

RETURN AND REINTEGRATION KEY HIGHLIGHTS

2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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RETURN OVERVIEW



| Return and reintegration |

This report presents data on two types of IOM assisted return programmes. First, assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) programmes aim to provide administrative, logistical and financial support to migrants unable or unwilling to remain in host/transit countries and who decide to return to their countries of origin. Second, voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) is based on the AVRR approach, but applied in humanitarian settings. VHR often represents a life-saving measure for migrants who are stranded or in detention.

| Main trends 2021 |

While the world is still reeling from the consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, there has been an increase of movement, as some countries have increased their testing capabilities and have started to roll out vaccination campaigns. **The number of beneficiaries of AVRR in 2021 increased by 17 per cent**, from 37,043 in 2020 to 43,428 in 2021. Similarly, **the number of beneficiaries of VHR increased by 57 per cent**, from 4,038 in 2020 to 6,367 in 2021.

The Niger remained the main host country of migrants assisted to return, with a total of 10,573, an increase of 16 per cent from 2020. Germany held its place as **the second largest host country**, with an increase of 18 per cent, from 5,732 in 2020 to 6,785 in 2021 of migrants who were assisted in returning to their countries of origin.

In 2021, **Guinea** saw an increase of 67 per cent in nationals returning, replacing last year's top country **Mali**, which also experienced an increase of 37 per cent in nationals returning, but dropped down to second place.

West and Central Africa remained the main region of origin, with 45 per cent of the total number of migrants assisted to return in 2021, reflecting a 22 per cent increase from 2020. Likewise, **the European Economic Area remained the main host region**, with 34 per cent of the total number of migrants assisted to return in 2021, signifying a decrease of 39 per cent compared with 2020.

The number of host countries has seen a decrease from **139 in 2020 to 125 in 2021**. Similarly, the number of countries that are **both host countries and countries of origin** has decreased from **133 in 2020 to 120 in 2021**. **The number of countries of origin remained the same as in 2020, with 150**.

Following a decrease in 2020 compared with previous years, **the number of migrants in vulnerable situations** assisted to return to their countries of origin **increased**, from **2,386 in 2020 to 4,446 in 2021**.

| Breakdown of return type |

AVRR
43,428

Assisted voluntary return and reintegration

87%

49,795

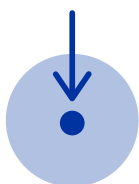
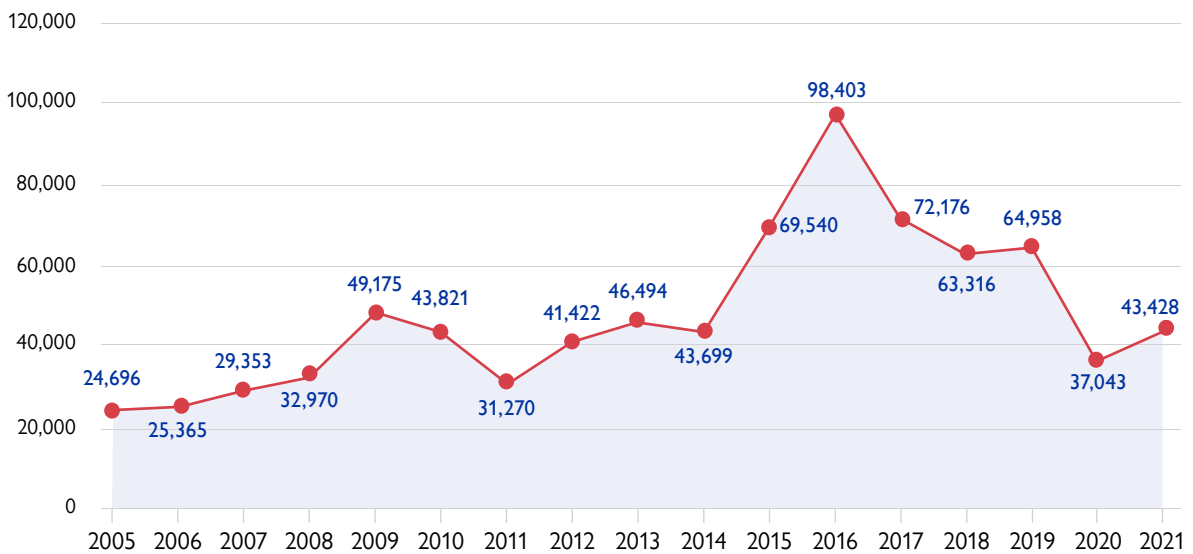
Migrants assisted

