

# RESEARCH REPORT

# POSITIVE FACTORS AND OBSTACLES TO A SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION IN BRAZIL

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Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)  
Organização Internacional para as Migrações (OIM)

## **RESEARCH REPORT**

# **POSITIVE FACTORS AND OBSTACLES TO A SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION IN BRAZIL**

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 meeting the 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.

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European Return Fund 2011

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*“Every immigrant goes in search of a dream, to learn more things, a condition of life that enables social growth, learning [...] Another culture. “*

*(A Beneficiary of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme)*



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# Introduction

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THIS STUDY SEEKS TO IDENTIFY AND ANALYSE WHAT ARE THE INTERNAL factors (depending on the Programme) and external ones (independent of the Programme) that favoured or were an obstacle for a effective reintegration of the returnees from Portugal to Brazil and, consequently, for a sustainable return home within the framework of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (AVRR) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Portugal.

In the context of this study, effective reintegration means the extent of the impact of reintegration support received for a less painful and definitive return to the country of origin. In other words, we sought to examine whether such support facilitated faster reintegration into Brazilian society and in the labour market, provided financial autonomy for the beneficiary and for his or her family. Moreover, we tried to assess whether this support enabled the beneficiary to achieve greater emotional stability in the country of origin and satisfaction to be back home.

This report not only presents the results of that analysis, but also includes concrete suggestions for future planning of reintegration assistance activities, as well as for possible external and complementary actions to the programme.

The following points were analysed:

1. the reintegration assistance activities provided by IOM, before and after the return, and the impact that such assistance had on the reintegration

process of the returnees (with and without support from the network of partners in Brazil). Therefore, we attempted to understand whether and to what extent such assistance (in its various forms, and especially in the form of field monitoring) allowed the returnees to effectively reintegrate (in accordance with the above definition of effective reintegration) and consequently what impact this had on the lives of these people;

2. the external factors that could facilitate or hinder effective reintegration, as well as assessing whether these factors influenced the reintegration process of returnees;
3. in cases where the beneficiaries set up small businesses, if and how this business impacted on the development of the local communities (for example, in the creation of employment), in addition to assessing how the Programme could help to ensure the relevance of the individual project to the local economic context, in order to maximise such an impact.

The target group comprised **two groups of returnees**: i) beneficiaries of reintegration support that were not assisted by the local partner network; and ii) beneficiaries of the same assistance who received the support of the local partners. Both groups were composed of people who had returned (between May 2009 and December 2012) to the States of Goiás (GO), Minas Gerais (MG) and São Paulo (SP), where IOM works in partnership with the local network of partners, in addition to being the main return States from Portugal.

Considering the universe being researched, we decided on a qualitative survey, which made theoretical and critical reflection on the content under consideration possible.

Minayo (1996) argues that rather than recognising subjectivity as an obstacle to scientific construction, it is necessary to bring it into the analysis, taking into account that in the social sciences the object is also the subject and the scientific production is always a creation which bears the mark of its author. From this perspective, reflection within the ambit of this study is deemed essential.

As the main source, the qualitative research is based on the subjective, capable of working out a manner of understanding the daily life of the subjects involved; the data source is the natural environment, the research is descriptive, and the collected data are in the form of words or images. For Chizzotti (2006), in qualitative research, “there is a dynamic relationship

between the reality and the subject involved, a living inter-dependency between the subject and the object, an inseparable link between the goal and the subjectivity of the subject” (p. 70). The qualitative approach is concerned with a level of reality that cannot be quantified, expanding into the world of the meanings of human actions and relationships, a side that is imperceptible and cannot be captured in statistics.

The instruments used were interviews and home visits, for the most part duly scheduled by telephone and recorded. The interviewees were the beneficiaries of the programme and the representatives of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) coordinating the work in each State.

This study is therefore aimed at contributing to improving the IOM Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme, based on the work of this programme in Brazil, carried out since the implementation of the network of partners providing support to the beneficiaries. It falls within the current Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme of IOM Lisbon (ARVoRe III), funded by the European Return Fund 2011 (RF 2011) and co-financed by the Portuguese Government.

The document is structured in six chapters. The introduction is chapter 1, followed by the description of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme, which comprises chapter 2, together with a brief description of the partners that implement the Programme activities in Brazil. Chapter 3 contains a description of the survey conducted in the states of Goiás, Minas Gerais and São Paulo. The fieldwork results comprise chapter 4, which first discusses the general survey data and then the information for each state is included separately. The conclusions and recommendations make up chapters 5 and 6, respectively.



## Description of the assisted voluntary return and reintegration programme (ARVoRe)

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THE ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Portugal aims to promote, in an orderly and effective way, the voluntary return of regular and irregular immigrants in a vulnerable situation, of asylum seekers, whose application has been refused or is pending final decision, of refugees or persons under temporary protection or others wishing to return voluntarily to their country of origin.

The implementation of the programme in Portugal, initiated in 1997 and renewed annually by means of a cooperation protocol with the Portuguese Government, allowed, up to 2012, more than 4,600 to rely on its support for their return. For the period from 2007 to 2012 alone, of the 2,915 immigrants 2,383 were Brazilians. In this period, the proportion of Brazilians that were assisted in their return increased from 69.0% in 2007 to 85.0% in 2012.

In view of the increasing number of requests and the need for more information in the field, the programme was reinforced through the implementation of the SuRRIA Project (Sustaining Return – Information and Advice Network), promoted by the Portuguese Government, co-funded by the European Commission and implemented by IOM between January 2007 and June 2008. The SuRRIA Project represented the first concrete answer towards promoting proximity, easier access to information for the beneficiaries of the programme and increasing the involvement of social organizations at local level, providing assistance and advice for a more effective return, thanks to the creation of an integrated and decentralised information and advice network spread throughout Portuguese national territory. As a result, within the framework of the implementation of this project,

491 immigrants received guidance and were assisted in the voluntary return to their countries of origin.

From 2009, the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (ARVoRe) increased its financial capacity, and can now support about 700 immigrants, further strengthening the immigrant assistance component. The programme promoted the coordination of that support between the pre-departure and the post-arrival phase, integrating sustainability strategies for the return, as well as strengthening and making reintegration assistance services in the country of origin more flexible. It proposes, therefore, to contribute to a sustainable and integrated return, within a broader perspective, not limited to the pre-departure phase. This programme is currently co-financed by the European Return Fund and by the Portuguese Government through the Alien and Border Service and the General Secretariat of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

At the same time, the ARVoRe Programme also includes a support element that is geared specifically for Brazilians returnees. This component is justified by the substantial increase in Brazilian candidates who resort to the programme (currently comprising approximately 90.0% of the applicants) and addresses the need for monitoring the returnees in the medium-term, through the creation of a mechanism to monitor the reintegration process in Brazil.

This mechanism is accomplished through a network of local partners in Brazil, composed by Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the main destination states of the returnees from Portugal (Goiás, Minas Gerais and São Paulo), which have been working on-site since October 2009. The NGOs that make up this network are:

- Project Rescue (Projeto Resgate), in the State of Goiás;
- Information and Technical Assistance Centre (Centro de Informação e Assessoria Técnica – CIAAT), in the State of Minas Gerais;
- The Brazilian Association for the Protection of Women, Children and Youth (Associação Brasileira de Defesa da Mulher, da Infância e da Juventude – ASBRAD), in the State of São Paulo.

The set of activities developed within the framework of the ARVoRe Programme includes the following **actions prior to departure**:

- exploring the potential of the information and advice network in Portugal, continuing to strengthen the role of their staff as multipliers of information

at local level, providing opportunities to meet these staff members and for them to meet with each other to exchange views/experiences, as well as opportunities extended to external entities, identifying specific channels of access to the immigrant community;

- relying on the network staff to advise the migrant public about the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme, the registration of migrants interested in the Programme and forwarding the cases to IOM;
- providing effective and efficient services in the pre-departure phase – such as individualised counselling, help in the preparation of the reintegration plan, providing information on the country of origin whenever possible – in order to facilitate the reintegration process;
- enhancing and customising financial aid, identified on the basis of individualised counselling and in coordination with partners in the country of origin.

**Actions which are effectively directed at the return phase** are also covered, such as:

- providing assistance in the voluntary return of immigrants (regular and irregular) in vulnerable situations, asylum seekers, refugees and other irregular migrants;
- assisting in obtaining travel documents from the diplomatic representations whenever necessary;
- implementing the logistics of the return itself: purchasing the plane tickets; information to beneficiaries about the journey; assistance at the airport and, when necessary, in the countries of transit and destination in conjunction with other IOM missions or other local partners, if IOM does not have a presence at the location.

Upon **arrival**, the project foresees the following actions:

- wherever and whenever possible, monitoring the processes of returnees benefiting from the reintegration assistance, in conjunction with the IOM missions;
- specifically in relation to returnees who are of Brazilian nationality, follow-up, assistance and monitoring the implementation process of the reintegration plans and their progress through the activities of the support and reintegration network;
- supporting and strengthening the reintegration assistance network in Brazil;



- strengthening reintegration assistance at the location, by trying to identify community development policies that may increase the impact and sustainability of the individual reintegration project, and potential local partners for future cooperation.

The guiding principles of the Programme include the vision of self-sustainability, assisting candidates in identifying their reintegration priorities and defining proposals that will enable their employment and personal reintegration. In almost all of the cases, the reintegration plans consist of micro-enterprises or investment activities in vocational training, which enable better placement in the labour market *a posteriori*. In a few cases, the candidates have pointed out health issues or other types of social support as priorities for their reintegration.

Another principle indicates the importance of understanding the return process in a broad, holistic manner that is focused on the individual, where human and psychosocial factors receive relevant consideration. The satisfaction and the sustainability of the return are important factors both in the individual's decision to return as well as in their quality of life. The reintegration process of each person must take into account not only their socio-economic and family conditions, but also their health and mental and physical well-being, their family history, their housing conditions and their expectations for their life project. To this end, it can be said that the reintegration programme considers the individual in an integrated manner.

The local partners have a key role to play in this context. By detecting certain problems, they can refer the beneficiary of the programme to specific professionals and entities to remedy their difficulties. For this reason, follow-up and monitoring of the local partners are essential to the success of the entire process. Last but not least, it is necessary to consider the synergy with the existing public policies in the return states in Brazil, which can optimise the results of the initiatives.

Many beneficiaries, on returning to their country of origin, feel disconnected from public services and social programmes. Some are even unaware of their rights as citizens. Nevertheless, from the perspective of the sustainable return, it is essential to promote the integration of returning individuals into public health, education, housing and employment systems, among others. Through the creation of the Network of Partners, the programme seeks to stimulate and promote the integration of its beneficiaries into the social and

support services offered by the State. Local partners, with the support of IOM, are responsible for directing or guiding the returnees on the State services and programmes that can help them.

The Programme implementation process follows well-defined steps that start as early as the first contact of the interested person with IOM, when they become aware of the Programme and the requirements to be taken into consideration for assistance. At this stage, it is up to the institution to provide the necessary information to the beneficiary, as well as assess their situation and needs. These objectives and the Programme strategy are explained in detail, as well as the conditions to which the beneficiary is bound on returning with the assistance of IOM, as envisaged by the applicable legislation. By becoming a beneficiary, immigrants that return to their country of origin cannot come back to Portugal for a period of three years, unless they reimburse the Portuguese State for what was spent on their return.

At the time, the beneficiary's expectations are also clarified in order to avoid misunderstandings, in addition to being provided with information about the support they will receive from the organization assisting them in Brazil. Furthermore, roles played by each party (beneficiary, IOM Lisbon, IOM Buenos Aires, and the local partner network in Brazil) are well explained to the beneficiary. Practical information about Brazil (how to get to the destination, find housing, look for employment, as well as the details of the institutions that may be able to assist or advise on such topics, for example) are given to the beneficiary from the database and the information already compiled by the Project on Information on the Return and Reintegration in the Countries of Origin (IRRiCO), and other information is provided by IOM and by the partner network in Brazil whenever possible.

The IRRiCO Project is a very important support tool in the implementation of the AVR and ARVoRe Programmes because it has a database filled with information on the immigrants' countries of origin. This is a source of information which is needed for the reintegration process of the candidate on their return and for possibly setting up a business.

Once it has been decided that the immigrant will have access to the reintegration support, a request is made for the preparation, with the assistance of IOM, of an Individual Reintegration Plan (PIR), the objective of which is to give the beneficiary the opportunity to create and carry out a life project that is sustainable in the long term. It is understood that this project – a small business,

skills and knowledge acquired during a training course or assistance in health issues, for example – would increase opportunities for self-sufficiency and economic independence of the beneficiaries and of their families. If the intention is to start a business, a business plan is also drawn up.

Thereafter, the beneficiaries are informed of the procedures before and after returning to Brazil. In the course of the first week, IOM contacts the beneficiary by telephone, where they confirm their arrival, the travelling conditions and their current situation. That telephone call also enables the procedures, responsibilities and the expectations of the beneficiaries to be clarified again. One month after the return, the beneficiary meets with the local partner. When a vulnerable person is identified who requires assistance at the airport upon arrival, the initial contact will be with the local partner meeting them. Prior to returning, the local partner receives the PIR and enters the beneficiary's details on a database.

In the course of the next two weeks, the partner will contact the beneficiary to define and coordinate a visit *in loco*. The visit must be conducted within the first month after arrival, i.e. within a maximum of 15 days after the telephone communication between the partner and the beneficiary. The partner will travel to the return location of the beneficiary or other place previously agreed between them. The purpose of the meeting *in loco* is to get an understanding of the living conditions of the beneficiaries and provide a more in-depth view of the process of reflection and evaluation of their needs and resources, and to finalise the completion of the PIR form. During this first visit, the reintegration plans are reassessed by the network partners together with the beneficiary to better suit them to local realities, taking into account the methodology of the programme.

Once this step has been completed, a bank transfer is made by IOM directly to the account of the beneficiary (or a person he or she trusts). The local partner is in charge of contacting the beneficiary to inform him or her about the transfer and to confirm receipt of the amount transferred, as well as to inform IOM of the success of the process. Finally, it is up to the local partners to monitor the beneficiaries, through questionnaires, observation and recording events and specific data, as well as by providing the information and guidelines which may be required. Monitoring takes place over a period of approximately six months, involving face-to-face and telephone contact stages that should be at specific times and recorded in appropriate instruments.

It is important to note that this component of reintegration assistance specific to the Brazilian community is undertaken with the close collaboration of IOM Buenos Aires, responsible for liaising with the network of partners in Brazil, following-up and monitoring as well the reintegration process of the Brazilians who benefit from this assistance.

## **2.1. Partners**

Local partners are responsible for monitoring the implementation of reintegration plans. Their mission is to share information with IOM on the progress of the processes and, therefore, they have a very important role in the monitoring strategy. Generally speaking, they have an understanding of the local context and have credibility in the eyes of the community. Furthermore, they represent a physical contact and aid for the beneficiary. They are responsible both for the follow-up of the process and for advising and assisting the beneficiary. The creation and strengthening of the network of local partners, who are empowered and informed and who share the commitment to complete reintegration, is fundamental to the success of IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme.

Next, we will briefly identify the partners that were part of IOM Programme at the time of the survey.

### ***2.1.1 Project Rescue (Projeto Resgate)***

Project Rescue is an organisation based in Switzerland and in Brazil, specifically in the State of Goiás, which protects people who are sexually exploited or forced to work in conditions analogous to slavery. The entity seeks to ensure victims a safe return to their country of origin, in addition to social and occupational reintegration. The target group of the organisation is women who, by joining the process, get safe housing (shelter), medical and psychological support, as well as help on the way back to their country of origin and subsequent professional and social integration. Since 2006, the NGO has established a network of partners in Brazil comprising 15 cities in all regions of the country.

### ***2.1.2 Technical Advice and Information Centre (Centro de Informação e Assessoria Técnica – CIAAT)***

The Technical Assistance and Information Centre (CIAAT) is a non-governmental

organisation founded in 2006, which is now consolidated as a regional development agency whose mission is to transform the reality of small urban and rural organisations, through social projects aimed at generating employment and income collectively and jointly. The goal of CIAAT is to promote the insertion of small groups into the production chain through associations and cooperatives.

Already at the time of its creation, the organisation started its activities by conducting a participatory diagnosis in partnership with the Vale do Rio Doce University (UNIVALE), which resulted in a proposal for workshops on income generation and development in rural and urban communities, aiming at the establishment of the citizen in the region and reducing international migratory flow. The institution operates through social projects in various areas and deals with the topic of international migration as a cross-cutting issue. Recently, it responded to the Notice on the Public Call 02/2011, from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, for the set-up of a Centre of Information and Assistance for Returnee Workers from Abroad. Thus far, May 2013, the result of this Notice has not been announced. CIAAT has a body of employees hired for a fixed time to execute the projects and the resources are obtained through public notices.

### *2.1.3 The Brazilian Association for the Protection of Women, Children and Youth (Associação Brasileira de Defesa da Mulher, da Criança e da Juventude – ASBRAD)*

ASBRAD, located in Guarulhos, São Paulo, was founded in 1997 by professionals from various fields engaged in the human rights cause. The institution's team is multidisciplinary and the services are aimed at the needy population of the city of Guarulhos. However, from 2008, the institution has expanded its work to include 27 Brazilian capital cities. By means of agreements concluded with the Special Secretariat for Human Rights, the Public Defender's Office of the State of São Paulo, with the CASA Foundation, the Municipal Government of Guarulhos (through the Municipal Fund for Children and Young People and the Municipal Social Assistance Fund) and the Agency for International Cooperation – CORDAID projects are developed to support victims of domestic and sexual violence, victims of human trafficking, elderly victims of violence, the implementation of educational measures for young people in trouble with the law and for the defence of children and young people.

# The research

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IN THIS CHAPTER, WE WILL PRESENT THE DESCRIPTION OF THE development stages of the field research, highlighting the methodological procedures used in the survey and in the construction of the information-gathering instruments.

## 3.1 Description of the research stages

### 3.1.1 Survey

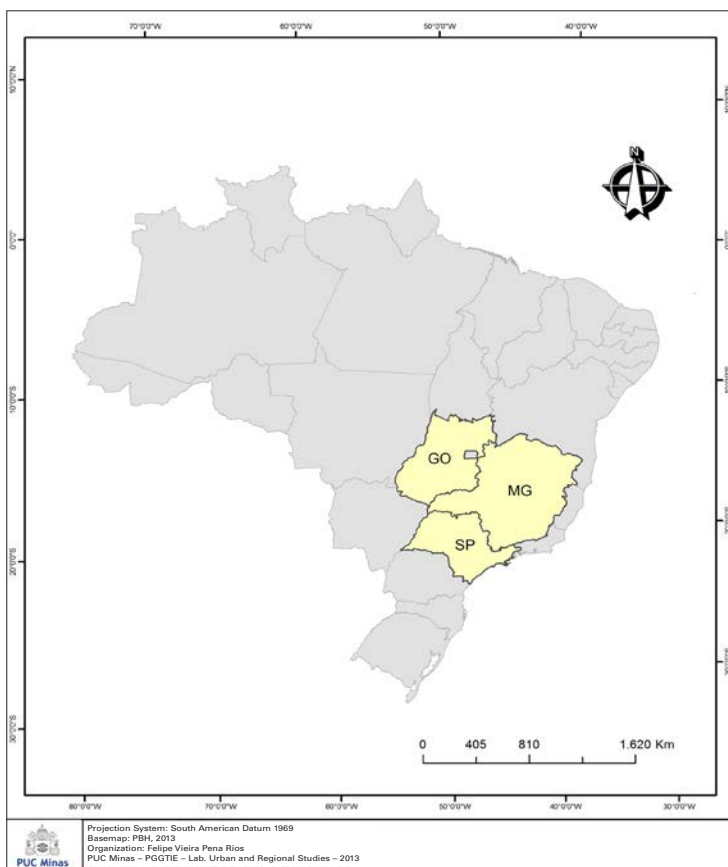
The methodological procedures for conducting the study consisted of i) a documentary and research phase and ii) a field research phase.

- i) Documentary research phase (desk review) – included the review and analysis of documents submitted by IOM regarding the profile of immigrants and the definition of the beneficiaries assisted and accompanied by the partners; questionnaires applied to returnees by the network of partners, as well as all information considered useful for the development of the research.
- ii) Field research phase – included field visits to the beneficiaries; structured interviews with the beneficiaries (in person, or when not possible, by telephone); interviews with the NGO network partners; interviews with local authorities, as well as with leaders and representatives of NGOs with an interest in the issue of international migration. From the places of residence of these immigrants, whenever possible, a survey was conducted on the local and regional initiatives aimed at support immigrants.

The total number of Brazilian beneficiaries of reintegration support, from May 2009 to June 2012, was 142, most of who were in the States of Goiás, Minas Gerais and São Paulo. Considering this higher concentration and the fact that the partner network is present in these three States, it was decided to carry out the research in these 3 States only. During the survey, 15 more beneficiaries of the programme who returned and received assistance in a more recent phase (from May to December 2012) were also included.

**FIGURE 1**

**STATES OF THE BENEFICIARIES SURVEYED  
ARVoRe PROJECT – BRAZIL – 2013**



Given the budget constraints of the research and the distance between the cities, as shown by the maps that will be presented below, it was decided to define groups of cities that contain the largest number of beneficiaries, allowing for the completion of the survey within the period set for this purpose, January to April 2013. Thus, as indicated in the table below, the number of

beneficiaries to be heard totalled 95 people, including those who had received reintegration support from IOM and were not accompanied by the partners, those who had access to the benefit and received assistance by the local partner and a small group who had recently returned.

