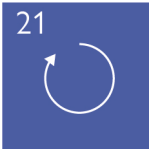


# 29. Operationalizing an Integrated Approach to Reintegration (ORION)

Joy Paone<sup>1</sup>



**Abstract:** The ORION project aims to provide the tools necessary to operationalize an integrated approach to reintegration. It has conducted pilot tests through specific interventions in Guinea, Senegal and Morocco. The project has four key elements: a reintegration handbook, a mentoring approach, a comparative analysis, and a cross-regional workshop.

Reintegration for migrants returning home has emerged as one of the top priorities for policymakers, and for humanitarian and development actors. This is due to an increase in the number of migrants who find themselves stranded in host or transit countries because of a lack of legal status, or because they are not found to be in need of international protection. These migrants are unable to remain in their destination countries and thus often opt to return home. However, they may struggle to readapt and rebuild their lives once back home. Furthermore, high levels of returns can strain the socioeconomic fabric in countries of origin.

IOM considers reintegration sustainable when “returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability 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 necessity” (IOM, 2017). As such, IOM recognizes that a holistic, needs-based approach to reintegration is needed: one that responds to the economic, social and psychosocial needs of returnees, while also benefitting communities of origin and addressing structural challenges to reintegration.

Through research undertaken under the Mediterranean Sustainable Reintegration (MEASURE Project) (2017), recommendations were made to support sustainable reintegration of migrants who return to their home countries. The research also led to the development of a set of field-tested indicators relating to the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions of reintegration, together with a reintegration scoring system, making it possible to measure post-return outcomes and to facilitate the understanding of returnees’ progress towards sustainability (Samuel Hall and IOM, 2017). These tools will allow IOM and other practitioners to compare trends in returnees’ reintegration across countries and over time.

<sup>1</sup> IOM Department of Migration Management.

Following the conceptualization of IOM's integrated approach to reintegration (IOM, 2017) and taking into account the recommendations of the MEASURE report (Samuel Hall and IOM, 2017), the ORION project aims to provide the tools necessary to operationalize the approach and test pilot specific interventions in Guinea, Senegal and Morocco. More specifically, the ORION project has four key elements:

- (a) A [Reintegration Handbook \(IOM, 2019\)](#) and training curriculum (including an online course<sup>2</sup>) – aimed at reintegration practitioners, including policymakers – have been developed to provide practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance.
- (b) A mentoring approach<sup>3</sup> is being piloted to provide intensified support and follow-up to returnees, helping to ensure they are not isolated upon their return. Currently, 216 returnees are part of this pilot project in Guinea, Morocco and Senegal. Overall, they have reported the mentors have helped them gain more trust in the reintegration process, and a deeper involvement of local authorities and other stakeholders has been noted.
- (c) A comparative analysis is currently being conducted. Drawing from the collection of standardized data on reintegration outcomes of returnees who have received different kinds of support, this study will help provide evidence on the effectiveness of these interventions related to others.
- (d) A Cross-Regional Workshop was held in September 2019 in Senegal – gathering 30 reintegration practitioners from Guinea, Morocco and Senegal – to facilitate the exchange of promising reintegration practices. A final workshop is planned for late summer 2020 in Morocco.

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<sup>2</sup> Available at [www.ecampus.iom.int/login/index.php](http://www.ecampus.iom.int/login/index.php) (accessed 11 June 2020).

<sup>3</sup> Available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kf8\\_jfptf6o&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kf8_jfptf6o&feature=youtu.be) (accessed 11 June 2020).

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