP NGO	Migration and Social Cohesion in Ethiopia, New Resilience Opportunities in the Habro, Daro Labu and Mieso Woredas in the Hararghe Area	<i>Region Oromia Zone</i> West Hararghe <i>Woredas</i> Habro, Daro Labu and Mieso	Direct Beneficiaries: 3,275 Indirect Beneficiaries: 15,312 Participants in the Reflection Forum: Middle and Secondary School Students: 1,500 Government Officials: 25 Farmers: 240 Women between ages 18 and 25 (AGRs)	€ 256,715
10677/ETH/05	COOPI and CCM NGOs	Improvement of the living conditions of the returnee population and young people living in the Bale area (Oromia Region) to mitigate the causes of irregular migration	<i>Region Oromia Zone</i> Bale <i>Woredas</i> Sinana, Robe and Goba	Direct Beneficiaries: 7,791 (3,478 women and 4,313 men) Indirect Beneficiaries: 15,830 (8,706 women and 7,124 men) Income-generating activities: 180 returnees and young people Health component: 3,391 young people and health workers Awareness raising activities on illegal migration	€ 454,406
10677/ETH/07	VIS, CIAI, CCM and CISP NGOs	Strategy and opportunities: integrated basic services and employment promotion against illegal migration in the Tigray Region	<i>Region Tigray</i> East Tigray <i>Woredas</i> Saesi Tsaedaemba Gulomakeda, Ganta Afeshum, Irob; Atsbi Wemberta	Direct Beneficiaries: 48,267 + 42,750 families Indirect Beneficiaries: 420,000 Promotion of employment and income-generating activities: 404 (50% women). Sanitary services: 60 health professionals (50% women); Youth Friendly Space in Health Centers: 1,500 young people Awareness raising campaigns: Research on Migration	€ 437,736

Table 2 – Main types of initiatives and stakeholders involved.

ACTION AID / AMREF / PADet (Northern Shewa)	CIFA (South Wollo)	CISP (West Hararghe)	COOPI / CCM (Bale)
<p>ACTION AID, AMREF, PADet, WISE (initial proposal: Woreda Ankober):</p> <p><u>Economic Component</u> - Govt. services of water, finances, economic development) - 5 production water schemes (agriculture and livestock) and for 600 families + WASHCO 4 Agricultural cooperatives – leadership and governance IGA: small ruminants to 120 women (3 or 4 each and corresponding training; 394 farmers trained in diversification and productivity; 394 farmers trained in Conservation Agriculture (CA) + tools and 400 cages; 39 Community trainers (11 women) on agricultural techniques; 12 Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture (2 women) 4 organisations for SACCO-type IGAs – 40 / coop - (160 women trained on business skills and 100 heads of household provided with capital – 150 €) Training (ToT) for PA co-op trainers <u>WHAS Component and Nutrition:</u> 6 wells + 17 water points + 6 WASHCOs (95 trained) 6,931 people with access to clean water Training health workers members of the Salvation Army (480) – work at Community level Community operators trained on basic health (62: 42 community + 20 PA staff) 31,238 people made aware of hygiene and disease prevention</p>	<p>CIFA IFSO NGO (IGA follow-up) WISE (300 women IGA and SACCO training: ToT training of the 19 public officials) Technical and Vocational Training Center – TVT (Hayk) IGA Training (104 people) TSC (Teatro Sociale di Comunità) – workshops, videos and the game University of Wollo (migration study) Wore Babo Woreda:</p> <p><u>Economic Component</u> 19 public officials trained (ToT): of 3 Departments: Women and Children Affairs, Cooperative Promotion and Small and Micro Entrepreneurship. Basic skills and cooperative management training 104 people trained (70 women) in 7 professional training courses and capital seed (SACCO) 460 (252 women) members and partners of the 15 SACCO Cooperatives trained (by ToT officials) – 375 management members of the 15 SACCOs (5 in each woreda), 90 women with initiated IGAs 300 women trained to improve their already started IGAs and adhere to SACCOs (and capital seed to SACCOs)</p> <p><u>Migration Component</u> Wollo University: migration study Primary and secondary schools ('The Path of Life' game – format - and informative video) – 120 classes – 6,000 students Training of 4 social workers Training of 60 teachers +</p>	<p>CISP Oda Bultum University – migration study ODA Bultum Band (Culture and Tourism Office) (initial proposal: Asebe Teferi (Chiro) and Woreda di Mieso)</p> <p><u>Economic Component</u> representatives of the Labour and Social Affairs Office director of the Employment Creation and Urban Food Security Office (ex: Small and Micro Enterprise Development 4 new agricultural cooperatives – 'primary' (80 people) 50 returnee women from Mieso and 40 in Habro and Daro Labu trained and provided with capital for the management of IGAs Education Component 3 secondary schools (library and laboratory) 180 graduates from tested curriculum trained for Certificate of Competence (CoP) exam <u>Migration Component</u> 90 Officials made aware of the subject of irregular migration (reflection forum) Training on the topic of migration (provided by the Labour and Social Affairs Bureau): 31 area and woreda migration committee members 24 kebele representatives Students and teachers from 3 secondary schools (theatrical</p>	<p>COOPI CCM University of Medda Walabo (migration and dairy supply chain study) TVET College of Robe and Goba (IGA training) "Stradevarie" Theatre Company</p> <p>(initial proposal: Bale and selected Woredas) Economic component (1 economic baseline) 18 micro-enterprises and 189 members (77 women) – business plan 233 members of the 18 micro-enterprises (training) Actors in the dairy chain (1 study + chain organisation) <u>Health Component</u> Youth Friendly Center (YFC) in Robe Hospital and Reproductive Health Services for Youth 26 Health Workers at the hospital in Robe trained on the issues 29 youth representatives / leaders trained 9 student clubs belonging to 3 Robe schools, two Robe youth football teams and the 20/25 Goba Club 2,525 young people with access to Robe's Youth Friendly Center. <u>Migration Component</u> 20 young people from the 20/25 club were trained in Goba by the theatre company "Stradevarie" Artistic performance on migration and 14 shows in 7 woredas (club 20/25) 7 workshops with community leaders. 1 "Storie di migrazione" (Migration Stories) video from Bale.</p>

ACTION AID / AMREF / PADet (Northern Shewa)	CIFA (South Wollo)	CISP (West Hararghe)	COOPI / CCM (Bale)
54 health workers + 16 volunteers trained in nutrition and 400 women (pregnant or lactating) trained on nutrition 500 families with changes in eating habits <u>Migration Component</u> 10 reinforced anti-trafficking committees (138 members) + 7 woreda-level committees 1 regional workshop (51 participants) 1 research on Ethiopian diaspora in Italy (1 Italian expert)	60 Members of Youth Associations + 20 (SCT operators training) + 24 (SW game sessions) + 4 (SCT operators game sessions)	techniques – Oda Bultum Band) 1 local migration phenomenon research (Oda Bultum Uni.)	1 migration study (Medda Walabo UNI)

Considering the motivations (usefulness) and the objectives of the evaluation, the approach was conceived with qualitative criteria: that is, based on the analysis of effective and sustainable and replicable best practices (BP) as well as any lessons learned (LL) to improve the quality of the design and future programming, assuming that it is not possible to analyse a development action's impact without carefully verifying the main results' effectiveness and sustainability.

The conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation will allow MAECI DGCS to develop management review measures at the level of programming strategies and the design of new initiatives in the sector.

5 Theoretical and methodological framework

5.1 General methodological approach

The evaluation approach was based mainly on the criterion of the degree of increase in the knowledge acquired by the different direct beneficiaries, to improve production processes (e.g., agricultural or processing), conduct income-generating activities (IGAs), and manage the infrastructure of the services promoted at all levels.

The criterion of ownership was also privileged, especially directed to the local institutions / organisations responsible for the continuity of services.

Appropriation and empowerment have been the guiding criteria for the effect of activities aimed at women (mostly returnees).

The term empowerment, as well as economically, has also been interpreted as women's greater capacity to undertake new initiatives independently (overcoming social and cultural barriers) and to participate more in decision-making processes.

In other words, empowerment is considered to be the result of increased knowledge combined with practices and behavioural changes promoted or induced by the interventions being evaluated.

Increasing the awareness of all actors (especially minors) of the risks of irregular migration is the third guiding criterion of EQs and the corresponding assessment tools.

In line with the "DAC Evaluation Quality Standard 3.3," the evaluation activities were carried out in compliance with the 'do no harm' principle, as well as ensuring the protection of local stakeholders.

Gender Approach

The evaluation approach takes particular account of the fundamental and potentially transformative role that women have played in the programme with a specific focus on the rural economy.

Given the interdependence of women's economic and social roles, the evaluation approach seeks to measure and capture the results achieved with the aim of evaluating whether women's economic and social emancipation (well-being) has had effects and effectiveness both at the individual and family level.

The evaluative approach considers both the objective and subjective dimension of empowerment, or how the increase in income or the livelihood capacity of women have also translated into greater well-being. The subjective dimension can be measured using proxy indicators such as investments in children's education and health, time spent on household chores, and involvement in decision-making processes within the family.

Women are among the main beneficiaries of the project, this being, among other things, the category most affected by the phenomenon of irregular migration and most at risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

Children's approach

Five years after the end of the initiatives, all the students, minors at the time, have finished the secondary education cycle and are hard to locate.

