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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in the meeting of operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

Editing and layout of this publication was supported with a financial contribution from the European Union as part of EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub under the Pilot Action on Voluntary Return and Sustainable, Community-Based Reintegration project.

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This publication was issued without formal editing by IOM.

Cover photos: As part of community reintegration under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative IOM partnered with a local NGO called RCDO to rehabilitate a multi-purpose community centre. © IOM 2021


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RETURN AND REINTEGRATION
KEY HIGHLIGHTS
2021
In 2021 – as the world entered the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic – international mobility resumed as countries improved their testing capabilities, started with vaccination campaigns and put forth other public health measures. However, because of the continued presence of the virus and its newly emerging variants, 2021 did not see a return to pre-pandemic mobility numbers. IOM continued to assist migrants through return and reintegration activities in 2021, and supported 49,795 migrants in their safe and dignified return home, which represented an increase of 18 per cent compared with the previous year, but was still short of the pre-pandemic numbers by 23 per cent in comparison.

Similar to 2020, the Niger remained the top host country of migrants willing to return, followed by Germany and Libya, a trend that confirms the continued decrease of voluntary returns from the European Economic Area and an increase of voluntary returns from other regions, notably West and Central Africa. Guinea remained the top country of origin of returnees, followed by Mali and Ethiopia.

In parallel, IOM country offices continued to promote the reintegration of migrants through the provision of a wide range of services, in line with its integrated approach to reintegration. This included reintegration counselling as well as economic, social and psychosocial assistance at the individual, collective and community levels. In 2021, a total of 113,331 reintegration activities, both prior to departure in host countries and after arrival in countries of origin, were carried out by 122 country offices worldwide.

In April 2021, IOM released its Policy on the Full Spectrum of Return Readmission and Reintegration, which aims at guiding the work of IOM on return migration through a holistic, rights-based and sustainable development-oriented manner. Moreover, in 2021, IOM continued expanding the Return and Reintegration Platform, which contributes to sharing knowledge and expertise on return and reintegration.

This year’s report is structured along four chapters: the first gives an overview of global numbers and trends in returns supported by IOM, which are further disaggregated by region in the second chapter. The third chapter presents reintegration support IOM provided to returnees at the global level. The fourth and last chapter further disaggregates these numbers by region and highlights some of the good practices in reintegration programming.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors – Yitna Getachew, Rosilyne Borland, Claudette Walls, Dina Afzali, Gerard Tosserams, Bryan Ocaya, Silvan Lange, Noëlle Darbellay and Marina Cakic – would like to thank IOM colleagues Tim Howe, Sacha Chan Kam, Nassima Clerin, Laurence Hunzinger, Nimo Ismail, Rana Jaber, Joselito Cabana, Peppi Kiviniemi-Siddiq, Alem Makonnen, Agueda Marin, Daniel Redondo, Heather Komenda, Aleksandra Izydorczyk and Joy Paone, and all the IOM colleagues in the field, for their valuable contributions to this report.
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INTRODUCTION

Global mobility restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges for returnees in 2020. It is estimated that the pandemic reduced migration in 2020 by approximately 27 per cent. Given the lifting of travel restrictions in many countries around the world in 2021, more and more people decided to migrate across borders for a variety of reasons. Likewise, the number of migrants who requested IOM to assist them to voluntarily return to their countries of origin started increasing again.

With the ongoing changes in global migration patterns, many traditional countries of emigration are now increasingly also becoming countries of transit or destination. This means that return and reintegration are no longer the concern of only a limited number of countries or regions, but have become a policy priority for the migration governance and development strategies of an increasing number of countries. This report highlights some of the innovative practices implemented by IOM offices worldwide, and provides an overview of regional and global trends in IOM supported return and reintegration programmes in 2021.
Unless specified otherwise, the data presented in the following graphs include two types of assisted returns: assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) and voluntary humanitarian return (VHR).²

² More recently, assisted return support has also found application in humanitarian settings, in the form of voluntary humanitarian return (VHR). For this year’s report, VHR numbers only include cases of migrants returning to their countries of origin from Libya and Yemen.
2021 AT A GLANCE

RETURN OVERVIEW

| Sex breakdown |

76% MALE

24% FEMALE

| Age breakdown |

16% Children

55% BOYS

45% GIRLS

0–8 9%

9–11 2%

12–14 2%

15–17 3%

18–24 29%

25–34 32%

35–49 17%

50+ 6%
Types of vulnerabilities

- 58% Migrants with health-related needs
- 21% Identified victims of trafficking
- 21% Unaccompanied or separated children

4,446 Migrants in vulnerable situations

- 150 Number of countries of origin
- 125 Number of host countries
- 120 Number of origin and host countries
2021 AT A GLANCE

REINTEGRATION OVERVIEW

113,331
Number of reintegration services provided

121
Number of IOM country offices involved in reintegration activities

| Provision of reintegration assistance |

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 |

Pre-departure 25%  Post-arrival 75%

| Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral |

86% IOM direct assistance 14% Referral
The individual level of assistance addresses the specific needs and vulnerabilities of returnees and returning family members. The collective level of assistance targets interventions at the group level, and is tailored to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of the returnees and returning family members. The community level encompasses assistance that responds to the needs, vulnerabilities and concerns of communities to which migrants return, including returnee family and non-migrant population.
CHAPTER 1
RETURN OVERVIEW
While the world is still reeling from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase of movement, as some countries have increased their testing capabilities and 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 migrants, 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 to return to their countries of origin.

### Assisted voluntary return and reintegration

IOM AVRR programmes provide a human rights-based, migrant-centred and cost-effective option to migrants who desire or need to return home but lack the means to do so. For this reason, AVRR is an integral part of a comprehensive approach to migration management. AVRR assistance can also be provided to migrants in vulnerable situations (such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied and separated children, and/or migrants with health-related needs, among others), for whom strict safeguards are applied throughout the entire return and reintegration process. AVRR programmes aim to provide administrative, logistical and financial support to migrants who are unable or unwilling to remain in the host/transit country and who decide to return to their country of origin. It should be noted that the abbreviation AVRR is used throughout, although the level of reintegration assistance varies from mission to mission.