**FIGURE 2**

**TABLE OF THE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES  
BY GROUPS OF CITIES.**

State	Main City	Nearby Cities	Supported partners	Without partner support	New supported partners
Minas Gerais	Belo Horizonte	Esmeraldas, Ibirité, Santa Luzia	10	5	2
	Ipatinga	Timóteo, São João do Oriente, Caratinga, Coronel Fabriciano	2	6	2
	Governador Valadares	Tumiritinga, Divino das Laranjeiras	6	1	0
	Teófilo Otoni	Padre Paraíso	2	0	3
	TOTAL			20	12
São Paulo	São Paulo	Campinas, Indaiatuba, Santo André, Santa Bárbara do Oeste, Várzea Paulista	8	5	3
	Itanhaém		1	0	0
	Araçatuba	Birigui, Buritama	2	3	0
	Taubaté	Ubatuba	2	0	0
	Presidente Prudente	Marília, Quintana	4	0	0
	Botucatu		0	1	0
TOTAL			17	9	3
Goiás	Goiânia	Aparecida de Goiás, Anápolis, São Luiz, Montes Belos, Pontalina, Nerópolis, Senador Canedo, Águas Lindas	13	8	5
	Jussara		0	1	0
	TOTAL			13	9
TOTAL			50	30	15

SOURCE – AUTHOR’S RESEARCH

The fieldwork was started in the State of Goiás and carried out over the period from 16 to 19 January 2013. In relation to the State of Minas Gerais, considering the dispersion of interviewees, we decided to work in different research phases with several teams on trips targeting a specific set of municipalities. The schedule for this survey was kept throughout the implementation period of the project, i.e. January to April 2013. Lastly, the work was done in the State of São Paulo, where the research was carried out during the period from 23 to 29 March 2013, by two teams, one heading to the western region of São Paulo and the other working in the State capital and in nearby areas.



For the survey, we relied on the collaboration of the local partners in order to make early contact with the beneficiaries and, when possible, with those who had been re-established in Brazil without monitoring from the institution. Based on the information provided by IOM, a table was compiled with the addresses and phone numbers of each beneficiary. This document was sent to partners to be updated and for any corrections. At this stage of the research it was already possible to note that, in some cases, contact had been lost with beneficiaries and that a number of telephone numbers provided had been deactivated.

Once the final table had been defined for those who would be interviewed, the partners were notified of the start of the survey and it was requested that they contact the beneficiaries informing them of the arrival of the research team and the objectives of the work being carried out.

In the case of the State of Goiás, we had the full cooperation of the local partner, who made all the necessary contacts, including the beneficiaries who were not monitored by the institution, and provided strong logistical support at the time of the surveys, which resulted in the surveys being completed as planned.

In Minas Gerais and São Paulo, there were several difficulties that led to a lower pace in the surveys. In some localities, although information on the residence of the person concerned had been confirmed, on arrival it was discovered that the person no longer resided in that city. When this happened, attempts were made to obtain information from the neighbours regarding the new residence of the beneficiary and, if this was in the same city, an active search was carried out. At the same time, there were people who refused to participate in the interview, in addition to contact difficulties, because, in some instances, the beneficiary claimed not to have been informed of the survey.

Once the fieldwork had been completed, renewed efforts were made to contact the beneficiaries who could not be found. In this case, a search was conducted using the internet (e-mail, blogs, Facebook), telephone and Skype, in an attempt to locate the people. The results were virtually non-existent, the potential interviewees showing no interest in participating.

In the end, taking into account all the difficulties described, 44 interviews were conducted, distributed as shown in Annex IV. Of the interviewees, 34

beneficiaries were accompanied by local NGOs, of which 13 were in the State of Goiás, 12 in the State of Minas Gerais and 9 in the State of São Paulo. Of the 10 who were not monitored by the local NGOs, 2 were from Goiás, 6 from Minas Gerais and 2 from São Paulo.

### *3.1.2 Instruments*

Two data collection instruments were prepared. One for the purpose of being used in the survey with the beneficiaries and the other to be used as a guide for interviews in the dialogue with local authorities and NGOs. These instruments were assessed by IOM, which contributed greatly with suggestions to improve these documents.

A guide was also prepared for the focal group, which would be used at some point in the research in order to contribute to the analyses. Unfortunately, it was not possible to include this strategy in the survey research. There were two reasons: the first was logistical – from the outset, we were aware that the distances between beneficiaries' cities of residence would pose difficulties in getting a group together, but it was hoped that in places such as Governador Valadares and Belo Horizonte that it would be possible to apply the focal group technique. However, on completing the table of potential interviewees, it was already possible to see that, due to the problems in making contact, this survey option would be hampered. The second point to be considered is that, as the research progressed in the field, it became clear that the people did not have time to take part in meetings. This, in addition to the difficulties in making contact and refusals to participate in the research, made it difficult to have a minimum number of people for this methodological procedure to produce favourable results.

In addition to this documentation, an Informed Consent Form (TCLE) was also prepared, ensuring the ethical aspects of the study, which was presented to the beneficiaries for signing before the interview.

The instruments used in the survey are contained in annexes I, II and III.



# Characterisation of the locus of research and of the beneficiaries prior to commencement

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IN THIS CHAPTER, A BRIEF DESCRIPTION WILL BE PROVIDED OF THE States visited, as well as a discussion of the socio-demographic characteristics of the cities chosen, based on a set of indicators that show the evolution of the local economy (annexes V, VI and VII). At the same time, considering the documentation produced during the initial interviews carried out by IOM with the immigrants still in Portugal (PIR and Business Plan), the expectations and plans made by the beneficiaries for their return will be discussed.

## **4.1 Brief characterisation of the States: locus of research**

### *4.1.1. Goiás*

The State of Goiás is located in the Midwest region of Brazil and has an area of 340,086 km<sup>2</sup>. The State is divided into 246 municipalities and had a population of 6,003,788 inhabitants in 2010.

The GDP of the State in 2012 was in the order of R\$ 112 billion, comprising mainly the services sector (59.3%), industry (26.6%) and agriculture (14.1%).

The services sector is constantly developing and is already the largest contributor to the State GDP. Telecommunications services and the trade sectors contribute significantly to the economic advancement of Goiás.

The State features growth and development that are intrinsic to its history.

The current administration (2011-2014) has based its activities on working directly with the business class, through tax, educational, environmental, health, tourism and housing policies, as well as many other areas.

The history of the development of the State of Goiás is very present and linked to the policy of the Federal Government. This happened when the capital city of the State was transferred from Vila Boa (Goiás Velho) to Goiânia, followed by the founding of Brasília, the Federal Capital City, in an area belonging to the state. This milestone in Brazilian history was decisive as it contributed positively to the representative nature of Goiás today.

With a diversified system, an open agricultural economy and strong international insertion, the State Government has created conditions for expansion, both in livestock farming as well as in agriculture.

Agriculture in Goiás is of great importance to the national economy, since its meat and grain production is a fundamental part of the national economic strategy.

Goiás is one of the largest producers of tomatoes, corn and soybeans in Brazil. It is responsible for 33% of the national sorghum production and the State is the primary producer of this grain in the country. Other important crops are cotton, sugar cane, coffee, rice, beans, wheat and garlic.

In turn, livestock farming is constantly expanding. The State currently has the third largest cattle herd in the country. The negative aspect in relation to agriculture is that it is the main activity responsible for the destruction of the Cerrado biome, given that it causes constant deforestation and soil degradation. Goiás also has mineral reserves. Of note here are the municipalities of Minaçu (asbestos mining), Niquelândia and Barro Alto (nickel), and Catalan (phosphate).

The municipalities of Goiás where AVRR beneficiaries were identified and selected are: Goiânia, Aparecida de Goiás, Anápolis, Jussara, São Luís de Montes Belos, Pontalina, Nerópolis, Senador Canedo, Águas Lindas, as seen in the maps below. The figures show the prevalence in the municipalities of beneficiaries who received assistance from the partners and those that were not monitored.

FIGURE 3

MUNICIPALITIES OF RESIDENCE OF THE BENEFICIARIES IN GOIÁS/WITH SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL NGO

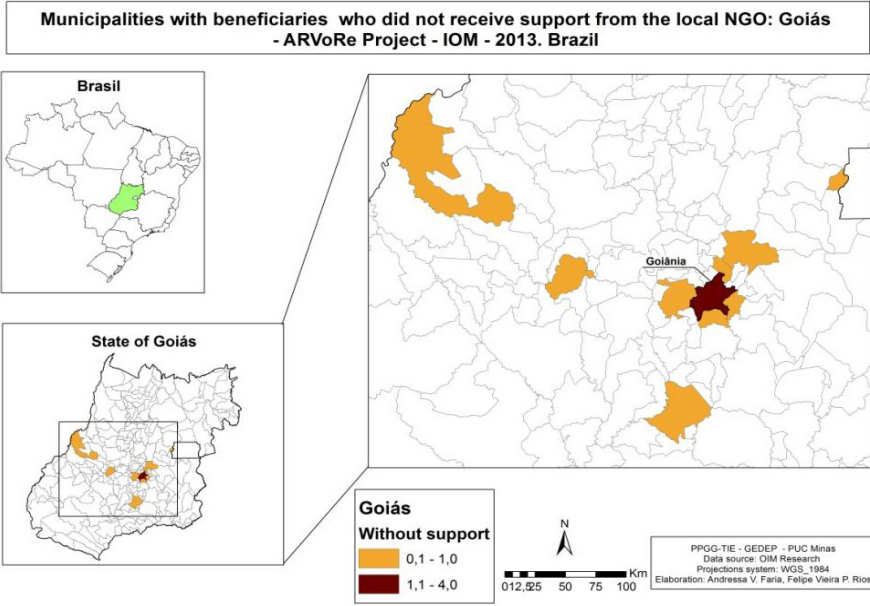
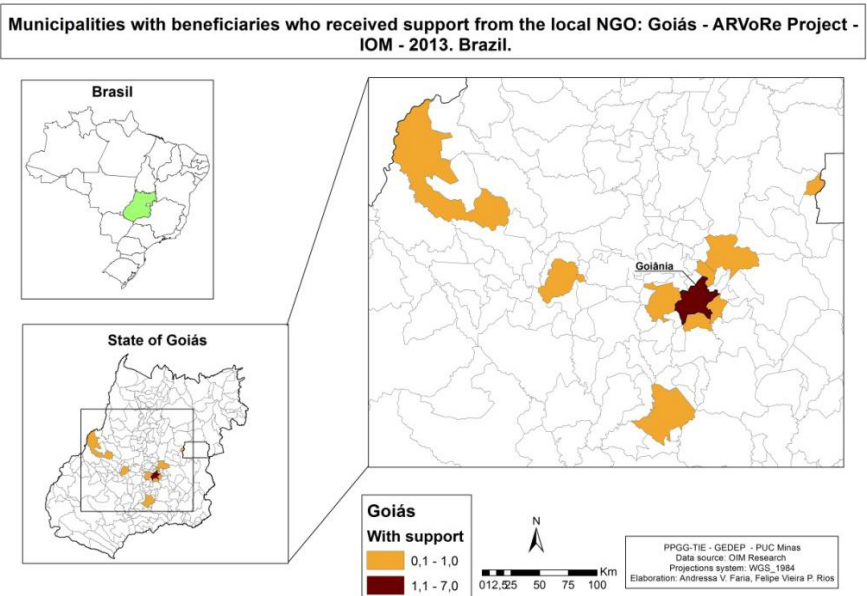


FIGURE 4

MUNICIPALITIES OF RESIDENCE OF THE BENEFICIARIES IN GOIÁS/WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL NGO



It can be observed that in this State, the majority of the beneficiaries are concentrated in Goiânia, the city where the partner institution is located, and in surrounding cities, such as Aparecida de Goiânia and Anápolis.

According to the data from the 2010 Population Census, in terms of population these three cities have 34.8% of the State population and geometric average rates of annual population growth, between 2000 and 2010, which ranged from 3.1% for Aparecida de Goiânia, to 1.5% for Anápolis, while the State as a whole had an annual population increase for the same period in the region of 1.8%. The conurbation between Goiânia and Aparecida de Goiânia may be the explanation for the growth of the latter, which was in the region of 7.4% per year during the last decade.

Also with regard to the group of municipalities selected, it is worth highlighting the city of Jussara, which has had a negative arithmetic average annual population growth rate since 1990 as a result of the population having decreased from 20,711 in 1990 to 19,153 in 2010.

An analysis of the social and economic indicators for these municipalities in comparison with those in the State of Goiás as a whole shows that for most of the selected indicators (see Annex V), Anápolis, Goiânia and Aparecida de Goiânia perform better than the rest of the State, especially with regard to illiteracy and the low-income sector of the population.

#### **4.1.2 Minas Gerais**

The State of Minas Gerais is located in the Southeast region of Brazil and is the fourth largest state in Brazil, with an area of 586,528 km<sup>2</sup>. The State is divided into 853 municipalities and it has the second largest population, with 19,597,330 inhabitants in 2010.

Minas Gerais has the third largest gross domestic product (GDP) in Brazil, with 351.3 billion reais in 2010, surpassed only by the States of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Its contribution towards the national GDP is 9.1% and, at a regional level, its contribution is 16.1%. The composition of the GDP of Minas Gerais is: agriculture, 8.4%; industry, 31.9%; services, 59.7%.

The service sector is constantly developing and is already the largest contributor to the State GDP. Telecommunications services and the trade sector contribute significantly to the economic advancement of Minas Gerais.

In the agricultural sector, the State is notable for having the third largest cattle herd in the country and it is the largest national milk producer. Minas Gerais is also the top producer of beans, as well as being responsible for 50% of the coffee crop. Other important crops are corn, soybeans and sugar cane.

The industrial sector, which comprises 31.9% of the State GDP, is quite diversified. Minas Gerais is home to the third largest industrial park in Brazil, with emphasis on the automobile segment, which is represented by Fiat (located in the municipality of Betim since 1976), Mercedes-Benz (in Juiz de Fora) and Iveco (in Sete Lagoas).

Other important sectors are food, textiles, electronics, mechanical, metallurgical, steel, construction, auto parts and mining. The State has vast mineral wealth and is a major producer of gold, zinc, bauxite (second largest in Brazil) and iron ore (largest national producer). Another highlight is the biotechnology sector, which is constantly expanding and currently has 80 companies located in the State.

Minas Gerais has a large territorial extension, with socioeconomic disparities between the different regions in the State. The south, which is more industrialised and economically developed, is wealthier and has good social indicators. However, the northern part suffers from drought and lacks effective public policies, making it one of the poorest areas in the country, with deficient environmental sanitation services, a high infant mortality rate and a high illiteracy rate.

The Human Development Index (HDI) for the State is an average of 0.800 (10th place in the national ranking). The urban population of Minas Gerais is 85.3%, and the rural population 14.7%. The population density in the State is 33.4 inhabitants per square kilometre and the average annual population growth rate recorded between 2000 and 2010 is 0.9%.

The municipalities of Minas Gerais where AVRR beneficiaries were identified are: Belo Horizonte, Ipatinga, Timóteo, São João do Oriente, Caratinga, Coronel Fabriciano, Governador Valadares, Teófilo Otoni and Padre Paraíso, as shown in the maps below.



FIGURE 5

MUNICIPALITIES OF RESIDENCE OF THE BENEFICIARIES IN MINAS GERAIS/WITH SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL NGO

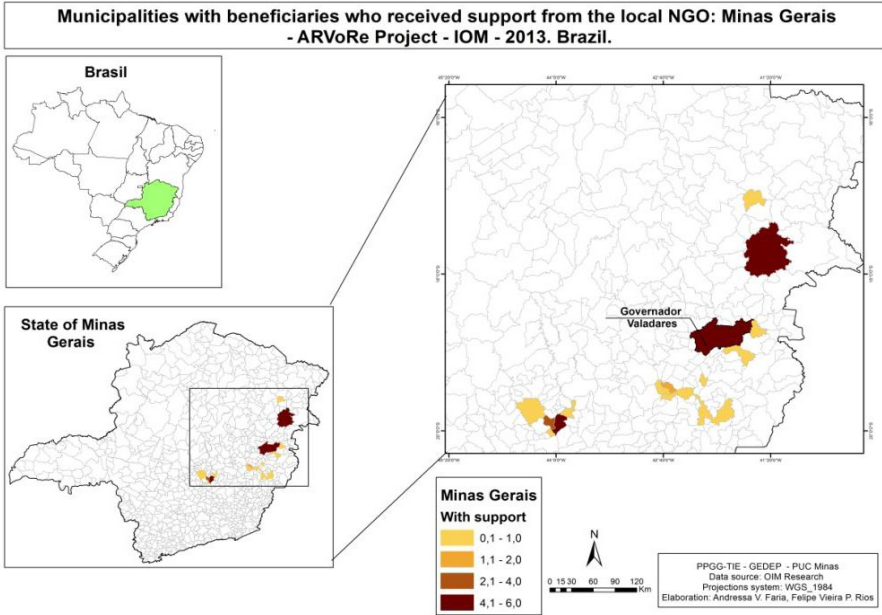
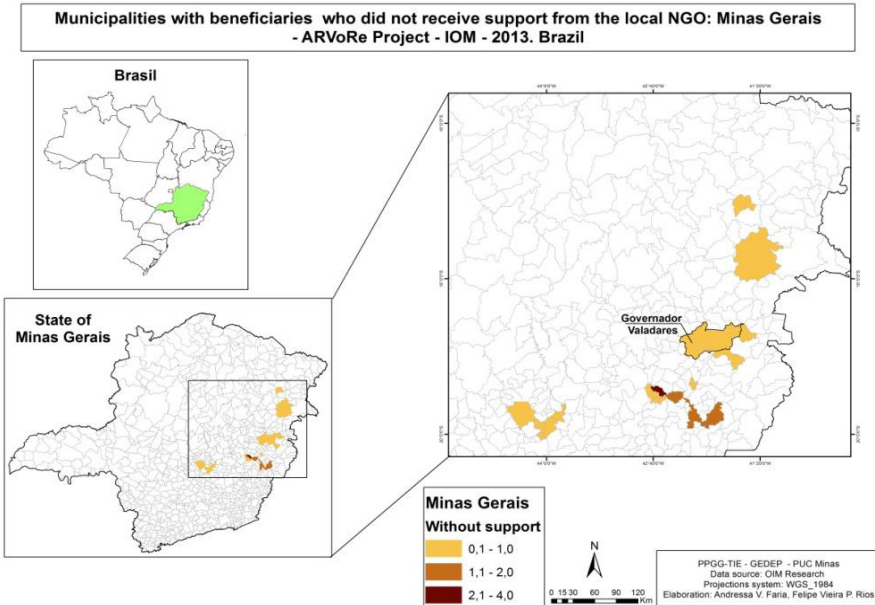


FIGURE 6

MUNICIPALITIES OF RESIDENCE IN THE BENEFICIARIES OF MINAS GERAIS/WITHOUT SUPPORT FROM THE LOCAL NGO



With regard to the municipality of Governador Valadares, where the headquarters of the partner institution is located, we noted that there is a wide dispersion between the cities that have the highest number of beneficiaries, which are: to the north, Teófilo Otoni, 142 km from Governador Valadares, and to the south, Belo Horizonte, 324 km away.

The population of the selected municipalities corresponds to 18.1% of the State population, and the cities of Belo Horizonte, the capital of the State, Esmeralda, Ibirité and Santa Luzia, which are located within the metropolitan region of Belo Horizonte, account for 14.2% of the State's population. The geometric average annual population growth rate of the municipalities in which the beneficiaries reside ranged from 2.5% (Esmeraldas) to 0.6% (Belo Horizonte) between 2000 and 2010. It is important to note that the cities of Divino das Laranjeiras and São João do Oriente showed a negative annual population growth rate for the period in question.

In relation to the selected socioeconomic indicators (Annex VI), in 2010, three cities, Belo Horizonte, Ipatinga and Timóteo, accumulated a per capita wealth greater than that of the whole State and the steel industry is the most important aspect of the local economy in the last two.

Within the framework of indicators, attention is drawn to the position of the municipalities of Laranjeiras, Tumirutinga, Padre Paraíso and São João do Oriente, where the indicators on the proportion of the population that is illiterate and have a low income are the most concerning. In Padre Paraíso, for example, according to data from the 2010 Census, 70.4% of the population had a monthly income of less than half the minimum wage and the illiteracy rate was in the region of 21.3%, almost three times higher than that calculated for the entire State.

### *4.1.3 São Paulo*

The State of São Paulo is located in the Southeast region of Brazil and is the twelfth largest in the country, with an area of 248,209 km<sup>2</sup>. The State is divided into 645 municipalities, and has the largest population among the Federal states, with a population of 41,262,199 in 2010.

In 2010, the GDP for the State of São Paulo was in the region of R\$ 2.13 trillion, which represented approximately 34% of the entire wealth of the country. This comprises strong participation from the service sector (47.2%),

followed closely by the industrial sector (46.3%) and a small participation from agriculture (6.5%).

It is in this State that the largest industrial park in Brazil can be found, as well as the most important financial institutions. These facts make São Paulo the “locomotive” of the Brazilian economy.

Even with all this economic potential, there are wide regional disparities, which result in the need for the current State Government to seek solutions to meet the needs of the poorer population of the State, mainly in the southern region, in Vale da Ribeira.