In this context, the evaluation focuses on the formal and informal institutional level, i.e., awareness raising and the transfer of skills and tools to community leaders, teachers, youth leaders (student clubs), public officials.

Indicators should also measure whether adults, including professionals in the sector, teachers, educators and parents, have been made aware of and educated on issues that see children as protagonists, and whether there is continuous dialogue and discussion with children on irregular migration and access to basic services.

5.2 Evaluation criteria (OECD-DAC)

The evaluation criteria will be based on the OECD-DAC criteria and specifically on the following aspects:

Relevance: The evaluation team must verify to what extent the initiative objective and design respond (and continue to respond if circumstances change) to the beneficiaries', global, countries and partner institutions' needs, policies and priorities. In particular, the relevance must be assessed with respect to the needs of the beneficiaries.

This criterion also analyses the programme's contribution to the Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) prepared by the Ethiopian Government and the group of donors (UN and other organisations) active in humanitarian aid for the years 2016 and 2017.

Consistency: The intervention's compatibility with other interventions in the sector within the same country will be verified both by Italian Cooperation and by other countries.

Effectiveness: The evaluation will measure the degree and extent to which the objectives of the initiative, understood in terms of direct and immediate results, have been achieved or are expected to be achieved, with a focus on the different results within the different target groups.

Efficiency: The evaluation will analyse whether the use of resources has been, or is expected to be, optimal for the achievement of the project results both in economic terms and in terms of timing and management efficiency.

Sustainability: The potential medium and long term continuity in the benefits of the initiative, both those already produced and those that may derive from it in the future, will be assessed.

Impact: The initiative's significant positive and negative effects, whether expected, unforeseen or foreseeable, will be analysed in a broader context than direct and immediate results. In assessing the impact, social, economic and environmental impacts will be considered as well as those related to the most important issues: community well-being, human rights, gender equality etc.

Gender and sustainability aspect. This is a matter of answering the question “Was the programme gender sensitive and did it respond to gender and vulnerability issues?”

5.3 Evaluation Questions (EQs)

The Evaluation Questions (EQs) were drafted according to the evaluation’s usefulness and objectives and are mainly organised according to the OECD-DAC criteria.

The EQ are conceived in as much detail as possible, referring to the specific characteristics of the initiatives and considering the real possibilities of obtaining a realistic response.

The EQs are related to Objectively Verifiable Indicators³ (OVIs) (see Evaluation Matrix – EM - in Annex 1).

5.4 The Evaluation Matrix (Annex 1)

Relevance (EQ 1 - 3). Regarding this criterion, the evaluation primarily measures the degree of correspondence between the programme results and objectives and its design with the identified problems.

Validity of the intervention strategy (EQ3): the evaluation examines the programme’s degree of logic and consistency. The theory of change contained in project design is identified and explained and the consistency of the progress of change is also evaluated.



Consistency with national cooperation strategies and policies is dealt with in the ‘consistency’ section of the EM (EQ 4 and 5).

Efficiency (EQ 6 and 7). Taking the results as a reference, this aspect allows evaluating how the programme activities and implementation mechanisms have made it possible to transform available resources into results (how inputs have been converted to outputs), in quantitative, and qualitative terms. It also assesses compliance with the time taken to achieve results and how the projects have been able to exploit the opportunities for coordination and synergies with other actions in the intervention sector (EQ 7).

Effectiveness (EQ 8 and 12). Based on this criterion, the degree of achievement of the expected results is assessed. The overall efficacy analysis leads to the validity of the intervention logic, identified in relevance (EQ 3). The effectiveness questions are based on the level of results and effects generated by the projects’ individual components.

Sustainability (EQ 13). Sustainability assesses the stakeholders’ capacity to continue to benefit from the services promoted by the programme after its conclusion, examining

³ 1The OVIs, Objectively Verifiable Indicators, describe the project objectives in measurable terms; quantity, quality, time (QQT). They answer the question: “How will it be possible to verify that what has been planned is actually occurring or has occurred? How do we determine success?”

The elements of a good indicator are definition, unit of measure, starting point (base line) and end point (target), with time reference areas. With regard to objectives and indicators, reference is made to the acronyms SMART and RACER.  SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant to the information needs of managers, Time-bound)  RACER: (Relevant, Accepted, Credible, Easy, Robust). To learn more on the indicators, visit http://www.esteri.it/mae/doc/6_40_176_g.pdf, p. 83-91)

the degree of political support and the involvement of national and local beneficiary institutions.

The Effectiveness Assessment (EQ 10 and EQ 12) addresses IGAs' financial and economic sustainability.

The Effectiveness and Sustainability EQs are functional to a correct impact assessment. There can be no impact if the actions implemented are ineffective or difficult to sustain.

Impact (EQ 14 - 19). According to this criterion, the GO's degree of achievement is assessed by estimating the long-term changes in the beneficiaries' behaviour or the specific effects of the actions promoted.

In this sense, the intended impact is intended as a medium-term final result of the effectiveness and sustainability of actions and external factors that may positively or negatively influence the effect of the results achieved.

Given the programme's pilot nature, the initiative's impact was also considered in terms of its ability to influence the design of future programmes, national policies and future cooperation strategies with the same objectives.

This aspect is very relevant, considering that the programme has included a wide range of initiatives that can lead to the identification of best practices (BP) ('what works and what does not work') and Lessons Learned (LL), which can contribute to improving the overall performance of initiatives in the context of intervention, thus reducing future risks of failure.

5.5 Tools developed for evaluation

The tools developed are based on a qualitative approach: i) semi-structured interviews, ii) Focus Group Discussion – FGD, and iii) analysis of case studies that can capture the beneficiaries' experiences. These tools have been designed with a view to (1) responding to EQs, and (2) adapting to the nature of the many categories of beneficiaries of the programme.

All data collection tools are included in the document 'Attachments not included in the report'

5.6 Dynamics of the evaluation process and the difficulties encountered

The evaluation process began in February 2021 and based on reports provided by the MAECI Crisis Unit and the Italian Embassy in Addis Ababa regarding a worsening of the general conditions, a first suspension of the assessment was ordered until 30 June 2021 and a subsequent suspension until 15 September.

On 14 October 2021, after a series of checks, and note of the (at least partial) overcoming of the socio-health critical issues, the MAECI-DGCS ordered the resumption of activities.

Thus, during the preparatory phase of the mission to Ethiopia, scheduled for November 2021, the stakeholders were precisely identified thanks to the support of international

and/or local contact NGOs for the consortium responsible for implementation of the initiatives.

Finally, following a serious resurgence of the armed conflict in November 2021, the field mission was again suspended until 31 January 2022 (MAECI communication on 04/11/2021) and after further analysis it was decided to complete the assessment exercise limiting the scope of investigation to documentary sources and information collected during the preparatory phase of the Inception Report and to interviews with AICS officials in Addis Ababa and the NGOs of the 5 consortia.

The criteria and principles on which the evaluation was based remain the same as described in the methodological section. The documents collected and analysed to continue and finalise the evaluation are essentially the final descriptive and evaluation reports and programmatic documents of Italian Cooperation and thematic studies on the topic of migration in Ethiopia (a complete list in Attachment 3 List of documents consulted).

6 Evaluation Results

6.1 Design Relevance and Quality

The project is of great importance; it has managed to focus a consistent intervention strategy on the local reality and the needs of the population groups identified as final beneficiaries.

In addition, all of this strategy's main components were planned and designed in line with national development policies and the involvement of local institutions responsible for their implementation to create the best possible conditions for investment sustainability.

Local public institutions, beneficiary organisations and reference communities were then involved in numerous capacity development programmes aimed at improving their action's effectiveness in the field.

The choice of beneficiaries and needs' categories was generally informed by the initial analysis operations on the territory conducted by the 5 consortia in cooperation with the development institutions and based on their cooperation experience at the local level. The identification actions therefore led to a focus on the real problems, needs and priorities of the intended target groups, especially potential migrants and returnees, including young people, women and men.

The rural population in the areas of intervention, especially young people, believe that migration represents a real and also desirable opportunity to improve their living conditions, in response to the lack of job opportunities and low profitability of economic activities and the lack of basic services.

Most migrants and returnees are between the ages of 18 and 30, but the number of minors is also significant. Numerous studies document that the majority of Ethiopians migrate through irregular channels, thus facing dangerous journeys, exposing

themselves to kidnappings for the purpose of extortion, robberies, physical and sexual assaults and even death.

A recent study reveals that more than 70% of Ethiopian returnees from Yemen have witnessed or suffered extreme forms of physical and psychological abuse. In fact, many returnees (mostly women) suffer from different psychological problems related to traumas reported during their migratory experience and, often also from reintegration into the communities of origin in case of return (often forced) or from the failure of the migratory experience.