VHR
6,367

Voluntary humanitarian return

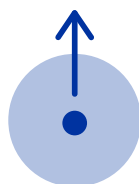
13%

| Number of assisted voluntary return and reintegration beneficiaries, 2005–2021¹ |



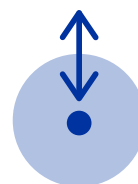
150

Number of countries of origin



125

Number of host countries

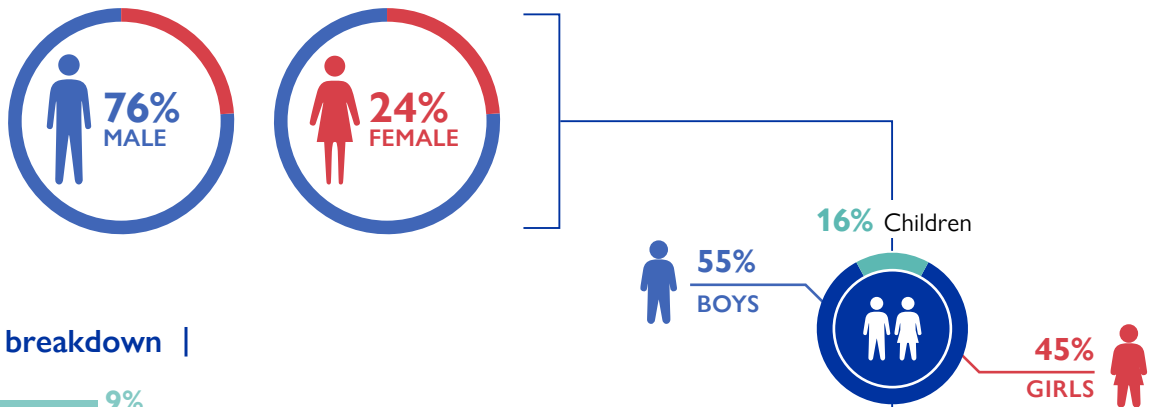


120

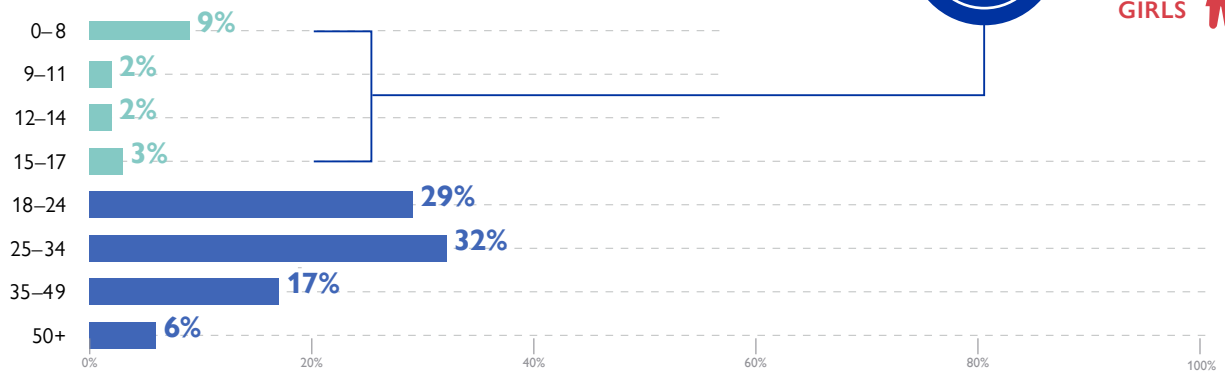
Number of origin and host countries

¹ These figures only refer to beneficiaries of AVRR and do not include migrants who were assisted to return under VHR.