The human development index (HDI) of the State has averaged 0.820 (3rd place in the national ranking). The urbanisation rate of São Paulo is in the region of 95.9%, with population density at 166.2 inhabitants per square kilometre.

The municipalities of the State where the AVRR beneficiaries were identified are: São Paulo, Campinas, Indaiatuba, Santo André, Intanhaém, Araçatuba, Birigui, Buritama, Taubaté, Ubatuba, Presidente Prudente, Marília, Quintana and Botucatu, as shown in the maps below.

**FIGURE 7**

**MUNICIPALITIES OF RESIDENCE OF THE BENEFICIARIES IN SÃO PAULO/WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL NGO**

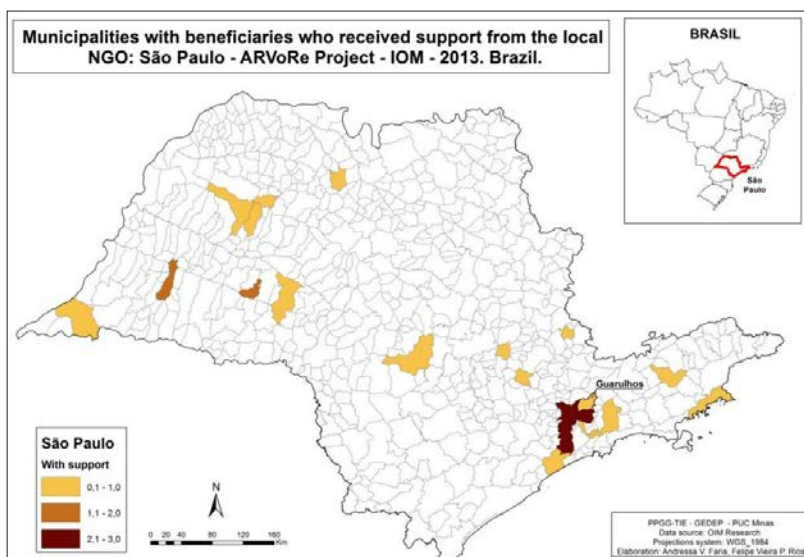
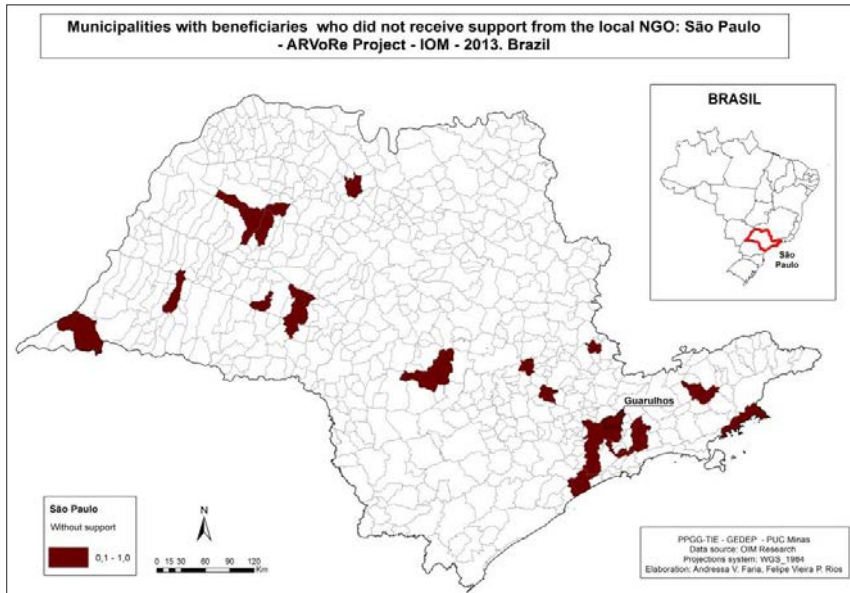


FIGURE 8

MUNICIPALITIES OF RESIDENCE OF THE BENEFICIARIES IN SÃO PAULO/WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL NGO



The headquarters of the partner institution is located in the city of Guarulhos in the metropolitan region of São Paulo but serves the beneficiaries of practically the entire State, even in distant municipalities such as the city of Buritana, which is 520 km away from Guarulhos. It is important to note that not all cities are served by a constant direct transport service departing from Guarulhos, which would enable closer monitoring by the partner institution.

The group of selected municipalities accounted for 35.2% of the State population in 2010 and the capital alone, São Paulo, represents 27.3% of this total. In relation to population growth in the period from 2000 to 2010, the highest geometric average annual growth rate was in Indaiatuba (3.2%), and the lowest was in the city of Santo André (0.4%). It is important to note that the population growth of the city of Indaiatuba was three times greater than that calculated for the State as a whole for the same period.

When dealing with the socioeconomic indicators (Annex VII), it is noted that, in terms of the per capita GDP in 2010, for two of the municipalities, Itanhaém and Ubatuba, this indicator represented approximately one third of that earned by the entire State and a quarter of the value for the State capital. The historical series (1991-2010) of some indicators such as the illiteracy rate and the low-income proportion of the population, earning a wage that is less than

half the monthly minimum wage, decreased markedly in this period. In Quintana, for example, the low-income proportion went from 73.9% in 1991 to 27.2% in 2010. This same trend was followed by the illiteracy rate: 20.2% in 1991; 9.3% in 2010.

## **4.2 Characteristics of immigrants before departure**

As described earlier (Section 2), when registering to receive assistance from IOM, immigrants are invited to prepare an Individual Reintegration Plan and a Business Plan. These two documents contain a number of questions that are answered by applicants and from this information it is possible to compile a set which provides an understanding of some of the immigrants' characteristics and their intentions once they return.

Of the 95 beneficiaries who indicated that they resided in the selected municipalities, 55.8% were women and 44.2% were men. The proposed projects were quite diverse, but could be roughly grouped into certain sectors/activities, which were mostly in the services sector. 12.8% of candidates, mostly women, proposed starting a business in the area of aesthetics (hairdresser, salon, manicure); the same proportion of immigrants was interested in a project focused on the clothing area, both in trade and in the domestic production of clothes, such as dressmakers. The food sector (snack bar, bar and street vendors) were the areas that aroused the most interest, with 31.8% of the proposals for entrepreneurship. The civil construction area was chosen by 10.7% of the applicants. The rest of the group (31.8%) presented several proposals, which included following a vocational course, opening a manufactory/atelier, etc.

When questioned on their experience for starting a business, 81.0% stated that they already had experience and knew the field in which they intended to start their business. It is interesting to note that, for a reasonable portion of the interviewees, this experience was related to the activity carried out in Brazil prior to their departure for Portugal. This situation, if not properly assessed, could produce a false premise, given that several had been abroad for a long time and, certainly, what had been valid at the time of their departure to Portugal might not be the case at the time of their return.

In eight cases, health problems were reported as priority on arriving at their new destination, which for some was seen as a possible obstacle to carrying out their project. Nevertheless, when dealing with the obstacles to the imple-

mentation of the reintegration projects, attention is drawn to the concerns of a number of candidates about the re-adaptation process in Brazil, where some even reported it to be a new migration, since they had been away from their country of origin for so long. Almost all indicated that family would be a source of support in the reintegration process, which is of fundamental importance in this process.

Finally, it was also possible to determine the vision that the people had of Brazil at the time prior to their return migration and the expectations that they had for the future, compared with the situation that they had experienced in the country prior to emigrating. In relation to the vision of the country at the time of returning, 42.3% believed that the situation was good, 37.1% declared they did not see it as either good or bad (average), and 18.5% declared that they would find a country in a difficult situation. 2.1% of the candidates did not give their opinion. When asked how they evaluated future prospects, when compared with the situation they left behind on their departure, 66.8% of the interviewees believed that the situation would be better than they had experienced in the past. 13.9% of candidates believed the situation would be the same and an equal proportion said it would be worse. 5.4% of the people did not give their opinion.

In summary, it is clear that at the time of their departure, the candidates had a strong spirit of optimism relating to the future, even if the majority had been patently concerned with their re-adaptation in the country of return, which could hinder the implementation of the proposed work plan.



# Results

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IN THIS CHAPTER, WE PRESENT SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE ANALYSIS of the fieldwork, divided as follows: a) general results taking into account the three states surveyed; b) results by State surveyed; c) dialogue with partner NGOs; and d) dialogue with local authorities and NGOs working with the migration issue.

## **5.1 General results taking into account the three States surveyed**

44 beneficiaries were interviewed<sup>1</sup> in three States: Goiás, Minas Gerais and São Paulo. In the three States, as shown in the table below, the vast majority of the beneficiaries received financial assistance and technical support through a local NGO to start up a micro-enterprise. A few received only financial support without relying on follow-up from the local partner. Others opted for a reintegration plan that would include training courses.

In general, the majority of the interviewees within the scope of this study went to Portugal between 2000 and 2004.

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<sup>1</sup> This number corresponds to 46.3% of the total number of beneficiaries to be interviewed.



FIGURE 9

TABLE OF BENEFICIARIES ACCORDING TO BENEFIT AND FOLLOW-UP RECEIVED PER STATE

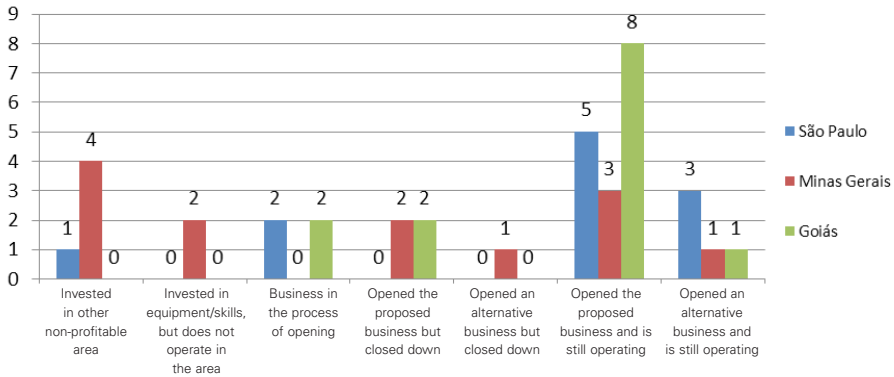
	Benefited from resources for a business and follow-up from an NGO	Benefited from resources for a business, without support from an NGO	Benefited from resources for other purposes	Total
Goiás	11 (73,3%)	2 (13,3%)	2 (13,3%)	15
Minas Gerais	10 (55,6%)	4 (23,5%)	4 (23,5%)	18
São Paulo	9 (81,8%)	2 (18,2%)	0 (00,0%)	11
Total	29 (67,4%)	8 (18,6%)	6 (13,9%)	43

SOURCE: AUTHORS' RESEARCH

The results of the investments of the 37 interviewees who benefited from resources to start a small business are shown in Figure 10, below. It can be noted that there is a higher percentage of success in the investments made by the beneficiaries in Goiás, followed by São Paulo. In Minas Gerais, the majority of the investments made in the proposed field – or not – unfortunately were not successful.

FIGURA 10

RESULTS OF THE INVESTMENTS OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF IOM ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME



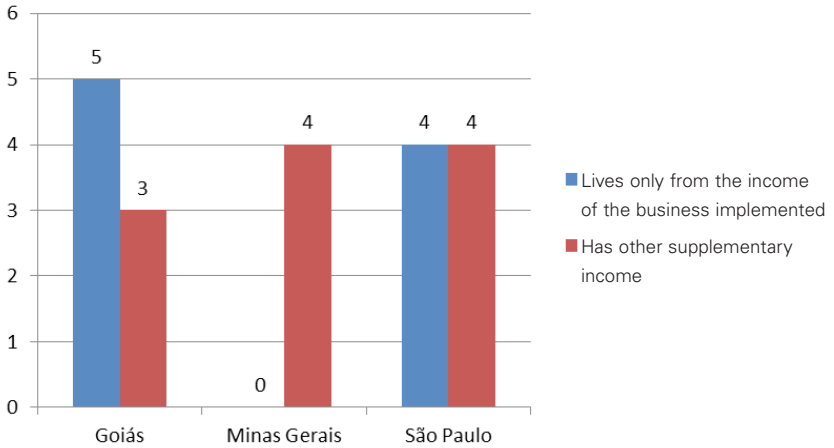
SOURCE: AUTHORS' RESEARCH

Figure 11 below shows the number of owners of businesses opened in each State, who live exclusively off the income from the business, and the number of owners that supplement their income with other professional activities. Once again, Minas Gerais is in last place in this analysis, where all the owners of the few businesses that are still in operation have to

supplement their income with other activities, as those businesses do not generate enough income for the survival of their families.

FIGURE 11

BENEFICIARIES WITH OPERATING BUSINESSES ACCORDING TO SOURCE OF INCOME



SOURCE: AUTHORS' RESEARCH

Of the 21 small businesses started in the three States and which are in operation, six generate income for indirect beneficiaries through the creation of jobs. There are two businesses in each State that generate income and work for others in addition to their owners, but the capacity to generate work also varies within the regional context, where in São Paulo this capacity is greater than in the other two States. Only one of the businesses started in São Paulo generates work for another 10 people, in addition to its owner. When asked if his business had a positive impact on his community, he made the following statement:

“Yes, because I hired several fathers/mothers. They are here with us. We have 10 employees. And without a job they would be unable to support themselves”.

BENEFICIARY IN SÃO PAULO WORKING IN CONSTRUCTION.

It is important to note, however, that the majority of the cities in Minas Gerais from where the beneficiary immigrants originated are in the Vale do Rio Doce region and surrounding areas, which is the region with one of the highest rates of international emigration in Brazil. The development of this region has historically been unsustainable, based on mining activities that do not keep human capital in the region and generate international and internal migration to other regions of

Brazil. Starting a small business in that region and keeping it going is a much bigger challenge than doing the same thing in the prosperous inland cities of the State of São Paulo or near cities like São Paulo, Belo Horizonte and Goiânia.

Therefore, there are different regional contexts to be analysed in this Programme assessment, making it advisable to perform a qualitative analysis of each State separately, thereby avoiding generalisations that lead to erroneous conclusions.

## **5.2 IOM Assistance without support from the local partner: dialogue with the returnees**

In this sub-item, we will present some comments and reports drawn from the discussions held with the returnees who received the reintegration assistance from IOM but was not supported from the local NGO in the three States.

In Goiás, four people were interviewed who did not receive support from the local NGO and, although one of them said that they had no difficulties in setting-up in Brazil, it was pointed out that local aid is relevant to the extent that it facilitates the reception of the resources, in addition to helping with the implementation of the business. This is explained in the words of those who relied on the support of the Rescue NGO.

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“It would also be easier if there was some organisation here. [...] Because when you get here, you’re completely unprepared. A couple that went there with a family. They arrived without even having property, without a place to live. So firstly any work that you can get, it would be very welcome, very welcome”.

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“Until you start to get settled again, because those coming from there to here in the same way I did, from nothing, have to start from scratch. If I’d had some assistance here from the Government, it would have been better. It wouldn’t leave so many people overwhelmed as it does, and the financial issue, money to survive, until the person starts to get things under control.”

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In Minas Gerais, as well as in Goiás, interviews were also conducted with four people who did not receive support from the local NGO. All stated that they experienced difficulties in implementing the PIR and think that local

support would have been relevant. Three of them had financial difficulties because of everything being so expensive in Brazil and one because she did not want to start the business alone and had not found a partner.

All accepted that receiving local follow-up would do a great deal to facilitate the reintegration process in Brazil, because they returned with many difficulties, as the reports below illustrate.

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“We came back with many difficulties, without a job. If there had been someone to give us guidance, it would have made things much easier.”

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“Because I arrived in Brazil half-blind. If I’d had someone to give me guidance, I think that things wouldn’t have been so complicated. I got much more help from Portugal than from Brazil, which is my country.”

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One interviewee said that she had sought assistance from the programme to assist artisans, called Mãos de Minas [Mine Hands], but since the service is so impersonal, via the internet, she was unsuccessful.

In São Paulo, only one interview was conducted with a beneficiary who had received reintegration assistance from IOM, but was not supported by the local NGO. He claims to have had difficulties after his return to Brazil due to lack of knowledge and the information necessary for reintegration, and stated that had he received help from the local NGO, his return would have been more successful. He believes that in Portugal he received better assistance than in his own country of origin.

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“On the issue of assistance, Portugal gives you more attention than Brazil. There was a time in Portugal when I was unemployed. I went to the Lagos Municipal Council for help. The psychologist there treated me and she asked me to tell her what I spent every month. I showed her my expenses. They helped me with 350 euros per month for 4 months, a good basic food basket, milk for my daughter and nappies. And here in my country, when I asked for assistance, they refused me”,

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### **5.3 Results by States**

The data collected from interviews were organised and analysed by State and comprise two blocks characterised as follows:

- Migration route – Dialogue with the returnees concerning life in Brazil before migration and their experience in Portugal.
- IOM assistance and support from the local NGO – Dialogue with the returnees who received reintegration assistance and rely on support from the local NGO.

### 5.3.1 Goiás

15 beneficiaries were interviewed. Of these, 13 had the support of the local NGO (Rescue Project) and two did not.

FIGURE 12

PROFILE OF THE BENEFICIARIES IN GOIÁS

Name	Age	Gender	Marital Status	Schooling
Vanilda Alves Martins Lima	44	F	Stable relationship	Completed secondary school
Simone Gonçalves Peixoto	34	F	Married	Completed secondary school
Conceição Pires Xavier	43	F	Single	Completed secondary school
Carolyne Borges Amorim	23	F	Stable relationship	Incomplete higher education
Leandro Silva Caetano	30	M	Married	Completed primary school
Paulo Henriques de Sousa Lisboa	27	M	Married	Completed secondary school
João Batista Pedrosa	49	M	Divorced	Completed secondary school
Gedeon Honorato Chagas	38	M	Married	Completed primary school
Hellen Teixeira Mamedes	28	F	Married	Completed primary school
Ana Machado de Oliveira	48	F	Single	Incomplete higher education
Werikldari Gomes da Costa	31	M	Stable relationship	Secondary school incomplete
Célia Rosa of the Santos	41	M	Single	Completed primary school
Ivanilde Silva Ribeiro	32	F	Single	Completed secondary school
Paulo Oliveira da Silva Duarte	49	M	Married	Secondary school incomplete
Alves Jolly Martins	40	F	Married	Completed secondary school

SOURCE: AUTHORS' RESEARCH

### 5.3.1.1 Migration route – Dialogue with the returnees concerning life in Brazil before migration and their experience in Portugal

It was observed throughout the interviews that the grounds for migration are divided into financial difficulty in Brazil, prospects of improving life/financial stability in Portugal and the dream of living abroad. In some cases, all these reasons are mentioned, as pointed out by one interviewee:

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“It was the desire to get to know the country. As children in school, we heard a lot of talk about Pedro Álvares Cabral, Portugal [...]. I turned my desires into reality, and did everything to go, to get to know the country and to try to get something better, financially.”

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It must be clarified, however, that out of the 15 people interviewed, only five were unemployed before travelling, one was a student and the other did not work outside the home. Perhaps these people were not yet integrated into the labour market when they migrated, i.e. it cannot be said that they were, in fact, unemployed. The others (eight) were working.

Most of the interviewees (80.0%) went to Portugal between 1999 and 2007; the others (20.0%) were distributed evenly between 2008 and 2010. Ten of the interviewees claimed to have left children in Brazil and five had not yet had the experience of having children. The length of stay in Portugal by the immigrants from Goiás ranged from two to 10 years, with most of them staying for longer than five years.

As was to be expected, of the 15 people interviewed, 14 knew at least one Brazilian who lived in Portugal and had certainly heard “success stories” about Brazilians in that country:

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“At the time (when I migrated), it was very difficult in Brazil [...] and many people I knew who had gone to Portugal were doing well in life. But then when you get there, you see that it’s all a fantasy. That it was nothing like the people said”.

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[I knew] “A friend. And she told me that I should go to Portugal, because everything there was very good and so on. That I’d be able to get my own house. And that the pay there was better than here. And that if I worked there and sent the money here, I’d certainly have my own house”.

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As for the experience in Portugal, most of the returnees who said that they had had expectations of a better life when they migrated appear to have been disappointed, finding only insecure jobs, especially due to their irregular status in the country.

In addition to working difficulties, the housing experience was often unhappy. Due to the high price of rent and the requirement for a Portuguese guarantor for the conclusion of the rental contracts for property, many interviewees reported that they lived in relatives' houses or sublet rooms in homes, often sharing them with other people.

The reports below demonstrate how they experienced the employment and housing situation.

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"In the area of work it was a little tricky. I worked twelve hours a day and had almost no time off. When I first got a job was when I started to see the difficulties of immigrants. I had no documentation, this shop where I worked, they hired people without documentation, but you could be subjected to anything. I suffered a lot of humiliation there"

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"The housing situation is horrible. It's very complicated, because you have to live with people you don't know".

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"We rented an apartment and shared with more people. In this case, there were three rooms in the apartment, there was a couple in one bedroom and a couple in the other and a single guy sharing a room with me. There were six of us".

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When asked about their reasons for returning to Brazil, only one interviewee said she had returned after having achieved her objective, which was to save money to buy a house. The remaining interviewees said they had no other choice than to return from Portugal when they became unemployed and had financial difficulties, and, often, did not have money to pay the rent. The situation was more serious for those who had children during the period in which they lived in the country:

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"When I had my work, he had his and we still didn't have children, we managed to live well. [...] But then I fell pregnant, my baby was born, and since I didn't have documentation, I wasn't entitled to receive family allowances.