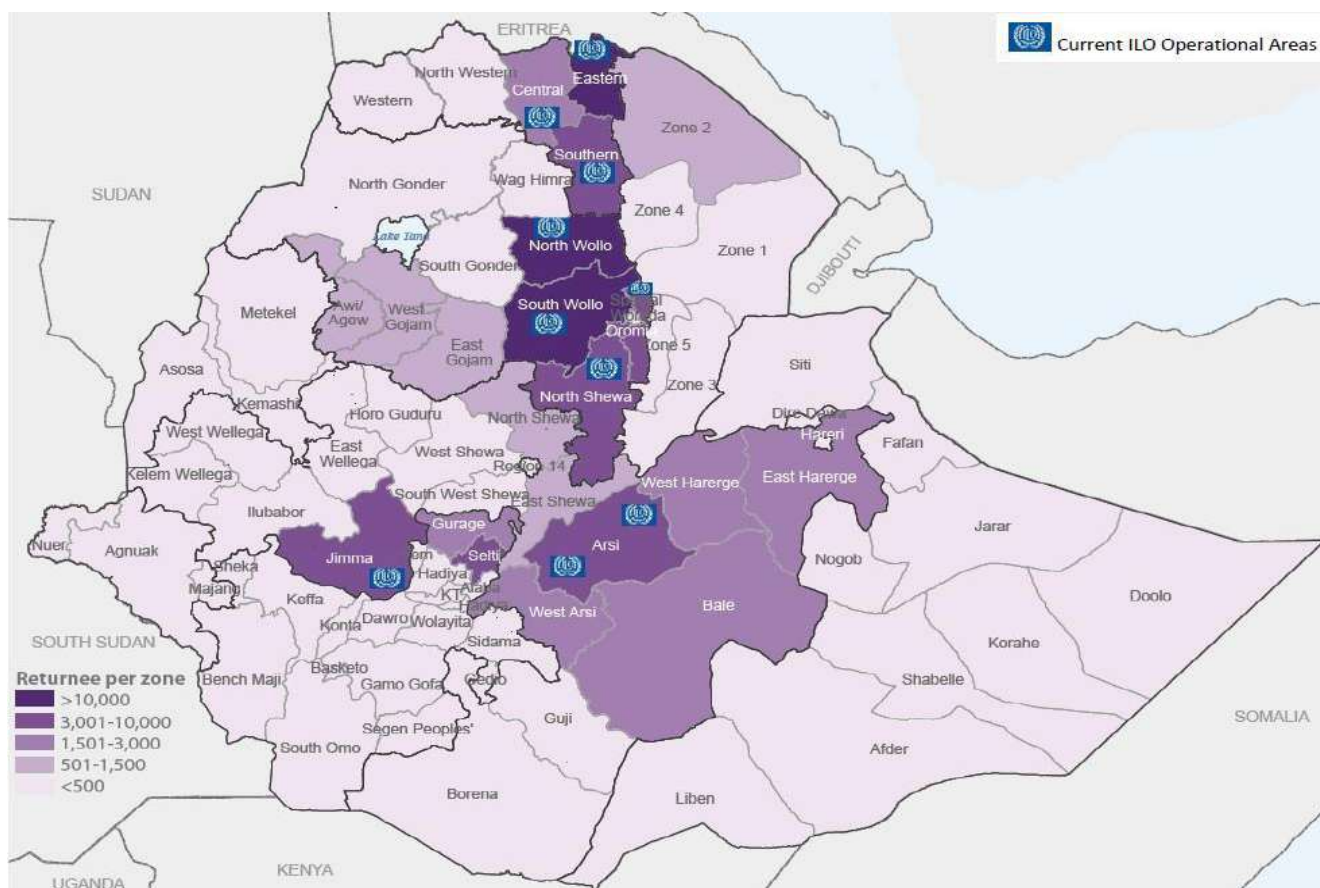
Despite this, families continue to be the main source of pressure to migrate. The migration narrative is greatly fed by families with members abroad who provide monetary remittances capable of significantly improving the poverty situation and by the brokers themselves (the people who facilitate the organisation of the trip for financial compensation).

For these reasons, the main programme beneficiaries have been identified among young children and adolescents at risk of migration as well as women returnees through actions to improve their economic situation, access to services and awareness of the risks of irregular migration.

The beneficiaries' identification and selection was conducted in cooperation with the local institutions responsible for economic and social development. In this regard, mention is made of the fundamental role played by the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs Office – MWCA (selection of women returnees), the Ministry of Water and Energy (WASH-CO committees), Employment Creation and Urban Food Security Office (IGA) - Former: Small and Micro Enterprise Development, Cooperative Promotion Office (Training of Trainers -ToT - for SACCO), Ministry of Agriculture (cooperatives, irrigation schemes), Ministries of Education and Health.

The choice of intervention areas is therefore consistent with national migration statistics. The 5 intervention areas of the projects approved under the programme are all characterised by the high migration rate and the high percentage of returning female migration (see Figure 2).

Figure 2 – National distribution of “returnee” migrants (UNICHA 2016).



6.2 The intervention strategy

The intervention strategy is essentially based on the intervention criteria improving the structural aspects considered to be the main causes causing migration (“root causes” approach) and has been divided into the following components:

- Promotion of income-generating agricultural and non-agricultural activities (IGAs) and employment among young people and women, with special emphasis on returnee women and young people.
- Improving access to basic nutrition, water and hygiene, health and education services in rural communities, with special attention to young people.
- Increasing the awareness of communities of the risks related to irregular migration and trafficking in persons, targeting mainly young people and minors.

This consistent approach to needs includes several initiatives that integrate and contribute to a response to the target groups’ multidimensional problems. This view agrees with the reports of the external monitoring actions conducted by AICS that confirm, for all the 5 interventions analysed, the good relevance especially regarding income-generating activities (IGAs), always mentioned as true opportunities and alternatives to irregular migration.

The three components were designed with due regard to the 'state of the art' and the initiatives' quality standards, including systematic training actions for the staff of the local technical services and beneficiaries.

The economic component focused on capacity building for IGAs, agricultural (primary production) and especially non-agricultural activities. In three projects, in addition to the classic training activities (also through local technical services that have been specially trained with Training of Trainers – ToT methods), actions were planned to create solid relationships between women entrepreneurs (the majority of IGAs are led by women) and local savings and credit cooperatives – SACCOs (in 3 cases created by the projects).

From the documents of the funded research and technical evaluation report (CIFA), the financial allocation to the IGAs (of the project and SACCOs) is considered largely insufficient. This puts in the foreground the long-standing problem of IGAs' impact and sustainability without an adequate credit flow during, and especially after, the project activities' conclusion.

To compensate for this lack of credit, the recommendations of the research studies mainly concern good use of family remittances resulting from the migration of some members. These remittances would be actually used mainly for household consumption and much less for productive investments and savings.

The access to basic services component was interpreted very differently according to the needs identified in the various intervention areas. It mainly focused on access to water and hygiene and nutrition education (Northern Shewa), support for the national policy of the Youth Friendly Centers (YFC) of the Ministry of Health (Tigray and Bale) and support for schools (West Hararghe and South Wollo).

The irregular migration awareness component was designed through the involvement of local public services (Labour and Social Affairs), communities, schools and youth organisations (clubs) also using theatrical and playful activities (for example, see "The Game" in Effectiveness).

Moreover, this component was enriched by a series of studies on migration in the areas of implementation and assigned to local universities.

The transfer of knowledge to beneficiaries at all levels has certainly been the most articulated and relevant cross-cutting component.

The programme has duly provided numerous and relevant "capacity development" activities ("ToT" mode) for the staff of local technical services to improve the implementation of national policies including programme intervention components. The units involved deal with employment creation and promotion of cooperatives, management of migration, and gender, health (YFC and food security) and education policies.

IGA creation was accompanied by solid training of returnees, an aspect considered crucial in view of the rural population's well-known difficulties in engaging in non-agricultural activities in which they have very limited experience.

The same applies to the creation or consolidation of primary or SACCO-type cooperative organisations having the function of providing production services that public institutions do not provide (by mandate or capacity).

6.3 The response to the humanitarian crisis due to the drought in 2015 and 2016.

Without prejudice to the choice of intervention areas all being characterised by high rates of migration and returning women, the programme, within the needs analysis, has integrated some elements deriving from the humanitarian crisis in progress in 2016 and mainly due to the long drought. This led, in 2015, to significant losses of agricultural production and put pastoral systems in crisis.

During the programme period, Ethiopia experienced one of the worst droughts in decades, caused by El Niño, which affected an agricultural sector highly dependent (80%) on rainfall, raising the need for food aid to around 10% of the population, with pregnant and lactating mothers and children being the most vulnerable groups.

In this context, the 2016 Humanitarian Requirements Document (HRD) gathers the majority of the needs established through the evaluation conducted by the government and the agencies operating in the humanitarian sector (United Nations, NGOs and main donors).

In rural areas, the HRD indicates as main needs access to clean drinking water and basic latrines and education to improve practices on the hygiene of families, also in relation to the food education of children and pregnant and lactating women. The strategy for 2016 prioritised the rehabilitation of existing wells/water points.

With regard to primary production, the effects of El Niño in 2015 are unprecedented in the country's recent history. Consequently, supporting the survival of livestock, including plough oxen, through the provision of fodder, access to drinking water and vaccination was considered essential. For the families most affected by the drought, the priorities focused on timely access to seeds and fertilisers to enable them to start subsequent agricultural campaigns.

The programme's contribution to the humanitarian response was concentrated mainly in the Northern Shewa area (implemented by the ACTION AID / AMREF /PADet consortium) where substantial resources are dedicated to the construction / rehabilitation of production water schemes (agriculture and livestock), and, for 600 families, wells and water points for about 7,000 people, investments that are then managed by community committees (WASHCO).

The interventions on access to water were completed by awareness campaigns on hygiene education, disease prevention and nutrition targeting about 31,000 people.

The primary production sector has seen important actions to support small farmers (around 400) through the distribution of input, tools, and technical training to improve productivity and soil protection, as well as the provision small ruminants to women.

