



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

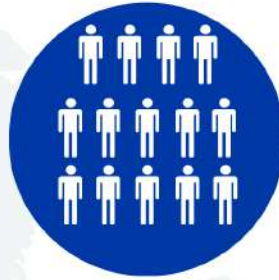
ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

AVRR at a glance



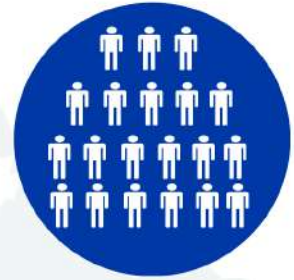
34,000

average number of migrants assisted per year from 2005 to 2014



69,540

number of migrants assisted in 2015



98,403

number of migrants assisted in 2016

110
host or transit countries

2016

161
countries or territories of origin



32%
women



68%
men



27%
children



0.9%
victims of trafficking

What is AVRR?

AVRR relates to the administrative, logistical and financial support, including reintegration assistance, provided to migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host/transit country, who volunteer to return to their countries of origin.

Beneficiaries of AVRR programmes may include stranded migrants, irregular migrants, regular migrants, asylum seekers who decide not to pursue their claims or who are found not to be in need of international protection. AVRR assistance could also be extended to migrants in vulnerable conditions, such as victims of trafficking, elderly people, unaccompanied migrant children and migrants with health-related needs.

IOM considers AVRR as an indispensable part of a comprehensive approach to migration management aimed at orderly and humane return and reintegration of migrants. IOM also supports the principle that AVRR is the most desirable form of return as it takes the migrant's decision into account.

The successful implementation of AVRR programmes requires the cooperation and participation of a broad range of actors, including the migrants, civil society and the governments in origin, host and transit countries.

The benefits of AVRR

For a migrant

AVRR represents a more humane and dignified approach to return, enhancing reintegration perspectives at home. For migrants who need to return home but lack the means to do so, assisted voluntary return and reintegration is often the only approach to address their immediate plight. AVRR allows the migrants concerned to prepare for their return, encouraging them to identify potential opportunities for socioeconomic reinsertion into communities of origin, thereby facilitating the sustainability of their return.

For the governments of host and transit countries

AVRR is a consensual and cost-effective option that allows strengthening the integrity of asylum and immigration systems, without the systematic (and generally costly) use of law enforcement and detention.

For the governments of countries origin and for the migrants' communities

AVRR is an acceptable option to support the reinsertion of returning nationals. IOM assists the governments of origin in the development of strategies and programmes facilitating the management of return migration and strengthening capacities for reintegration in these countries. AVRR also facilitates and enhances a cooperative approach to return between the relevant authorities in host, transit and origin countries.

Key values

The key values of IOM AVRR programmes are:



The following values are particularly relevant when reintegration assistance is provided:



The three stages of an AVRR programme

1

Pre-departure assistance



Counselling
and return-related
information, including on
reintegration support
whenever applicable



**Administrative
assistance**
including acquisition of
travel documents



**Purchase of flight
tickets**

2

Travel assistance



Health-related support
for migrants with specific
health needs



Travel assistance
Movement coordination
including support in transit
and escort when needed

3

Post-arrival and reintegration assistance



**Reception and
inland transport**
to the final destination



Referral services
Counselling and referral to
local partners if necessary



**Reintegration
assistance**
tailored to the returnees'
needs



**Monitoring and
evaluation**
of the assistance
delivered

Talking about AVRR?

When raising awareness and communicating on AVRR, it is important to maintain an open, objective, flexible and empathetic approach towards the different stakeholders and audiences.

Objectives



Increase migrants awareness of AVRR

- Provide migrants with accurate and up-to-date information about AVRR services
- Inform migrants on IOM and partners' role (such as governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society)



Foster engagement on AVRR among involved stakeholders and donors

- Increase understanding of governments and donors on AVRR activities implementation and funding
- Increase knowledge among migrant communities, partners, public services and civil society on AVRR
- Encourage participation of stakeholders in AVRR information activities



Broaden the understanding of AVRR among the general public

- Deepen the knowledge of policy makers, academics, governmental representatives about AVRR as a key element of migration management
- Facilitate an exchange of information on return migration with the general public

Audience



Migrants

- Direct engagement through AVRR programmes



Consular representations Governments/ donors Civil society Communities International organizations Migrants

- Indirect engagement through AVRR programmes



General public, Media, Academia

- Partners and external audiences

Twitter: @MigrantAssist

Web: iom.int/assisted-voluntary-return-and-reintegration



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM
Department of Migration Management
Migrant Assistance Division