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And for me to put him in a nursery or with a nanny, I'd have spent everything I earned where I worked to pay for my son's care. [...] But then with the problems of him losing his job, which was very good [...] he went to work in another garage and he didn't earn as much there. Then things began to get complicated, and I still had the expenses with our son, which were very high. Then, things started getting even more complicated. That was when we made the decision to come back".

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"I returned because my uncle was a builder and he was always telling me to go and work with him. But I didn't accept. I was always expecting that the situation in Portugal would improve. But the situation there was only getting worse. My wife lost her job, the market started to get bad for me. Our financial position got worse and I was no longer able to pay the rent. I had children there, then, the situation got even worse".

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With the difficulties experienced in Portugal, mainly in relation to financial problems, the majority of the interviewees hoped to have a better life on returning to Brazil. Many said that the expectation of improvements was due to the fact that they would once again be in their country of origin, which meant being closer to their families. Note that the family is a fundamental source of support in the reintegration process of emigrants.

Some, however, said that they did not have any expectations before returning, while others expected to return to the conditions prior to migration. Two of them said that they had been afraid of what they would find in Brazil and claimed to have psychological and emotional problems that hampered their adaptation, as reported in the statements below.

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"Difficulty, fear, because unfortunately Brazil is very violent. You hear fireworks and immediately think it's gunfire. The truth is that Brazil has problems with violence and has financial problems, but the image of Brazil abroad is much worse than what we find here. [...] Portuguese newspapers only show the negative side of Brazil. In other words, the Brazilians who are abroad are afraid. They resist coming back, a part is in relation to this, [...] When I arrived in Brazil, I was afraid of everything and everybody. I had to find a psychiatrist. It would be nice if the programme (IOM) implemented something of this nature, because people arrive and have to re-learn how to live with the family, which is something that is still difficult for me. You're going to be starting over again, re-learning how to live. You leave things here one way and when you come back, things are completely different. Like I said, out there Brazil is seen as a battlefield. So, you can imagine, I remained seven years without coming back here, hearing this type of information. That makes you afraid to set foot in Brazil."

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“I already knew that things here were not very easy because I stayed in contact with my family and they told me. But here I knew that I was going to find more peace, because I would be close to my family. There, in Portugal, I had no one who could help me. Here, I have people I can turn to. Now I can already work, I have someone I can leave my son with. My husband already had a job offer here”.

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“I expected to find a normal life, because the people who are there are terrified of coming back and not fitting in here. I had no such fear because I already know Brazil. I expected to find everything just as I found it. When I arrived here, I’d already started to rework my life. I didn’t have any major hurdles, no.”

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Of the total interviewees, 12 stated that their return to Brazil met their expectations, where the main reasons cited were the support provided by IOM for the journey home, the financial resources for the small business, pre-departure guidelines for Brazil, a feeling of greater security because they are in their country of origin, in addition to being near their families.

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“I knew I was going to experience difficulties, but I’ve learned to live with them, I see Brazil differently now. Now, I know I can go out and that people won’t come out shooting in the street. [...] Living with the family was thankfully very good, because I was well received. [...] it certainly exceeded my expectations.”

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“I think it exceeded my expectations. I got a house within 6 months of being back in Brazil. I could open my small business thanks to IOM and I looked for the house. This is enough to make a conclusion: If you want something and go after it and believe in what you do, you don’t have to leave the country. Thank God I had IOM, to start all this. The rest, God helped me, I went looking and I found it”.

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Among those who received financial assistance to start a small business, six claimed that the amount was insufficient, but acknowledged that this aid was important, as demonstrated by the following report:

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“To start with R\$ 2,500.00 isn’t much. You can’t start a business with less than R\$ 5,000.00. Because there is a lot of red tape. It wasn’t enough, but it was important. It was a base, even because you’re there and you think: My God, what now? So it was important but it wasn’t enough “.

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Two people said that their return partially met their expectations. One of them for not having adapted professionally and another for not having been successful in the Individual Reintegration Plan (PIR) she had set up. In fact she was taken by surprise with health problems that prevented her from continuing to work. One interviewee said that he had not yet achieved the planned results for his small business because he had only recently arrived in Brazil.

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"I expected to achieve a little more. What I managed through you (IOM) was only the starting point. I was able to buy a second-hand car to work with road advertising in the city. I had some disagreements about how to improve in this area, with people who believed in me, in the work I was doing, to advertise my business. I was having a hard time, then I had health problems. I had to give up this work and keep the money in the bank and live on it. Through it".

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"I think my return is very recent, I can't expect this right away. If you go to a fountain when you are too thirsty, you'll be frustrated. So, I'm taking one step at a time. I have achieved, I wanted to have my own company and I already have it. I've already been able to buy my own means of transport, now I'm trying to buy a house".

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It is worth highlighting that all of the interviewees received incentives from IOM for their reintegration. Eight are currently working on what they proposed in the reintegration plan and are satisfied with the results. One changed his reintegration plan to another one that was more suited to his qualifications and it is working well (painting cars). Two are in the process of starting their business as they arrived in the country recently. Two stated that they had opened the proposed small businesses but had to close them, one due to violence that generated fear in customers and another because he developed health problems. The reports below illustrate these statements.

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"I work with clothing. I managed to get help from IOM and then I bought sewing machines. And that is what helped me, and I think this is something that must never end. **Because it's a programme that really helps. It's true.** And it's something that helps because you are able to come back with the certainty that you're going to try to work. Because when you arrive here and don't have a job, it's very complicated. "

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“What I proposed in the business plan, was a snack bar. We kept it open for almost a year, then we closed. From the perspective of the region, it wasn’t good Then we had a robbery, and then customers stopped coming and we had to close, because business decreased. They took my mother’s car. And there, at that time, the people were very scared, you know? And then people stopped coming. Everything you see here is from the snack bar. We closed recently, last year”.

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“I work in painting. I’m self-employed. At first I had very little business. I had bought a piece of land long before. We built a very small business point there long before, to open a café or something. The only thing is that for you to set up all this, you need to have a lot of money so it didn’t work. In the beginning, I even thought of setting up with the aid money that they gave me and all, but it wasn’t enough. Then I decided to work for myself, painting. Because to start a business at the beginning I had to have good capital and I didn’t have it. I started buying some materials, but then what I had wasn’t enough to carry on. Then I stopped right there and then.”

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None of the interviewees admitted to having income other than from their work, nor to receiving any allowance from the Government. It is interesting to note that, although they show they are satisfied at having returned to Brazil, of the 15 interviewees, seven claimed to have experienced or be experiencing financial difficulties. It seems that the income obtained by these people, both those who have their own businesses and those who are employed, is enough to cover only essential expenses like food and housing. When something unexpected happens, especially in cases of health problems or situations that require additional spending, such as the costs of their children’s education, the income is insufficient and the solution for some is to take out bank loans.

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“[...] When my wife discovered that she was sick, we had to pay for her injections and this is a very expensive treatment “.

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“I have very little money in savings, which I began spending when I sold the sound car because of health problems. Because I was living as a favour in my brother’s house and having to help with a few things, needing to help.”

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“[I am] in debt. The whole situation got worse for me, my psychologist. I had trouble paying my debts, to who I owed in particular. Today I still have one outstanding debt with the bank, but I am making an agreement in order to pay everything off and to totally redeem my entire life once again”.

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“The only financial difficulty that I had was with my children’s school, because I wanted to put them in a private school, but I didn’t have the financial means for that”.

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With regard to social relations after returning to Brazil, some questions were explored in order to identify possible obstacles to the reintegration of migrants due to the difficulty of interacting with family, friends and people from the neighbourhood after returning, since it is common to feel shame and a feeling of having failed in their project of living in another country. Most, however, said that their relationship with friends, neighbours and relatives had not changed. One interviewee stated that he had lost touch with friends since he had migrated to Portugal, and another reported having problems adapting on arrival, which would have affected interaction with friends and neighbours.

When questioned about people’s opinions concerning their return to Brazil, the majority said that family and friends see this return positively. One interviewee claimed that some of the family perceive him as a failure. Another said that the opinions of the people he interacts with vary. Two of the interviewees said they had not noticed any difference.

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“Normal. I’ve always been a person who communicated well with everyone. Friends, neighbours from before [...] We’re still the same, the same unity, the same peace, the same friendship”.

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“It’s wonderful, there’s nothing better than being near family. I made new friends, won back some that I left. “

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“I lost the bond with my friends”.

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“Some [see me] as a failure. Even I when I arrived. I went to try life abroad and didn’t get anything.”

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Even with some obstacles to reintegration in Brazil, especially due to the financial problems mentioned by half of the interviewees, most said they were feeling good emotionally to be back home. Two of them, however, admitted

they miss Portugal, and only one said he still had not managed to re-adapt to the country.

Many justify the fact that they feel better in their country due to the proximity of family members and friends, which would facilitate support and assistance in situations of difficulty. Loneliness and lack of friends and family during their stay in Portugal are frequent complaints. Again, the importance of the family support network for the emotional and even financial stability of these people is clear:

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“I feel much better than when I was there. There you get very depressed. I don’t know if it’s the weather or if it’s the lack of physical contact with people. There everyone lives in their own world. Here there is more human warmth”.

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“Yes, I feel good. In relation to the financial issue even, because there if you’re not working you don’t have money. Then things really start to heat up. Here it’s not the case. If you aren’t working, you have a friend that can help you, you have a relative that can give you a hand, and things go on. There, I had days where I wanted to buy yoghurt and didn’t have the money. And everything there is more complicated. Things are much better here now.”

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#### *5.3.1.2 IOM assistance and support from the local NGO – Dialogue with returnees who received reintegration assistance and rely on support from the local NGO*

In this sub-item, it is worth pointing out that of the 15 interviewees, 13 received assistance from IOM and support from the local NGO and the other two had reintegration support from IOM, but did not receive any assistance from the local NGO.

Of the 11 interviewees who received support from the local NGO, 10 went ahead with their Proposed Reintegration Plan. Of this total, as was stated previously, eight started a business which is still operating and say they are satisfied. The main reasons are the financial gains and the proximity of family, in addition to the fact that they are in their country of origin. One of the interviewees pointed out the advantage that he did not have to travel, since the business is in his own home. Only one beneficiary had not started her business as she was still awaiting the arrival of the financial aid granted by IOM to do so. Only one person commented on having had difficulty in carrying out the business plan because the funding provided by IOM was insufficient.

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"I'm in my country. I don't have the financial difficulties that I had there because here, since you don't have to pay rent, you can stand out. I have my family and I discovered that the greatest wealth is having your family".

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"It's turning out all right. I have a lot of work in this area. I already have other jobs to do. The financial gain is also very good."

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Of all interviewees who started small businesses, four claimed to have made progress in relation to the initial plan, which is associated with increased demand in the area of construction, and only four live exclusively on income from their business. The rest claimed to rely on the help of others at home, especially the earnings of spouses.

The beneficiaries were also asked if they thought that starting their small businesses had made any impact on their community, and six said yes. Despite this, only two of them mentioned a significant impact, which was job creation, since the other answers did not correspond exactly to what was asked.

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"When I came, I was thinking of something small. Then when I got here a lot of work began to appear. Now I'm going to need more people to help me, because I'm not able to meet the demand on my own."

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"I have a job vacancy for another person. When it gets very busy, I need someone to help me. It's only during quieter times that I work alone".

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"Today I already have two people working with me. So I created jobs".

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Asked whether people thought that there could be some other kind of support to facilitate the opening businesses, half said that the support from IOM was enough, four replied that more financial resources would be necessary and said that the Brazilian Government should create facilities to grant credit to individual entrepreneurs.

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"I just think I'll have a bit of trouble buying the products that I use in the salon. Maybe if I had assistance in this area, it would help me a lot".

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“Financially, I think there was too much lacking.” Working capital [...] We should have had more, to be able to invest more. A bit was still missing on that side of things. Because at the time, we were dependent on it [...]. To eat, to live, it was a bit tight”.

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When asked what advice the interviewees would give to those who are thinking of investing in a small business, most mentioned characteristics which they see as essential for an entrepreneur: persistence, patience, responsibility, determination and willpower.

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“You have to be very persistent. And be very careful not to invest too much without knowing what the return is going to be. And be very cautious”.

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“First, believe, if you’re thinking of starting a particular business, believe. If you have a business, go ahead, have faith in God and work as hard as you can. When you’re criticised, don’t listen because often people are envious when they see a friend succeeding and they have nothing. I would say: have faith, go ahead, believe that you can do it”.

With respect to how the beneficiaries evaluate the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme, most evaluate the assistance that they received as being very positive. Everyone said that they had received guidance from IOM, either on structuring the PIR and/or on pre-departure counselling, which, according to them, was important for their return, as explained in the following reports.

Look, the assistance was.. When I went there to ask for help to return, and I went there against my will, because I was in a bad way. The boy who received me, I forget his name, he tried to help me with everything, even housing. He said that if I didn’t have anywhere to live, he’d provide a room until I left, the tickets and everything. And when I came, when I arrived at the airport, the girl that met me there with the tickets and everything, she gave me 500 euros, not 500, I think it was 750 euros, I think it was something like that. 750 euros in aid, which was to be used to support myself when I arrived. [...]. This was the help I got from them. On top of the plane tickets. Mine, my wife’s and for my two daughters.

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“Clearly. It helped a lot. Without this aid, I wouldn’t have been able to come back to Brazil. And I’d been living abroad for a long time. The information that the lady at IOM gave me, I forget her name now, was very important. “

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“Like I said, I’d have returned even without the assistance of IOM. But, it would have been more difficult, because I’d have to buy the plane tickets for four people [...]”.

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Of the 15 people interviewed, five considered the financial amount received from the IOM to be sufficient and six said no, because there were many expenses that exceeded the amount given. However, only two said that they would have returned to Brazil even without reintegration assistance, even if this return had been difficult, as one of them put it. All replied that there were no difficulties in receiving financial assistance from IOM and that they had no problem with the local NGO, which contrasts greatly with the information collected in Governador Valadares, MG.

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“It helped me a lot, for me to start my business. It was enough for me to buy my machines and organise some things that were pending”.

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“The aid was important, but it wasn’t enough. It wasn’t enough for me to set up my car wash, but my wife is doing the course. It’s better than nothing. Now at least my wife will have a profession”.

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All claimed to have used the aid to invest in the reintegration plan, whether for buying machinery or for investing in a professional training course. There interviewees were also unanimous with regard to the contribution of IOM – financial aid – for their reintegration, as mentioned earlier, either by having provided the air fares, or by having facilitated the opening of the business, as well as for the guidance received while still in Portugal and that was important for their return.

In relation to the support from the local NGO, all praised it, noting the attention – practical and emotional – given by the head of the NGO to the returnees.

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“Because we weren’t even in a position to buy the plane tickets. And if it hadn’t been for the money I got from IOM, I wouldn’t have been able to set up my business. They also gave me a lot of important information”.

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“The attention since I arrived in Brazil, Marco Aurélio who contacted me and helped me find prices and gave me all the information I required. I think that was essential”.

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“I relied on the support of Marco Aurélio, who represented you (IOM) in Brazil. He helped me a lot, he was very gracious, he gave me bearings, we managed to meet some of my expectations. Not 100%, but we achieved some. It was very important. The moral support for what I was going to do”.

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“Marco Aurélio always calls and tries to find out how I am, if I need something. Sometimes, he just phones to find out how I am doing and how my business is going. So that is his part, what he could have done he did. He gave me the information I needed. He helped me to search the price of the products I had to buy. What depended on him, he did. Even today when I need some information I contact him”.

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Four people said the IOM programme could improve in the following aspects:

- increase the financial support;
- a reduction/termination of the ban period for returning to Portugal<sup>2</sup>;
- offering professional qualification courses for returnees;
- psychological follow-up contributing towards their reintegration in Brazil.

In the view of some, effective Government support in assisting returnees, as well as greater financial support, would be an aspect that would contribute towards making their return to the country more successful.

To the question on the desire to go abroad again, the majority responded that they would like to return to Europe (Portugal, Spain, France or Italy), but only on holiday.

### **5.3.2 Minas Gerais**

18 beneficiaries were interviewed, six of these did not receive support from the local NGO (CIAAT).

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<sup>2</sup> Despite it being suggested by beneficiaries, such a measure falls outside of the scope of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme (ARVoRe) of the IOM.

**FIGURE 13**

**PROFILE OF THE BENEFICIARIES IN MINAS GERAIS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>Schooling</b>
Amanda Luzia Cabral Duarte	31	F	Consensual union	Not stated
Márcia Aparecida do Prado	41	F	Divorced	Completed primary school
Ezequiel Coelho Oliveira	30	M	Single	Completed secondary school
Carla Maria Ramos	31	F	Consensual union	Completed secondary school
Cristina Alves de Souza	39	F	Married	Completed secondary school
Edima Maria de Souza Fernandes	58	F	Legally separated	Primary school incomplete
Evaristo Lopes of the Silva	56	M	Married	Primary school incomplete
Henrique Marcos Rodrigues	43	M	Divorced	Secondary school incomplete
Sueli Rodrigues de Souza	35	F	Single	Secondary school incomplete
Rosângela Oliveira Dias Donato	46	F	Married	Primary school incomplete
Ângela Cristina dos Reis	31	F	Married	Completed primary school
Valmira Sebastiana de Souza	36	F	Divorced	Completed secondary school
Cheryl Barbosa Gomes	47	F	Married	Primary school incomplete
Geraldino Luiz Almeida	49	M	Married	Completed primary school
Érica Priscilla Nascimento de Almeida	23	F	Single	Completed secondary school
Karla Maria Laurindo Fabiano	21	F	Single	Completed primary school
Silvana Oliveira Dias	37	F	Married	Completed primary school
Rogério Germano Rodrigues	43	M	Consensual union	Completed primary school

SOURCE: AUTHORS' RESEARCH

Reminder: the data collected were organised and analysed in two blocs characterised as follows:

- Migration route – Dialogue with returnees concerning life in Brazil prior to migration and the experience in Portugal
- IOM Assistance and support of the local NGO – Dialogue with returnees that received reintegration assistance and rely on support from the local NGO.

### 5.3.2.1 Migration Route – Dialogue with returnees about life in Brazil before migration and the experience in Portugal

In Minas Gerais, the responses to the question about the reasons for migrating are divided into family reunification with relatives who were already there, combined with the desire for financial gain, the prospect of an improvement in life/financial stability in Portugal, the search for adventure in life and the dream of opening a business in Brazil after returning. Despite the desire for financial improvement being common, the majority confirmed that having a relative in Portugal was what really motivated the migration, as stated in the following reports:

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“Because my brother had already been living there for some time, and was always inviting me to go there. One day, I just decided to go there. Initially it was only to go and visit, but in the end I stayed there longer. I had to find work there, so that I could support myself there.”

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“I was looking for a better life. My daughter’s father was there. When she was only 4 months old, he went there to find something. He really wanted to go to the USA but he wasn’t able to. His family was in Portugal and I went to be with him. It didn’t work out. I stayed there a long time.”

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“My parents went to Portugal and left me here alone. I lived at the back of my grandmother’s house. Then I got sick and I needed my family so that’s why I went to Portugal. Since my family in Brazil was very complicated and I didn’t have much support, I ended up having to go to live with my parents in Portugal”.

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Almost all interviewees went to Portugal between 2000 and 2004, with the exception of one who went in 2007 and two who went in 2009. Two men and eight women had children that they had left behind in Brazil, one woman fell pregnant and two immigrants (one man and one woman) did not have children. One of the women went to Portugal and left seven children behind. This was in 2003. She came back to Brazil and returned twice more to Portugal, in 2008 and 2009.

Almost all the people interviewed had been working in Brazil prior to travelling, but in unskilled positions and at minimum wages, such as delivery boys<sup>3</sup>, dishwashing, waiters and waitresses, petrol station attendants and self-employed cosmetics seller.

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<sup>3</sup> Delivery boys, also known as couriers in Portugal, are professionals who use a motorcycle to deliver and receive various types of objects or products.

It is concluded, therefore, that a combination of factors drives these people to migrate, some of them the responsibility for the maintenance of their children, without prospects of financial improvement in Brazil to fulfil this function, given the low level of schooling, in addition to the fact that most already have family and friends in Portugal inviting them and telling them stories of better financial gains.

At a second point in the interview guide, the questions were focused on the experience in Portugal. As was the case with the returnees in Goiás, the reports of the working experiences in Portugal from the returnees in Minas Gerais demonstrate that it was common to find only very insecure jobs, particularly due to their irregular situation in the country. Those who went in the first half of the 2000s were able to regularize their situation and work on a contract. The following report of a returnee that went several times, the last time of them in the second half of the 2000s, closer to the economic crisis, illustrates the employment difficulties aggravated by the crisis.

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“Work for me was bad because I arrived at a time when it wasn’t easy to get a visa [...] my sister already had one [...] she went 5 months before I did and she got everything. She worked on a contract, she had her rights there. Me, I already had problems, because there were a lot of Brazilians there already, you know? So, I worked without a visa. I even worked for a cleaning company and the owners would keep us away from the immigration services so they wouldn’t catch us. Often, I’d arrive at work and the boss would say “Márcia don’t come in because immigration is here” [...] Wow, I suffered a lot. I always worked irregularly, without a contract. The last time I was able to get a contract there, but without a visa. That doesn’t help, you know?”