### Voluntary humanitarian return

VHR is a form of assisted return which is applied in humanitarian settings. VHR often represents a life-saving measure for migrants who are stranded or in detention. Similar to AVRR principles and objectives, the IOM approach to VHR is based on the respect of migrants’ rights, including the right to return, and the provision of timely, unbiased and reliable information on the return and reintegration process, to ensure migrants can make an informed decision on whether to return or not. It is also accompanied by vulnerability and medical screenings to ensure appropriate safeguards are put in place throughout the whole return and reintegration process.

### Main trends 2021

While the world is still reeling from the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been an increase of movement, as some countries have increased their testing capabilities and 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 migrants, 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 to return 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 a share of 34 per cent of the total number of migrants assisted to return in 2021, signifying a decrease from 39 per cent in 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.

| Capacity-development activities in 2021 |

Eighty-two IOM country and regional offices facilitated capacity-building activities on safe and dignified return and/or sustainable reintegration. These activities focused, among other aspects, on awareness-raising, strengthening reintegration policies, adoption of guidelines, legislative review, ethical recruitment and sharing best practices from different community-based reintegration projects.

Unless specified otherwise, the data presented in the following graphs include two types of assisted returns: AVRR and VHR.
### Types of returns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assisted voluntary return and reintegration</th>
<th>Voluntary humanitarian return</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AVRR 43,428</td>
<td>VHR 6,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Number of assisted voluntary return and reintegration beneficiaries, 2005–2021

![Graph showing the number of assisted voluntary return and reintegration beneficiaries from 2005 to 2021.](image)

### Sex breakdown

- **76%** Male
- **24%** Female
### Age breakdown

- 0–8: 9%
- 9–11: 2%
- 12–14: 2%
- 15–17: 3%
- 18–24: 29%
- 25–34: 32%
- 35–49: 17%
- 50+: 6%

### Vulnerabilities

- Migrants with health-related needs: 58%
- Identified victims of trafficking: 21%
- Unaccompanied or separated children: 21%

### Migrants in vulnerable situations assisted to return, 2014–2021

- 2014: 1,694
- 2015: 3,258
- 2016: 3,158
- 2017: 3,331
- 2018: 4,219
- 2019: 4,943
- 2020: 4,466
- 2021: 4,446
### Regions of Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions of Origin</th>
<th>Host Regions</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and North America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and Horn of Africa</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4 Unless specified otherwise, the data presented in the following graphs include two types of assisted returns: assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) and voluntary humanitarian return (VHR).
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.
Pre-departure check for returnees before entering Mitiga airport. © IOM 2021/Moyad ZAGHANDI
From Asia and the Pacific

Regions of origin:
- Asia and the Pacific: 543
- Central and North America: 59
- and the Caribbean: 10
- West and Central Africa: 42
- East and Horn of Africa: 36
- Middle East and North Africa: 35
- Southern Africa: 16
- South America: 10
- European Economic Area: 10
- South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia: 2
- Europe and Central Asia: 32

Total: 753

To Asia and the Pacific

Host regions:
- European Economic Area: 3,796
- South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia: 1,912
- Middle East and North Africa: 1,296
- Asia and the Pacific: 543
- East and Horn of Africa: 43
- West and Central Africa: 36
- Central and North America and the Caribbean: 14
- Southern Africa: 1

Total: 7,641

Source: IOM, 2020 Return and Reintegration Key Highlights, 2021

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.
**RETURN FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

- **753** Migrants assisted from Asia and the Pacific (2% of the total caseload)

**Sex breakdown**
- **71%** Male
- **29%** Female
- **17%** Children

**Age breakdown**
- 0–8: 11%
- 9–11: 2%
- 12–14: 2%
- 15–17: 2%
- 18–24: 13%
- 25–34: 35%
- 35–49: 27%
- 50+: 8%

**Vulnerability breakdown**
- **62%** Identified victims of trafficking
- **61** Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted from Asia and the Pacific
- **28%** Migrants with health-related needs
- **10%** Unaccompanied or separated children

**Top 5 host countries**
- 1º Australia: 248
- 2º Malaysia: 186
- 3º Indonesia: 107
- 4º Japan: 39
- 5º China: 35

**Return and Reintegration Key Highlights 2021**
RETURNS TO ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

7,641 Migrants assisted to Asia and the Pacific of the total caseload

Sex breakdown
- 86% Male
- 14% Female
- 4% Children

Age breakdown
- 0–8: 4%
- 9–11
- 12–14
- 15–17
- 18–24: 24%
- 25–34: 36%
- 35–49: 27%
- 50+: 9%

Vulnerability breakdown
- 83% Migrants with health-related needs
- 15% Identified victims of trafficking
- 2% Unaccompanied or separated children

Top 5 countries of origin
1° Pakistan: 2,197
2° Bangladesh: 1,328
3° Afghanistan: 1,310
4° Islamic Republic of Iran (the): 483
5° Mongolia: 444
Returns from Central and North America and the Caribbean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of origin</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central and North America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and Horn of Africa</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 742

Returns to Central and North America and the Caribbean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host region</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
<td>816</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central and North America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and Horn of Africa</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 1,612

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.
**Returns from Central and North America and the Caribbean**

- **742** Migrants assisted from Central and North America and the Caribbean (1% of the total caseload)

**Vulnerability breakdown**
- 75% Unaccompanied or separated children
- 10% Identified victims of trafficking
- 15% Migrants with health-related needs

**Age breakdown**
- 0–8: 18%
- 9–11: 8%
- 12–14: 6%
- 15–17: 5%
- 18–24: 18%
- 25–34: 23%
- 35–49: 18%
- 50+: 4%

**Sex breakdown**
- 50% Male
- 50% Female
- 37% Children

**Top 5 host countries**
1. Mexico: 473
2. Guatemala: 85
3. Honduras: 61
4. El Salvador: 52
5. Panama: 38
1,612
Migrants assisted to Central and North America and the Caribbean