The initiative overall design in Northern Shewa is fully relevant and consistent with UNICEF guidance on integrated food security practices.

Another important aspect common to the projects in Northern Shewa, West Hararghe (CISP consortium) and Bale (COOPI consortium) was the strengthening of primary cooperatives or cooperatives integrated into agro-zootechnical chains. Although actions to improve the organisational performance of producer organisations are not directly linked to an emergency situation, certainly, in the medium term, they are crucial actions to improve the resilience of communities to shocks such as recurrent droughts.

Please refer to the relevant chapter for an analysis of the effectiveness of these actions.

6.4 Consistency

The programme was conceived with a good level of consistency with local reality and needs with the country's development policies and the project's original assumptions are still valid.

The intervention logic components are well integrated with the legal and political framework prevailing in Ethiopia, such as the anti-trafficking law on irregular immigration, the Second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II), the National Women's Policy, Youth Policies and other sectoral development policies and strategies supported by the programme's initiatives, such as employment and job creation, and development of cooperatives.

The programme was also designed in line with the main organisations in the sector, including the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which provides, for the 2013-2017 programme, the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework on migration, the socio-economic integration of returnees, vocational training of potential migrants, and awareness raising on the issues and risks of irregular migration.

AICS monitoring reports confirm good coordination with other stakeholders at all levels. At the national level, the initiative was presented to other donors through participation in thematic and sectoral Coordination Tables and Clusters, including mainly the *EU + Migration Task Force*, and the *Ethiopian Humanitarian and Resilience Donor Group* (EHRDG). In these forums, a comparison was initiated among similar initiatives to avoid overlaps.

6.5 Efficiency

The programme implementation's overall efficiency was good. The available documentary evidence shows that most of the means/inputs needed to implement the project (financial, human and physical resources) were provided in a timely manner and of satisfactory quality while the activities foreseen by the university research on irregular immigration were carried out according to the agreed schedule.

No external events have occurred that required a redefinition of the implementation strategy. NGOs were able to cope with initial delays due to known logistical difficulties (mainly security) and conclude all the activities on time, also thanks to their multi-year

roots in the territory and close professional relationships with the institutional counterparts and stakeholders involved in the initiative.

NGOs have shown considerable experience in the initiatives' area of interest, as well as in the technical intervention areas, also using other organisations with proven professionalism such as WISE, ISFO, and theatre groups (Stradevarie, Oda Bultum Band, and Community Social Theatre).

In fact, the presence of highly qualified local staff (see WISE and IFSO which are considered an excellence in the country) has resulted in an active mobilisation of beneficiaries. In general, there is a good level of compliance with local partner agreements, which have not undergone significant changes. This is also thanks to the project strategy that has ensured the participation of local authorities in the selection of beneficiaries, in training courses and in all other planned activities.

Good performance in terms of planned achievement of results is further confirmed by the cumulative financial reports indicating 97% of resources spent, the remaining consist of 0.7% of ineligible costs and 2.3% of unspent grants (see Table 3).

Table 3: Status of financial implementation at the end of the programme (€)

Implementing body	Project title	Expected cost	Total expenses incurred	Unrecognised expenses
ActionAid (<i>Lead</i>) + Amref	Supporting resilience, food security and the provision of essential basic services for communities in the Northern Scioa Zone (Amhara Region), high rate of forced migration	456,813	411,194	14,723
CIFA Onlus	Irregular migration: a possible alternative – Project to strengthen the economy of potential migrants and create awareness in the communities of	270,000	268,660	
CISP	Migration and social cohesion in Ethiopia. New Resilience Opportunities in Habro, Daro Labu and Mieso Woredas in the West Hararghe Zone	256,715	247,292	
COOPI (<i>Lead</i>) + CCM	Improvement of the living conditions of the returnee population and of young people living in the Bale area (Oromia Region) in order to mitigate the causes of the irregular migration	454,406	454,406	
VIS (<i>lead</i>) + CCM, CISP and CIAI	Strategy and opportunities: integrated basic services and employment promotion against irregular migration in the Tigray Region	437,735	437,735	
	Total	1,875,669	1,819,287	14,723

The implementation mechanisms were designed based on consortia of NGOs specialising in specific areas which, as necessary, involve highly professional collaborations with local organisations in a context of solid integration with the institutions responsible for implementing national development policies and programmes.

Among these is an interesting cooperation established with the training institutes, the so-called “Technical and Vocational Education Training Center (TVET),” a practice shared by 4 consortia.

Thanks to the above conditions, in general, the implementing bodies have excellent ability in the implementation of the activities, in the ability to involve all stakeholders, including the beneficiaries, and in communication with the AICS Emergency Programme Office. This capacity of the implementing NGOs has been confirmed by AICS monitoring reports and this evaluation activity.

The initiative has benefited from the added value of consortium work as the components achieved by each NGO were identified based on the capacities and level of thematic specialisation of each participant in the consortia and developed in an integrated manner (with minor exceptions - see ACTION AID, related AICS second monitoring report.) This consortium aspect was appreciated and duplicated by following development programmes on migration (see chapters Impact and Lessons Learned).

6.6 Effectiveness

The overall effectiveness was satisfactory. For each intervention strategy component, the initiative’s results can be summarised as follows:

Economic component:

Income-generating activities (individual, collective and production services):

1,555 people were trained in Basic Business Skills and Life Skills; Cooperative Leadership; Coaching; Business Development Services.

640 women trained and provided with capital for the development of individual IGAs

18 collective IGAs (233 members) trained

23 credit and savings cooperatives (SACCOS) started / strengthened (*Revolving fund* activated for income-generating activities).

Agriculture

12 new primary agricultural cooperatives trained (240 farmers)

5 water schemes implemented with the respective water management committees (WASH-CO)

2,000 people affected by the drought have received nutritional support

2,634 farmers have been equipped with agricultural assets and training in breeding, for increasing production, and in natural resources improved management techniques to promote their resilience

478 people were trained in income-generating activities in agriculture and livestock ToT to public officials in Basic skills and business management (IGA), sustainable production techniques, cooperative development.

1 Research and analysis on the dairy supply chain carried out

Access to Basic Services Component

34 wells/water collection/tanks/reservoirs and 40 water points and 4 containment cages

31,238 people and 480 heads of household made aware of health hygiene

24,000 people used chlorine tablets to purify the water

6 “Youth Friendly Centers” (YFC) opened, equipped and supplied with medicines and consumables

96 health professionals trained and updated on issues related to reproductive health and psychosocial support and 10 workshops with young people in “peer educators”

4 schools equipped with photovoltaic kits and applications for electrification

Awareness-raising component on irregular migration:

120 Community representatives took part in theatre workshops

2 Theatre communication tools (specific duplicable schedules) and a new duplicable tool, THE GAME, made and 5 videos produced and disseminated

12 training workshops for reading, theatre, dance, drawing for young people have been carried out

18,500 students have been made aware in schools of irregular migration

3 theatre performances created / 32 replicas made, creation of the role-playing game “The path of life”

12 Migration Expert Committees trained, 48 anti-trafficking committees created and 7 workshops held with community leaders on issues related to irregular migration (about 21,500 participants)

Research on Migration: 7 university research studies were conducted and disseminated, and 120 stakeholders participated in the Reflection Forums.

The beneficiaries reached by the Programme mainly belong to the following population groups: **women, young people between ages 18 and 25, returnees, and potential migrants.**

Based on the data provided by the implementing NGOs (final technical reports), the composition of the percentage by type has followed what was initially envisaged: 50% women, 70% young and 30% *returnees*.

Women and young people, normally returnees and potential migrants, were involved mainly through training and support aimed at job creation (Income Generating Activities).

Children were involved through educational activities in schools, awareness-raising and health at the Health Centres (*Youth Friendly Service*).

During the reference period of the initiative, the following number of beneficiaries were reached:

Table 4: Direct and Indirect Beneficiaries

Total Planned	Reached in the period	Variation (%)
Direct Beneficiaries		
80,029	85,739	7
Indirect Beneficiaries		
579,000	579,442	0

An objective analysis of the current effectiveness of the individual development actions and practices is not possible in the absence of field survey data. As mentioned above, this operation was made impossible by the safety conditions of the areas covered by the programme. Therefore, the following analysis is based only on information drawn from the project documentation and related monitoring and evaluation reports external to the projects.

Regarding the **development of IGAs**, the most important aspect of the economic component, it is crucial to consider that in all cases, the beneficiaries considered most suitable were selected (the role of MWCA was decisive) in advance and the actions were designed with approaches in line with the good practices recognised and specific to the scope of intervention and implemented by organisations with good experience and knowledge of the territory.

The consortia reports mention an increase in IGA companies' income already at the end of the implementation period (South Wollo CIFA). During the field preparation phase, it was possible to verify that representatives of all categories of beneficiaries were identifiable and, in the absence of barriers due to security, perfectly attainable, which means that after 5 years, some companies formed by the projects were still active.

Regarding possible weaknesses, the documents of the funded research and technical evaluation report (CIFA) indicate that the financial allocation to IGAs (of the project and SACCOs) is considered largely insufficient. This highlights the long-standing problem of the impact and sustainability of IGAs without an adequate credit flow during and especially after the project activities' conclusion.

Another critical point could, in all likelihood, be the need to ensure adequate follow-up of IGA-type enterprises created through project actions. It is noteworthy a virtuous practice of CIFA (South Wollo), which contracted a local specialised NGO (IFSO) to carry out the follow-up of the trained IGAs.