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Unlike the returnees in Goiás, almost all the returnees in Minas Gerais said that they lived in a relative’s house or sublet rooms in the houses of third parties only at the beginning or when they had left their houses while awaiting for IOM support in order to return home. Two interviewees reported that the presence of children within the core family was the determining factor for them to move to a home that was exclusively for the family.

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“Housing, if you are able to pay the rent, you can live anywhere. It was only in the end that we had a little problem in relation to housing, because when I did the interview with IOM we returned the house, because I didn’t think that it was going to take long to receive the support. Then we went to live with my sister-in-law. It was horrible, an unbearable situation.”

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“Before I lived in a room, when I didn’t have children, I paid rent for one room in the house of a lady who rented a room there. Then once the children were born, I was forced to rent a house, because a child can’t stay there... The same also happens here, because here children need their own space. So I had to rent a house. But after all, I only lived in that same room and I lived in another house, as it was very far from work. Let’s say it was in Santa Rita I had to work ... Then I managed to get another house where I worked, I only moved three times only in that whole time.

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“First I went to live with my daughter’s father, then I left him. I lived alone, then I met Fabrício and we lived together there. But I didn’t share a house or anything, even because I had my daughter and I couldn’t live with other people I didn’t know, you know?”

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When dealing with social relationships in Portugal, all stated that they had no problems making friends with Brazilians from different states and immigrants of other nationalities. Only one said that she made friends among the Portuguese and another speaks of the difficulty in making Portuguese friends due to cultural differences:

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“I made friends there with people from Goiânia and with people from São Paulo [...] I had two African friends, Portuguese were very few [...] they were more difficult to make friends with. Their culture is different from ours, they don’t have what we have here, getting together and chatting.”

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When asked about the reasons for returning to Brazil, the interviewees said they had no other choice than to return from Portugal when they became unemployed or their working hours were reduced, causing them to suffer financial difficulties. Despite everyone saying that they missed their families in Brazil, only one said that missing her family was the reason for her return.

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“Because work was very scarce there. I was unemployed for a long time there. Then things began to get tight, so I went to IOM. Then because it took so long to get an answer, I started to save money to buy a ticket home. Then thankfully, IOM contacted me and asked: Do you still want to go back to Brazil? And I said: Yes. Then they told me to go there for an interview. And I started to fill in the papers for returning”.

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“Because my mother and father are alive and I’m on good terms with my family. So I started missing my family. One of my uncles died in Brazil, I was there in Portugal and that affected me a lot. I started thinking, what if I lost my parents, my brothers, how would I do to go back. So, that’s why I decided to return to Brazil”.

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With the difficulties experienced in Portugal, mainly in relation to financial problems, the majority of the returnees hoped to have a better life on returning to Brazil. Five of them claim to have found what they expected, a better Brazil than what they had left behind, but two were disappointed, saying that the advertising of Brazil abroad is misleading, because it is far from the reality.

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“My family [...] even because I went there thinking like a child, I was 20-something [...] I arrived here thinking differently ... I work better, because I found out that here in Brazil the employment situation was very good and in Portugal that was no longer the case. So these were the things I expected to find here ... that I ended up finding [...]”

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“You know, I think I found more than I expected. I arrived at a very good time for work. Also when I arrived, I immediately found a job. I didn’t expect to find Brazil as well as I did”.

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“We used to watch the news, and internationally they see Brazil as taking very long strides towards becoming a first world country. This was when we were there. But in reality, much has to be done in Brazil for this to happen, mainly in the area of health. It was a disappointment for me when I arrived here and saw the reality. There the quality of life is a priority, not here”.

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All interviewees received an allowance from IOM through the Individual Reintegration Plan, whether to set up a small business or to invest in professional training. In the case of those who had asked for assistance to open a small retail business, currently the majority do not work in what was proposed in the PIR. As explained below, some claim to have made changes to their plans, due to the perception that what they had proposed was not viable in the Brazilian market, after they had arrived in Brazil. Two started a business and then closed it, frustrated with the lack of working capital to continue with the investments. However, the majority show that the difficulties were of a personal or family nature, which prevented them from succeeding with their attempts at setting up a business.

The following stories demonstrate different reasons why businesses were not actually opened or did not work out.

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“In the business plan, I proposed doing nails, but gel nails are very expensive in Governador Valadares. It was also very expensive to set up a place, because my neighbourhood is very disproportionate. Then I went and changed my business plan. I talked to Raul and he told me that I could change my business plan. The I decided to go and buy some things and set up a small barbecue place. [...] But then, as my daughters were on holidays, I had nobody to leave them with and there is a lot of traffic passing in our door, a lot of motorbikes. It’s a very dangerous place, so I decided to stop. But I’ve almost finished building a room at the top of my house. And then I’ll start working again”.

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“Instead of opening the snack bar, I did an occupational safety office course. I had to change my mind because my friend didn’t come with me”.

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“The course that I was going to do with IOM support was as a massage therapist, but I was outside Contagem, it was very difficult to leave my daughter and go on the course. Then I made an agreement with them and became a partner in a cosmetics factory [...]”.

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“[...] We were counting on the money from IOM to arrive in January. Then we opened a supermarket account, because we didn’t have money. In my business plan, I said that I wanted to buy some salon things for hair, nails. [...] My father works in handicrafts, so we wanted to buy a cutting machine for him to work with stone. But since the money was very late and arrived at a time when we owed money to the supermarket, on rent, to the chemists, because I had no money to buy anything, we used the money to pay our debts. We also needed to fix up our house so we wouldn’t have to pay rent”.

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“Things in Brazil are very expensive. I needed machines, raw materials, like paint and other things. I kept my business for almost 2 years. I had to close down because I was spending a lot. I was also robbed, I started making losses. I got very scared. So, I preferred to close down.

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Ten of the beneficiaries said that they did not have any other income apart from the work they do (this is outside the PIR). Those that have income not

coming from work receive a Bolsa Família [Family Allowance]<sup>4</sup> (1), retirement (1). Three immigrants are currently facing bureaucratic difficulties in registering their children born in Portugal in order to obtain social benefits.

In relation to the current housing, seven interviewees stated that they lived in rented housing, while four live in their own homes and three in allocated housing or shared with relatives. One was included in the My House My Life Programme<sup>5</sup> for funding social housing.

It is interesting to note that, although stating that they were satisfied with returning to Brazil, among the 18 interviewees, eight claimed that they had experienced or were experiencing financial difficulties. It appears that the income obtained by these people, both those who have their own business and those who are employed, is only enough to cover some of the essential expenses, such as food and housing, as indicated in the reports below.

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“I have a lot of financial difficulties. There have been times where I didn’t even have R\$ 1.00 to buy bread for my daughters”.

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“I pay R\$450,00 on rent. What I earn is to pay rent and buy food for my house. My children are in need of clothes I can’t buy”.

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“Yes. We are living off the money that IOM gave to open a business. We are investing in a home and paying rent. I had to do some part-time jobs, cutting stones for some people, so that I could bring food home.”

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“Until last month we didn’t know where to go, all of us unemployed. When my aunt called me and told me that her boss had work for me, this was the beginning of the recovery”.

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<sup>4</sup> The Programa Bolsa Família (PBF) [Family Allowance Programme] is a programme for the direct transfer of income to families living in poor and extremely poor conditions throughout the entire country. The Bolsa Família includes the Brazil Without Misery Plan (BSM), which is focused on the 16 million Brazilians with a per capita income of less than R\$ 70 a month and is based on the guarantee of income, inclusion in production and access to public services.

<sup>5</sup> My House My Life is a programme of the Brazilian Federal Government, which has transformed the dream, for many Brazilian families, of owning their own home into a reality. In general, the Programme is run in partnership with the states, municipalities, companies and non-profit organisations. In order to gain access to the financing arrangements offered by the Programme, candidates must meet certain requirements, in most cases related with proof of low income.



When something unexpected happens, mainly in the case of health problems, especially reported by eight people, or circumstances that require additional spending, such as expenses with children's schooling, the income is insufficient and the solution for some is to take out bank loans. Those that have chronic diseases and who had been treated in the health system in Portugal said that the assistance in Brazil is not of the same quality.

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"My daughter was born with heart problems. There, in Portugal, she had excellent treatment and we don't have that here. Then, I began to regret having come back because of this. They told me that they don't have a cardiologist to treat children in Ipatinga. The option I have is to go to Belo Horizonte or pay for private treatment. And I had all this for free in Portugal".

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"Just me, with a heart problem. I'm getting treatment here. I'm paying for a private doctor".

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With regard to social relationships after returning to Brazil, some issues were explored in order to identify possible hurdles to the reintegration of the emigrants, due to difficulties in interacting with family, friends and people from the neighbourhood, since it is common to have a feeling of shame and the feeling of having failed in the project of living in another country. Most, however, said that their relationship with friends, neighbours and relatives had not changed. But it is worth highlighting that five interviewees reported family changes resulting from migration, such as: not feeling very welcome by the family despite many promises, loneliness and a feeling of abandonment, as shown below.

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"That charisma that I had with the family has ended. I see that in Brazilian families in general, not only in my family. The relationship before the migration was much closer and now everyone has gone their own way".

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"You see, as my mother went to Portugal and left me with my grandmother, my relationship was not very good with my family. Because I was studying in the morning, I had to go to bed early, but my aunt wouldn't let me because she said that the room was hers. When I'd go to eat, she'd tell me that she had no food. So I preferred to live alone at the back of the house. It was my friends and my friends' families that helped me then. Now that I have returned with my mother, my family is treating me as if nothing had happened".

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When asked about people's opinions regarding their return, most said that family and friends see this return positively. One of them claimed that some in his family saw him as a failure. Another one said that the opinions of the people he interacted with varied. Two said that they did not notice any difference.

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"They mock me and say things to each other like: they went to Portugal and did nothing. They see it as a frustrated plan, a failed dream".

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My sisters, my parents were very happy. The only thing I think was frightening is that I put on a lot of weight. My sisters found that very strange. They don't see my return as a success".

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"It's difficult. I don't say much about it. Like I came on a paid ticket. Not everyone knows that. People think that we go and come back loaded with money, but everyone saw the way I came back. Depending on everyone. My family knows that I worked hard. The way I came, I understand that my family was very disappointed. They don't say it but I understand. I came back broke and sick".

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Even when facing some obstacles to reintegration in Brazil, especially due to the financial problems claimed by 50% of the interviewees, half said they were feeling good emotionally to be back. Three wavered as to whether they were better off because they had returned. Two expressed their dissatisfaction at having returned. They miss Portugal and appear to be divided between the two countries, as the reports below show.

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"Look, emotionally, yes. My friends who were in Portugal and my daughter's father came back. I was very lonely in Portugal and I stayed home a lot. Here I'm feeling much better".

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"I am, but I miss Portugal too. [...] because I left friends behind, people who were living nearby; I miss those people a lot. Homesickness. We are caught on one side and the other. The same way I feel now, longing to be there, when I was there I longed to be here. This longing only increases over time. When they call me, some still call me, I'm happy, I feel very homesick. It's sad".

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However, many justify the fact that they feel better in Brazil because of the closeness of family and friends, which would facilitate support and assistance

in times of difficulty. Loneliness and lack of friends and family during their stay in Portugal are frequent complaints. Once again, it is evident the importance of the family support network for the emotional and even financial stability of these people.

### *5.3.2.2 IOM assistance and support from the local NGO – Dialogue with returnees who received reintegration assistance and rely on support from the local NGO.*

Of the beneficiaries interviewed, four used the resources from IOM reintegration assistance to renovate their homes. This was neither discussed nor defined with the local partner but rather they carried this out on their own. Five people attempted to follow the reintegration plans, mainly for the acquisition of equipment and investment in professional training. However, for four of them, the businesses either did not work out or were never set up. Three changed their plans and invested in a small business that is still in running, two as minority partners with relatives and one selling coconut. Another two also changed their PIR and chose another type of small business or training course, but their business is no longer operational or they are not working in the field in which they invested. Even in the case of those whose business is still running, the income derived from this is insufficient. Only one invested in the proposed business, which is still successful because he took out bank loans to continue investing. According to his statement, the funding was very important, but was insufficient to maintain the business, which grew very fast and exceeded the expectations set out at the time of preparing the PIR.

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“[...] You take the first step, then you become a “half-orphan” because this way, you don’t have the necessary follow-up. For those who seek support from that institution, if it has another centre, if it has anything, if it has a real reinsertion assistance. I think that everything has been done to reintegrate the immigrant into society. This aid is also to attempt to once again restart life in their country. I think that this follow-up is lacking. The issue that the amount could be more. I think that if you have a business that you can start with your own two hands, you’re not crippled. It’s clear that the steps you take, your path is made easier and although your return and success are not guaranteed, things are further ahead. This can be disturbing because suddenly, you start giving a little to everybody and after that, they all start disappearing until nobody is left. In other words, people open and close, because they have no way to carry on. And sometimes they are good proposals”.

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In relation to the support from the local NGO, the Centre for Information and Technical Assistance (CIAAT), some beneficiaries had a very close relationship with the partner, including discussing changes in their business plans. Others, however, did not develop a supporting relationship with the NGO. It appears to be evident that this relationship was never developed because their businesses were not opened and/or because they were not properly followed-up by the NGO (precarious relationship). The reports that follow show the different opinions in relation to the follow-up from the local NGO.

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“He helped me think of something I could do differently. He gave me opportunities to think of different things, which could work, also with less money”.

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“If Raul had come here, I’d have spoken to him personally, so he could help me get the machines for me to work. As he knows more, I think it would have helped me a lot “.

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“I didn’t actually talk to Raul about it. When the money arrived, I immediately started doing things in the house. After I’d worked on the house, I spoke to Raul about how I’d spent the money”.

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“Raul was very polite to me, but I didn’t actually talk to him about anything that concerned the business. There was only one day when I spoke to Raul and told him I was thinking of buying clothing for resale. Then, Raul told me that maybe this wouldn’t work out, because other people had already attempted it and been unsuccessful.

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“I don’t know how to say it. I think that it works better in the logistics of things. Being available to answer any questions that you may have. But I think that the thing as a whole works very well. It was helpful. They are all people who know how to deal with people socially. But I think that, as a whole, it’s... It’s not that it doesn’t all come together, but things could move faster”.

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On being asked what improvements could be made to the IOM programme, seven interviewees mentioned some points, such as: 1/ more qualified guidance from people who know the reality of entrepreneurship in Brazil in the preparation of the PIR, and 2/ more effective local follow-up and with the stimulus of creating an association of returnees here in Brazil, as shown in the following report.

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"I really think that the process lacks continuity. Knowing if that immigrant is a reference point, for example, I'm in the barbecuing business. I know a lot about this area. But alone, and without knowing the market out there, working the way I do, I don't have the time .... Having a go-between would be fundamental. The immigrant arrives. I believe that the first assistance to be given should be from the State. For example, in Belo Horizonte there must be more immigrants who came back from Portugal, China or Japan. This association between immigrants who came back would be a primary factor for the exchange of ideas, information, even an actual joint business. Instead of giving a thousand euros to each one, doing something so that from all the immigrants that arrive, you have a group of people that understands their difficulties, which will reintegrate you into the labour market".

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I think that IOM could improve in terms of guidance with the business plan. Because the cost of living in Portugal is one and in Brazil it is another one. So, I believe that guidance when we present the business plan would help a lot."

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On the question about the advice that the interviewees would give to someone who is thinking of starting a small business, most mentioned characteristics which they see as being essential for an entrepreneur: persistence, patience, planning, market research, and others. It is clear that this advice was derived from the difficulties that they encountered when starting their proposed business, as shown in the following reports.

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"It's a little complicated. It's not easy. In the beginning, it's tough. You need to have a lot of patience. You must have a plan."

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"I think people have to study what they're going to work with. You must understand, be a specialist in what you do. If you only have an idea about it, it's not worth it".

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"I started in a restaurant washing dishes. I did cleaning, I was a waiter, worked on the barbecue. I already had experience handling cash. Before doing this I had worked in an office. I think that the more experience you have is what will allow you to start a business. Otherwise, it won't be worth it. Because, even with all this experience, I felt that I still didn't have enough. I need other things that don't depend on me. Knowing the entire process of what you want to do and even then, you can expect difficulties.

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With respect to how the beneficiaries evaluate the programme, most said they received guidance from IOM regarding reintegration assistance and the Brazi-

lian reality prior to departure. According to them, this was important in building their expectations regarding their return to Brazil, and even in reducing the fears concerning the arrival in the country of origin after a long stay abroad.

In summary, in addition to the two suggestions already mentioned above, the beneficiaries highlighted that the IOM programme could improve in the following aspects:

- increase the financial support;
- offering professional qualification course for returnees;
- psychological monitoring contributing to their re-adaptation in Brazil;
- reducing red tape for the reception of reintegration grant.

As for reintegration in Brazil, most of the interviewees said that they feel they are reintegrated into Brazilian society, especially due to being close to family and friends. Only three reported not feeling reintegrated due to cultural differences that determine the functioning of the different services. They claim that they spent many years away from Brazil and it is really difficult for them to reintegrate, as shown in the statements below.

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“I feel like a fish out of water. As I’ seen how things work outside the country, with respect to the area of health and other areas as well. When I got to Brazil, and saw how things are, I was very sad and disappointed”.

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“[...] I think that integration is the complicated word. I feel I belong. I know that I am Brazilian. Integrated is complicated. I spent 11 years in another country and it’s not even 3 since I’ve been back here. I’m still quite green in many things. It’s only now that I can travel by bus without thinking that it’s going to hit another car. I don’t think that the driver is going too fast, that he’s rude, but I understand that the pace in Brazil is faster. Excuse me, thank you, those things you have in Europe, respect. All of that is very informal in Brazil. No, I don’t think I am. Because you miss the things you’ve seen abroad. You think that you can be different.

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On the question of wanting to go abroad again, eight of the interviewees expressed their desire to do so, stating their main destination as Portugal. Only one of the eight said that the destination would be the United States. However, most of those who responded affirmatively intends to travel only on holidays (five), even though three are thinking about emigrating again (one to work and one to study).

### 5.3.3 São Paulo

11 beneficiaries were interviewed. All had benefited from reintegration resources to be used in the opening of a small business. Nine received follow-up from the local NGO (ASBRAD) and two did not.

FIGURE 14

PROFILE OF THE BENEFICIARIES IN SÃO PAULO

Name	Age	Gender	Marital Status	Schooling
Rita Cristina Vasone	46	F	Divorced	Completed secondary school (Nurse's Aide)
Vander Rodrigo dos Santos	28	M	Stable relationship	Completed primary school
Edson Barbosa da Silva	38	M	Single	Completed primary school
Ana Maria Afonso Durães	41	F	Married	Primary school incomplete
Luciel Ferreira da Cruz	41	F	Single	Completed secondary school
Tatiane de Carvalho	33	F	Stable relationship	Completed secondary school
Maria Célia Valeriano Cruz Silva	44	F	Married	Completed secondary school
Nildo Santos	47	M	Divorced (currently in stable relationship)	Primary school incomplete
Antônio Oliveira das Graças	38	M	Single	Completed secondary school
Magaly Ferraz da Silva	51	F	Divorced	Completed primary school
Marta Cecília Monteiro de Mello	53	F	Married	Completed secondary school

SOURCE: AUTHORS' RESEARCH

The data collected through interviews, as in the other States, were organised and analysed in two blocs characterised as follows:

- Migration route – Dialogue with returnees concerning life in Brazil prior to migration and the experience in Portugal
- IOM assistance and support from the local NGO – Dialogue with returnees who received reintegration assistance and rely on support from the local NGO

### 5.3.3.1 Migration Route – Dialogue with returnees about life in Brazil before migration and the experience in Portugal

At the first stage in the interviews, questions were asked regarding life in Brazil before migration. The responses to the question on the reasons for migrating are related to the prospects of a better life/financial stability, since it was a common idea that in Portugal it would be easier to get work and prosperity (although only one was unemployed at the time). As we see from some statements, the idea was to return to Brazil with better financial conditions, as is made clear from the following responses:

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“I went to Portugal with my partner. I hoped to find a prosperous future, but I was disappointed”.

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“[I expected to find] a better life, you know? I thought I was going to get work, save money and send something back here to Brazil”.

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“[I Expected to find] a job. I hadn’t thought of living there. It was just work. The goal was financial”

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The 11 people interviewed knew at least a Brazilian living in Portugal and who was generally successful. Not surprisingly, some have claimed that this situation contributed to the desire to change, combined, of course, with other reasons, such as financial stability or more personal motivations, such as marital problems or separation in Brazil.

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“At the time, a lot of our friends were going. I was running a preschool but I didn’t have many pupils, because the Mayor had built two crèches next door. There I was in the middle, and the situation here in Brazil is complicated, you know? Then I closed the school and I was a little lost. Off I went, my husband and my three children. My children were already big, I had one minor and the others were adults”.

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“I went there at the time of my separation. In fact, I didn’t even go to work, I went because my son was there, and to stay there for three or four months and come back, but I ended up liking it and I stayed there, I got work, I made friends and I stayed”.

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“Because my husband’s family had relatives there, I also had a good job offer and I left here and went there. I had a history of domestic violence in Brazil with my husband, my sister-in-law [who was there] is like a sister to me, so she supported me “.

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Only one person stated that the motivation for migration was linked to the desire to live in another country.

Among the interviewees from São Paulo, all had migrated in the first decade of the 21st century, there being no higher concentration for any specific year. The last departure from Brazil occurred in 2009. Of all the interviewees, nine said that they had left children in Brazil.