3% of the total caseload

Sex breakdown
52% Male
48% Female
32% Children

Age breakdown
- 0–8: 17%
- 9–11: 6%
- 12–14: 5%
- 15–17: 4%
- 18–24: 16%
- 25–34: 26%
- 35–49: 19%
- 50+: 7%

Vulnerability breakdown
- 136 Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted to Central and North America and the Caribbean
- 46% Migrants with health-related needs
- 41% Unaccompanied or separated children
- 13% Identified victims of trafficking

Top 5 countries of origin
1º Honduras: 517
2º El Salvador: 376
3º United States (the): 238
4º Nicaragua: 147
5º Guatemala: 84

Migrants assisted

Return and Reintegration Key Highlights 2021
RETURNS FROM EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of origin</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East and Horn of Africa</td>
<td>1 678</td>
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<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
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<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central and North America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>249</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total | 2 100

RETURNS TO EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>2 676</td>
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<tr>
<td>East and Horn of Africa</td>
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<td>Southern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
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<td>European Economic Area</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central and North America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total | 5 295

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.
RETURNS FROM EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

2,100
Migrants assisted from East and Horn of Africa

Sex breakdown

- 74% Male
- 26% Female

- 35% Children

Age breakdown

- 0–8: 10%
- 9–11: 2%
- 12–14: 5%
- 15–17: 18%
- 18–24: 38%
- 25–34: 17%
- 35–49: 7%
- 50+: 3%

Vulnerability breakdown

- 91% Unaccompanied or separated children
- 455 Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted from East and Horn of Africa
- 1% Migrants with health-related needs
- 8% Identified victims of trafficking

Top 5 host countries

1º Djibouti
2º Sudan (the)
3º Somalia
4º United Republic of Tanzania (the)
5º Kenya

Migrants assisted

- Djibouti: 911
- Sudan (the): 535
- Somalia: 344
- United Republic of Tanzania (the): 200
- Kenya: 79
Identified victims of trafficking: 73%

Migrants assisted to East and Horn of Africa: 5,295
- 11% of the total caseload
- 11% of the total

Age breakdown:
- 0–8: 5%
- 9–11: 1%
- 12–14: 2%
- 15–17: 13%
- 18–24: 47%
- 25–34: 23%
- 35–49: 7%
- 50+: 2%

Sex breakdown:
- Male: 84%
- Female: 16%
- Children: 21%

Vulnerability breakdown:
- Migrants with health-related needs: 14%
- Unaccompanied or separated children: 13%
- Identified victims of trafficking: 73%

Top 5 countries of origin:
1º Ethiopia: 3,943
2º Sudan (the): 896
3º Somalia: 152
4º Uganda: 75
5º United Republic of Tanzania (the): 72

Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted to East and Horn of Africa: 639

Migrants assisted: 5,295
**RETURN S FROM EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of origin</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>3,796</td>
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<td>• Middle East and North Africa</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Central and North America and the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>• West and Central Africa</td>
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<td>• European Economic Area</td>
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<td>• East and Horn of Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Southern Africa</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>16,993</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**RETURN S TO EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host region</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• European Economic Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>• East and Horn of Africa</td>
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<td>• Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>• South America</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• West and Central Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>389</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RETURN AND REINTEGRATION KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2021**

**Source:** IOM, 2020 Return and Reintegration Key Highlights, 2021

**Note:** This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.
Migrants assisted from European Economic Area

- **16,993** migrants assisted from European Economic Area, **34%** of the total caseload.

**Sex breakdown**
- **67%** male
- **33%** female
- **21%** children

**Age breakdown**
- 0–8: 5%
- 9–11: 1%
- 12–14: 2%
- 15–17: 13%
- 18–24: 47%
- 25–34: 23%
- 35–49: 7%
- 50+: 2%

**Vulnerability breakdown**
- **91%** migrants with health-related needs
- **1,534** total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted from European Economic Area
- **5%** identified victims of trafficking
- **4%** unaccompanied or separated children

**Top 5 host countries**
1. Germany: 6,785
2. Greece: 2,736
3. Belgium: 1,665
4. Netherlands (the): 1,448
5. Austria: 1,356
**389** Migrants assisted to European Economic Area of the total caseload

**Sex breakdown**
- **69% Male**
- **31% Female**
- **19% Children**

**Age breakdown**
- 0–8: 11%
- 9–11: 3%
- 12–14: 3%
- 15–17: 2%
- 18–24: 9%
- 25–34: 30%
- 35–49: 30%
- 50+: 12%

**Vulnerability breakdown**
- **69%** Identified victims of trafficking
- **59 Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted to European Economic Area**
- **19% Migrants with health-related needs**
- **12% Unaccompanied or separated children**

**Top 5 countries of origin**
1º Romania 161
2º Bulgaria 48
3º Slovakia 41
4º Poland 27
5º Spain 24

**Migrants assisted**
### REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### RETURNS FROM MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of origin</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>8,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and Horn of Africa</td>
<td>2,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>1,269</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>2,54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Eastern Europe, Eastern</td>
<td>2,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and North America</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and the Caribbean</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                             | 12,588            |

#### RETURNS TO MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host region</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
<td>2,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Eastern Europe, Eastern</td>
<td>446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and North America</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and the Caribbean</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                             | 3,039             |


Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.
**Return and Reintegration Key Highlights 2021**

**Returns from Middle East and North Africa**

- **12,588** migrants assisted from Middle East and North Africa

- **25%** of the total caseload

**Sex Breakdown**
- **78%** Male
- **22%** Female

**Age Breakdown**

- **9%** 0–8
- **1%** 9–11
- **3%** 12–14
- **3%** 15–17
- **29%** 18–24
- **39%** 25–34
- **16%** 35–49
- **3%** 50+

