

Summaries of funded Impact Initiatives

Orientation to left behind wives and children of labour migrants

Lead: Nepal Institute for Social and Environmental Research (NISER)

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives, Changing narratives

(March 2022 – July 2023)

Due to rules of the destination country, labour migrants from Nepal cannot take their family members with them. Over the years, there have been growing problems associated with migration including: sexual and psychosocial violence experienced by the wives of migrants; moral policing and negative community narratives regarding wives who are left behind in Nepal; and the disintegration of the family.

Additionally, there have been issues related to fraudulent use of remittances by non-family members, children dropping out of education, entering early marriage and drug addiction. A root cause of these problems is the lack of preparation and family discussions on how to manage a household, children, and remittances after the migration of a family member.

This project aims to translate and tailor a previously trialled pre-employment orientation module for the Abu Dhabi dialogue corridor countries for wives and children of current migrants. It builds on MIDEQ's research and provides an opportunity to extend some of NISER's existing work into new areas (wives and children in migrant households). NISER is working with support and collaboration of local organisations working with migrants, their family members, migrant returnees, local tech organisations/companies and digital literacy trainers.

Enhancing the developmental dividends of migration

Lead: Ethiopian Institute of Peace

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives

(August 2022 – December 2022)

Hadiya migration to South Africa has contributed to the rapid socio-economic transformation of the region, hitherto considered part of the historic periphery of the Ethiopian state. Not only has migration enabled the Hadiya to catch up but also thrive with a much more enhanced welfare and new process of capital accumulation.

However, the developmental potential of migration is very much constrained, as most migrants' current investment is channelled to the non-productive sectors, especially in urban land speculation.

This project contributes to rechanneling remittances and migrants' investment to the productive sector by supporting multi-stakeholder forums to identify barriers and opportunities. Specifically, the team is organising an investment forum targeted at migrants and government stakeholders on how to create a more favourable investment climate for migrants. The aim is to make this forum a continuous event by partnering with government agencies and migrant associations. Additionally, the team is preparing an investment manual to disseminate to migrants through customized mobile apps. The manual will be launched both in Hadiya, Ethiopia, and in South Africa where most Hadiya migrants live.

Raising awareness of Burkinabè nationals living in Côte d'Ivoire on births and schooling of young girls

Lead: Institute for Governance, Development and Prospects (IGDP), Côte d'Ivoire

*Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives
(August 2022 – December 2023)*

MIDEQ's surveys conducted by IGDP identified several forms of inequalities faced by Burkinabè nationals living in Côte d'Ivoire. This project aims to reduce the highlighted inequalities by working with migrant communities to address their needs. Emerging from the research is the issue of unregistered births, which hinders migrants and their children from accessing state resources because they are not recognised as citizens of Burkina Faso or Côte d'Ivoire. Part of this is due to a lack of awareness in migrant communities on how to access citizenship.

The team aims to fill this gap through planned radio broadcasts to help inform and educate communities on the need to declare births to the civil registry and to educate girls in the eight localities visited by the MIDEQ team in Côte d'Ivoire. The team is conducting meetings with leaders and local communities followed by further radio broadcasts and community discussions. Additionally, MIDEQ research highlighted that many Burkinabè migrants are from disadvantaged families. Thus, the team will organise for donations in kind and in cash to families of Burkinabè migrants. This includes support with obtaining driving licenses; school kits; funds for health insurance; support for local women owned businesses and education for young girls in the community.

Supporting children left behind in Burkina Faso

Lead: Institut Supérieur des Sciences de la Population (ISSP), Burkina Faso

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives

(June 2022 – December 2023)

The MIDEQ team in Burkina Faso is undertaking a project focusing on inequalities related to children. This project is based on the findings of MIDEQ's survey data. It specifically targets children left behind, and child victims of human trafficking. The team focuses on raising awareness of children's rights, empowering parents/ caregivers of left behind children and providing vocational training for left behind children over 16 who are not attending school. Additional support and care will be provided for left behind children in precarious situations and child victims of trafficking. The overarching objective is to reduce vulnerability of left behind children and children affected by migration through the financial autonomy of families and by raising awareness of children's rights and their psychological care. These activities are organised in two sub-projects: one sub-project on assistance to children left behind and their parents or caregivers, which will be implemented by Action pour l'Enfance et la Santé au Burkina Faso (AES). The other sub-project concerns children involved in migration or trafficking and with the establishment of Reception, Listening and Counselling Centres (CAEC), implemented by TOCSIN.

Digital literacy for migrants and family members: promoting safe and beneficial use of digital technology

Lead: Royal Holloway, University of London

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives

(September 2022 – December 2023)

This initiative is designed to address the widespread lack of digital literacy that constrains the safe and beneficial use of digital tech by migrants and family members. This lack of digital literacy among migrants and family members is a key finding of the WP9 research already undertaken in the Nepal-Malaysia corridor.

To address digital literacy, the team is facilitating the planning and co-design of a digital intervention(s) that can improve migrant lives and reduce inequalities such as the lack of digital literacy and ability to make safe and informed use of digital technology by migrants and their families. The intervention will begin with a three-day sandpit/ workshop in Kathmandu in which participating organisations can learn from each other about their needs and the benefits of working together.

