

## Summaries of funded Impact Interventions

### 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*

*(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 re-channelling 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 intervention 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 migrant 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.

## **Pathways to justice for undocumented children in South Africa: piloting Justice Chain Analysis**

**Lead: University of Cape Town, Coventry University**

*Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives*

*(February 2023 – September 2023)*

MIDEQ's research has shown that migrants are much more likely to be in conditions of extreme injustice. Most notably, migrants are often excluded or fearful of addressing injustices through state-led justice or administrative pathways which dominate current access to justice (A2J) initiatives and policy responses. The resources made available through impact initiatives have been used to pilot a new approach called Justice Chain Analysis (JCA).

The pilot focused specifically on identifying justice barriers and enablers for Ethiopian children in South Africa. With very little knowledge of computer and English language challenges, few Ethiopians were able to renew or apply for permits. This meant that they became irregular and undocumented. Additionally, children born in South Africa to parents with refugee status also face documentation issues: the child automatically assumes the status of the mother, meaning that Home Affairs cannot issue the children with birth certificates, rendering them invisible in the eyes of the state.

JCA moves us away from the more conventional 'rule of law' focused lens associated with the Global North. It enables us to understand A2J issues from the perspective of migrants in the Global South as well as how they address these injustices, exploring all the pathways (e.g., state-led, community-based, civil society-led, religious and traditional justice systems) available to them.



## **Migrants, digital tech and knowledge sharing – South Africa**

**Lead: Royal Holloway, University of London**

*Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives*

*(March 2023 – January 2024)*

The MIDEQ digital interventions team built on previous work done in South Africa with the support of local and international partners during the last few years. A series of short multi-lingual, information videos were created by migrants for migrants, and supported by video production companies. This coincided with the development of digital skills of the participants during workshops conducted in Cape Town and Johannesburg covering communication, video creation and editing as well as netiquette, online safety, and ethical use of imagery. The learning material is available to be adapted, translated, and propagated for our collaborators.

This part of the intervention seeks to build on our earlier activities to deliver a sustainable digital intervention that will help to reduce migrant-defined inequalities. We now ensure the sustainability of ongoing initiatives which include peer-to-peer knowledge sharing through videos created by migrants and a digital literacy and IT skills upgrading programme for migrants.

Finally, our outputs will be disseminated digitally and through face-to-face events in South Africa with the support of local partners, international organisations and migrant associations. A series of events are organised to target the different audiences: migrants themselves, migrant associations, local communities where migrants live, international organisations, academia, and media and art companies. The learning material on digital skills will be made available in different formats: videos, PowerPoint presentations, and skills training toolkits for learners and educators.

## **Migrants, digital tech and knowledge sharing - Nepal**

**Lead: Royal Holloway, University of London**

*Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives*

*(March 2023 – January 2024)*

The digital interventions team works with migrants, migrant organisations, and tech companies with the support of international organisations to co-design and implement sustainable digital interventions that will help to reduce migrant-defined inequalities in Nepal. The aim is to contribute towards migrants' well-being and empowerment through skills development, shared knowledge dissemination, increased networking



amongst stakeholders and peer-to-peer encounters and exchanges.

Working with migrant organisations, returnee migrants, and tech developers we have collaboratively identified two main types of intervention that they believe are necessary for Nepali migrants to be able to use digital technologies most effectively for improving their lives. One is the creation of a clear and simple information platform where migrants and their families can easily find out information and links about all aspects of migration; and the second is digital preparedness training materials on the safe, wise, and secure use of digital tech. A key focus in this project is to support our local collaborating organisations and to build on our earlier monitoring and evaluation activities with migrants and migrant organisations.

## **Access to information as a right and tool to promote access to justice for migrants**

**Lead: Coventry University, University of Ghana**

*Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives*

*(April 2023 – January 2024)*

Lack of information or reliable information on access to justice is one of the many injustices that migrants, and indeed similarly disadvantaged citizens suffer. The consequence is that many injustices that migrants experience are neither challenged nor redressed. The intervention is conducted in Ghana, one of the MIDEQ countries, which is part of the West African free movement of persons regime. The regional court established to resolve disputes regarding violations of the rights and freedoms under the protocol on free movement of persons is inaccessible to most beneficiaries. Through this intervention, we assess what information is available for migrants on access to justice at the national level, including available non-judicial mechanisms, that they may have recourse to when their freedom of movement and residence is violated.