The second block of questions in the interview guide was related to the experience in Portugal, with the emphasis on work, housing and sociability. As became clear in the first topic of this study, the main expectation of the interviewees from São Paulo concerning migration was to find a good job in Portugal and thus financial stability. Many also explained that they were interested in returning to Brazil more well-established.

Their work experience in Portugal, when they arrived in the country, seems to have been generally successful. Even though some found jobs that were not as good as they had expected, only two people claimed to have had difficulties in the beginning. Probably, this is linked to the fact that all the interviewees stayed at least five years in the country, having arrived there before the “crisis in the Euro Zone countries.”

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“I worked with elderly people, earning 3,000 euros. In the end, when my boss died, I had more difficulty in getting work because the country was in a crisis”.

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“With respect to work it was good, I was lucky in my field, which was civil construction. I arrived one day and started working the next one”.

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“I had a good job there, you see. The week I arrived, I found a job working in a house taking care of two little girls, and I stayed for four years. Then I left and I went to work in a motel, I stayed for a year and a bit”.

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“I did a little bit of everything there. I worked in a restaurant, bar, cleaning. A little bit of everything. I managed to regularize my situation while I was working.”

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“In the beginning it was very complicated. They were asking for documents and I didn’t have them. Then I started working, handing out flyers and then I went into civil construction.”

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In relation to housing, social relationships and friendships in Portugal, the experience of the interviewees from the State of São Paulo seems to have been good, at least when compared to the experience of the returnees in Goiás. All said they made friends, even if they were few. None of those interviewed complained about housing or rents, even though, as will be seen from excerpts from their statements, there were those who lived in a house with only their family and those who shared the house with other couples or rented a room/bed in a residence.

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“I lived in a fully furnished apartment, because I earned well and could pay the rent”.

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“I rented. In the beginning I lived with four couples. Me, my husband, and three other couples [...] But after three years, when my children went to live with me, then we rented a house just for us. The four of us and the dog lived there”.

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“At first I lived with my son, but he and my daughter-in-law separated. He went to live in one house and I went to live in another and I continued living alone until my daughter went and then I always lived with her.”

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“I lived in a very nice apartment. It belonged to my ex-boss. He rented it to me quite cheap. Me, my husband, my children, and then my daughter-in-law lived there [...]”

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“I made many Brazilian and Indian friends”.

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“The Portuguese themselves, when you make friends, are good. Much better than many Brazilians [...]. The friendships that I made were true. I had more Portuguese friends [...]”.

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“I have always had good friendships. I had many friends from Brazil and also from Africa”.

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When asked about the reasons that led to returning to Brazil, none of the interviewees answered that they had come back after they had achieved their goal, which is generally related to financial stability. The reasons for returning can be divided into three blocks: the crisis in Portugal; the health problems of someone in their family (in Brazil or in Portugal); other reasons as shown in the reports below.

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“Portugal was in crisis, my husband and I were unemployed. We didn’t have enough money even to pay the rent”.

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“My husband was no longer working, because of head surgery, he had a tumour in his head. I was the only one working, and my son with two small children. Then things started to get more complicated”.

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“Because I had no documentation, I spent eight months in a shelter hiding from my husband, because he used to beat me up. I had no work and you could only stay in a shelter for nine months”.

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“I decided to come back. First, because I’d already been away a long time and I had a problem with my middle son here, a serious problem. He needed me around, so I came back”

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In addition to the reasons above, four of the returnees reported that they expected to find a better life in Brazil, seeing that they were already struggling in Portugal, particularly in the case of financial problems and, perhaps more importantly, in relation to family support. Four said they had come back without willing to and, therefore, thought that they would find more problems here than those encountered in Portugal. As will be seen from the statements, the expectation did not always correspond to what they actually found here:

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“I didn’t expect to find much. But I arrived and found the city had changed. With regard to work, in my region, things had changed a lot. In my field, civil construction, there is a lot of work”.

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“I didn’t know how things were in Brazil. In fact I was afraid, because it’s very violent here. But, thankfully, everything is fine, I have a job”.

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“Everyone said: Brazil is much better! I didn’t notice any difference. The difference I noticed it’s in the sense that it is easy to get used to good things; with bad stuff, it’s harder”.

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Of the 11 interviewees in the State of São Paulo, seven said that the return met their expectations, mentioning proximity to family and the professional situation as their reasons.

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“I arrived in Brazil with nothing and had the support of my family”.

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“Things have improved a lot here in Brazil, the children were already grown up. Wages have improved. I liked it”.

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“Because I found work, my colleagues, my family. My clients from six or seven years ago knew I’d come back and came looking for me. Because my father was always a contractor, and I continued doing what he did”.

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Of these seven, three said that, although the return had met expectations, they had not yet adapted nor were they well-established:

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“The city has improved considerably. Now, I had a hard time adjusting. Because I had lived a lot around Indians, the people in my city would laugh at me. So, I like to be more alone”.

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“I need to improve my business. So far, I haven’t been able to buy my house. This is the livelihood so we don’t go hungry. We thank God that we have our health and the courage to work”.

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“Firstly, because I’m near my family again, but in truth I am still adjusting. It’s still not 100%, I’m still adjusting”.

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The justifications pointed out by the four people who said that the return did not meet their expectations are generally linked to work/financial difficulties and the difficulty in adjusting.

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“I experienced a lot of difficulty, my CPF<sup>6</sup> had been cancelled, I had no money, I had nothing to feed my daughters”.

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“I arrived, I began to work, and last week I was dismissed from work”.

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“I lived in Portugal for five years. Let’s say that it has nothing to do with things here. Then I came back for good to live in a place like this as you’ve seen, totally different. Dirty, the cost of living here is high [...]. I was disappointed, but I had to come back. It wasn’t just me. If it had only been me, I would still be there to this day. [...] I worked in a bad job, so to speak. My salary was completely different. Safety, ok I know that I’ve come to São Paulo, but it’s different”.

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Despite the sometimes negative responses in relation to the return of the 11 interviewees, only one person, who had lost the job on the day of the interview, was not working.

Besides, one aspect that is worth noting is that, of the 11 people interviewed, only three said that they have some financial problems in Brazil, and one of them had lost the job on the day of the interview. One of them due to debts incurred before going to Portugal, and the other because he was waiting for a return from the business. Even so, and unlike the interviewees in Goiás, the majority says that they miss Portugal. It is worth mentioning that two interviewees receive aid from the Family Allowance Programme due to their socially and economically vulnerable situation.

In the case of social relationships after returning to Brazil, some issues were explored in order to identify possible obstacles to the reintegration of immigrants due to the difficulties of interaction with family, friends and people from the neighbourhood, since there is a common feeling of shame and the feeling of having failed in the project of living in another country. Most, however, said that the relationship with friends, neighbours and relatives is good. Even those who claimed not to have many friends do not complain. When asked about people’s opinion on their return, most said that family and friends see this return positively and were happy with it. One person said that some relatives believed that she would return in a better financial situation.

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<sup>6</sup> CPF, Cadastro de Pessoa Física [Register of Natural Persons], is the equivalent of the Tax Identification Number in Portugal.

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“You see, some thought that we would come back better off, because they thought that I earned a fortune there. My family, who I care about, my mother, my father and my sister, they were very happy. They gave me the greatest strength”.

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“They welcomed me, I also don’t ask what they thought.”

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“You see, my sisters and my mother, say it was the best thing that happened because I was the only person who was abroad”.

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Even with reintegration in Brazil, in the case of the State of São Paulo, having apparently gone smoothly, seeing that only one person is unemployed, and of the 11 interviewees only three stated to have some financial problems, many claim that they have not fully adjusted to Brazil and miss Portugal very much. This is probably due to the fact that they spent a lot of time there. As already mentioned, they had all been in Portugal for at least five years. So, even those who say they feel good in Brazil highlight the fact that they miss Portugal.

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“You see, I feel good, but I miss it a lot. Sometimes a problem crops up and it makes you want to leave”.

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“I live here, but my head is there. This makes it harder (...) sometimes yes, sometimes no. Sometimes I’m fine. There are days when it’s not too bad, like today.”

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“I feel [good]. But there’s a catch, if I could I would go back. But with documentation, with everything legal, everything right so as not to go through what I went through there. Sometimes I was afraid to go out at night. I was afraid of being caught by the police, things like that. Not that they would do that. We could come and go, I had no problems. But there were days I wanted to go out, you know? I wanted to do things there that I couldn’t because I was an immigrant”.

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“I feel good, but I miss the friends that stayed there, but I feel good, yes”.

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5.3.3.2 *IOM assistance and support from the local NGO – Dialogue with returnees who received reintegration assistance and rely on support from the local NGO*

Among the immigrants interviewed, five are working in what they proposed in the PIR agreed with IOM and seem satisfied. Three changed the purpose of the proposed small businesses for an alternative they considered more viable. These are also satisfied and their businesses are running. The reasons given for the changes in the PIR are diverse: more difficulty “breaking into the market” than they had thought; “a lot of competition”; the fact that the grant received from IOM was insufficient or delayed. Two interviewees are in the process of starting their small businesses and only one invested in the construction of a house instead of opening a business. She said that upon arrival in Brazil she found the house still unfinished (even though she had been sending money to build it), and because she could not live in it, she needed to use the resources proposed for the PIR to finish the work.

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“[...] it didn’t work out. When I came back, there was a lot of competition. A lot of people were already making chocolates to sell in the factories. [...] I worked, but I only did it for a short time. Then the money ran out because I used it. Then I said, we’ll have to turn this around. Then we started to turn it around, I started working in the factory and my husband worked making shoes for babies at home, and then we had the idea to start a factory for us”.

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“I bought a machine to print on t-shirts and there are already a lot of people working in that. It’s very difficult to break into this market.”

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“I wanted to work with sales, open a store, but it didn’t pan out because the aid took about thirty days to arrive, so then I went into civil construction, with the money from IOM I bought a car, but the situation became tight again and I had to sell the car. Since the aid arrived after 1 month, I didn’t want to have to ask for help from my family, then I got involved in construction. The car helped me to transport the tools. With the purchase of the car I could get jobs in other cities, so that car helped me a lot “.

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“No. Actually, I started, I had already looked around for a place to establish the business, everything right, but when I arrived here, I came with a job and a house. I was there and didn’t know, according to what some relatives said: look, we have a house that you can come and live in directly, but when we arrived, the house

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was not completely a house. There were rooms that were under construction, so much so that there was a girl from ASBRAD, Marly, who was there. She made a visit, she saw the situation. I wanted to work and set up my [salon], but because of that I gave up the salon to finish the house, you see?”.

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Of the people who managed to set up their business, three claimed not to have had difficulties in the setting-up process. The other two mentioned as difficulties the financial cost of starting a business and advertising it, hampered by intense competition. All the interviewees who started a business claimed that they had already made progress with regard to an increase in customers and the financial return. Despite this, two of them claimed that they do not rely solely on the income from the business and that they have to supplement it with other activities.

When asked about the impact of their activity on the community in which they live, only two interviewees said that their business has positively affected the region with respect to the creation of jobs, as shown in the reports below.

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“[...] I hired several parents of families. They are here with us. We have 10 employees. And without a job they would have no means of sustaining themselves”.

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“I work with another mason and a mason’s assistant”.

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When asked about what kind of additional assistance the returnees would need to facilitate the setting up of the business, two replied that it would be the availability of more financial resources. Two pointed out the need for a particular physical space for the operation of the business, separating it from their living areas, and one said that the amount provided by IOM should be transferred more quickly.

As to the advice that the returnees would give to those wanting to set up a business, the responses ranged from the need for willpower, perseverance and patience, to the importance of knowing about entrepreneurship, which is an issue that was already mentioned previously:



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“Don’t be discouraged, don’t give up, the beginning is very difficult, although for me it was wonderful”.

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“You have to have courage and willpower. Talking is easy. You find out once you start, from the inside”.

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“I think the main thing is to have a bit of patience, at least in the beginning, because the first two or three months are a bit complicated. If you don’t have willpower, you’ll give up. You’ll say “it’s not going to work”. Anything when you are starting out, especially when you’re abroad and arrive, you don’t know anyone, don’t know how it is, then, you need to be really patient.”

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“You need to have an entrepreneur’s vision”.

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“You have to work in the field you know about. Like me, for example. I bought a t-shirt machine thinking that I was going to earn a lot of money, but I’d never worked with that. But with the snack bar, my father has worked 20 years in the trade, and I used to help him. So I have experience in this area and everything is much easier when you have experience”.

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With the exception of one interviewee who claimed to have found out about the IOM programme through a report on a television programme, all the others found out about the institution through friends or people who had already benefitted from the programme’s support to return to Brazil.

Of the 11 interviewees, the vast majority (nine) said they received guidance from IOM before their return and they considered this important for their reintegration in the country. With regard to the other two, one claimed to have obtained more guidance from an employee, Elisângela, from ASBRAD, than from IOM, and the other claimed that the information provided helped only in part because when migrants return, they find a reality that is different from one they imagined.

Seven of the interviewees believe that the financial resources provided by IOM were enough because they were a fundamental incentive for the returnees to resume their lives in Brazil:

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“It was really good, but not enough. But it was a big push, because the chocolate business didn’t work out. But we saved a bit and then used the money to make the shoes.”

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“For someone who had nothing it was very important. Because coming with nothing to start from scratch is hard.”

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The interviewees who stated that the funds made available by IOM were insufficient justified this statement by saying that the cost of setting up a business is high, especially in relation to the infrastructure:

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“No, because a concrete mixer costs, 1,600 reais, 1,400 reais. It helped because to get here with nothing like I did, it took a while to get hold of this money”.

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“The money that they send is very little and things here are all very expensive. There are people who go and rent a place, and then have to close down. They get into more debt, and it’s complicated. It’s not much but it’s enough to help a bit”.

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“It was important, but, to be honest, I needed more because I separated and everything I had I left for her. So I pretty much arrived with nothing, but I now I’m getting everything again”.

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“What can you do with 2,000 here? And, to be honest, I already had no money at home, I already had no money left. I bought the chicken machine, I bought a freezer. That’s expensive. I had 200 reais left over and I ended up spending that at home, to pay for water and electricity, because I had nowhere else to get it from.”

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Among the difficulties encountered in receiving the funds from IOM, the main one mentioned was the delay in the transfer being made:

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“It took more than two months to get the money. They deposited it in a bank account”.

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“Yes, it took a little while to arrive. In fact I think it was even the bureaucracy, because the money was already here in Brazil, but it never arrived. But Elisângela had told me it was going to take a while”.

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Two beneficiaries said they would have returned to Brazil even without IOM assistance. One of them said that the return would have been much more difficult. The others claimed that they would not have been able to return if they had not received the aid for reintegration. Of the 11 interviewees, only three did not use the funds for their reintegration plans: one used the money to pay rent and buy medicine, another to renovate the house, and the other one bought a car, as mentioned earlier.

All the returnees stated that the financial aid provided by IOM contributed towards their reintegration in Brazil, because it was an important impetus to restarting life in the country. Some stressed the fact that they would not have been in a position to return without this aid:

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“I wouldn’t have been able to come back here. I’d have needed help because I was devastated when I heard that my brother was very sick. Without this aid I’d have needed the help of friends and family to return and resume my life here”.

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“Yes. Because I bought my motorbike and I’m working.”

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“All the money I got, I used to buy tools for working as a contractor”.

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“I was able to buy the machines and materials to start my work”.

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“I managed to buy a freezer, the chicken machine.”

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The beneficiaries in São Paulo generally praised the service provided by the NGO, ASBRAD, as shown in the reports below. However, some reports do not identify the professional who accompanied them as a representative of the local partner.

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“Elisângela has always been very helpful. It was she who took me to all the places, she managed to get me the benefits I have. She persuaded me to do the course, she also referred me to the CRAS [social assistance centre] for women”.

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“They never failed. When I got here, there was somebody waiting for me here at the airport. She always called me. She even came here”.

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“More or less, a girl used to come. I think she’s from São Paulo. I don’t know her name, I think it’s Elisângela. She helped me, she talked to me. She’d come there to the house, she saw my situation, she tried to help me, but then she disappeared. I haven’t spoken to her since. She contacted me several times”.

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“The one who is accompanying me is Marly. She’s already been to my house. She interviewed me. She is a social worker, she gave me advice on how to use the money”.

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All believe that the assistance provided by ASBRAD was sufficient and important, both through the guidance they received on financial and bureaucratic issues as well as the incentives and advice provided by the employees that were monitoring them.

The opinion is unanimous that the aid provided by IOM facilitated their reintegration in Brazil. Among the reasons indicated, the highlights are the opportunity to acquire funding for the setting up of small businesses, undergoing vocational training and, consequently, the fact of resuming life in their country of origin and the emotional support provided by the employees of the local NGO.

As for the aspects of the IOM programme that require improvement, in the opinion of the interviewees, mention was made of the programme’s bureaucracy and, especially, the delay in transferring the money, which was a factor mentioned by the majority. One of the interviewees thinks that there should be a follow-up of the returnees by IOM itself, and another one cited the inadequacy of the financial resources provided by the institution. Only two interviewees said that there is nothing in the programme that needs improvement:

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“I think when we apply there and the support they give, if it happened when we arrived in Brazil and if the money was already available, it would be of more help. Because when you arrive, like I did. I’ll work on this, I’ll work on that but the money wasn’t coming. It took almost four months. I was started getting discouraged with that too. Now that I’m back, they won’t send it. I’d call Elisângela. She didn’t have an answer about the money. I thought: they’re taking you for a ride, they’re not going to send the money. And all this is discouraging as well. So I said: when this money arrives it’s not even going to be enough for us to work”.

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“I think the only problem is the delay, you know?”

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“To tell the truth, I don’t have anything to complain about, nothing at all. Ok, so with 2,000 reais you can’t do anything in Brazil. But I’m just thankful for the plane tickets alone. I have nothing to complain about. That they paid for my return is already a lot”.

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When asked about the expectations on returning to Brazil, the majority replied that they hoped to get a job. One of the interviewees said that she wanted to see her family again and another said that she was afraid that the social and economic conditions in Brazil would be unfavourable.

Only two interviewees said that the return did not meet expectations, one because they have still been unable to set up their business, the other due to many difficulties with the business, especially with advertising:

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“I thought things would be easier. I was going to get here and I was going to work. Working with my stuff, with projects that I had there. But no. For a start, I hardly know anyone. If it was a case of already having a starting point, setting up would have been easier. As well, I’m going to start by talking about it to people. It’s more complicated. I’m not one to talk much. It’s my sister that likes talking. Going out and advertising becomes more difficult”.

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The rest of the interviewees said that the reintegration met their expectations because they managed to enter the labour market. One also mentioned the fact that she was once again close to her family:

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“I’m glad I came back. Things are better here in Brazil.”

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“Because I’m working a lot, my old clients have come back. We have a team with a lot of people and we’re making progress”.

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“Yes, they were. Because I’m working in what I’d planned.”

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“First because I am near my family again, but, really, I’m still adjusting. It’s still not 100%, I’m still adapting.”

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Despite the difficulties, the majority of the beneficiaries feel reintegrated in Brazilian society again, some because they are back in their country of origin, others because they are in a better position than they were in Portugal:

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“Here, I’m in my country. I have credit. I wanted to buy the motorbike and I did. Because I’m in my country, it’s easier to do things”.

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“I’m working, in good health, and that’s very important”.

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Only two people said that they still do not feel reintegrated and, apparently, it seems the main cause is the difficulty itself in adapting:

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“I think that overall it’s difficult because, whether or not you have a different life there, I liked living there. I only came back because I really had to come back.”

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“People. That’s a difference, even to talk to. I don’t know. It’s different.”

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Of the 11 interviewees, four stated there is nothing lacking for their return to Brazil to be successful. Others claimed that they still need to do well in the business that they set up. Some pointed out the need to relate better with people, while one person alleged that it would be necessary to improve public transportation in the region in which they live:

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“I don’t know. I don’t know if the problem is in me or in getting along with the people. I think, certainly, that it’s in me. Even so. I’m here like this, the same as today: to go outside through the gate took about two minutes. I always stay here inside. So, I think that if I opened up more to people, it would be easier for me, but the way things are it’s going to be hard.”

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“The only thing that’s missing is for me to reintegrate better, get back to friends, things like that. I miss it a bit. The rest, it’s all right, all normal.”

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“I have to be able to live better, because where I live it’s difficult to get transportation. It just needs to improve a little. Nothing more, everything is okay”.

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About their future prospects, most replied that they wanted to grow professionally, either in the business they started, as an employee, or through further vocational training. One also said that it was her goal to buy a property.

Two interviewees, however, were not motivated with regard to their future because of the difficulty in adapting, as shown in the following reports.

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“Look, real expectations, if I told you ... I’ll be honest. I have none. I am completely discouraged. I don’t know, it may be that a month or two from now I may even change my mind, leave it all here, go away to Minas. Sometimes going to Minas is worse. My father is there. I have brothers who were in Portugal and they’re there too. They came back as well.”

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“I’m half stopped, because of everything that happened. My mind is focused only on my son. Today it’s a bit difficult, but I’ll get out of this and I’ll get better.”

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All said that they would like to go abroad again, but, among them, seven said that they would only go back to Portugal on holidays. Three of the interviewees said that they would like to live in Portugal again because the conditions there are better than in Brazil. One regrets having returned. One wanted to live in Dubai because he knows people who have achieved professional success in that country.

