**ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR), FROM AND TO MAURITANIA.**

**Why the «Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration» Program (AVRR)?**

The AVRR program aims to assist vulnerable migrants who wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin but who cannot do so on their own due to the lack of financial/legal means. This program offers them the possibility of a return and a durable reintegration into good order and respect for human dignity.

**Intervention axis:**

- **Direct assistance to migrants**: by supporting the voluntary return and reintegration to the country of origin, monitoring and referencing vulnerable cases to relevant structures.

- **Development**: The developmental contribution of this program is reflected in the empowerment of migrants/returnees and the incentive for personal, professional and local development.

**Objectives:**

- Safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants in the implementation of returns, in accordance with applicable international standards and principles;

- Intensify dialogue and cooperation between countries of origin, transit and host countries associated with the return process and strengthen the responsibility of countries of origin towards the reintegration of their returning nationals;

- Encourage the adoption of comprehensive approaches to voluntary return, including reintegration assistance after return.

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144 departure to various countries since January 2016.
19 returnees to Mauritania since January 2016.

1 300 000 migrant assisted since 1979
25 000 - 30 000 migrants in average receive assistance each year.

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**STEPS OF THE VOLUNTARY RETURN PROCEDURE:**

**Contact:** Migrants contact IOM directly to benefit from the AVRR program.

**The interview:** IOM contacts the migrant and arranges for an interview to assess the specific needs of the migrant.

**Medical check-up:** Once the interview has been completed, the beneficiary is sent to the doctor for a consultation to ensure that his state of health allows him to travel.

**Travel Passes:** For beneficiaries not in possession of a passport, IOM takes contact with the embassies and consulates to obtain a laissez-passer.

**Departure:** Once all the above steps have been completed, IOM sets a date and departure conditions for the beneficiary and informs the IOM office in the country of origin.

**Pre-departure sessions:** In preparation for the return and reintegration process in the country of origin, IOM offers before each departure, sessions of sensitization HIV/STD.

**STEPS OF THE REINTEGRATION PROCEDURE:**

**Contact:** The returnee initiates contact with the responsible for reintegration at the IOM office in country of origin.

**Orientation and counseling:** the returnee defines his socio-professional objectives in relation to the reintegration activity with the advice and guidance of the IOM office.

**Follow-up with the returnee and service providers:** For the returnees wishing to start a micro-project, the IOM assists them in the payment of the expenses related to their activity within the limit of the allocation given to them.

**Other types of assistance:** Assistance may also be used in part to cover the costs of training, medicines, accommodation or schooling for children.

**Follow-up on the status of reintegration:** IOM provides professional and psychosocial follow-up for each beneficiary by telephone and, if possible, by traveling in person to obtain information on return locations, good practices and factors leading to successful reintegration.

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