This aspect would still have been difficult to deal with under the emergency project tool (limited time and resources) but offers the possibility to indicate possible future Italian cooperation investments in the migration sector.

Also, in both individual and collective small business development (see COOPI / CCM project in Bale), 3 projects have identified as crucial the issue of credit as a permanent and vital need for promoted companies' sustainability.

To this end, in the first place, existing **SACCO cooperatives** have been created or identified that have been appropriately trained (in terms of general organisation, credit management, etc.) and capitalised with funds linked to the development of the new IGAs. Subsequently, initiatives were promoted to make IGA women entrepreneurs literate on credit and to bring them closer to the market to verify access to credit.

According to the CIFA project evaluation report, the achievement of the objective of improving the SACCO system was encouraging in terms of core business skills, cooperative leadership that led the SACCO system to improve and thus facilitating access to credit services for IGA beneficiaries.

However, SACCOs are facing a serious shortage of capital to provide loans to their members, or an inadequate amount of what is necessary. This constitutes a serious limit that affects the initiative's effectiveness. Even less than half of the trained women had been able to obtain SACCO credit resulting in a loss of confidence in the SACCO system.

Even in the case of possible improvement (see CCM / CIFA "My roots" project) thanks to additional external support, the need is clear to provide for SACCO capitalisation mechanisms on an objective basis of credit activity performance to be able to provide adequate loans to members and allow the consolidation and growth of IGAs.

A further aspect related to the IGA business development strategy consists in having established an interesting **cooperation with the training institutes, the so-called Technical and Vocational Education Training Centers (TVETC)**, in which these centres provide the training service on IGAs, a practice shared by 3 consortia.

With regard to **agricultural activities**, almost all concentrated in the Northern Shewa project (ACTION AID) with a small component in West Hararghe (CISP) – training of 4 primary cooperatives - it is impossible to comment on the effectiveness of technical training.

Structuring initiatives were the creation of 12 agricultural cooperatives and 5 irrigation schemes. During the field agenda preparation phase, it was possible to verify that some irrigation schemes and cooperatives established were still operational.

The access to basic services component was interpreted very differently according to the needs identified in the different intervention areas.

In Northern Shewa (ACTION AID), it focused mainly **on access to water and hygiene and nutrition education**. The initiative is substantially in line with the UNICEF approach to food security that integrates the availability / access to food factor with access to clean water, hygiene and education on the correct use of food.

The first component was achieved through the creation of water collection and distribution schemes for domestic use with the relative management committee (WASH-CO), some still existing. Specifically, 6 surface wells and 17 water supply points have been built to meet the needs of 6,921 people. The initiatives increased the overall coverage by 30% at the community level.

Mention should also be made of an important work of training the WASH committees to consolidate the management of the schemes, which has resulted in a standard reference manual that could be used in other similar contexts.

Training courses were organised for members of the water management committees for the management and maintenance of the new water supply points envisaged by the project. The total number of members of trained committees is 95 (68 men and 27 women).

A second component addressed the **promotion of better hygiene conditions and nutritional practices**. At the end of the project, a total of 9,673 people could access safe and potable water sources, 31,238 people had been reached by awareness messages (96% of the target) on hygiene and AWD (Acute Watery Diarrhea) while 500 families (400 pregnant / nursing women) were trained to improve eating behaviours.

In the Tigray and Bale areas, priority was given to **improving access to Youth Friendly Centers' (YFC) services**, as a contribution to the Ethiopian Ministry of Health policy. The YFC in Bale allowed access to 2,525 young people at the end of the project, while that of Tigray, 2,564 (total of 3,089 young people who have benefited from the services).

It can be said that as of the date of this report, the Bale YFC is still operational (after a short period of closure due to the preventive measures for COVID), while for that in Tigray there is no information on its state of conservation and operation.

The irregular migration awareness component was designed through the involvement of local public services (Labour and Social Affairs), communities, schools and youth organisations (clubs) also using theatrical and playful activities (for example, see "The Game").

A considerable part of the awareness-raising activities addressed young people (minors and adolescents) mainly through initiatives in **schools and youth clubs**.

Two theatre communication tools were designed and implemented (programming of specific and duplicable shows on the theme of migration), and the GAME, a new tool easily duplicable even by non-professionals in communications.

Altogether, between schools and youth clubs, during the implementation period of the programme, about 18,500 students were reached, who were made aware at schools of irregular migration issues.

According to the evaluation of the CISP project, the involvement of young people is essential. The involvement of youth groups to convey awareness among other young people on migration has proved to be strategic in reaching the final project target. The same applies to activities carried out in schools.

“The path of life” GAME. It is a tool conceived by the Teatro Sociale di Comunità (TSC) team, an Italian organisation contracted by the CIFA consortium in South Wollo, whose format largely follows the classic Goose Game: five characters have to take a spiral path, marked by 60 boxes, mostly with different functions (such as: back, forward, miss one turn, go back to start, pay money, buy money). Whoever gets to the final box first wins.

Each box contains a very brief narrative, legible on the instruction booklet; the set of boxes returns the entire experience of an irregular migrant – from the choice to leave until returning home.

Each narrative was conceived from the content that emerged during the training conducted in the communities concerning narratives and information on the phenomenon of irregular immigration in South Wollo.

To this end, about 1,200 teachers and social workers have been trained to play the GAME with students from both primary and secondary schools.

Also in schools, a **theatre performance was created in cooperation with the Oda Bultum Band** (CISP West Hararghe consortium)

The project involved 3 secondary schools in the following woredas: Habro (Gelemso Secondary School), Daro Labu (Mechara Secondary School), and Mieso (Mieso Secondary) through the staging of a mini theatre performance created by the only theatre group active in the West Hararghe area, Oda Bultum Band, a theatre group connected to the Culture and Tourism Office of the Area. Then, a group of professional actors was selected to enhance the theatrical skills of the members of the Oda Bultum Band. The professional actors and members of the Oda Bultum Band have been involved in a ToT (Training of Trainers) training during which the members of the Oda Bultum Band have improved their theatrical skills and have – above all – learned teaching techniques in order to create the theatre workshops in secondary schools. Subsequently, the trained actors of the Oda Bultum Band held training courses in the three secondary schools and staged theatre performances on migration.

In Bale (COOPI / CCM consortium) **the club 25 (young people) and the theatre company “Stradevarie” have cooperated to create a theatre show on the theme of irregular migration.**

20 young people from the 20/25 club were trained by “Stradevarie” theatre company on the basic techniques of acting and set design, integrating music and dance and circus techniques (trained by Fekat Circus) to create a complete artistic performance.

This led to the creation with Club 20/25 of an artistic performance on migration from Bale. The artistic performance made by the Club 20/25 was presented to the local authorities. The performance involves the use of singing, dancing and acting and conveys a series of messages on the risks related to irregular migration through the use of traditional stories that have some animals as protagonists. This show was presented during 14 events in 7 woredas. Participation in all the meetings was very numerous: the show was watched by a total of about 21,500 people.

Awareness-raising activities were also conducted in **communities in cooperation with public institutions**.

The programme provided for training to strengthen government services responsible for managing migration policies and combating trafficking, and involvement of community leaders and representatives of anti-trafficking committees (3 projects).

The anti-trafficking communities and committees were then reached by a massive awareness initiative (workshops, reflection forums, presentation of the video “Storie di migrazione” and theatre workshops) which involved about 29,000 people.

Finally, **the university research studies on the situation and causes of the local migratory phenomenon are among** the strengths of the initiative under scrutiny.

It is important to point out the coordination among all the implementing NGO that has promoted and supported the constant sharing of the various NGO projects, which took place during periodic joint meetings, and facilitated the networking of some cross-cutting activities including migration research and the Discussion Forums.

The result also materialised in the production of a unique academic research document, which has collected and consolidated the research done by the various NGOs with 7 Ethiopian universities, presented at national level and shared with other international stakeholders during a workshop held at the end of the programme, and the Guidelines (not included among the documents provided to the Evaluation Team) useful to guiding the preparation and management of future initiatives on migration issues.

These studies were important to better understand key issues and identify lessons learned, best practices, and valuable recommendations to improve the effectiveness of investments and development cooperation strategies in the country (see Impact and Recommendations chapters).

6.7 Sustainability

Based on the final reports, the five project initiatives provided for the creation of “capacity building” (training) of all the actors involved at various levels: stakeholders, local authorities, local partners. These training activities were designed to transfer the necessary knowledge to stakeholders so that they can continue the initiatives promoted after the end of the programme’s implementation period.

Moreover, different strategies have been adopted to increase ownership by local stakeholders through close and intensive involvement of government partners, active participation of beneficiaries and effective coordination of responsibilities with government offices.

According to the final considerations of the AICS monitoring process, sustainability is essentially based on strengthening the sense of *ownership* (agreements were signed both with institutional counterparts and with local partners); increasing the knowledge and capacity of the beneficiary communities: in particular through training and accompaniment to the start-up of Income Generating Activities; training of Community

Management Committees (WASH and other community services); training in improved agricultural techniques.

We consider that the level of involvement and participation of stakeholders and local government authorities has been very satisfactory, both in terms of selection of beneficiaries, technical and didactic advice, and activity implementation and orientation. Also noteworthy is the active participation in the three sessions of the Forum on Migration, as well as the session of the two academic institutions involved in university research.

