



AVRR from Morocco:

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration

Why an Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme?

The AVRR programme aims to assist vulnerable or at-risk migrants who wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin but are unable to do so by their own, by providing them with an alternative solution for a sustainable return and reintegration carried out in a safe and dignified way and tailored to their needs.

Who can benefit from this assistance?

The AVRR programme primarily targets stranded, vulnerable and at-risk migrants who are willing to return voluntarily to their country of origin but who lack the financial or legal resources to do so.

Areas of intervention:

Direct assistance to migrants:

Through facilitating the voluntary return and socio-economic reintegration in the country of origin, as well as monitoring and referral of vulnerable cases to the relevant structures.

Development:

This programme contributes to development by empowering migrants/returnees and encouraging personal, professional and local development.

• Global AVRR Data:

- More than **1,3 million** migrants benefitted from AVRR since 1979
- More than **400,000** migrants have been assisted over the past decade
- On average, between **25,000** and **30,000** migrants return every year through IOM AVRR programmes

• Key figures from the AVRR programme in Morocco:

- Since 2005, IOM Morocco has assisted more than **6800** beneficiaries to 36 different countries
- Regarding returns to Morocco, more than **900** returnees have been assisted since 2007.

Objectives:

- Safeguarding dignity and rights of migrants in operating returns, while seeking adherence to applicable international principles and standards;
- Preserving the integrity of regular migration structures and asylum procedures;
- Enhancing dialogue and cooperation between origin, transit and host countries involved in the return process and reinforcing the responsibility of countries of origin towards their returning nationals;
- Addressing, to the extent possible, the root causes of irregular migration;
- Advocating for the adoption of comprehensive approaches towards voluntary return, including post-return reintegration assistance; and
- Working with national and international partners in both host country and country of origin, to promote international dialogue and implement capacity-building for AVRR initiatives.

Added value:

This programme is particularly crucial in the Moroccan context as it allows to manage migration flows in a humane manner while at the same putting emphasis on development aspects. IOM works closely with a multitude of stakeholders: governments, international organizations, civil society and local communities.

Steps of the voluntary return procedures:



1. First contact: Migrants directly contact IOM Morocco to express his/her interest to benefit from the AVRR Programme.

2. Interview: IOM Morocco sets an appointment to conduct an in-depth interview to assess the specific situation of the migrant.



3. Medical visit: Prior to departure each beneficiary receives a medical health check to ensure that he/she is fit for travel.

4. Laissez-passer: For beneficiaries who do not have a passport, IOM facilitates liaison with embassies so they can obtain a laissez-passer (travel document).



5. Departure: Once all the previous steps have been completed, IOM sets a return date, prepares all departure arrangements for the beneficiary and informs the IOM Office in the country of origin of the forthcoming return.

- **Pre-departure training:** In preparation for the return and reintegration process, IOM collaborates with different partners to offer trainings on soft skills (communication, self-esteem, etc.), health related aspects and/or professional development (entrepreneurship, income-generating activities, microfinance, etc.).



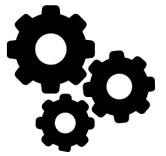
Steps of the reintegration assistance procedure:

1. Contact: Upon return, the beneficiary contacts the person in charge of reintegration at the IOM Office in the country of origin.



2. Guidance and counseling: With the advice and guidance of the IOM office, the returnee sets his socio-professional objectives regarding his/her reintegration activity.

3. Monitoring with the returnee and the service provider: For the returnees willing to start a micro project, IOM assists them with all the payment procedures and costs related to an activities within the limit of the amount that has been allocated.



4. Other types of assistance: The reintegration assistance can also be used to cover vocational training, medical, accommodation costs as well as tuition fees for children.

5. Monitoring of the reintegration activity: IOM ensures a professional and psychosocial monitoring by telephone and, if possible, through field monitoring visits for each beneficiary in order to learn about the socio-economic conditions of the communities of return as well as and the different factors that lead to a successful reintegration.



! IOM assists and accompanies each migrant up to the airport on the return date. The migrant can, at all times, even at the airport, decide to interrupt his/her return movement.

Donors for the AVRR programme from Morocco:



Belgium



Spain



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Morocco



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