Following this, the team will facilitate the co-design, development, and implementation of the digital literacy (or other) intervention through follow-on co-design and training-the-trainer workshops. While research has identified digital literacy as a key challenge for migrants, the sandpit will serve as the vehicle through which additional intervention plans may emerge directly from affected stakeholders. The team is collaborating with MIDEQ's Nepal team, local migrant related organisations, migrant family members and returnees as well as local tech companies and digital literacy trainers.

Migrants, digital tech, and knowledge sharing culture: video production for info-powerment and digital skills development

Lead: Royal Holloway, University of London

*Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives
(October 2022 – December 2023)*

In South Africa, the digital technology team aims to contribute towards migrant well-being and empowerment using digital tech. This project uses digital tech for skills development, shared knowledge dissemination, and increased networking amongst stakeholders (particularly international organisations, local organisations working with migrants, local technology developers and academia) and peer-to-peer encounters and exchanges with the support of art, culture, and media in South Africa.

The team is creating a series of short multi-lingual, informative videos, created by migrants for migrants, and supported by video production companies. These videos will be shared on social media platforms and address sensitive themes through collaboration with local artists to avoid revealing the identities of vulnerable people. The project supports subsequent video creation through five-day workshops for migrants in Cape Town and in Johannesburg covering communication, video creation and editing as well as netiquette, online safety, and ethical use of imagery with the involvement of migrants and media professionals. Subsequently, the team will facilitate two co-design five-day workshops in both cities on developing peer-to-peer networks for safe offline solutions during emergencies and related digital skills.

Establishing Resource Corners in Ethiopian migrants' church spaces

Lead: University of Cape Town, South Africa

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives

(August 2022 – June 2023)

This intervention aims to help narrow a widening cultural and linguistic division between Ethiopian parents and their children living in South Africa, as well as strengthen the weak ties between Ethiopian migrants and their local communities. The intervention addresses these gaps through establishing Resource Corners in spaces that Ethiopian migrants congregate, particularly in churches. The Resource Corners will provide psychological support, language tuition and computer training thus contributing to MIDEQ's goal of improving the lives of migrants, their families, and their local communities.

Ethiopian parents and their children living in South Africa live divergent lives. Where several parents work long hours away from home in the informal business sector, the children spend their days in school or with carers from South Africa or other parts of the southern African region. The conflict deepens with time as children and parents continue to associate themselves with different – and at times contradictory – social, technological, and cultural spaces. The intervention will create cross-cultural and linguistic exchanges by bringing families together through culture, language, and digital technology.

Strengthening migrant solidarity building initiatives through working with the Migration Advocacy Centre, Ghana (MAC)

Lead: University of Ghana, University of Cape Town

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives

(June 2022 – July 2023)

There are long standing forms of solidarities that migrants build with each other, wider local societies, and popular movements in West Africa. However, support services provided by existing CSOs (civil society organisations) are limited and focused on campaigns aimed at discouraging South-North migration at the expense of issues facing migrants within the region. This has implications for building a broad basis for belonging. There are very few CSOs focusing on migrants living and

working in West Africa, the forms of solidarities that they build with each other and with wider local societies as well as popular movements. This is a major gap given the significant volume of intra-regional migration within the West African sub region and into Ghana.

This intervention addresses this gap through strengthening the capacity of the Migrant Advocacy Centre in Ghana (MAC) to promote the access, rights, and political participation of immigrants in Ghana. Although new, MAC fills an important gap in activism and campaigns around migrant populations in Ghana. The MIDEQ team is partnering with MAC Ghana and other migrant groups and relevant CSOs to amplify migrant mobilization and solidarity building initiatives. The team is also working with MAC to build initiatives that foster social cohesion between migrants and locals in urban informal settlements where the bulk of working-class migrants live and work.

Mapping rights and access to justice for Haitians on the move

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

Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving lives

(November 2022 – July 2023)

This project maps out local organisations and institutions working with Haitians along migration trails and generates integrated strategic actions at both local, national, and regional levels that will support migrants' rights to justice in these countries.

Systemic crises in Haiti, a result of destructive foreign policy towards Haiti and intervention, combined with cascading disasters have accelerated decomposition of institutions and the destabilisation of families and communities. As a result, migration has become a strategy for individuals seeking to support themselves and their families. In the post-2010 earthquake context, new destinations have emerged in the Global South such as Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, among others, facilitating circulatory and transit migration for Haitians in search of safety and a better life.

Many of these Haitians on the move face racism, xenophobia, labour exploitation, and human rights abuses. In these constantly changing trails, Haitians carry their path dependency to systemic vulnerability. At the same time, the circulatory movements of migrants have given rise to unique interactions with community-based



organisations and human rights institutions that have attempted to intervene to protect migrant rights. Documenting community-based solidarities and local institutional supports will help identify locally driven ways to foster conditions that help local communities and stakeholders create new forms of communal solidarities.