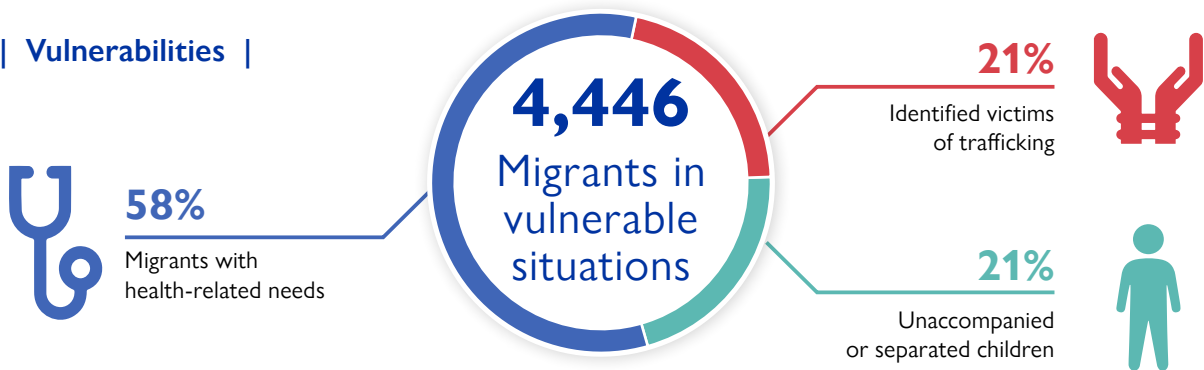
| Sex breakdown |



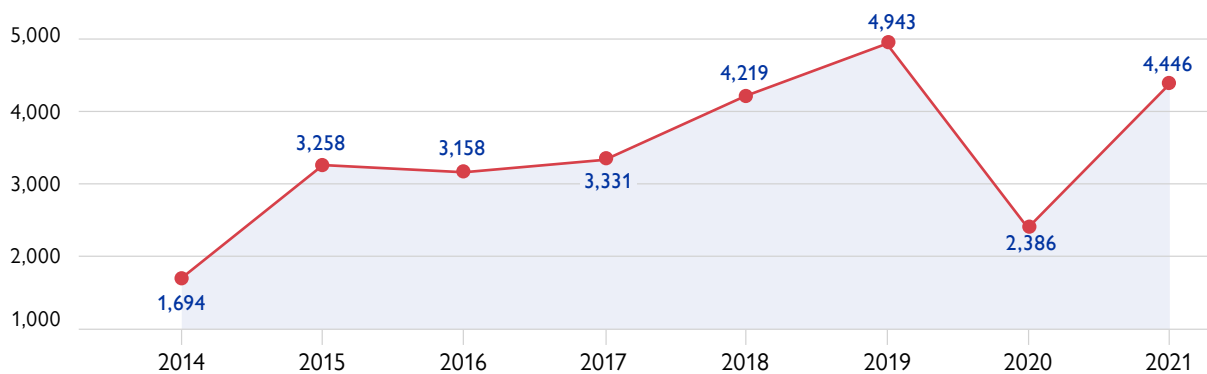
| Age breakdown |

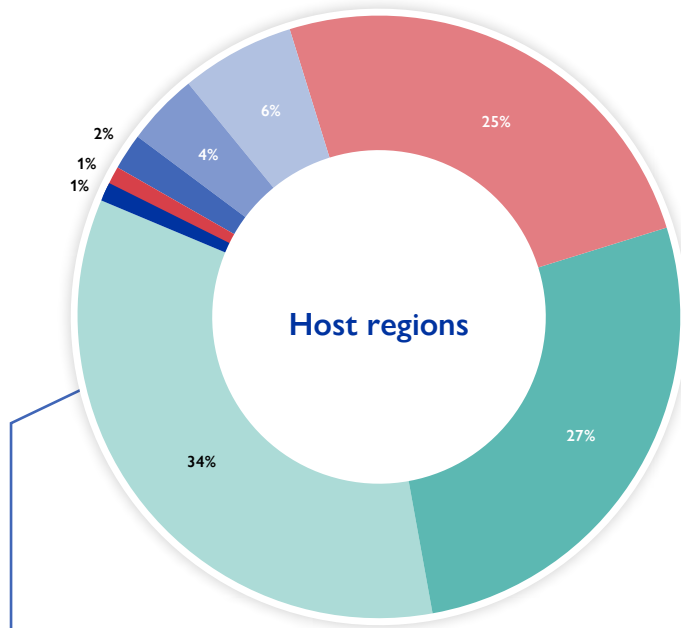


| Vulnerabilities |

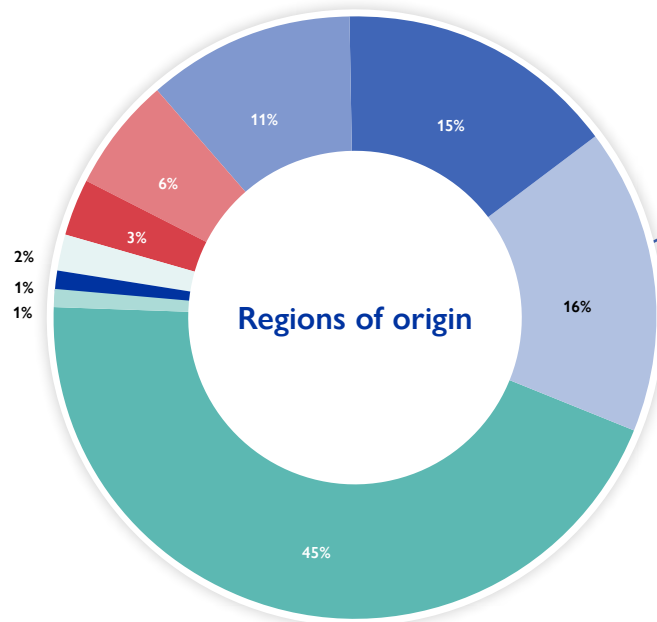


| Number of migrants with vulnerabilities assisted to return, 2014–2021 |





HOST REGIONS	Percentage	Region	Percentage	REGIONS OF ORIGIN
	2%	Asia and the Pacific	15%	
	1%	Central and North America and the Caribbean	3%	
	4%	East and Horn of Africa	11%	
	34%	European Economic Area	1%	
	25%	Middle East and North Africa	6%	
	0%	South America	2%	
	6%	South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia	16%	
	1%	Southern Africa	1%	
	27%	West and Central Africa	45%	



| Top 10 countries of origin and top 10 host countries |

MAIN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN		
	Country	Number of beneficiaries
1	Guinea	5 165
2	Mali	4 453
3	Ethiopia	3 934
4	Nigeria	3 322
5	Pakistan	2 197
6	Iraq	1 886
7	Sierra Leone	1 793
8	Côte d'Ivoire	1 759
9	Georgia	1 758
10	Bangladesh	1 328

MAIN HOST/TRANSIT COUNTRIES		
	Country	Number of beneficiaries
1	Niger (the)	10 573
2	Germany	6 785
3	Libya	4 332
4	Greece	2 736
5	Morocco	2 372
6	Yemen	2 035
7	Algeria	1 972
8	Türkiye	1 748
9	Belgium	1 665
10	Netherlands (the)	1 485

IOM's policy on the full spectrum of return, readmission and reintegration

In 2021, IOM released *the policy on the full spectrum of return, readmission and reintegration*, which guides the work of IOM on return migration through a holistic, rights-based and sustainable development-oriented approach that facilitates safe and dignified return, readmission and sustainable reintegration.