The monitoring reports also consider that the beneficiaries' level of participation and commitment has been largely satisfactory. For example, there has been an active participation in the preparation of business plans, in the discussion activities and in the selection of the places of implementation of the income-generating activities.

It is therefore possible to state that local government authorities have been involved in every activity as required by local law, especially health offices, job creation, Social and Labour Affairs, cooperative promotion, water resource offices, district youth and sports offices.

Despite the efforts to involve local authorities, sustainability lies above all in their role after the programme implementation phase, the IGAs, the SACCOs, WASH-CO management committees, YFCs of the Ministry of Health and the awareness-raising activities in schools being the achievements that could benefit most from the support of local technical services and relevant ministries.

In the case of the water management committees (WASH-CO), government structures aimed at facilitating the mobilisation of the community during the implementation of water systems, a WASH training activity was carried out at the community level, while the beneficiaries committed to provide for the construction maintenance works. The selection of the beneficiaries of the WASH component was carried out with the direct involvement of local administrations, district experts and project staff.

In the case of the YFCs, services are among the priorities of the regional and district federal health authorities; this could be an excellent driver to ensure the ownership and continuation of services to young people. Indeed, it is important to mention that the Bale YFC is still active in the production of health services adapted to the youth community.

In the case of IGAs, the skills and capital acquired are likely to continue to contribute to the improvement of households' economic conditions; however, strict follow-up of local authorities is needed to address the weaknesses and shortcomings that have not been addressed during the lifecycle of the projects.

Strengthening the existing SACCO system can make an essential contribution to the sustainability of IGAs, provided that the SACCO is ensured the necessary follow-up and support to technical, managerial and financial skills.

In addition, as mentioned above in Effectiveness, the lack of capital is limiting their ability to provide loans to their members, in particular the women beneficiaries of the project who recently joined the organisation.

Unfortunately, follow-up mechanisms are not systematically adopted in the following projects (often in the same areas but with different beneficiaries) which leads to a **reflection on the limits of the “project” instrument with an integrated approach** (multi-component). This is characterised by a precise geographical focus, limited resources assigned to the different components’ numerous activities, and insufficient implementation times for medium-term processes. (See Table 5).

In addition, it is noted that only two actions subsequent to the programme in question (namely AID 11222 and the programme funded by the Ministry of the Interior - MININT) provide for precise measures to increase the flow of credit to IGAs (linkage with SACCOs, which also often suffer from insufficient capital, and promotion of savings). Trying to increase the number of members of service organisations (in this case financial) without increasing their capacity to meet the demand for services, is a practice that could lead to problems of governance of the organisation itself with obvious negative implications on sustainability.

To conclude on the IGA / SACCO theme, the initiative of the MININT programme (CIFA / TVET project) to create / support a specific public fund dedicated to financing micro-enterprises is very interesting.

The **continuation of awareness-raising initiatives in schools** through the innovative communication methods the programme introduced is extremely important for the overall programme sustainability, as it targets children and adolescents at very high risk of migration both for economic conditions and family pressure, and for the dominant narrative that considers irregular migration as a necessary evil or even a desirable choice to achieve the expectations of economic and personal growth.

In terms of institutional actions to combat and raise awareness among communities about illegal migration, **the activity of the Reflection FORUM** (CISP West Hararghe) is mentioned as a virtuous practice. It provided for the elaboration and adoption by stakeholders of a **planning document (Declaration of Intent) and the drafting of action plans for future initiatives on immigration** that have been supported and endorsed by the government offices in charge of these activities.

6.8 Impact

The programme under evaluation assumes that irregular immigration is caused by an insufficient quality of life that does not allow households’ continuity and dignified survival, and that it is not able to meet the expectations of the new generations. Therefore, the programme’s methodological approach was based on the General Objective (GO) of improving the living conditions of the population in areas at high risk of migration, returning migrants and rural communities. Ultimately, it is an initiative based on medium and long-term economic and social development logics.

Nonetheless, numerous analyses point out that better development levels do not stop migratory flows; on the contrary, they can further feed them, as they increase the resources that families can use to support the migration process (see also the summary document of the research funded by the programme).

Only in the long term could the reduction of development differentials between the territories of origin and destination reduce the need to migrate. The approach focused on structural causes (“root causes”) makes sense in this development perspective, but not for immediate reduction and control of migration.

Therefore, this impact analysis considers the potential contribution to the development of the actions conducted. This is also evaluated in light of possible contributions by the pilot programme finalised 5 years ago to the design of cooperation strategies and identification of new projects to combat irregular migration through the duplication (scaling-up) of virtuous practices (Best Practices) or integration, in the design of new project initiatives, of some of the Lessons Learned (LL) during and thanks to the programme implementation being evaluated.

From the documentation analysed, there is no indication regarding the unplanned negative effects of the project and there are also no elements that suggest that the impacts of the project would have been negatively influenced by external factors with the only exception of Tigray, where it is possible to assert that the recent armed conflict (2020 – 21), still in progress, has seriously decreased, if not cancelled, the development processes promoted.

Impact of Best Practices (BP) and Lessons Learned (LL) during the execution and evaluation of the results of the programme on the design of the intervention logics and related investments of subsequent initiatives to combat irregular migration and on the development strategies of the migration sector.

The programme’s contribution to the overall AICS intervention strategy: the “root cause” approach is integrated with support actions for the socio-economic integration of returnees and protection of vulnerable groups.

Based on the 5 funded research and evaluations conducted on the projects, there is a clear need to support returnees’ (mostly women) economic integration and support them in terms of social reintegration (often returnees encounter serious difficulties in reintegration into their communities of origin) and psychological reintegration, especially in the event of violence or abuse suffered during migration.

This approach (structural causes + returnee protection / integration) has been adopted by subsequent programmes as shown in Table 6 (see also programmatic guidelines and priorities of AID 11222, AID 12285, 11 548 and AID 12014 with regard to AICS initiatives and projects funded by the Ministry of the Interior). Therefore, there is sufficient evidence to confirm that the new intervention logic represents an important contribution in terms of the impact of the programme in question.

In essence, in all the programs mentioned above, regarding the reintegration of returnees and support to the communities of origin and return, action is taken in a parallel and complementary way by improving access to services and economic opportunities and psychosocial support services. In particular, ensured access to protection services for vulnerable migrants, returnees and other particularly vulnerable

categories (unaccompanied minors and extremely poor families), are sought through the provision of assistance services and the strengthening of “referral” mechanisms to existing services.

In the emblematic case of the HOPE project (AID11548 - CISP / CIFA / CCM consortium) the problem of returnees is clearly mentioned. In this regard, it is useful to report in full two paragraphs taken from the final implementation report.

“...one of the aspects that most aggravates the high migration rate of the area and the willingness to repeat the migration among the returnees, is the difficulty to reintegrate in the communities of origin after the migration experience. Returnees are in fact faced with returning situations of economic hardship, depression due to the failed experience and difficulty to reinvent themselves in the place of origin, stigma and stereotyping by the community, lack of adequate services for reintegration.”

“The centre offers support services for returnees through a new approach in the area that offers the possibility of accessing psychological support services through individual and/or group counselling sessions, according to the needs of users, and obtaining information and guidance on vocational training and employment opportunities in the local labour market. Returnees can directly access the centre where they will find the local operators trained and responsible for the management of services and the reception of users or contact the peers of reference trained for each group of returnees, to reach the beneficiaries identified in the previous actions and residing in the surrounding rural areas.”

Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) Promotion.

The comments on the final monitoring report of AICS indicate that the initiatives with the greatest impact opportunities are **Income Generating Activities (IGAs)** as real economic alternatives to migration, **support to Youth Friendly Centers (YFC)** that have actually provided important health services favouring the social aggregation of young people, and the awareness-raising activity implemented by TSC operators (**“The path of life” GAME**) that has had a strong impact on the beneficiaries, students of the community schools and local authorities, initially all very sceptical and reluctant to action not knowing and fully understanding the methodology.

Based on the intervention logic of the programme under evaluation, the main resources of the economic component were dedicated to the development of micro-enterprises (IGAs) and job creation in the private sector (especially SINCE). The fact that the development strategy of this type of micro-enterprises was then systematically replicated and in the same operating methods in the subsequent programmes financed by Italian Cooperation (see table 5) is certainly a good indicator regarding tangible positive results in terms of income increases for the beneficiaries that, in addition, were confirmed by the estimates made by the CIFA and CCM consortia in three projects (AID 10766, AID 11222 and AID 10926 “My roots”).

The development of the IGA promotion component has encountered considerable difficulties, as many women had no experience of non-agricultural economic activities. It was therefore necessary to accompany the beneficiaries with numerous support

actions, such as 1) basic training (basic skills, business, credit, etc.) provided through cooperation with TVET centres or with public technical services (appropriately trained through the ToT approach), 2) better access to credit through the promotion of savings and cooperative associations to the market (and the creation of a public fund), 3) reinforcement actions (follow-up) to consolidate the newly trained IGAs.

As mentioned, two consortia have actually measured the impact of IGAs in terms of income, with a positive outcome. However, it is important to note that the package of actions related to the development of IGAs has been reproduced (scaled-up) in practically all the other projects to combat migration (see table 5). This is a good indicator not only of effectiveness but also of the impact on returnees' standard of living (in terms of income and social integration) which, in the end, fully corresponds to the programme's GO.

Support to credit and savings cooperatives (SACCOS).