**Vulnerability Breakdown**
- **69%** Migrants with health-related needs
- **24%** Identified victims of trafficking
- **7%** Unaccompanied or separated children

**Top 5 Host Countries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Migrants Assisted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>4,332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>2,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>2,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
<td>1,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>975</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Migrants Assisted**

- **6,221** under assisted voluntary return
- **6,367** under voluntary humanitarian return

- **49%** assisted voluntary return
- **51%** voluntary humanitarian return

Libya: 4,332
Yemen: 2,305
3,039 Migrants assisted to Middle East and North Africa

- Identified victims of trafficking: 0.1%
- Migrants with health-related needs: 80.9%
- Unaccompanied or separated children: 19%
- Returns to Middle East and North Africa: 6%

### Sex Breakdown
- Male: 81%
- Female: 19%
- Children: 16%

### Age Breakdown
- 0-8: 9%
- 9-11: 3%
- 12-14: 2%
- 15-17: 2%
- 18-24: 20%
- 25-34: 33%
- 35-49: 23%
- 50+: 8%

### Vulnerability Breakdown
- Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted to Middle East and North Africa: 220
- Migrants with health-related needs: 80.9%
- Identified victims of trafficking: 0.1%

### Top 5 Countries of Origin
1. Iraq: 1,886
2. Egypt: 443
3. Morocco: 258
4. Algeria: 180
5. Tunisia: 113

### Regional Highlights
- 24
RETURN FROM SOUTH AMERICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of origin</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central and North America</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and the Caribbean</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>East and Horn of Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
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</table>

RETURN TO SOUTH AMERICA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host region</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
<td>1 135</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central and North America</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and the Caribbean</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Eastern Europe, Eastern</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1 189</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.
17 Migrants assisted from South America of the total caseload

Sex breakdown
- 50% Male
- 50% Female

30% Children

Age breakdown
- 0–8: 18%
- 9–11: 12%
- 12–14: 12%
- 15–17: 24%
- 18–24: 17%
- 25–34: 6%
- 35–49: 23%
- 50+: 0%

Vulnerability breakdown
- Identified victims of trafficking: 67%
- Unaccompanied or separated children: 33%

Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted from South America: 3

Top 4 host countries
- 1º Peru: 7
- 2º Colombia: 6
- 3º Ecuador: 2
- 4º Uruguay: 1
1,189 Migrants assisted to South America

- 52% Male
- 48% Female

- 25% Children

Age breakdown:
- 0–8: 14%
- 9–11: 4%
- 12–14: 4%
- 15–17: 3%
- 18–24: 10%
- 25–34: 22%
- 35–49: 27%
- 50+: 16%

Vulnerability breakdown:
- 70% Migrants with health-related needs
- 23% Identified victims of trafficking
- 7% Unaccompanied or separated children

Top 5 countries of origin:
1º Brazil: 556
2º Colombia: 339
3º Peru: 71
4º Paraguay: 73
5º Argentina: 46

Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted to South America: 57

Returns to South America: 2%
SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

RETURNS FROM
SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of origin</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>1,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central and North America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and Horn of Africa</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern America</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,757</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RETURNS TO
SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host region</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
<td>7,496</td>
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<tr>
<td>South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,818</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.
Returns from South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- 2,757 migrants assisted from South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, of the total caseload.

**Sex breakdown**
- 87% Male
- 13% Female
- 21% Children

**Age breakdown**
- 0–8: 5%
- 9–11: 1%
- 12–14: 2%
- 15–17: 13%
- 18–24: 47%
- 25–34: 23%
- 35–49: 7%
- 50+: 2%

**Vulnerability breakdown**
- 48% Identified victims of trafficking
- 35% Unaccompanied or separated children
- 17% Migrants with health-related needs

**Top 5 host countries**
- 1º Türkiye: 1,748
- 2º Belarus: 377
- 3º Bosnia and Herzegovina: 206
- 4º Georgia: 151
- 5º Serbia: 111

Identified victims of trafficking

Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted from South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

35%

Unaccompanied or separated children

17%

Migrants with health-related needs

64
7,818 migrants assisted to South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia of the total caseload.

Sex breakdown:
- 58% Male
- 42% Female

27% Children

Age breakdown:
- 0-8: 17%
- 9-11: 4%
- 12-14: 4%
- 15-17: 2%
- 18-24: 12%
- 25-34: 23%
- 35-49: 24%
- 50+: 14%

Vulnerability breakdown:
- 91% Migrants with health-related needs
- 866 Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted to South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- 7% Identified victims of trafficking
- 2% Unaccompanied or separated children

Top 5 countries of origin:
1. Georgia: 1,758
2. Russian Federation (the): 1,100
3. Albania: 771
4. Ukraine: 640
5. Republic of Moldova (the): 526

Migrants assisted to South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
**RETURNS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of origin</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• East and Horn of Africa</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Southern Africa</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• West and Central Africa</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Central and North America</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and the Caribbean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RETURNS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host region</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Southern Africa</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• European Economic Area</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• West and Central Africa</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• East and Horn of Africa</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host region</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Southern Africa</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• European Economic Area</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• West and Central Africa</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• East and Horn of Africa</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**

**Source:** IOM, 2020 Return and Reintegration Key Highlights, 2021.

**Note:** This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.
RETURNS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA

618 Migrants assisted from Southern Africa

0.9% of the total caseload

Sex breakdown

80% MALE
20% FEMALE

27% Children

0–8: 8%
9–11: 2%
12–14: 4%
15–17: 13%
18–24: 34%
25–34: 23%
35–49: 15%
50+: 1%

Age breakdown

Vulnerability breakdown

85% Unaccompanied or separated children

13% Identified victims of trafficking

2% Migrants with health-related needs

Top 5 host countries

1º South Africa
2º Malawi
3º Zambia
4º Zimbabwe
5º Namibia

TOTAL MIGRANTS IN VULNERABLE SITUATIONS ASSISTED FROM SOUTH AMERICA

61

Migrants assisted

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS
RETURNS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA

