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i am a migrant

IOM and Migrant Assistance

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR)

## ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

“I suppose I am one of those who almost made it. You don’t hear much about migrants like me, because we didn’t die at sea or in the desert. We just didn’t make it to Europe.”- Emmanuel

Emmanuel is from Ghana and like many others, his dream was to get to Europe and start a new life. After travelling for months from his native country to embark on a new journey, Emmanuel went through one of his life’s worst moments – which included being lost at sea for five days on a deflating rubber boat thinking he was going to die.

Eventually, he was rescued and then detained. Once released from detention, he was assisted by IOM to return safely to Ghana where he was offered a reintegration grant to start his own business.

To learn more about Emmanuel’s story, please visit IOM’s “i am a migrant” campaign website: [www.iamamigrant.org](http://www.iamamigrant.org).

### 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.

### What is IOM’s approach to AVRR?

AVRR is an indispensable part of a comprehensive approach to migration management aimed at orderly and humane return and reintegration of migrants.

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.

AVRR is a  
return with  
dignity



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

## What are 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.

## Who can benefit from AVRR?

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.

## What are the three stages of an AVRR programme?

- **Pre-departure assistance:** Counselling and return-related information, including on reintegration support whenever applicable, medical assistance (e.g. medical examinations and documentation), administrative assistance including the acquisition of travel documents, the purchase of flights tickets, and specialized assistance and referral services to vulnerable individuals.
- **Travel assistance:** Departure (including travel and miscellaneous allowances), transport (movement coordination including support in transit and escort when) and health-related support for migrants with specific health needs.
- **Post-arrival assistance:** Reception and inland transport to the final destination, Counselling and referral to local partners if necessary, health-related support, provision of reintegration assistance (often in cooperation with local entities and non-governmental organizations) as well as monitoring and evaluation of the assistance delivered.

Safe and orderly  
return to over  
**161 countries**

**69,540 migrants**  
assisted in 2015

**98,403 migrants**  
assisted in 2016

**+1.4 million migrants**  
assisted since 1979

**+34,000 migrants**  
assisted per year from  
2005 to 2014



### Get in touch with IOM

For more information about IOM's AVRR programmes and activities, please visit our website at [www.iom.int/assisted-voluntary-return-and-reintegration](http://www.iom.int/assisted-voluntary-return-and-reintegration)



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