A second component promoted and functional to the growth of IGAs was the strengthening of SACCOS in their ability to ensure vital credit service for the IGAs' sustainability (see also the Sustainability chapter).

We found that almost all of the following programmes have continued with the programme approach through support to SACCOS in terms of training and inclusion of the beneficiaries (IGAs) in their organisation.

Nevertheless, some important aspects related to the consolidation of IGAs and SACCOS remain unsatisfactory. For SACCOS, which basically results in an insufficient availability of credit and financial products adapted to the needs of IGAs, and, for both actors, in the need for training and updating for innovation.

Establishing cooperation with the Technical and Vocational Education Training Center (TVET)

A second area of development of economic alternatives for potential migrants was vocational training through a fruitful cooperation with TVETs (Technical and Vocational Education Training Centers).

Cooperation with existing TVET resources has been adopted by virtually all programmes (including SINCE) to implement vocational training pathways for potential migrants adapted to the needs of the private sector or for the creation of IGAs.

Table 5: Overview of the integration of Best Practices and Lessons Learned in post-evaluated action programming (AID 10 677) – economic component

AID 10677 (2016-17)	AID 11222 (2018-19) CCM / CIFA COOPI	AID10926 (My roots 2017 -20) CIFA / CCM	AID 11 548 (HOPE 2019 – 21) CISP/CIFA	SINCE Programme (EU) (2017 – 20) CIFA / CETU COOPI	MININT programme (1) Running CIFA/TVET COOPI/LVIA
Economic component					
Training for officials (ToT) on IGA and SACCO promotion	X		X		X
Cooperation with TVET institutes for vocational training of young people	X professional training	X professional training	X professional training	X professional training	X professional training
Creation of IGAs (need for credit and follow-up)	X training for IGAs	X training for IGAs	X training for IGAs		X training for IGAs
IGAs - follow-up		X IFSO			
IGAs – measures to increase the availability of credit	-Promotion of saving (SHG) (2) -Linkage IGAs with SACCOs				-Promotion of saving (SHG) (2) -Linkage IGAs with SACCOs -Creating the government public “Youth Fund”
Institutional strengthening of SACCOs (need for capitalisation and further training)	Training	Training			Training
Coordination platform (initially created by CISP) public services on migration and employment (in the private sector)			X	X	X
Creation of agricultural cooperatives / IGAs	X		X		
Irrigation schemes	X				
Chain approach (dairy) - study				Horticultural and durum wheat supply chains	

(1) Programme funded by the Ministry of the Interior (MININT) – Dept. For Civil Liberties and Immigration

(2) SHG: Self Help Groups (focused on saving)

Contribution of the platform for the coordination and definition of local public services regarding migration (employment, awareness-raising and support for returnees) for the design and action strategy of subsequent programmes to combat migration.

In terms of institutional actions to combat and raise awareness among communities about illegal migration, the activity of the Reflection FORUM (CISP West Hararge) is mentioned as a virtuous practice. It provided for the elaboration and adoption by stakeholders of a planning document (Declaration of Intent) and the drafting of action plans for future initiatives on immigration that have been supported and endorsed by the government offices in charge.

This practice was considered of crucial importance in the final evaluation of the same project and was then taken up in the subsequent AICS-funded three-year programme (HOPE - AID 11 548 period 2019 – 2021). The documentation of the HOPE project assigned to the CISP consortium (CIFA / CCM/Live ADDIS/CEFA / CIAI) showed the creation of a platform on migration to overcome the lack of coordination between the stakeholders and promote integrated responses to provide employment opportunities, support to victims of violence, abuse and exploitation, and in particular to young people and women returnees and potential migrants.

This virtuous practice was then systematically duplicated (and supplemented by training programmes targeting public officials) by all projects funded under the sector programmes, and for all components (economic, services and awareness) also to provide counselling and orientation services to the labour market (see SINCE), or, for example, connected to the pilot centre for social services for returnees in the city of Dessie implemented by the HOPE project (AID 11548 - CISP / CIFA / CCM consortium). See also the point relating to the “root causes” approach integrated with assistance and protection actions for returning women.

Support to Youth Friendly Centers (YFC)

Again, in the sub-sector of access to services, the contribution to the national policy of the YFCs should be mentioned, which has been duplicated by the AID 11222 programmes (CCM/CIFA and COOPI) and AID 10926 (My roots – CIFA / CCM).

The good results of this type of initiative obtained in the programme in question have led to its duplication in other programmes to combat migration. This practice also has the great advantage linked to its high sustainability, since the YFCs are a priority component of the policy of the Ministry of Health.

Communication of the awareness campaigns: “The path of life” game and theatre performances.

“The path of life” game is, as already seen in the Efficacy chapter, a tool designed by the team of the Teatro Sociale di Comunità - TSC (CIFA consortium in South Wollo), whose format largely follows the classic Goose Game that was interpreted in the context of the various situations (often at high risk) experienced by irregular migrants during the migration process.

Each narrative was conceived from the content that emerged during the training conducted in the communities concerning narratives and information on the phenomenon of irregular immigration.

The simplicity and straightforwardness that characterises the instrument of the game, which does not require special expressive or communication skills by those who stage it, are the main factors of its massive adoption in all the AICS-funded programmes and projects (see Table 6), which confirms its great communicative effectiveness.

Similarly, numerous theatre performances have been designed to animate awareness campaigns in schools and communities. A **theatre performance was carried out in cooperation with Oda Bultum Band** (CISP West Hararghe consortium) in three schools, where, subsequently, the trained actors of Oda Bultum Band held training courses in the three secondary schools and staged theatre performances on migration.

In Bale (COOPI / CCM consortium) **the 20/25 club (youth club) and the Italian theatre company “Stradevarie” and Ethiopian Fekat Circus have created a theatre show on irregular migration and trained 20 young people of the same 20/25 club on basic acting and set design techniques, integrating music and dance and circus techniques (Fekat Circus) for the creation of a complete artistic performance.**

The success of these initiatives has most likely encouraged the creation of other theatre experiences within the subsequent My Roots (AID 10926) and Hope (AID 11548) programmes through cooperation with Teatro dell’Oppresso (title of the performance: “Cosa ho perso nel mio paese” - What I lost in my country).

It is common opinion among the operators interviewed and based on the evaluation report of the CISP (West Hararghe) consortium that awareness-raising in schools and communities has a considerable impact, also thanks to the new tools and communication skills created by the programme.

Table 6: Overview of the integration of Best Practices and Lessons Learned in post-evaluated action programming (AID 10 677) – access to services and migration component

AID 10677 (2016-17)	AID 11222 (2018-19) CCM / CIFA COOPI	AID10926 (My roots 2017 -20) CIFA / CCM	AID 11 548 (HOPE 2019 – 21) CISP/CIFA	MININT programme (1) Running CIFA/TVET COOPI/LVIA
Service Access Component				
Access to domestic water sources + WASH-CO (management and training manual)	X			
	Pilot service for psychosocial assistance to returnees		Pilot service for psychosocial assistance to returnees	Pilot service for psychosocial assistance to returnees
YFC - support to national policy	X	X		
Migration awareness component				
“The path of life” game (conceived by CIFA) of	X	X	X	X

the Teatro Sociale di Comunità (TSC)				
Institutional coordination platform on irregular migration (initially created by the CISP)	X	X	X	
Personal training of institutions on migration	X	X	X	X
Theatre performances (Oda Bultum Band and club 20/25 / Stradevarie / Fekat Circus)		Teatro dell'Oppresso (Cosa ho perso nel mio paese)	Teatro dell'Oppresso (Cosa ho perso nel mio paese)	
Awareness raising campaigns on irregular migration	X	X	X	X

Contribution of the programme to SINCE design

The Action **Fiche** of the programme “Stemming Irregular Migration In Northern & Central Ethiopia” - SINCE⁴ reports some of the lessons learned from the high number of projects implemented in Ethiopia by Italian Cooperation both through NGOs and through multi and bilateral channels:

- Implementation through NGOs has a strong added value in terms of knowledge of the context at the grassroots level and innovative and adapted solutions at the local level.
The consortium approach among international and local NGOs with strong local roots and strong thematic specialisation that constitutes the implementation mechanism of the programme under evaluation has proved to be a key factor in ensuring the initiatives' efficiency and effectiveness. In this sense, SINCE maintains this criterion at the base of the implementation mechanism of the programme itself.
- A solid understanding of the most appropriate mechanisms to stimulate microfinance institutions to expand to new client categories such as women and youth-led businesses. The programme has in fact greatly promoted the development of microfinance organisations (SACCOS).

In this sense, SINCE relies on the existing collaboration with microfinance institutions, the Ethiopian Agency for the Development of Micro and Small Enterprises and TVET institutions in the selected intervention areas, since the impact on poverty reduction through innovative financial products tailored for women and young people (which allow reducing the required guarantees) is considered significant;

⁴ 19,845,000-euro programme funded by the EU through the Emergency Trust Fund for Stability and Addressing The Root Causes of Irregular Migration and Displaced Persons in Africa and implemented through the indirect management mechanism entrusted to Italian Cooperation through the Delegation Agreement.

- The importance of promoting links between training institutes and the private sector to provide training appropriate to the labour market's needs. The programme under evaluation has identified in the TVETs valid and effective partners that SINCE has subsequently and successfully involved in Public Private Partnerships (PPP) agreements with the Public Employment Services (PES) and private sector companies.