## **5.4 Dialogue with partners**

In this section, we will present the views of the IOM partners on the reintegration process of beneficiaries in the implementation of the Programme. The diverse nature of the goals of these NGOs, as mentioned in Section 2.1 of this report, makes it possible to enrich the evaluation process, since it shows different points of view on the same reality and points out the difficulties experienced by those who have direct contact with the returnees upon arrival, at the time when they are faced with the new reality.

### ***5.4.1 Project Rescue***

The interview was held with Pastor Marco Aurélio, who said that the project has many advantages because it helps in the rescue of the individual who comes back in a situation of vulnerability.

Monitoring is done according to the methodology of IOM, but depending on the case, some adjustments are made to better serve the returnee.

The big problem he points out is the delay in sending the allotted money. According to Marco Aurélio, this contributes to undermining the returnees' confidence in the Programme. In addition, when faced with the expenses that start accumulating, changes will start to occur in the project to the extent that the resources, when available, only serve to pay off debts.

He noted that when returnees are focused on a proposal and have some knowledge of how to perform the tasks, the chances of success are higher. He cited two successful cases, the returnee who set up a stone cutting business and another person who makes clothes. In both cases the beneficiaries arrived with the focus on the activity that they wanted to develop and used the funds provided for this purpose. It is interesting to note that, while awaiting the arrival of the promised amount, they carried out activities aimed at setting up their business.

The NGO develops other partnerships focused on hosting Brazilian returnees. Partnerships were cited with, among others, the Asociación Comisión Católica Española da Migración (ACCEM), the MattwerkBij Terugkeer (Mediation Agency for Return) from the Netherlands, and also IOM Switzerland and IOM Italy. These partnerships create synergy and allow networking, which is based on the structure of the church. This facilitates the identification of opportunities and the use of expertise in the project execution.

Possibly, this is the only one of the three partners whose activity is focused primarily on the reception of immigrants.

#### **5.4.2 CIAAT**

Within the scope of this study, the interview was conducted with Raul who, through CIAAT, accompanies Brazilians who returned with IOM reintegration support.

Regarding the partnership with IOM, Raul said that one of the biggest problems is the delay between the arrival of the migrant and the release of the promised funds. There is a general dissatisfaction that, in most cases, leads to a failure of the proposed integration. They come back believing that they will immediately have access to the funds and as a result get themselves into debt, thereby



compromising the viability of the proposed PIR. In this case, even the possibility of intervention by CIAAT is limited because the proof of the transfer made by IOM arrives at the NGO 20 days after the transaction. On the possibility of the funds provided to every returnee being sent to CIAAT so that it could undertake its administration, Raul said that this could assist in providing accountability and, to a certain extent, safeguard the most productive use of the money. Nevertheless, within the current structure of the NGO this would be impossible, since it would require extra work and monitoring.

Within the currently adopted model, only 30% of the businesses are able to achieve the proposed goals. In addition to the question of the delay in receiving the funds, there are other points that are worth highlighting, such as the little or almost non-existent coherence between the business plan drawn up by the beneficiaries abroad and the reality experienced by them on their return. No correct forecast is made of the needs of a small business, such as working capital, knowledge of the market, maturation time of the business, among others. However, for those who are successful, the difference may arise from the educational level, a more stable family situation and, at some point, because they were able to achieve part of the migration project, often acquiring their own homes. In other cases, success is linked to the expansion of an already existing family business.

In relation to CIAAT's work of monitoring and follow-up of returnees, Raul indicated that there is great difficulty in monitoring all the returnees, even more so because of the long distances and funds for this purpose also take a long time to arrive. As a result, the first meeting takes place in many cases one month after the returnee's arrival in Brazil. At CIAAT, there is not the possibility to provide a continuous and dedicated assistance to the returnees. The NGO develops several activities and the partnership with IOM is only one more.

Examples were given of successful situations such as the one of Fernando, from Coronel Fabriciano, who on returning had already made provision for using the funds, in partnership with his mother, to expand the business producing savoury snacks for parties, and the case of Rogério, from Belo Horizonte, who used the funds to start a small business (bar and restaurant) and has now expanded his business.

A clear example of problems with the expectations created is that of Lecemes, from Teófilo Otoni, who together with his wife, wanted to set up

a beauty salon for manicures with gel nails. Despite the success of this technique in Europe, such a proposal does not have a market in Brazil, much less in a city the size of Teófilo Otoni. As a second proposal, there was the idea of opening a snack bar in the centre of the city, but the initial cost of rent and setting up exceeded the funds provided by IOM. The third alternative sought was to get a professional driver's licence and, in partnership with the father, drive a taxi. Before this last proposal could be put into practice, Lecemes was offered employment in Vitória, in Espírito Santo, and moved to this city.

In summary, despite the amount of the funding provided by IOM being low, Raul says what is most concerning is the waiting time between the arrival of the returnee in Brazil and the actual receipt of the money. The profile of the returnees, many not well versed in entrepreneurship, also contributes to the lack of effectiveness in the applications of the funds.

#### **5.4.3 ASBRAD**

The interview was conducted with Dalila Figueiredo, the Association's president, and Elizângela, one of the people in charge of dealing with the returnees assisted by IOM in São Paulo.

In the contacts made, it became clear that the IOM Programme is highly valued by the institution, which sees in it a great opportunity for the reintegration of these returnees. However, the theme of entrepreneurship should not be privileged, as many do not have the required profile for this. These are people who have already seen at least one personal project disappear, which was the one prepared at the time of migration, and may not be prepared to dream again and try another venture. Therefore, this is not the most propitious moment to think about implementing a small business. The desire to return is essential and those who return as a last resort do not have entrepreneurial vision. Sometimes the partner's procedure in the monitoring process of the reintegration plan is seen by the beneficiary as a demand for implementing the PIR prepared at the time prior to departure. In addition, the institution does not have a tradition of dealing with the issues related to entrepreneurship.

The attitude of IOM Portugal's staff in monitoring and supporting the association and the monitoring from the Buenos Aires office are positive points mentioned by the interviewees.

However, the experience in assisting the returnees has identified some situations that warrant attention and advances in order to correct certain deviations.

The main point raised is the need to extend, in all stages, the humanitarian view of this assistance. As mentioned by the interviewees, the people who return arrive with their confidence in themselves and in the institutions shaken. It was observed that even the information of the existence of the NGO partner in Brazil was a surprise for beneficiaries at the first meeting, in the face of so many disillusionments already experienced in the migration project that led them to Portugal. Progress in changing this situation requires a more intensive exchange of information, in terms of knowledge, by the returnees, of those who will be dealing with them and the actual assistance they should get. Such a situation would facilitate the reception work because having prior knowledge of the situation of the returnees, the partner in Brazil will be able to identify whether there will be a need to activate the social assistance network or even gather specific information to assist the returnees with clearer indications. It is important to note that despite the similarities, each returnee is a unique case, requiring appropriate care. Therefore, there is a need to create mechanisms to activate the local partner assistance network and even have the participation of the beneficiary in the Programme's divulgation and evaluation activities. According to one of the interviewees, "migration is inserted in a context that you can share with other professionals and this flexibility is essential".

Another issue raised is in the monitoring methodology that, generally speaking, should be unique and followed-up in defined stages. Although the Programme monitoring methodology is well-accepted and described in the IOM manuals, there is a need to deal with a number of specific aspects that do not always fall under the scope of what has been established. Especially in the case of women who are victims of domestic violence. It is important to note that, when requested, there was understanding from the Lisbon office for authorising the necessary adaptations.

The biggest problem posed by the interviewees lies with the situation of receiving the funds. The essential point is the time elapsed between the arrival of the returnee and the receipt of the resources promised by IOM. As they put it, the major vulnerability – social and personal – of the returnees is aggravated when they become aware that the expected funds will take time to arrive. Debts incurred for the maintenance of the returnee upon arrival take the place of the

business idea and amplify the need for assistance from the partner, which is now seen as an extension of the institution promoting the return, what can lead to a loss of confidence and even compromise the assistance work.

This point could contribute to situations of detachment between the partners and the returnees. According to the interviewees, several returnees do not stay in contact after receiving the money, making monitoring difficult. This situation could occur because many are no longer able to continue with the initial proposal because the resources were committed to other priorities, causing the beneficiaries to feel intimidated, and thinking that they will somehow be charged and required to comply with the plans drawn up at the time of the departure. The returnees decide what to do based on a time, on money and on a report to be sent to the funder.

Another difficulty reported relates to the multiple locations of assistance. In some cities, it is possible to activate the social welfare network, but in others, such a situation is difficult. Added to this are the distances, which are sometimes long, between the city where ASBRAD is headquartered and the localities where the assisted beneficiaries live.

## **5.5 Dialogue with local authorities and NGOs working with the migration issue**

While information was being gathered, that is, during the survey period, in addition to the beneficiaries, interviews were also conducted with local authorities and the representatives of NGOs working with migrants' issues, mainly the returnees. The goal of these dialogues was to try to find out, where there were beneficiaries present, if there were also actions being developed in government and civil society fields that were aimed at this specific group and how their presence was perceived. When it comes to a reintegration programme, it is important to seek to enhance specific actions and, at the same time, help to ensure that these actions may be included in broader public policy processes.

Because of the difficulties in finding all the beneficiaries and identifying the stakeholders in the cities visited, it was not possible to carry out a comprehensive survey in all the localities, but the testimonials presented in this section allow to draw some lines of action of governmental and civil society players.

In the following reports, it will be presented a number of important issues that were emphasised in the interviews that are presented in greater detail in Annex VIII. It was possible to gather several dialogues that showed the actions of both civil society organisations in partnership with the local and federal government, and entities geared towards the support of entrepreneurship and financing small businesses. Even though not all have a convergent view on the subject, there are multiple points of view that, generally speaking, can become options for partnerships that take returnee immigrants into account.

The first point that draws attention is that migration issue only becomes relevant in regions where the outflow of Brazilians and the inflow of returnees and foreigners are in significant volumes. In the places where this phenomenon is perceived as less important and treated as a personal choice, despite the volume, there is no concern with the issue from the local government or society. In some cases, local authorities are unaware of the existence of outward-bound migration, as can be seen from the interviews conducted in Quintana, an inland city in the State of São Paulo.

Another situation shows that in regions where migration issue is geared more towards sexual exploitation and human trafficking, moving away from the subject of labour migration, the latter is relegated to the back burner and is not part of policies on the reception of returnees. This situation was very clear in the State of Goiás and, despite the major involvement of the state government and local authorities in matters related to sexual exploitation and human trafficking in Goiânia and Anápolis, there are no actions aimed at the group targeted by the research.

However, in regions where the labour migration issue is important, it was possible to identify actions of public authorities and civil society aimed at that group. On this aspect, it is worth noting the cities of Governador Valadares, in Minas Gerais, and São Paulo, in the same State.

In the first city mentioned above, there is interest in the subject, both from the executive as well as the municipal legislative branch. The proposal for implementation of the Casa do Migrante [Migrant's House] is an example of joint action between state and local government. This project already has guaranteed funds on the order of R\$ 250,00.00, and is aimed at the creation of an immigrant assistance centre, primarily returnees, where legal counselling services and social assistance would be offered as well as referral

to the assistance networks in the area of health and for job seeking. The project, although an initiative of the state government, duplicates the systems adopted by the Ministry of Labour in a proposal developed in the city of São Paulo, through the Centre of Information and Support for Workers – NIATRE in partnership with the Brazilian Society of Japanese Culture and Social Assistance – BUNKYO.

In the city of São Paulo, in addition to the services of NIATRE, immigrants, foreigners and returnees receive assistance from religious institutions, the most important being the Casa do Imigrante da Missão Nossa Senhora da Paz [Centre for Migration Studies at the Mission of Our Lady of Peace], run by the Scalabrinian priests. The purpose of this organisation is to assist immigrants, including assistance to returnees. In addition to temporary shelter, the immigrants also find information about assistance in the social services public network and some services offered by the NGO.

When it comes to situations related to entrepreneurship, it is possible to find actions developed by the Support Service for Micro and Small Businesses (SEBRAE). SEBRAE is a private non-profit entity that promotes training programmes, encouraging the formation of associations, territorial development and access to markets and is present in most Brazilian cities. Services are provided via internet access (long-distance courses) or in the entity's agencies. There are short courses that are free, targeted at the general public, and other more specialised courses, of longer duration, focused on established entrepreneurs. SEBRAE also offers individual advisory services directed towards expansion and improvement in the management of small businesses.

Regarding the AVRR Programme's beneficiaries, few sought the services of SEBRAE: there were three consultations in the State of Minas Gerais. However, they still had no running businesses and given the characteristics of the proposals that were to be developed, the beneficiaries could not take advantage of the benefits offered. The same can be said about the possibility of including them in the Remittances Programme, run by SEBRAE and Caixa Econômica Federal (see Annex VIII).

These contacts have shown that despite the existence of some services for immigrants, such as those cited in this study, it lacks of systematic monitoring and follow-up services, even in the social welfare ones of the local municipal governments in Brazil which, in some cases, are unaware of the

phenomenon. Yet, the Government initiatives, which together with civil society have been working in order to create specific services for returnees, may be transformed into an important multiplier factor of IOM's efforts and favour the ensemble of relationships involving partners and beneficiaries of the Programme.

## Final Considerations

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AS HAS ALREADY BEEN EXPLAINED IN THE INTRODUCTION, THE MAIN objective of this study was to identify and analyse the internal factors (dependent on the Programme) and external ones (independent of the Programme) that favoured or were an obstacle for a effective reintegration in the country of origin and, consequently, for a sustainable return home.

In this sense, we opted for the following definition of effective reintegration: the extent of the impact of reintegration support received for a less painful and definitive return to the country of origin. In other words, did this support give the returnee the possibility for a quicker reinsertion in the Brazilian society and in the labour market? Did it enable the financial autonomy for beneficiaries and, eventually, for their family? Did it allow reaching a greater emotional stability in the country of origin, by promoting a sense of well-being for having returned home?

As described earlier, and following the Terms of Reference proposed for this study, the conclusions outlined here derived from two lines of the analysis of the results, according to the following topics: 1) evaluation of the assistance received from IOM in the pre-departure phase and in the post-arrival phase; 2) internal and/or external factors that contributed to or hindered reintegration, taking into account the impact of the developed activities in the community, local support and partnerships that enhance social reintegration in Brazil.

It is cleared observed that in general the beneficiaries feel good about their return to Brazil. The interviews have shown that IOM support was funda-



mental, not only for facilitating the return of these people, but also for providing essential information and guidance, both in the case of the bureaucratic procedures concerning the journey home and with regard to starting the reintegration project. In addition to this, receiving assistance from IOM provides greater financial and emotional security to the returnees who, faced with the difficulties encountered in Portugal, felt helpless, lonely and without prospects. It appears that the financial incentive provided by IOM for setting up a small business or investing in vocational training is essential for a successful reintegration – even though many have said that the amount provided should be higher because, for the most part, returning emigrants do not have the means to resume their life in Brazil, in addition to the difficulties of adjusting to the country's economic, social and cultural conditions. These financial resources, even when insufficient, serve as an initial impetus for setting up small businesses, and are generally used for the purchase of infrastructure materials, such as machinery.

Interviewees left Brazil in search of better living conditions and had to return, generally because they were no longer able to provide the basic resources for their survival. The return to the country of origin creates insecurity, fear, frustration, constraints and, in some cases, shame, caused by the failure of the migration project. The considerable period of absence from their country of origin causes the migrants to return outdated and lost because they are unaware of the political, economic and socio-cultural situation in Brazil.

For these reasons, IOM assistance is a first step towards a new start for these people, enabling greater security, which alleviates the feeling of helplessness. Finding a new job, which proved to be a central concern for the majority of the returnees is, in most cases, resolved when they receive the financial support to start some activity.

Despite the importance of IOM assistance, this service is more efficient when the returnees can rely on the support of a local NGO. The role of the NGO is essential for guiding and instructing the returnees with regard to financial and bureaucratic procedures, and encouraging them to persist, to be patient and to use the resources in the best way. It was noted, however, that there is a significant difference between the Rescue NGO, in Goiás, CIAAT in Minas Gerais, and ASBRAD in São Paulo. The opinion of the beneficiaries in Goiás in relation to Pastor Marco Aurélio is unanimous. All interviewees praised the services provided by the NGO, stressing the importance of the operational, emotional and bureaucratic support from Marco Aurélio, who has provided

information, guidance and offered assistance in the implementation of budgets, as well as constant monitoring of the progress of reintegration plans, with messages of encouragement remembered by the returnees. In Minas Gerais and São Paulo, as explained in the previous chapter, the local NGOs seem to be more precarious in the provision of this assistance and, despite the efforts made by their representatives, the fact that the cities to where beneficiaries return are spatially dispersed demands much of those responsible for the visits. Added to this is the delay in the arrival of the funding sent by the IOM, which results, in some cases, in the paralysation of the implementation of the reintegration plan. Thus, often the first visit to beneficiaries is delayed.

The emotional support provided by the local NGO through its representative may justify the value of persistence in setting up small businesses, in the words of the interviewees from Goiás. The importance of this institution is also emphasised by the returnees who did not get local assistance, as they stated that the local monitoring would facilitate the reintegration process, because it would help them to gain stability and greater financial support, in addition to the incentives and guidelines needed for the process.

In the case of Minas Gerais, on the other hand, most of the beneficiaries changed their business plans after arriving in Brazil, some in consultation with the local NGO, others not. It is evident that the interviewees lacked of knowledge and were unprepared in the fields in which they proposed to start their businesses, which would made it advisable to invest in acquiring skills in the specific areas and in entrepreneurship for the businesses to be successful.

Even so, there is a need for IOM Programme to include psychological support to the returnees in order to ease the adjustment difficulties, using the social assistance network<sup>7</sup> within the Brazilian social assistance services policy. Some interviewees also stressed the importance of creating facilities in order to obtain loans for small businesses, which could perhaps supplement the amount provided by the Programme. However, it is important to note that, in most cases, the profile of the beneficiaries does not meet the requirements

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<sup>7</sup> The concept of a social welfare network presented in this survey refers to the set of actions articulated between the various policies: health, education, social assistance, among others, in order to meet not only the basic needs of the individual, but also to fully promote their full development, taking into account all the specificities and characteristics. The Brazilian social assistance policy has the role of articulating the citizens' access to the other sectoral policies.

of the entities who grant these loans. This fact indicates the need for liaising with these institutions in order to contribute to the creation of special lines of credit that could assist the needs of the group supported by the Programme.

Family support also emerges as a factor of extreme importance for the effective reintegration of returnees, since it is on relatives that they can rely when they need to be assisted, both in situations of financial crisis and for small favours, such as taking care of children while the parents are working. This point is of paramount importance and mentioned by the beneficiaries already in the first contacts with IOM in Portugal.

Most of the beneficiaries claimed to have been aware of IOM through friends and/or relatives who had received or who knew someone who had already obtained support from the institution, which may point to the need for greater divulgation of the programme by the media or agencies working with migration issues. There is also the importance of reviewing the procedures of IOM with respect to bureaucratic matters and, particularly, in relation to the delay in receiving the financial resource. This delay is a constant complaint from interviewees, pointed to by everyone – beneficiaries and partners – as one of the main difficulties in setting up the business and for the success of the reintegration with regard to the financial/employment part.

## **6.1 Evaluation of the Assistance**

Through the interviews conducted and analysed, there is no doubt of the importance of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme regarding the support it provides for the return and reintegration of migrants. Another aspect that leaves no room for doubt is the importance of the partner NGOs in monitoring the returnees. From the interviews, it is clear that such follow-up is important, even for people to have, upon return, a reference point in the country. As explained in this report, more than half of the interviewees stated that the reintegration support contributed to their decision to return, both with regard to the resources and the guidance received, because many had already been in Portugal for many years and felt insecure about what they would encounter in Brazil. This point was mentioned several times by the beneficiaries in the first meetings with representatives of IOM in Portugal as one of the possible obstacles to the success of the venture. A common phrase mentioned by beneficiaries was that they would feel “lost” without

the reintegration support. The assistance received from local partners, on the other hand, although they are important to the success of the reintegration process in Brazil, it seems, as has already been mentioned, that there are significant differences between the institutions.

In the case of Project Rescue in Goiás, due to the short distance between the city in which the institution has its headquarters, Goiânia, and the municipality of residence of the people interviewed, follow-up becomes easier, in addition to the importance of the expertise of the NGOs in dealing with the returnees, allowing, in this case, a greater effectiveness of the approach and procedures used.

In Minas Gerais, CIAAT currently only works with migrants due to the project with IOM. The efforts of the organization are directed to other projects that, broadly, can contribute to the employability of migrants. However, this is not the institution's priority group target. Moreover, distances between cities, as already mentioned, also interferes in providing a better and closer assistance to beneficiaries. ASBRAD, in São Paulo, did an excellent job of providing assistance at the airport to Brazilians who had been prevented from entering Europe or who had been deported. The success of the initiative is evident since it was taken up by the state government and implemented as public policy in the Guarulhos airport. Just the same, here too the distances hamper the actions of the institution in providing assistance to returnees and, although the follow-up is highly appreciated, the difficulties in following the methodology adopted by IOM are clear.

Based on what was analysed, it can be concluded that the reintegration in Brazil within the framework of IOM Lisbon Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme is effective, since the support provided by IOM has made the return less painful, and most managed to enter the labour market and experienced a feeling of well-being at being back home, thus contributing to a definitive return of migrants to their country of origin.

However, it became clear during the preparation of this study that some points still need to be strengthened to make this reintegration even more effective, since many still claim, for example, to be experiencing financial difficulties.

