



A Georgian returnee from Switzerland received medical assistance and subsequently used his reintegration assistance to open a market stand in his hometown in Georgia. © IOM 2012

IOM and Migrant Assistance

Reintegration Assistance

IOM AND REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

Reintegration assistance is an essential tool that supports migrants in starting a new life back in their home communities after they return to their countries of origin; be it voluntarily with the help of IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes, or under the auspices of governments or non-governmental bodies. The Organization's experience with AVRR programmes over the past three decades has shown that, unless the factors compelling irregular migration are addressed, a substantial number of returnees are likely to pursue illegal means of migration as a solution to their unsustainable living conditions in the country of origin. IOM's reintegration assistance activities focus on addressing the needs of returnees and their communities through the provision of support which strengthens their self-sufficiency and consequently make returns more sustainable. This support includes access to services and assistance to enter the labour market, help to set up a small business, or engage in training/vocational activities. The specific modalities of assistance vary depending on the projects, the needs of the migrants and the conditions in the countries of origin.

IOM's approach

IOM promotes the linkages of reintegration assistance to

- * the pre-return and counselling stages in host countries to support informed and voluntary decisions by the migrant in the framework of AVRR programmes; and
- * the wider context of local development in the country of origin.

IOM's experience with AVRR has shown that addressing the needs and concerns of the communities who receive returning migrants can help address push factors of irregular migration, such as poverty and/or lack of labour market opportunities. In parallel, it also ameliorates potential socio-economic disadvantages for local (non-migrant) populations that may arise from having to absorb major returning flows taking place without adequate assistance.

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IOM'S REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE HELPS ADDRESS THE FACTORS THAT COMPEL INDIVIDUALS TO EMIGRATE BY IRREGULAR MEANS IN THE FIRST PLACE AND CONTRIBUTES TO ENSURE THEIR SUSTAINABLE LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

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IOM International Organization for Migration



A Moldovan returnee from Austria who used her reintegration assistance to buy equipment for an atelier where she sews national suits and traditional Moldovan crochets. After a period of six months, ten women were already working in the atelier. © IOM Moldova 2012

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IOM reintegration assistance activities

In host countries

- Implementation of outreach activities with, inter alia, migrant diasporas, embassies, local authorities, NGOs, public and private service providers to ensure information-dissemination and individualized counselling about reintegration opportunities in the country of origin;
- Information activities can also include the organization of audio-visual and written materials (stories of return and reintegration) to provide migrants with first-hand information about experiences and conditions for return and reintegration in their country of origin. Ethnic media channels and tailored native language materials are usual an integral part of AVRR programmes;
- Stakeholder training on country of origin information and return counselling;
- Identification and assessment of special needs for returnees, organization of treatment and referral in the country of origin;
- Development of individual reintegration plans for returnees before and after return to country of origin; and
- Provision of training to returnees prior to and after the return to the countries of origin.

In countries of origin

- Provision of reception assistance focusing on immediate basic needs, such as temporary accommodation, nutrition and pocket money;
- Provision of reintegration and counselling assistance, such as:
 - * support to set up a small business
 - * support for educational and/or training activities
 - * job placements
 - * health-related assistance
 - * Temporary accommodation support on a case-by-case basis
- Monitoring of the reintegration process to assess the performance of IOM's programme as well as the impact of the reintegration support towards the returnees' life, their families and communities.

Policy considerations

The sustainability of return is strengthened by an effective reintegration process. In line with its mandate and experience, IOM's key policy considerations when developing and implementing reintegration projects stresses that:

- Reintegration assistance should be a fundamental part of return policies and migration management;
- Sustainable return and reintegration represent a realistic alternative to risky and irregular migration induced by push factors linked to poverty and under-development in countries of origin;
- Reintegration should be embedded in a broader context that addresses the root causes of migration. To this end, reintegration support to the individual returnee should be balanced with broader support provided to the receiving community;
- Reintegration assistance should consider the needs of vulnerable groups and provide tailored services for them. These groups including victims of trafficking, unaccompanied migrant children, migrants with health-related needs, as well as groups who may face particular socio-economic disadvantages in their country of origin; and
- Integrated AVRR programmes should promote the link between reintegration assistance delivered in the country of origin and pre-departure assistance in the host country.

Find out more

For more information about IOM's reintegration programmes and activities, please visit www.iom.int or contact us at MigrantAssistanceDivision@iom.int