6.9 Gender Equality and Minors Cross-cutting Issues

Women's participation in project activities is the most important cross-cutting aspect in protection of the groups at highest risk of migration, focusing on possible alternatives such as micro-entrepreneurial activities to improve mainly the beneficiaries' economic conditions.

In the selection criteria of the activities' beneficiaries, priority was generally given to women (generally better represented as a percentage among the beneficiaries). The projects were characterised by a strong commitment to gender issues. NGOs invested to ensure the application of female empowerment dynamics, oriented both on the economic and social aspects, through the creation of spaces for discussion, employment opportunities, training and school support.

Regarding **minors**, the projects have focused heavily on the support and awareness component aimed at underage students. Specifically, children were involved in awareness-raising activities through "THE GAME" and theatre activities inside and outside schools.

High participation and interest have also been observed among beneficiaries linked to the great interest in the services offered by YFCs (a high priority for regional authorities and healthcare professionals). Young people reacted with great interest and participation, exceeding expectations.

Activities related to drinking water supply have indirectly benefited minors, as they are often engaged in the tiring transport and search for water in often inaccessible and dangerous areas. Finally, HDA communication activities have been designed to prevent diseases due to sanitary deficiencies transmissible to children who are often suffering from food deficiencies.

7 Conclusions

Design Relevance and Quality

The evaluation results confirm that the programme is relevant as it directly addresses the beneficiaries' needs, especially potential young migrants and returnees (mostly women).

The intervention logic, focused on the development of economic opportunities alternative to migration, access to basic services and young people's and communities' awareness on the risks of irregular migration, was and remains relevant. The implementation of the intervention strategy's main components then used numerous and relevant "capacity development" activities to the technical services that favoured the effectiveness and sustainability of the investments.

Based on the experience of working with returnees from this first pilot programme, the need emerged to support integration processes that beyond addressing the economic component, also deal with social aspects, also considering psychosocial assistance in cases where returnees have suffered trauma and abuse during the migration process. This "protection" component was fully incorporated in the subsequent programmes to combat irregular migration financed by Italian Cooperation (see Impact Chapter).

Consistency

The project is aligned with the country's development policies (the Second Growth and Transformation Plan - GTP II), youth and women's policies, a law against trafficking and illegal immigration and sectoral development strategies, such as creating jobs and developing micro-enterprises and cooperatives.

Efficiency

The efficiency was good. The implementing bodies showed excellent ability in implementation of the activities and in their ability to involve all stakeholders. Among these is an interesting cooperation established with the training institutes, the so-called "Technical and Vocational Education Training Center (TVETC)," a practice shared by 4 consortia, which was then duplicated in subsequent Italian Cooperation and EU programmes.

The initiative has benefited from the added value of consortium work as the components achieved by each NGO were assigned based on the capacities and level of thematic specialisation of each participant in the consortia and developed, generally, in an integrated manner.

Effectiveness

The effectiveness was satisfactory. The development of micro-enterprises (IGAs) and the strengthening of credit and savings cooperatives (SACCOs) are at the heart of the programme's economic component, along with vocational training to access a labour market offered by a dynamic private sector. Based on the available documentation, the results are encouraging. The fact that this strategy has been widely taken up in subsequent cooperation initiatives is a further positive indicator.

Regarding possible weaknesses, the documents of the funded research and technical evaluation report (CIFA) indicate that the financial allocation to IGAs (of the project and SACCOs) is considered largely insufficient. This highlights the long-standing problem of the impact and sustainability of IGAs without an adequate credit flow during and especially after the project activities' conclusion.

In fact, trying to broaden cooperatives' social base without a corresponding or adequate increase in credit resources constitutes a limit to the effectiveness of this type of intervention.

Concerning the basic services, access to water for domestic use accompanied by information on hygiene and nutrition practices and the strengthening of the Youth Friendly Centers network are the most successful interventions.

The awareness component sees the production of effective participatory communication tools such as THE GAME and theatre shows, built in collaboration with professional and specialised organisations, which have then been duplicated and disseminated in other programmes to combat irregular migration.

In addition, the programme promoted the creation of platforms for interinstitutional consultation which have then been widely replicated as effective in coordinating support and protection actions, especially for women returnees.

Sustainability

Sustainability is the most problematic criterion.

The financial grants allocated to the development of IGAs and SACCOs is considered insufficient. This calls into question the IGA and cooperatives' sustainability lacking adequate credit flow after completion of the project activities.

The strengthening of SACCOs and IGAs is also a medium-term process that needs continuity (technical follow-up, etc.), which, it seems, the local technical services are not always able to ensure without external support.

Regarding other components, the programme sought to create virtuous processes within true institutional sustainability.

The action addressing Youth Friendly Centers is a contribution to national policy that continues to be supported and promoted in terms of resources.

The strategy of promoting the creation of platforms for interinstitutional consultation and cooperation with training institutes (TVET), practices that have then been widely duplicated, presents fewer sustainability issues, as they are based on the mobilisation of the public administration's existing human resources.

Finally, awareness-raising in schools through effective and reproducible participatory communication tools (GAMES and theatre shows) can also, in this case, use available and trained human resources. Unfortunately, although other projects in other areas duplicated these awareness-raising practices, it was not possible to verify whether these initiatives were then continued by the same schools after the programme ends.

Impact

The analysis of the pilot programme's overall impact, which, as mentioned above, is characterised by its pilot nature in the fight against migration, focused on the real impact of good practice and lessons learned during its implementation, to improve cooperation strategies and the design of subsequent programmes about migration.

In the economic sector, the main impacts are due to the systematic duplication of Good Practices such as the promotion of IGAs, the practice of savings among beneficiaries, and the strengthening of SACCOs to improve financial products and increase the flow of resources via credit and savings to the rural economy.

Regarding access to basic services, rural communities' drinking water availability has increased, with significant repercussions on improving the most vulnerable families' nutritional status and strengthening of Youth Friendly Centers' services in favour of adolescents.

The impact of awareness campaigns in schools and communities has probably been significant thanks to the use of innovative communication strategies developed by the programme and systematically duplicated in subsequent programmes. Similarly, the creation of interinstitutional platforms on migration has certainly contributed to increasing the coverage and dissemination of messages related to the risks of irregular migration.

In conclusion, implementation of the programme under evaluation allowed greater knowledge of the migration sector and, consequently, of returning women's needs. This has contributed to the improvement of Italian Cooperation's intervention strategy by integrating the migrant social integration and protection components.

Similarly, the programme's lessons learned and good practices contributed to defining the intervention strategy of SINCE, an important European Union Trust Fund initiative.

8 Lessons learned

Major lessons learned include the following:

- Development of IGA micro-enterprises and SACCO cooperatives requires considerably more time than the project duration, especially in terms of continuous training and adaptation of financial products to the needs of new IGAs;
- The efforts made to increase the financial resources for the sustainability and growth of IGAs focused on the promotion of savings, and on the integration, as members, of the SACCO cooperatives without, however, providing for an adequate increase in their capital. In fact, trying to broaden the social base of cooperatives without a corresponding increase in credit resources constitutes a strong limit in terms of sustainability and, therefore, impact;
- The consortium approach with Italian and local NGOs with strong thematic and geographical specialisation contributes to design and implement quality projects;
- The “integrated project” approach is confirmed as a valid cooperation instrument migration control as it addresses a complex problem through multisectoral initiatives but has highlighted its limits when the initiatives promoted require interventions of greater duration and specialisation (see development of IGAs and SACCOs);
- Cooperation between technical vocational institutes (TVET) promoted by the programme proved to be essential for potential young migrants’ vocational training.
- The promotion of interinstitutional coordination platforms accompanied by technical training of officials proved to be a practice that has allowed multi-sectoral dialogue and integration in favour of target groups;
- Awareness-raising in schools and communities on the risks related to irregular migration through effective, sustainable communication tools (all implementable with local human resources), and highly appreciated by students and communities has significant impact potential.
- The recommendation of the five research projects on migration identifying the “care drain” aspect as relevant is interesting and should be studied to possibly design specific
- The observations of the research concerning better use of family remittances are interesting. These remittances would be used mainly for household consumption and much less for productive investments and savings.

9 Recommendations

- 1) Maintain the consortium and multisectoral approach appropriately integrated with psychological support, protection and social integration for migrant women.
- 2) Identify specific programmes to respond to medium and long-term development needs of actions promoted in the economic component such as vocational training of young people and liaison with the private sector and strengthening SACCOs and IGAs' capacities.
- 3) In the case of vocational training and IGAs of migrants and returnees, carefully evaluate and, as appropriate, improve cooperation with technical vocational institutes (TVET).
- 4) Regarding capitalisation of SACCOs, even if there is room for improvement thanks to additional external support in terms of training, provide for capitalisation mechanisms on an objective basis of credit activity performance to be able to provide adequate loans to members and allow the consolidation and growth of IGAs.
- 5) Strengthen existing links and explore the possibility of linking awareness-raising activities with all relevant local government structures, especially primary and secondary schools, including through the use of the tools developed by the programme.
- 6) Systematise and evaluate in terms of effectiveness, sustainability and impact, and through mainly quantitative and statistically significant methods, information relevant to the improvement of policies and initiative for cooperation and to combat migration. Many good practices were identified by the programme and subsequently duplicated by other cooperation programmes. For example, among the most relevant are the promotion of IGAs, strengthening of SACCOs, support to Youth Friendly Centers, access to drinking water, and awareness in schools.