**716**
Migrants assisted to Southern Africa

1% of the total caseload

**Sex breakdown**

62% MALE
38% FEMALE

18% Children

**Age breakdown**

- 0–8: 13%
- 9–11: 3%
- 12–14: 1%
- 15–17: 1%
- 18–24: 16%
- 25–34: 36%
- 35–49: 23%
- 50+: 7%

**Vulnerability breakdown**

77% Migrants with health-related needs

26 Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted to Southern Africa

23% Identified victims of trafficking

**Top 5 countries of origin**

1º Democratic Republic of the Congo (the) - 295
2º Malawi - 180
3º Zimbabwe - 97
4º Comoros (the) - 41
5º South Africa - 21

**Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted to Southern Africa**
### Returns from West and Central Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region of origin</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>12,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and Horn of Africa</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central and North America and the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**: 13,227

---

### Returns to West and Central Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host region</th>
<th>Number of returns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>12,835</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>8,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Economic Area</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and Horn of Africa</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Africa</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**: 22,143

---


Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.
RETURNS FROM WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

13,227 Migrants assisted from West and Central Africa

Sex breakdown

87% MALE
13% FEMALE
12% Children

Age breakdown

- 0–8: 6%
- 9–11: 1%
- 12–14: 2%
- 15–17: 3%
- 18–24: 48%
- 25–34: 31%
- 35–49: 8%
- 50+: 1%

Vulnerability breakdown

- Identified victims of trafficking: 48%
- Unaccompanied or separated children: 35%
- Migrants with health-related needs: 17%
- Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted from West and Central Africa: 705

Top 5 host countries

1º: Niger (the) - 10,573
2º: Chad - 880
3º: Mauritania - 611
4º: Mali - 574
5º: Gambia (the) - 116

Identified victims of trafficking

Migrants assisted from West and Central Africa
22,143 Migrants assisted to West and Central Africa

- **Migrants with health-related needs**: 52%
- **Identified victims of trafficking**: 32%
- **Unaccompanied or separated children**: 16%

**Age breakdown**

- 0–8: 9%
- 9–11: 1%
- 12–14: 1%
- 15–17: 2%
- 18–24: 38%
- 25–34: 36%
- 35–49: 11%
- 50+: 2%

**Vulnerability breakdown**

- **52%** Migrants with health-related needs
- **2,004** Total migrants in vulnerable situations assisted to West and Central Africa
- **32%** Identified victims of trafficking
- **16%** Unaccompanied or separated children

**Top 5 countries of origin**

1. **Guinea**: 5,165
2. **Mali**: 4,453
3. **Nigeria**: 3,322
4. **Sierra Leone**: 1,793
5. **Côte d’Ivoire**: 1,759

**Returns to West and Central Africa**

- **22,143** Migrants assisted to West and Central Africa
Almaz set up a hair salon in the Southern Nations, Nationalities, and People's Region of Ethiopia after her return from Libya. © IOM 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES/AREAS IN WHICH REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algeria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
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<td>Azerbaijan</td>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>Belarus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>Burkina Faso</td>
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<td>Burundi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
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<td>Chile</td>
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<td>Congo (the)</td>
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<td>Costa Rica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
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<td>Cyprus</td>
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<td>Czechia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Djibouti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>El Salvador</td>
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<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<td>Islamic Republic of Iran (the)</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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Reintegration is generally understood as a multidimensional process enabling individuals to re-establish the economic, social and psychosocial relationships needed to maintain life, livelihood, and dignity and achieve inclusion in civic life.

**Sustainable reintegration**

As part of its integrated approach to reintegration (2017), IOM defines sustainable reintegration as follows:

Reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than a necessity.

IOM asserts that reintegration support can be successful if it is integrated and sustainable, and ensures for a level of reinclusion across the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions. Thus, the Organization, in coordination with a wide array of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, intervenes at different levels in its reintegration programmes. More specifically, in this report, reintegration assistance builds on the three levels of assistance across the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions:

- **The economic dimension** covers aspects of reintegration that contribute to re entering the economic life and sustained livelihood.
- **The social dimension** addresses returning migrants’ access to public services and infrastructure in their countries of origin, including access to health care, education and housing.
- **The psychosocial dimension** includes the reinsertion of returning migrants into personal support networks (such as friends and neighbours) and civil society structures (associations and civic life in general). This also encompasses the re engagement of the values, traditions and ways of living in the country of origin.

IOM’s integrated approach to reintegration is further operationalized in the *Reintegration Handbook*. 
Provision of reintegration assistance

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).

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.
REINTEGRATION OVERVIEW

REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IN HOST COUNTRIES

- 28,689 services provided
- 48 IOM country offices in host countries
- 98.6% of the services were provided at the individual level

Types of reintegration assistance provided in host countries

- 79% Reintegration counselling
- 18% Economic assistance
- 1% Social assistance
- 1% Psychosocial assistance
- 1% Other

Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral

- 67% IOM direct assistance
- 33% Referral

Top 5 host countries for pre-departure reintegration assistance

1º Germany 17,270
2º Switzerland 5,819
3º Greece 1,050
4º Belgium 972
5º Türkiye 640

CH 3
REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

104
Number of IOM country offices in countries of origin
84,644
Services provided

| Beneficiaries by type of returns |

96%
IOM assisted voluntary returnees
4%
Forced returnees

| Types of reintegration assistance provided in countries of origin |

22%
Reintegration counselling
48%
Economic assistance
12%
Social assistance
11%
Psychosocial assistance
7%
Other
| Reintegration assistance provided directly by IOM or through referral |

92% IOM direct assistance
8% Referral

| Levels of assistance |

85% Individual
14% Collective
1% Community

Top 5 countries of origin for post-arrival reintegration assistance

1° Nigeria 13 672
2° Guinea 9 220
3° Ethiopia 8 381
4° Cote d’Ivoire 7 458
5° Senegal 4 545
The European Union–IOM Knowledge Management Hub (KMH) was established in September 2017 in the framework of the Pilot Action on Voluntary Return and Sustainable, Community-Based Reintegration, funded by the European Union to strengthen learning across return and reintegration programmes, and support the harmonization of approaches, processes and tools under the European Union–IOM Actions⁵ and beyond. The box below highlights two important knowledge products that were released in 2021.