The policy, at its core, focuses on the well-being of individual returnees and the protection of their rights throughout the entire return, readmission and reintegration process, placing individuals at the centre of all efforts and empowering those making informed decisions to participate in assisted voluntary return programmes. At the same time, it recognizes that States have a sovereign prerogative to determine their national migration policies and to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law commitments.

REINTEGRATION OVERVIEW



Almaz set up a hair salon in Ethiopia after her return from Libya. © IOM 2020

COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES/AREAS IN WHICH REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED

Afghanistan	Cuba
Albania	Cyprus
Algeria	Czechia
Angola	Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)
Argentina	Djibouti
Armenia	Ecuador
Austria	Egypt
Azerbaijan	El Salvador
Bangladesh	Ethiopia
Belarus	Finland
Belgium	France
Benin	Gabon
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Gambia (the)
Brazil	Georgia
Bulgaria	Germany
Burkina Faso	Ghana
Burundi	Greece
Cambodia	Guatemala
Cameroon	Guinea
Canada	Guinea-Bissau
Central African Republic	Honduras
Chad	Hungary
Chile	Iceland
China	India
Colombia	Indonesia
Comoros (the)	Iraq
Congo (the)	Ireland
Costa Rica	Islamic Republic of Iran (the)
Côte d'Ivoire	Italy

Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kyrgyzstan
Lebanon
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mauritius
Mexico
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Myanmar
Nepal
Netherlands (the)
Nicaragua
Niger (the)
Nigeria
North Macedonia
Norway
Pakistan
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Moldova (the)
Romania
Russian Federation (the)
Senegal
Serbia
Sierra Leone
Slovakia
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan (the)
Sweden
Switzerland
Tajikistan
Thailand
Togo
Tonga
Tunisia
Türkiye
Uganda
Ukraine
United Kingdom (the)
United Republic of Tanzania (the)
Uzbekistan
Viet Nam
Zimbabwe
Kosovo*
Palestinian Territories

*References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

| Main trends 2021 |

121 IOM country offices provided reintegration assistance to returnees either prior to departure or after arrival.

The total number of reintegration services increased by 7%, from 106,230 in 2020 to 113,331 in 2021.

Similar to the previous year, the majority of **pre-departure services** were provided by country offices in the **European Economic Area**, which was also the main host region in 2021. The number of pre-departure reintegration activities increased by 117 per cent, from 9,720 in 2020 to 28,689 in 2021.

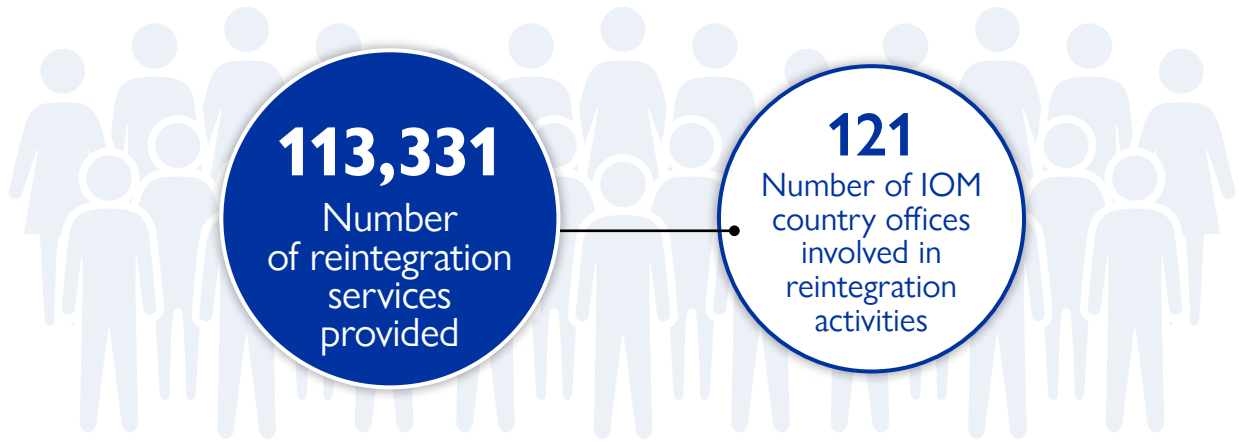
The majority of post-arrival reintegration services (61%) were provided by country offices in West and Central Africa, the main region of origin.

Overall, **the top three countries for the provision of reintegration assistance are Germany (15%), Nigeria (12%) and Guinea (8%)**. The support consisted mainly of reintegration counselling, economic assistance and social assistance.

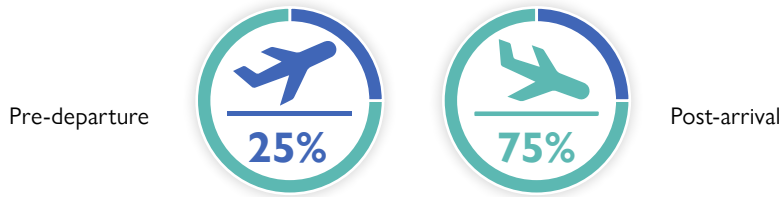
| Provision of reintegration assistance |

IOM reintegration assistance is based on its integrated approach to reintegration, which addresses migrants' economic, social and psychosocial needs, at the individual level, as part of their communities and within the overall structures of States. Please refer to the [Reintegration Handbook](#) for information on the integrated approach of IOM to reintegration.