Ghana has an operative right to information law which obliges government institutions to avail public information. This makes it a good case study to assess whether or what steps it has taken to avail information on access to justice for migrants. Activities include one-on-one engagements with relevant stakeholders, particularly government officials and CSOs to draw attention to the information gap on access to justice for migrants and discuss what contribution each may make in their respective roles.

## Support and training on migrant and worker issues for the Back to Work Campaign (B2WC)

**Lead: University of Cape Town**

*Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives*

*(April 2023 – December 2023)*

Employed mainly in the informal economy and often in hard-to-reach sectors, migrant workers in Africa are vulnerable and meet various challenges, including exploitation, human rights abuses, and discrimination. Mobilising to build solidarity with and through a working-class organisation is one of the strategies that can foster better working and living conditions among migrant workers.

The focus of the project is to facilitate a process of developing economic and political solidarity with working-class migrants. We have scoped the potential for rolling out education and training sessions with coordinators of the Back to Work Campaign (B2WC), an organisation that focuses on unemployment. The aim is to strengthen B2WC at different levels and to support its initiatives to facilitate and amplify the building of migrant solidarity. The University of Cape Town is working towards this aim by building the leadership layer of the campaign, providing support and assistance and putting together a core team that will drive forward the process of developing strategies targeted at building migrant solidarity.

Training and sensitization workshop will be organised on migrant and worker issues for members of the B2WC. The workshop will act as a pilot programme that can then be developed to be rolled out in other areas of the campaign at later stages of the project.

## Producing children's songs in Langa

**Lead: University of Cape Town**

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

*(April 2023 – August 2023)*

The overall goal of this impact intervention is to create social cohesion between migrants and locals using artistic work (music) as an instrument of change by disseminating research findings into artwork, mainly producing children's songs. This will improve the level of mutual understanding and challenge migration related dominant narratives. The intervention will have a spill-over effect of highlighting art related commonalities among African identities (music, costumes, food, language)

while simultaneously amplifying their unique features. The project will bring together Ethiopian, South African, and other nationalities of children to sing the same songs in the various languages.

The participants include schools (where migrant children and locals attend); pre-existing partners and ongoing research activities connected to UCT's outreach program (such as Africa Unite and Langa Community Centre); MIDEQ creative arts researchers; a South African band; immigrant and local children and adults (parents or otherwise); and other immigrant groups.

## **Tusimame wanawake (Stand up women)**

**Lead: University of Cape Town**

*Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives*

*(April 2023 – October 2023)*

The increase of migration flows into South Africa has precipitated violence against migrants and refugees in the country, particularly migrant women. Many migrant women, some of whom have fled from their countries to seek sanctuary in South Africa are met with innumerable challenges rooted in South Africa's general political, legal, and socio-economic problems as well as patriarchy and gender-based violence. Some barriers to migrant women's integration include lack of documentation, lack of awareness about the South African justice system and immigration laws, poverty and unemployment which also affect local urban communities. Gender-based violence (or violence against non-national women) has become an increasingly regular feature in present-day South Africa.

MIDEQ in South Africa is partnered with Africa Unite to address these issues. Africa Unite has recently created a platform to better understand the challenges immigrant women are confronted with, creating a platform for immigrant women in creating spaces through building voices, accessing information, skills enhancement, integration for greater independence and social cohesion. The three main activities launched include a women's cooperative (Tusimame Wanawake Cooperative) assisted by a consultant in starting a cooperative that will help the women improve their livelihoods. The cooperative participated in skills and information-based workshops like computer literacy, business support as well as GBV and sexual violence peer education programmes.

## Migrant rights workshops - Guangxi and Zhejiang provinces

**Lead: China Agricultural University**

*Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives*

*(June 2022 – November 2022)*

With the rising uncertainties and inequalities that migrant workers face, most especially in the country of destination, they are often unheard, and their needs are unmet. Participatory approaches serve as a platform for the marginalized sectors of society, in this case the migrant workers, to put forward their needs and encourage them to think for themselves. With this kind of platform, participants actively contribute to teaching and learning, rather than being on the receiving end from external experts. With this, the migrant workers themselves can increase their understanding of the issues surrounding them. The participatory workshop approach encourages migrant workers to share information, learn from each other, and work together to solve common problems that they encounter in the country of destination.