Knowledge Paper No.2
Fostering and strengthening interlinkages between sustainable development and reintegration programmes

In August 2021, KMH produced the second publication in the IOM KMH Knowledge Paper Series, Knowledge Paper No. 2, which examines the interlinkages between sustainable development and migrant reintegration.

The objective of the paper is to provide ideas and practical information to reintegration and development practitioners on how reintegration and development programmes can be better connected to increase the sustainability of migrant reintegration and to maximize the positive impact of reintegration on sustainable development.

While efforts have been made to maximize the sustainable development potential of reintegration and build upon development interventions to foster sustainable reintegration, the paper emphasizes that more can be done. For example, efforts are needed to systematically leverage this link to foster sustainable reintegration and advance sustainable development outcomes to better anchor reintegration interventions in local development priorities, such as the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the environmental aspect of the interlinkages between reintegration and sustainable development should be given particular attention. Several recommendations are proposed in the paper to support progress in strengthening the linkage, highlighting the need to:

- Design and implement reintegration interventions to maximize their sustainable development potential, and development interventions to support sustainable reintegration;
- Strengthen synergies between development and reintegration programmes and enhance cooperation and coordination;
- Increase ownership and targeted actions of countries of origin, host countries and donors;
- Produce more knowledge and evidence to better understand the interlinkages between reintegration and sustainable development and enhance related programming.

Read the full paper here.

⁵ In line with the European Union external policy and migration priorities, IOM and the European Union have jointly developed the following programmes focusing on migrant protection, dignified voluntary return and sustainable reintegration: European Union–IOM Joint Initiative in Sahel and Lake Chad, North Africa and Horn of Africa; Pilot Action on Voluntary Return and Sustainable, Community-Based Reintegration; Improving Reintegration of Returnees in Afghanistan (RADA) and Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance (Prottasha).
Another important KMH achievement in 2021 was the development of the Child Reintegration Monitoring Toolkit. Although numerous children return to their countries of origin each year – through forced, assisted or spontaneous returns, both alone and with families or care givers, most return and reintegration frameworks are to date child-blind, focusing on adults or exclusively on the household level. Therefore, there is a need for a child-sensitive approach to monitoring in order to capture the experiences of child returnees and to be able to respond to their specific needs.

With financial support from the European Union, IOM and Samuel Hall developed the Child Reintegration Monitoring Toolkit. This work builds on previous tools, such as IOM’s Reintegration Sustainability Survey and Save the Children’s Durable Solutions for Children Toolkit. The Toolkit has the aim of filling the gap for child-focused, age-disaggregated reintegration data and providing the basis for the establishment of monitoring systems that focus specifically on child returnees. Following its official launch, the Toolkit was presented in a webinar jointly organized by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) and the IOM.

The Toolkit is aimed at stakeholders working in the field of reintegration – including international organizations, civil society organizations, and governmental actors – that require the tools to operationalize standards for the reintegration of child returnees. The Toolkit allows stakeholders to monitor the extent to which child returnees reintegrate in a sustainable manner in the communities to which they return. It provides guidance around data collection, data analysis and interpretation, and outlines a series of tools which can be used to monitor children’s reintegration. In addition, the Toolkit offers guidance on conducting interviews with children to support practitioners in using these tools in an appropriate and child-safe manner.

Access the full Toolkit [here](#) and the webinar [here](#).
CHAPTER 4
REGIONAL REINTEGRATION HIGHLIGHTS

A returnee from Belgium in 2020. © IOM 2021/Nino ORMOTSADZE
Reintegration assistance services provided to returnees of the services were provided at the individual level.

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<th>Countries involved in reintegration assistance</th>
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<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<th>Pre-departure and post-arrival reintegration assistance</th>
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<td>Pre-departure</td>
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<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beneficiaries by type of returns</td>
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</table>

- 98.5% IOM assisted voluntary returnees
- 0.5% Forced returnees
- 1% Returnees assisted through programmes considered voluntary by other actors

| Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral |

- 98% IOM direct assistance
- 2% Referral

| Types of reintegration assistance |

- 46% Reintegration counselling
- 28% Economic assistance
- 9% Social assistance
- 2% Psychosocial assistance
- 15% Other
Since 2017, IOM Bangladesh has implemented the “Bangladesh: Sustainable Reintegration and Improved Migration Governance (Prottasha)” project. The project is funded by the European Union and has the objective of contributing to the sustainable reintegration of returnees.

Prottasha is structured according to the integrated approach of IOM to reintegration, with interventions at the individual, community and structural levels targeting the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions of reintegration. The project works with returnees in the community to deliver comprehensive reintegration assistance. In order to do this, the project has established 10 Reintegration Service Centres in areas of high return around the country. The Centres serve both as information hubs for returnees and assistance, and referral centres from which implementation of tailored economic, social and psychosocial reintegration plans can be supported.

In 2021, COVID-19-related lockdowns were a real challenge for the counselling component of the project. In response, the project initiated tele-counselling services with trained psychosocial counsellors to provide mental health support and increase awareness on mental health needs. While admittedly not as effective as in-person counselling, of the approximately 500 returnees who received tele-counselling support in 2021, 77 per cent of them reported that it had made a considerable difference in their reintegration.
Reintegration assistance services were provided to returnees of the total caseload of services.