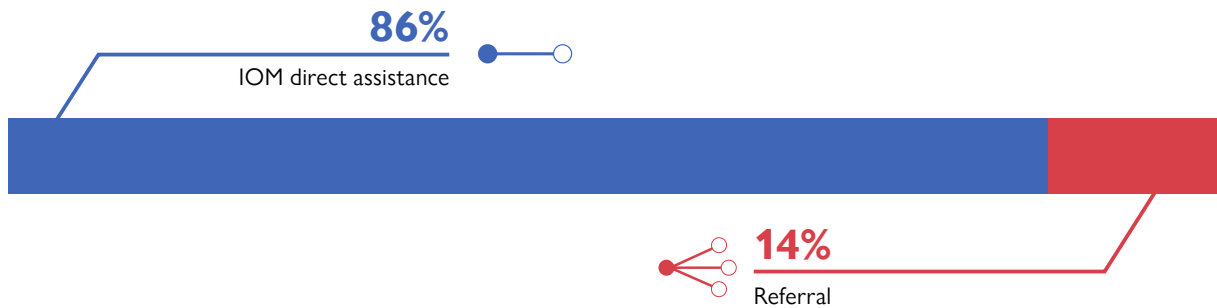
The categories of reintegration support presented in the following graphs reflect the total number of services provided, which are not mutually exclusive. The beneficiaries of IOM reintegration assistance can receive multiple types of support at different levels and return stages (such as pre departure counselling in the host country and economic assistance in the country of origin).



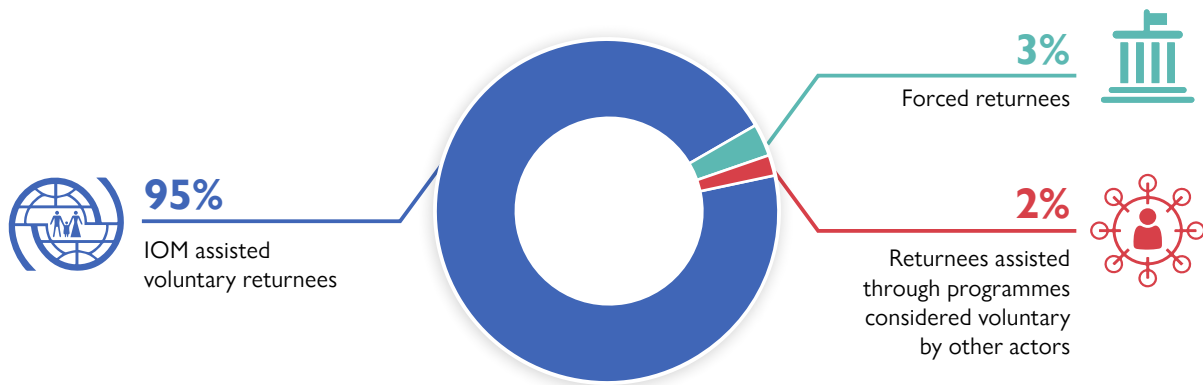
| Pre-departure or post-arrival assistance provided |



| Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral |



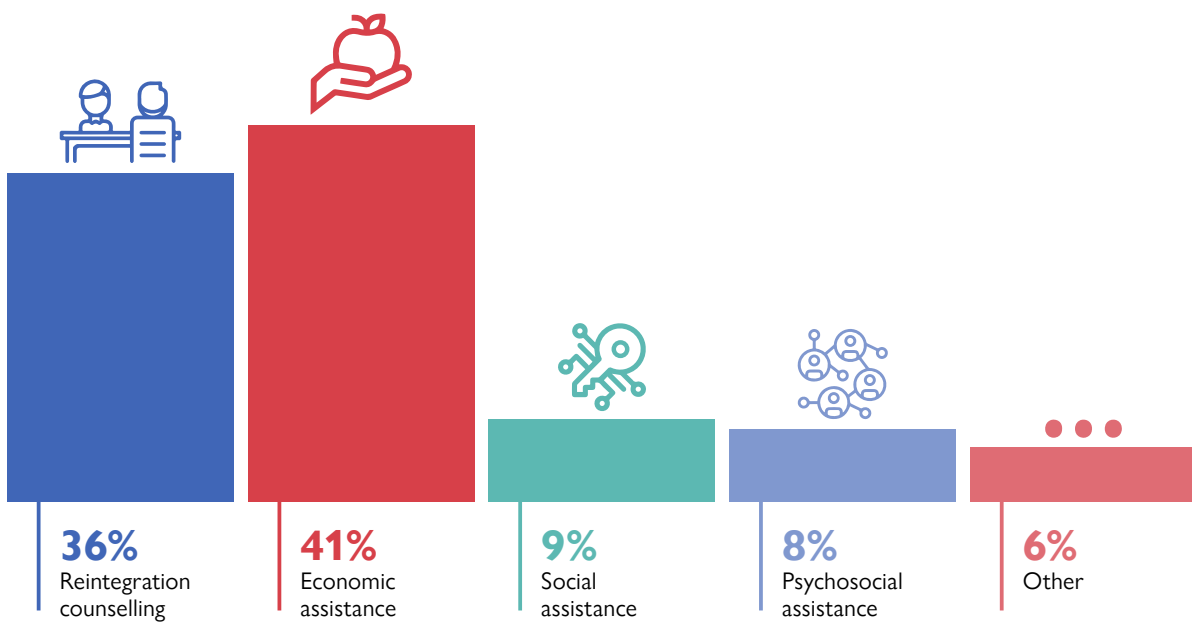
| Beneficiaries by type of return |



| Levels of assistance |



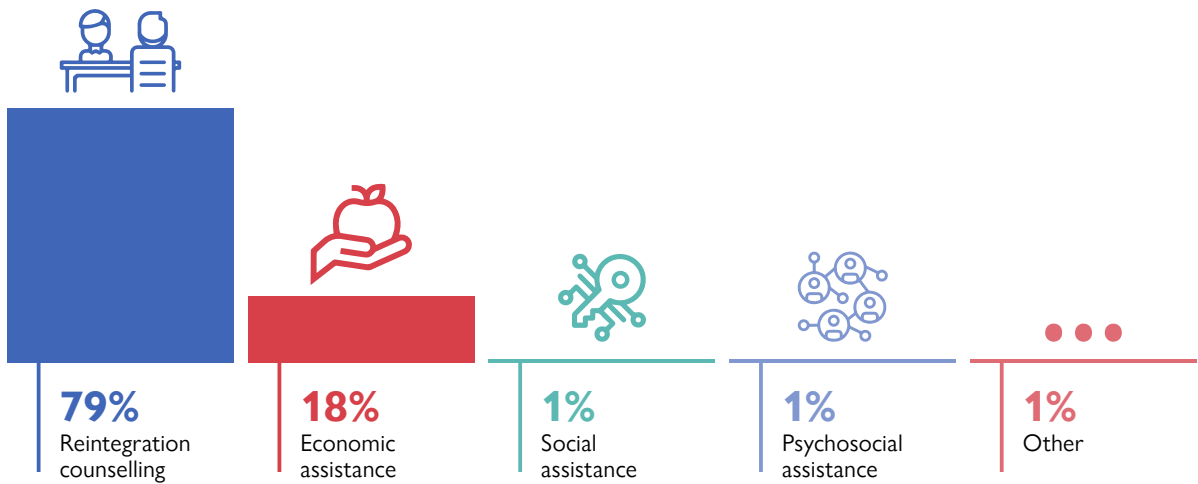
| Types of services provided |



| Reintegration assistance in host countries |



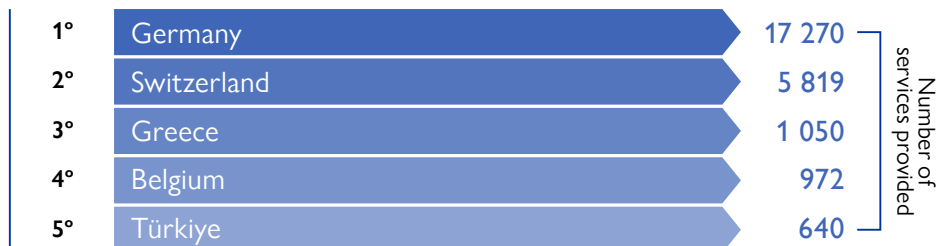
| Types of reintegration assistance provided in host countries |



| Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral in host countries |



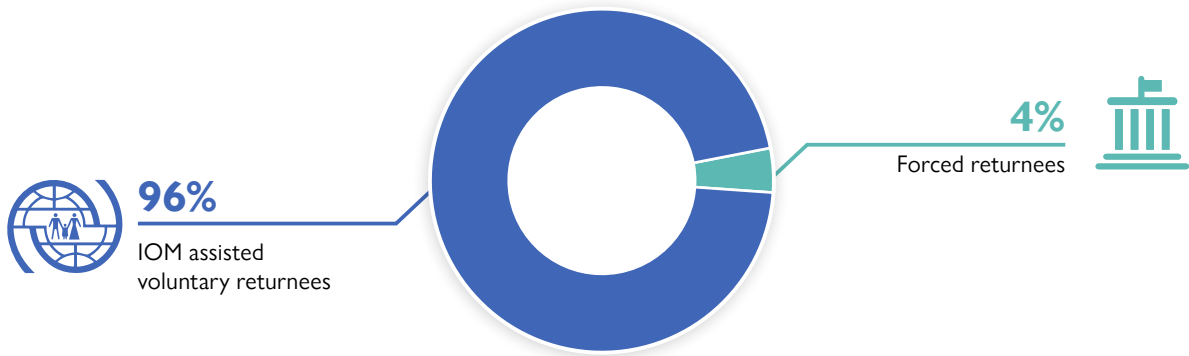
Top 5 host countries for pre-departure reintegration assistance



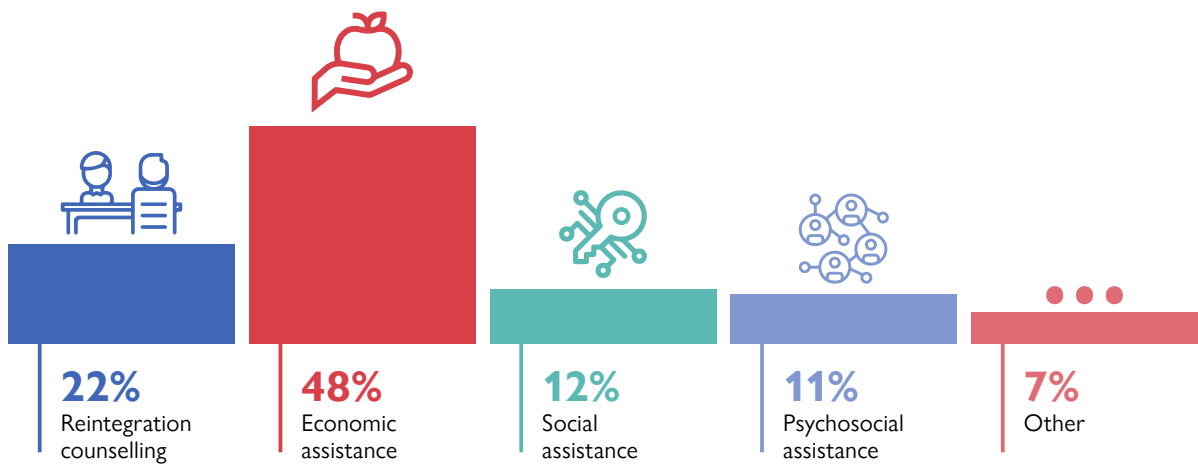
| Reintegration assistance in countries of origin |



| Beneficiaries by type of return |



| Types of reintegration assistance provided in countries of origin |



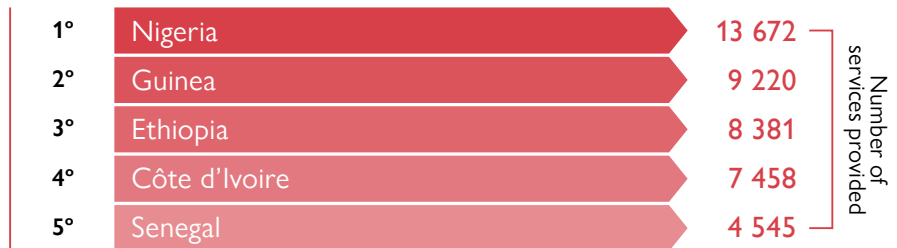
| Reintegration assistance provided directly by IOM or through referral |



| Levels of assistance |



Top 5 countries of origin for post-arrival reintegration assistance





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