

Summaries of funded Impact Interventions

Supporting migrants as knowledge producers

Lead: Ethiopian Institute of Peace

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Building capacity, Changing narratives

(August 2022 – September 2022)

Academic and policy studies and responses to migration have been dominated by scholarship produced in the Global North, raising questions as to whose knowledge is, and should be, involved in understanding the nature and future of migration.

The MIDEQ team in Ethiopia is publishing an autobiography written by a Hadiya returnee migrant during their detention in Tanzania and organising book launch sessions with the local community. Supporting migrants' own knowledge production in the Global South helps challenge the secular framework that reflects a Western epistemology. It provides important insights into how concepts and frameworks that are at the core of 'international' humanitarian debates are conceived of, negotiated, and enacted in Southern contexts. Creating a space for migrants to contribute to knowledge production based on a lived experience contributes to decolonising knowledge production in the field of migration. The book will launch in high schools in the Hadiya Zone, at Wachemo University and Migration Studies and Entrepreneurship Centre (WMSEC), helping to create better awareness and a more nuanced narratives on migration.

Working with cultural data and creating artistic outputs

Lead: University of Glasgow

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Building capacity

(June 2022 – December 2023)

This project aims to develop MIDEQ researchers' understanding of working with social scientific data, specifically how to work with this data in cultural, intercultural, and artistic forms. Hosted in Harare with partners Lit Fest Harare, Theatre in the Park, and CHIPAWO, the project will hold workshops to offer training and capacity building in handling culture data both analytically and artistically. The data from the workshops will be transformed into new artistic outputs such as stories, poems, and proverbs all while retaining the original meaning.

These newly interpreted artistic outputs will be produced, rehearsed, and performed at Theatre in the Park and through UNESCO ART Lab linked projects to demonstrate the impact, power and analytical focus of data reworked in this way.

Importantly, it demonstrates a replicable, scalable example for others who would like to do something similar. Upon completion of the workshops and production a report, outlining the projects outcomes, successes, and improvements, will be circulated to all international partners to extend the reach of the project. The project will increase researcher capacity; produce training resources in the form of guide cards, digital toolkit and videos that will let others replicate the project to allow for further capacitating beyond this project.

Capacity building of researchers, policy makers and security agencies

Lead: University of Ghana

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Building capacity

(April 2022 – March 2023)

The MIDEQ team within the Centre for Migration Studies, University of Ghana, are undertaking four capacity building activities for researchers, policy makers and public officials. The team is organising a three-day training workshop with Noyam Institute for African Dance to explore artistic methods of data collection and dissemination of research findings and a training workshop examining the ways of maximizing impact of research projects and policy engagement activities. Both activities are aimed at the wider research community of the University of Ghana.

Research conducted by MIDEQ has highlighted the lack of understanding in policy makers to incorporate South-South migration into development planning. As a direct response to this finding, the team is also organising a four-day capacity building workshop for stakeholders in 34 key ministries and agencies, to incorporate research findings into policies and annual work plans. Like the lack of understanding at the policy level, research has shown the violation of rights faced by South-South migrants at the behest of security personnel. Further capacity building workshops will therefore be organised on migrants' rights for security personnel.

Supporting Wachemo University's research infrastructure

Lead: Ethiopian Institute of Peace

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Building capacity

(August 2022 – July 2023)

The Ethiopian team in MIDEQ is supporting local research capacity and promoting the creation of an efficient research infrastructure to facilitate sustained local knowledge production on migration in the Ethiopian context. To date, there is no well-established Centre for Migration Studies at the national and local levels in Ethiopia despite the crucial role migration plays in the development process.

This project focuses on Wachemo University which is one of the youngest public universities in Ethiopia, located in Hosanna, the capital of Hadiya Administrative Zone, where most of the Ethiopian migrants in South Africa originate. The university has recently established its Migration Studies and Entrepreneurship Centre but has limited resources. Given this, the team is linking up with the university's initiative to strengthen local research capacity. The team helps support setting up and equipping the Migration Research Resource Centre (MRRC-library), small grants for empirically oriented research, and organising staff exchange visits between Wachemo University and renowned centres of migration studies on the continent.

Consortium for Haitian migration studies // Consortium etudes sur la migration Haitienne (CHMS)

Lead: The Interuniversity Institute for Research and Development (INURED), Haiti

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Building capacity

(June 2022 – December 2023)

The 2010 earthquake and the successive socio-political and environmental crises that have undermined Haitian society gave rise to a new wave of out-migration. This new wave of migration was followed by the adoption of restrictive immigration policies in many countries in the Global North that hindered legal entry for many Haitians. Some eventually turned to Latin America, particularly Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, and Mexico. However, by 2015, economic decline across South American nations and the election of conservative governments gave way to racism, xenophobia, labour, and human rights violations. This trend facilitated circulatory migration of Haitians within Latin America and transit migration while travelling to the US.

The Consortium for Haitian Migration Studies//Consortium d'études sur la migration Haïtienne (CHMS) addresses gaps in knowledge of contemporary Haitian migration by exploring the relationships between migration and inequality as experienced by Haitian migrants in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, and the Americas. The Consortium consists of a partnership between local higher education institutions, research institutions, policy makers, migration advocacy and service providing organisations, as well as international organisations. CHMS will conduct research with a particular focus on human, labour, and women's rights issues to inform advocacy efforts and policy development that protect migrants as well as voluntary and involuntary returnees with respect to resettlement.

South-South migration and development seminar series and conference/colloquium

Lead: China Agricultural University

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Building capacity

(October 2022 – March 2023)

The MIDEQ China team has established a migration research centre based at China Agricultural University (CAU), which is intended to be a leading think tank focusing on migration and development. The aim is for the centre to become a hub for research on migration, inequality and development, in the context of China and the Global South, as a way to decentre the migration and development discourse.

In support of this, CAU will use its flexible funding to organise a monthly seminar series and research colloquium (February 2023). The events will host international and local researchers to explore and discuss a range of theoretical and disciplinary approaches to understand South-South migration. The abstracts of the seminars will be uploaded to the MIDEQ website in order to create a web-based archive that will serve as a reference for academics and practitioners in the future. The colloquium will foster an academic exchange of ideas on the current discourse in relation to South-South migration and development thereby raising the profile of MIDEQ's research within China.

Community dialogues (cross-talks)

Lead: University of Ghana

Pathway (ToC) –Building capacity, Changing narratives

(March 2023 – September 2023)

To ensure that the rights of migrants are protected and the findings of MIDEQ research reach grassroot policy makers and other stakeholders, a dialogue has been organised among host Ghanaian population and Chinese migrants on their rights and roles. This includes four community cross-talks (dialogues) from March to September 2023, for 396 community persons living in four communities in Accra Central in Greater Accra Region, Manso-Nkwanta (a mining community) in the Ashanti Region, Asutware in the Eastern Region, and Kasoa in the Central region. The community dialogues will bring together traditional leaders such as chiefs, queen mothers, religious leaders, local authorities, assemblymen as well as women, migrants, non-migrants and local radio stations, Ghana union of traders association, and selected officials of ministries and agencies.

The community cross-talks or dialogues focus on migrants and host communities' rights, roles, relations, and responsibilities. Community members, migrants and government authorities are encouraged to develop a joint communique to detail out recommendations on how to promote migrants and host community coexistence.