2,800

Pre-departure and post-arrival reintegration assistance

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<th>Countries involved in reintegration assistance</th>
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<td>Costa Rica</td>
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<td>Cuba</td>
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Pre-departure: 0%
Post-arrival: 100%
CENTRAL AND NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

| Beneficiaries by type of returns |

- 99% Forced returnees
- 1% IOM assisted voluntary returnees

| Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral |

- 96% IOM direct assistance
- 4% Referral

| Types of reintegration assistance |

- 1% Reintegration counselling
- 10% Economic assistance
- 11% Social assistance
- 76% Psychosocial assistance
- 2% Other
REGIONAL GOOD PRACTICE

Linking returned migrants to employment and training opportunities

In the Central and North America and the Caribbean region, IOM implements the Integrated Responses on Migration from Central America (IRM) project, which aims to support the dignified reception and sustainable reintegration of returned migrants by linking them to employment and training opportunities in order to facilitate reinsertion into their communities. More specifically, the project supports and strengthens stakeholders’ capacity to facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returnees in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and to assist the integration of migrants in Belize, Costa Rica and Panama (2020–2025).

In parallel with the IRM, for the first time in the region, IOM is implementing a project based on the Reintegration Handbook, which incorporates the three dimensions (psychosocial, social and economic) and the three levels (individual, community and structural) for providing direct assistance to returning migrants and implementing a case management approach towards their reintegration. This effort includes coordinated work with governments in the countries of origin, as well as with civil society and the private sector.

Although this project focuses most of its activities on reintegration, based on the IRM experience, it must continue to support the countries of origin in strengthening the capacities to assist the dignified reception of returnees, as a fundamental step towards a sustainable reintegration.
EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

10,300
Reintegration assistance services were provided to returnees

9%
of the total caseload
of services

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<th>Countries involved in reintegration assistance</th>
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<th>Pre-departure and post-arrival reintegration assistance</th>
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<td>Pre-departure: 1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-arrival: 99%</td>
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</table>
EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA

| Beneficiaries by type of returns |

93% IOM assisted voluntary returnees

1% Forced returnees

6% Returnees assisted through programmes considered voluntary by other actors

| Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral |

94% IOM direct assistance

6% Referral

| Types of reintegration assistance |

13% Reintegration counselling

58% Economic assistance

6% Social assistance

20% Psychosocial assistance

3% Other
Since its launch in March 2017, the European Union–IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa (“European Union–IOM Joint Initiative”) has implemented 57 community-based reintegration (CBR) projects across Ethiopia, Somalia and the Sudan (as of March 2022). These projects address context-specific needs of the target locations that are both high areas of returns as well as outward migration, which are identified by local authorities, community members and returnees alike.

In 2021, the European Union–IOM Joint Initiative increased its effort to scale up its CBR projects that focus on mitigating climate change impacts. In Ethiopia, 12 CBR projects have been directly contributing to this priority. Among them are three successfully self sustaining projects implemented in partnership with Jimma University, with expertise in agriculture and veterinary medicine.

To ensure the sustainability of these CBR projects, the European Union–IOM Joint Initiative has fostered strong local community and government engagement. Such effort has resulted in the local government availing access to land, electricity and water, and promoting market linkages, while the communities and beneficiaries have provided free labour and locally available raw materials. These three interlinked projects are all centred on locally available resources and opportunities, and contribute to environmental rehabilitation, while incorporating awareness-raising on risks of irregular migration.
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

26,727
Reintegration assistance services were provided to returnees

24%
of the total caseload of services

| Countries involved in reintegration assistance |

Austria | Hungary | Portugal |
Belgium | Iceland | Romania |
Bulgaria | Ireland | Slovakia |
Cyprus | Italy | Spain |
Czechia | Luxembourg | Sweden |
Finland | Malta | Switzerland |
France | Netherlands (the) | United Kingdom (the) |
Germany | Norway | Poland |
Greece

| Pre-departure and post-arrival reintegration assistance |

Pre-departure 99%
Post-arrival 1%
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

| Beneficiaries by type of returns |

- 99% IOM assisted voluntary returnees
- 1% Returnees assisted through programmes considered voluntary by other actors

| Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral |

- 95% IOM direct assistance
- 5% Referral

**Types of reintegration assistance**

- 82% Reintegration counselling
- 17% Economic assistance
- 1% Other
In April 2021, the IOM Offices in France and Georgia launched an assisted voluntary return project dedicated to Georgian migrants with health-related needs, who were seeking to return to Georgia. Funded by the French office for Immigration and Integration, this pilot project aims to provide assistance to 80 migrants requiring on going medical treatment and continuation of care, in addition to supporting their family members, thus targeting a total of approximately 180 persons.

The project offers safe and dignified return and includes the provision of medical support before and during travel, as well as post-arrival medical reintegration assistance. It is particularly relevant for those who have received a negative decision to their asylum claim or request for residence permit for medical care and find themselves in precarious and vulnerable situations.

Upon arrival in Georgia, project beneficiaries are provided with secondary transportation until the final destination, including with an ambulance if needed. In Georgia, the IOM presence in the capital city Tbilisi and in four sub-offices throughout the country is key to delivering effective and tailor-made reintegration assistance to project beneficiaries. Those are entitled to a medical reintegration grant of up to EUR 1,500 covering any medical needs over a six-month period after the return. Following finalization of this pilot project, a lessons-learned report will be drafted based on the monitoring of the beneficiaries as well as on the experiences of IOM and other stakeholders implementing the project.
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

6,093
Reintegration assistance services were provided to returnees

5%
of the total caseload of services

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<th>Countries/territories/areas involved in reintegration assistance</th>
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<td>Tunisia</td>
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<td>Post-arrival</td>
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<td>Beneficiaries by type of returns</td>
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- 99% IOM assisted voluntary returnees
- 1% Returnees assisted through programmes considered voluntary by other actors

| Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral |

- 75% IOM direct assistance
- 25% Referral

| Types of reintegration assistance |

- 17% Reintegration counselling
- 31% Economic assistance
- 21% Social assistance
- 3% Psychosocial assistance
- 28% Other
| Levels of assistance |