The China team is conducting two participatory workshops in Zhejiang Province, China and in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. Apart from informing them of their rights as a migrant worker, with local and international policies about migration, the workshops also aim to identify issues and needs of migrant workers and ensure that the migrant workers' rights are the main drivers of future policies and projects. The workshops act as a gateway to discuss and build a plan for probable future strategies to reduce inequalities that migrant workers experience. 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.

## **Improving Haitian migrant populations' quality of life and access to justice**

**Lead: Instituto Maria e João Aleixo (IMJA)**

*Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives*

*(June 2022 – December 2023)*

Haitian migration in Brazil is a recent phenomenon, especially over the past decade. As such, collective organisation of Haitian migrants is still an ongoing process in its early stage. Haitian collectives and organisations experience challenges to construct collaborative mobilisation for supporting their rights. Accordingly, IMJA is collaborating with the Haitian migrant community to listen to their experiences and demands. Through this collaboration, IMJA is working with partners to provide opportunities for fostering their institutional development. Additionally, IMJA will work with partner organisations to expand their theoretical, political, and social background, and to support their financial health.

To achieve these goals IMJA, partnering with MIDEQ's access to justice thematic area, is engaged in a cycle of active research and identification of collectives and associations within the Haitian community. It aims to support a mentoring program for Haitian leaders, foster short-scale projects, hold gatherings and seminars, and to publish two books: Haitian Migrant life trajectories and Reaffirming rights in a context of migration. Working with partner organisations, IMJA's intervention supports the establishment of a collective and structured political agenda, one that fosters nuanced stories on Haitian migrants, culture, and knowledge.

## **Promoting migrant workers' human and trade union rights in Africa through political mobilisation and solidarity building**

**Lead: University of Cape Town, University of Ghana**

*Impact Pathway (ToC) – Improving migrant lives*

*(April 2023 – January 2024)*

Despite the positive contributions that migrants make to the development of communities and economies, migrant workers in Africa often encounter some of the most severe decent work deficits. Mobilising to protect their rights and building solidarity, especially unionisation, although challenging for many migrant workers, is one of the strategies that can promote a decent work agenda among them. Trade

unions play a pivotal role in mobilising and organising migrant workers to better articulate and defend their rights and uphold their dignity. The intervention is aiming to establish a partnership with the ITUC-Africa to enhance the mobilisation and solidarity building of migrant workers on the African continent. It seeks to collaborate through the African Trade Union Migration Network (ATUMNET) and its partners to advocate for the human and trade union rights of migrant workers. In cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), IOM, and civil society organisations (CSOs), the intervention is further promoting and protecting the rights of migrant workers and their families. By working with various partners, the team endeavours to facilitate the formation of a MIDEQ Global Exchange on Migrants' Rights (GEMR) with the objective of fostering transnational solidarity concerning migrants' human and labour rights.

## Using art to give voice and improve narratives of children and wives of migrants

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

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

*(May 2023 – September 2023)*

The research conducted by MIDEQ in Nepal reveals the impact of foreign employment on families. While such employment offers economic opportunities, it also exerts detrimental effects on the psycho-social health, educational achievements, and overall well-being of those staying back, particularly spouses and children. The team are aiming to address these challenges by working closely with the vulnerable groups through the expressive medium of art, providing them with a platform to voice their concerns. These activities, in collaboration with local and provincial government representatives, are designed to engage officials with the repercussions of migration on children and partners of migrants who remain at home.

By informing policymakers about the potential negative consequences of migration, the intervention supports the development of more comprehensive policies that can effectively address these impacts. Simultaneously, it seeks to tackle deeply ingrained discriminatory practices and stigmatisation faced by these families within their communities and extended families, leading to violence and undermining their well-being. By raising awareness among local governments, communities, NGOs, and INGOs, the intervention aims to transform societal narratives related to the spouses and children of migrants, ultimately creating a more supportive and inclusive environment for these vulnerable groups. In summary, the activities hold



the potential to bring about lasting, positive changes in the lives of these often-overlooked individuals and contribute to a more inclusive and compassionate society.