- **98%** Individual
- **2%** Collective

| Top 5 countries providing reintegration assistance |

1º **Sudan (the)**
2º **Iraq**
3º **Egypt**
4º **Morocco**
5º **Lebanon**
RETURN AND REINTEGRATION KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2021

SOUTH AMERICA

244
Reintegration assistance services were provided to returnees

0.2%
of the total caseload of services

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<th>Countries involved in reintegration assistance</th>
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<th>Pre-departure and post-arrival reintegration assistance</th>
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<td>Pre-departure</td>
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<td>1%</td>
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<td>Beneficiaries by type of returns</td>
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98% IOM assisted voluntary returnees

2% Returnees assisted through programmes considered voluntary by other actors

| Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral |

81% IOM direct assistance

19% Referral

| Types of reintegration assistance |

47% Reintegration counselling

26% Economic assistance

18% Social assistance

4% Psychosocial assistance

5% Other
Providing psychosocial support to returnees in Brazil

IOM Brazil has been providing psychosocial support to returnees in the framework of IOM Portugal’s project “Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration – ARVoRE VIII”, which was launched in April 2021. The programme is a key component of a comprehensive approach to migration management. Its purpose is to ensure that migrants who are unable to stay in the host country and wish to return to their countries of origin can do so in a dignified and secure manner, and can be supported to achieve sustainable reintegration, in full respect of their human rights, regardless of their migratory status.

IOM Brazil, in collaboration with an implementing partner, offers beneficiaries four remote sessions per month, for a maximum of a six-month period, to address psychosocial challenges that affect their reintegration process.

Given the needs that emerge while readjusting to a new life, reconnecting with family, and planning for the future, the provision of tailored psychosocial support has helped returnees to reflect on and process their return experience, and provided them with the resources to be empowered and reach their full potential. In the middle-to-long term, this initiative promotes the returnees’ agency to readapt to a new environment and cope with changes in the family, society and culture, which strengthens their ability to succeed in their reintegration.
SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

8,578
Reintegration assistance services were provided to returnees

8%
of the total caseload of services

Countries/territories/areas involved in reintegration assistance

Albania
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Georgia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Montenegro
North Macedonia
Republic of Moldova (the)
Russian Federation (the)
Serbia
Tajikistan
Türkiye
Ukraine
Uzbekistan
Kosovo*

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

Pre-departure and post-arrival reintegration assistance

Pre-departure 19%
Post-arrival 81%
**Beneficiaries by type of returns**

- **96%** IOM assisted voluntary returnees
- **3%** Forced returnees
- **1%** Returnees assisted through programmes considered voluntary by other actors

**Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral**

- **89%** IOM direct assistance
- **11%** Referral

**Types of reintegration assistance**

- **37%** Reintegration counselling
- **34%** Economic assistance
- **14%** Social assistance
- **2%** Psychosocial assistance
- **13%** Other
REGIONAL GOOD PRACTICE

Community revitalization initiative in Georgia

IOM Georgia has since November 2020 implemented the pilot project “Georgia: Sustainable reintegration and community revitalization pilot initiative in communities of return”. The pilot initiative aims at testing the integrated approach to reintegration by addressing individual, community and structural factors affecting sustainable reintegration in Georgia. The objective of the project is to contribute to the efforts of the Government of Georgia to support the sustainable reintegration of returnees as well as community revitalization.

The project identified 10 municipalities experiencing high rates of returns in both rural and urban areas (including Tbilisi) to pilot a four-part strategy aiming to contribute to the sustainable reintegration and the whole-of-community revitalization:

- Support the community members in accessing services in the economic, social and psychological dimensions;
- Ensure that returnees in pilot municipalities achieve improved levels of sustainable reintegration;
- Engage pilot communities in revitalization initiatives and generate new opportunities for sustainable livelihoods; and
- Support national stakeholders in validating a new approach to community reintegration and revitalization.

The pilot will be evaluated thoroughly to provide operational recommendations for future reintegration and revitalization programming in mobility-dependent communities in rural and urban Georgia, and in comparable contexts of return in other countries or regions.
SOUTHERN AFRICA

3,090
Reintegration assistance services were provided to returnees

3%
of the total caseload of services

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<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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<th>Pre-departure and post-arrival reintegration assistance</th>
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<td>4%</td>
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<td>96%</td>
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RETURN AND REINTEGRATION KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2021
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Beneficiaries by type of returns

100%
IOM assisted voluntary returnees

Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral

100%
IOM direct assistance

Types of reintegration assistance

38%
Reintegration counselling

33%
Economic assistance

15%
Social assistance

14%
Psychosocial assistance

Levels of assistance

96%
Individual

4%
Collective

Top 5 countries providing reintegration assistance

1st
Malawi

2nd
Democratic Republic of the Congo (the)

3rd
Angola

4th
Zimbabwe

5th
Comoros (the)
**Pre-departure and post-arrival reintegration assistance**

**Countries involved in reintegration assistance**

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Congo (the)
- Côte d’Ivoire
- Gabon
- Gambia (the)
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Niger (the)
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo

**Return and Reintegration Key Highlights 2021**

- Total caseload: 50,344
- Reintegration assistance services provided to returnees: 44% of the total caseload of services

**Pre-departure**

- 0%

**Post-arrival**

- 100%
WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

| Beneficiaries by type of returns |

- 97% IOM assisted voluntary returnees
- 2% Forced returnees
- 1% Returnees assisted through programmes considered voluntary by other actors

| Reintegration assistance directly provided by IOM or through referral |

- 93% IOM direct assistance
- 7% Referral

| Types of reintegration assistance |

- 20% Reintegration counselling
- 55% Economic assistance
- 12% Social assistance
- 8% Psychosocial assistance
- 5% Other
WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

| Levels of assistance |

- Individual: 86%
- Collective: 13%
- Community: 1%

| Top 5 countries providing reintegration assistance |

1° Nigeria
2° Guinea
3° Côte d'Ivoire
4° Senegal
5° Niger (the)