In short, four specific aspects are fundamental to the improvement of the Programme, which will be more fully explored in paragraph 6.2 below:

- increasing the financial support granted by IOM;
- offering professional qualification courses for returnees at the time of their arrival in Brazil;
- psychological counselling via the social assistance network that contributes to the migrant's readaptation in Brazil;
- receiving the reintegration allowance within a shorter period, enabling faster implementation of reintegration plans. It is necessary to review the way in which the beneficiaries' reintegration allowance is transferred.

## **6.2 Internal and/or external Factors that contributed to or hindered reintegration, taking into account the impact of the developed activities in the community, local support and partnerships that enhance social reintegration in Brazil.**

If there was unanimity on one point in every interview and dialogue with partners, this refers to the critical delay in receipt of funds by beneficiaries. The reports describe how the period has never been less than 90 days after the arrival of the beneficiary in Brazil. This situation was fatal to the aspirations of some in the implementation of their business proposal. One should also consider that, despite being very difficult to assess, even with resources received on time, some people would still be unable to carry forward their business plan.

In this case, it would be important to note that some, in addition to not having the entrepreneurs' profile, have been away from the country for many years and are unaware of the local reality, preventing a good assessment of which idea of business would provide the best results. These people generally do not have a high level of education and never had their own business. Therefore, they do not have the slightest idea of how to manage it. Added to that is the low amount made available that, even in the inland cities of the states, is of little help for the implementation of any business if it is has to be started from scratch.

Thereby, if, on the one hand, planning the setting up of small business having some financial resources to start it can facilitate reintegration, at least theoretically, on the other, planning the activity and being unable to carry it out can cause difficulties that can even hinder monitoring by local NGOs, since, in this case, the institution comes to be seen no longer as supportive, but as

a kind of controller of the use of the resources. Perhaps this aspect may have contributed to the low receptiveness of some during the contact for the interviews.

It is possible, in Brazil, to build partnerships with institutions that assist in business development, such as SEBRAE, or even to get financing from Caixa Econômica Federal, which would contribute to the success of the reintegration. However, this support is only achieved from a given point, after the business has grown and some capital is generated.

When analysing the statements of those who returned supported by partner institutions and of those who did not receive such support, it is clear that there is a need for such follow-up, even to allow the person to find himself/herself in their homeland and not suffer excessively from the already high stress of the return.

Still, when there is a solid family structure that provides support for the returnee and a clear idea on how to use the resources provided, the success of reintegration projects rapidly arrives with specific impacts on the life of the beneficiary and the community.

In short, we can classify the factors that contributed to or hindered reintegration as internal or external to the Programme:

- *Internal factors:*

- the delay in the arrival of the reintegration grant sent by IOM can lead to the paralysation or non-implementation of the reintegration plan;
- the difficulty of adjusting the profile of the beneficiary to the proposed reintegration plan, taking into account the situation experienced in Portugal, can be an obstacle to the implementation of the reintegration plan;
- the partnership with local NGOs is a contributory factor to the success of the reintegration plan, which enhances the relevance of IOM support;
- IOM assistance is critical, not only for facilitating the return of the beneficiaries, but also for providing essential information and guidance, both in the case of the bureaucratic procedures for the journey home and with regard to setting up the business, providing greater financial and emotional security to the returnees;

- the financial resources provided by IOM correspond to a fundamental incentive in order for the returnees to resume their activities in Brazil;
- the flexibility to change the object of the proposed reintegration plans for an alternative that beneficiaries and local partners consider more viable contributes to the success of these plans;
- the support of the NGO partner for local monitoring and follow-up (guidance on financial and bureaucratic issues, as well as the incentives and advices provided by the NGOs staffs) are crucial for the effectiveness of reintegration.

- *External factors:*

- family dynamics impacted by the migration process. Better emotionally and financially structured families contribute to the success of the reintegration;
- partnerships with local institutions that support or could support returnee immigrants can contribute to the success of the reintegration plan in Brazil.
- adjustment difficulties of the beneficiaries to the economic, social and cultural conditions of the country on their return;
- the return to the country creates insecurity, fear, frustration, constraints and, in some cases, shame caused by the failure of the project, especially when taking into consideration the period of absence;
- the income derived from the small businesses is often not enough to cover the needs of the beneficiaries, due to the high cost of living in Brazil;
- the financial cost of setting up and advertising the business, hampered by the intensity of competition in the local market, can hinder the success of the reintegration plan;
- there is no doubt that, as modest as the business may have been, it impacts on the community, either as a demonstration of success that can contribute with new businesses and awaken talents, or because it can generate employment through hiring local labour;
- the difficulty of local NGOs in assisting beneficiaries who are spatially dispersed is an obstacle to the Programme;
- planning a reintegration activity and not being able to carry it out can cause side effects that hamper the monitoring by local NGOs, consequently compromising the implementation of the reintegration plan;
- the migration issues only gain relevance in regions where the outflow of Brazilians and the inflows of returnees and foreigners is significant.

In this case, it is possible to identify the actions of public authorities and civil society aimed at this group. Such a situation favours actions in these locations to the detriment of the others, where migration is less visible;

- in regions where the migration issues are more focused on sexual exploitation and human trafficking, moving away from the topic of labour migration, the latter is relegated to the back burner and is not part of the assistance policies for returnees. Such a situation can contribute to hindering local partnerships and the implementation of the Reintegration Plan;
- in cases of success stories of reintegration, there is the emergence of new partnerships, as in one case seen in the State of Goiás, where the returnee not only set up the company that had been proposed in the business plan, but also encouraged the local community to form an association for the production of milk, thereby offering a means for the community to generate income. Such synergy contributes to the sustainability of the Reintegration Plan.

## 6.3 Recommendations

As in the previous chapter, it will also be sought here to follow what is proposed in the Terms of Reference regarding the following topics: evaluation of the assistance received from IOM in the pre-departure phase and in the post-arrival phase; 2) internal and/or external Factors that contributed to or hindered reintegration, taking into account the impact of the developed activities in the community, local support and partnerships that would enhance social reintegration in Brazil.

### 6.3.1 *Evaluation of the Assistance*

- The study demonstrates the need to rethink the methodology used by IOM with regard to the expansion of the fieldwork with the local institutions. If, on the one hand, it is important to have a reference entity at regional level (local partner), it is essential to seek partnerships for the monitoring of returnees in order to reduce the distances for the follow-up. It must focus on partners with a wide network of contacts.
- It is recommended the joint action of the local NGOs partners and of the networks for immigrant assistance, which have major coverage, such as



Pastoral Care of Human Mobility<sup>8</sup>, through the various existing networks, which would undertake the reception of the returnees, leaving the implementation and monitoring of the business plan to the IOM partner. Acting in this synergy, problems could be more easily identified and immediate situations relating to health, documentation, personal and children's education, etc. could be resolved.

- The use of the social assistance network<sup>9</sup> is another fundamental factor for assisting returnees. Many come with health problems and know nothing of the health system in Brazil; the same applies to the social assistance service and government programmes.
- It is recommended that mechanisms be built that will allow interaction between the returnees before their departure and the institution that will be assisting them. This will permit mutual knowledge and even an assessment of needs in terms of the social assistance network at the time of arrival. This procedure can be easily established via the internet (Skype) and take place during an interview at the IOM office in Portugal.
- It is important to consider initiatives that could encourage the creation of a network of supported beneficiaries by promoting the exchange of ideas and making suggestions for those who are planning to return.
- Due to the fact that many returnees have often been away from Brazil for lengthy periods, they may possibly not be aware of the income distribution programmes of the State and the Federal Government. It would, therefore, be essential that the local partner institution could contribute so that they become aware of these programmes.

### *6.3.2 Internal and/or external Factors that contributed to or hindered reintegration, taking into account the impact of the developed activities in the community, local support and partnerships that enhance social reintegration in Brazil.*

- A fundamental point and one that puts the success of the Programme at

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<sup>8</sup> In December 2003, at the meeting of the Episcopal Pastoral Council (CONSEP), the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops (CNBB) instituted the Sector of Pastoral Care of Human Mobility (PMH), with the purpose of promoting national articulation under the aegis of Human Mobility, stimulating and encouraging the path of each Pastoral in its specificity and creating a space for sharing the paths travelled and the challenges posed to the Church in the complex field of human mobility.

<sup>9</sup> Reminder: the concept of the social welfare network presented in this research: an articulated set of actions between the various policies – health, education, social assistance, among others – in order to meet not only the basic needs of the individual, but also to promote their full development, taking all the specificities and characteristics into account. The Brazilian social assistance policy has the role of articulating citizens' access to the other sectoral policies.

risk is the delay in the reception of the funds due to issues related to the international transfer system. The delay between the returnee's arrival and the availability of the resources for the implementation of the business plan is a factor that can define the success or failure of the proposal for a sustainable return. Consideration should be given to streamlining the procedures and proposing alternatives, such as transferring the funds to the partners, which can then transfer them to the beneficiaries, a procedure that is used by several institutions working with voluntary return. Another proposal would be to introduce a card for withdrawing the funds at ATMs, which could be given to the beneficiaries at the time of their departure.

- Alternatives should be sought for reintegration that could strengthen other options in addition to the business plan. Not all people have an entrepreneurial profile and expect the implementation of a business from someone who has been through extreme situations can create even more problems, instead of helping. As recalled by one of the stakeholders, entrepreneurship is not an option for those who do not have an option. Entrepreneurship is a good option, but it should not be the primary focus. It would be better to consider labour reintegration by searching for a position in the labour market, which can even be done through the Ministry of Labour's page or through local employment agencies connected to the municipal governments.
- There are few cities where the international migration issue is politically important and is understood by the local society. Even in those where departure from Brazil is already part of the collective imagination, there is still a culture of seeing returnees as people who made money abroad. Few people understand the magnitude of the problem. Still, there are some initiatives, such as the Migrant's House, an experiment in São Paulo and possibly in Governador Valadares, and these should be supported by the Brazilian Government and also considered in future partnerships by IOM, primarily for the reception of returnee migrants.
- Ways must be sought to actively publicise the results of the Programme via social networks and to create communication mechanisms between returnee migrants that were assisted, for the exchange of information and experience about how to overcome difficulties. Candidates receiving the benefit could be encouraged to make contact with these people and to exchange views on their work plan proposal. Such a procedure would expand the visibility of the programme and could assist in the search for solutions to any problems encountered.
- It would be essential to promote meetings with civil society in the municipalities where international migration is of special importance and

include in the discussions the local authorities, thereby building, during the events, partnership processes and commitments to support the returnees. An alternative would be to propose that the periodic meetings with partners and IOM take place in cities that are strategic in the Programme and that would include the participation of beneficiaries and local authorities.

- Certainly IOM initiative to seek partnerships with the Brazilian Government, along with the bodies which have activities geared towards the returnees, would contribute to a more successful return to the country.



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# Annexes



## ANNEX I – INFORMED CONSENT FORM



International Organization for Migration (IOM)

### ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME – IOM Lisbon (ARVoRe) III

#### Study on Positive Factors and Obstacles to a Sustainable Reintegration in Brazil

#### INFORMED CONSENT FORM (TCLE)

Dear Sir/Madam

We will use the informal “you” form to seek an easier communication, irrespective of gender. I hope that this is acceptable to you.

You are being invited to participate in a study on positive factors and obstacles to a sustainable return and reintegration. This study aims to analyse your actual reintegration on returning to Brazil<sup>10</sup>, to contextualise the situation of the return and the “environment” of the economic and social of the community in which you are living, to assess the status of the reintegration projects supported by IOM (successes, gaps and suggestions for improvement) and to compile the profile of returnees who are also supported by the local NGO and of those who did not receive local support.

In order for this study to succeed, your especial cooperation in participating effectively in the interview is essential. The discussions may, with your

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<sup>10</sup> Effective reintegration means, in the context of this study, the scope of the impact of the reintegration assistance received for a less painful and definitive return to your country of origin. In other words, we intend to analyse whether this assistance has enabled a faster re-entry into Brazilian society and into the labour market; financial autonomy for the beneficiary and, eventually, their family; and, furthermore, if it has enabled you to achieve greater emotional stability in your country of origin. In addition, we will verify your satisfaction on having returned home and if this reintegration support received influenced you in this well-being.

consent, be recorded, so that we can better examine the insights of the participants.

Your identity will be kept confidential. The results of the study will be presented as a portrayal of a group and not of one person. Therefore, you will not be identified when the material or its record is used, whether for scientific publication or educational purposes. Your privacy will be ensured and the recordings made shall only be used in the study. Once they have been used they may be destroyed.

Your participation is voluntary and very important. We are counting on your cooperation. However, you may refuse at any time, at no personal cost, should you decide not to participate.

The researcher in charge (Professor Duval Magalhaes Fernandes) will be able to clarify any doubts about the study, and can be contacted by e-mail (duval@pucminas.br) or by telephone: (031) 3413 6782.

I hereby give my free and voluntary consent to participate in the study.

Name of the participant (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the participant or legal representative and date

Thank you for your cooperation and for trusting us.

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Name (printed) and Signature of the researcher and Date



# **ANNEX II – GUIDE FOR INTERVIEW: OPEN INTERVIEW WITH AVRR RETURNEES**

**Project Funded by the European  
Return Fund**

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme – (ARVoRe) III

## **Study on Positive Factors and Obstacles to a Sustainable Reintegration in Brazil**

### **QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE OPEN INTERVIEW WITH AVRR RETURNEES**

#### **1. IDENTIFICATION**

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Marital status:

Schooling/Level of Education:

Nationality:

**Our idea is to ask the questions openly (the part in bold) and to bear in mind the scored questions. Should these not appear in the answer, the researcher has to ask.**

#### **2. SITUATION PRIOR TO MIGRATION**

**Why did you decide to migrate?**

- When did you migrate?
- Marital status/children?
- Were you working? In what?
- Who did you live with?
- Own home/rented/provided house?
- Did you know anyone who had migrated to Portugal? Who?
- What did you expect to find in Portugal?

### 3. SITUATION IN PORTUGAL

**What did you find in Portugal?**

- Work, housing, friends etc.
- How long did you remain in Portugal?

### 4. DECISION TO RETURN

**Why did you decide to return to Brazil?**

- How did you learn of IOM's AVRR Programme?
- Did you know someone (friend, family member) who had come back?
- What did you expect to find in Brazil?

### 5. SITUATION IN BRAZIL SINCE RETURN

When did you arrive in Brazil?

Did the return to Brazil meet your expectations? Why?

Are you working? In what?

- If the interviewee does not comment, ask if he/she is working in what was proposed in the business plan. And if not, ask why.
- For those who have received the funds to set up the business:  
Have you set up the small business proposed in the business plan?  
If the answer is yes: Is the business running?  
If the answer is yes: Are you satisfied with the business? Why?  
If it has not been set up: Why was the business not set up? Did you have difficulties? What were they?  
If it had been set up, but did not work out: Why was the business closed?  
Was there something missing for the business to be successful?  
If the business plan was changed: Why did you change your mind?  
Did you have difficulties in starting your business? If so, what kind of difficulties? Please explain.  
Has there been progress in the implementation of the business in relation to the results initially expected? What?  
Do you live only off the income from your business, i.e. take 100% of your income from your business?  
Did setting up your business have any impact on the development of your local community (e.g. Have you employed someone? Did it serve to improve your street/your neighbourhood?)

What kind of additional support do you think would be necessary to obtain to facilitate setting up the business?

What kind of advice would you give to anyone who is thinking about starting a small business?

**Do you have any income (other than from your work)?**

**Do you receive any allowance from the Government? What?**

(We want to know if he/she is included in any Federal Government Income Distribution Programme)

**Who do you live with?**

- Housing situation: own (financed/paid off), rented, provided house.

**What has your life in Brazil been like since you returned?**

- Do you have any financial difficulties?
- Health problems?
- Housing problems?
- Relationship with friends, neighbours, relatives;
- How do you think that friends/family see your return?
- Do you feel well, emotionally, to be back?

## **6. EVALUATION OF THE REINTEGRATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

How did you hear about IOM's reintegration programme?

What kind of support did you receive from IOM?

Did you receive any guidance from IOM before returning? If so, do you think that this guidance was important and helped at the time you returned to Brazil? If not, what was missing?

Do you think that the financial support received was enough? Yes/No. Why?

Did you have any difficulty in receiving the financial support? What?

Would you have returned to Brazil without the reintegration support?

How did you use the reintegration support (the idea is to find out if it was used to set up a business, take a vocational course, etc.)?

Did you face any problems with IOM or the local NGO? What?

Did the assistance received (financial and/or guidance) help in your reintegration? How?

What kind of support did you receive from the local NGO? Do you think that this support was enough (including follow-up time at the location)? Yes/No. Why?

In what way was the support from the local NGO important for the implementation of your reintegration plan?

Do you think that the reintegration support has facilitated your return to Brazil? Yes/No. Why?

Is there anything in the programme that needs to be improved? What is it?

What were your expectations when you returned? Were these met? Why?

Do you feel integrated into Brazilian society again? Yes/No. Why?

Do you think that there is something lacking for your return to the country to be more successful? What is it?

What are your expectations from here on?

Do you want to go abroad again? Where to? Why?

#### **FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM LOCAL NGOs:**

Did you experience a lot of difficulty in setting up your business? Yes/No. Why?

Did you receive support from anyone/any institution? If so, was it relevant? Why? If not, do you believe that receiving local assistance would be important/would facilitate the implementation of the business plan?

Did you have difficulty in readjusting? Do you believe that receiving local follow-up facilitates the reintegration process? Yes/No. Why?

## **ANNEX III – GUIDE FOR INTERVIEW: INTERVIEW WITH INSTITUTIONS**

### **Project Funded by the Fund Return Fund**

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme – (ARVoRe) III

### **Study on Positive Factors and Obstacles to a Sustainable Reintegration in Brazil**

#### **INTERVIEW WITH INSTITUTIONS**

#### **7. IDENTIFICATION OF THE INTERVIEWEE**

Name:

Age:

Gender:

Schooling/Level of Education:

Position in the Institution:

Interview Date:

#### **8. IDENTIFICATION OF THE INSTITUTION**

Name:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Area: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**What are the general characteristics of the institution?**

- Objective
- When was it established
- Type of activity
- Number of employees
- Staff profile

**Does the entity have a representative on the Municipal Board for Social Assistance?**

## **9. ABOUT THE RETURNEES**

**In your opinion, why do emigrants return to Brazil?**

**When they come back, do they have problems in Brazil?**

- What are the main problems?
- Are there any problems with (re)adaptation?
- How the friends/relatives welcome them?
- How do returnees think that their relatives/friends welcome them?

## **10. Relationship of the Returnees with the Institution**

**How do they learn about the institution?**

- Abroad, via IOM?

**When they return to the city, do they look for the Institution?**

**What kind of assistance/service does the Institution offer the returnees?**

**How does the follow-up take place?**

**In your opinion, what do they expect from the Institution?**

**What is the relationship of the returnees with the Institution?**

- Collection
- They rate it good.
- They rate it bad.
- They give suggestions.

**Does the Institution conduct any follow-up after the immigrant has been reintegrated?**

**In your opinion, what do they expect from IOM?**

**Has the Institution experienced difficulties? Is there anything that needs to be improved?**

## **11. EVALUATION OF THE INSTITUTION ON THE IOM PROGRAMME**

**What do you think of the IOM Programme?**

**What do you think of the relationship between this Institution and IOM?**

**Do you have any suggestions for the Programme? What?**

**How do you see the actions of the Federal/State and Municipal Government towards returnees?**

- Are there any actions?
- Is there any specific policy for this group?

## ANNEX IV – TABLE OF INTERVIEWEES AND INTERVIEW SITUATION

STATE	NAME	INTERVIEW STATUS	NOTE
SÃO PAULO	Agenilda Miranda de Souza	Not conducted	Changed address
SÃO PAULO	Ana Cláudia Ferreira Aguiar	Not conducted	Telephone number changed
SÃO PAULO	Ana Maria Afonso Durães	Interview conducted	
SÃO PAULO	Antônio Oliveira das Graças	Interview conducted	
SÃO PAULO	Carlos Tadeu Fortes Manoel	Not conducted	No contact details
SÃO PAULO	Cibeli Ivone de Araújo Silvestre	Not conducted	Moved city
SÃO PAULO	Dameres Azarias da Silva	Not conducted	Telephone number changed
SÃO PAULO	Deivid Keny Feitosa	Not conducted	Moved city
SÃO PAULO	Edson Barbosa da Silva	Interview conducted	
SÃO PAULO	Erika Janaina Ribeiro Nascimento	Not conducted	Changed address
SÃO PAULO	Fabio Ramon de Resende	Not conducted	Did not want to speak to us
SÃO PAULO	Gilda Pereira	Not conducted	Telephone number changed
SÃO PAULO	Ida Wanderly Teodoro	Not conducted	Changed address
SÃO PAULO	João Ricardo Marques Bonfim	Not conducted	No contact details
SÃO PAULO	José Aparecido Nunes Pinto	Not conducted	No contact details
SÃO PAULO	Junior Guimarães Rosa	Not conducted	Telephone off
SÃO PAULO	Laudemir Bezerra de Oliveira	Not conducted	Changed address
SÃO PAULO	Leyliene Coutinho Gimenez	Not conducted	Telephone number changed
SÃO PAULO	Luciel Ferreira da Cruz	Interview conducted	
SÃO PAULO	Maria Célia Valeriano Cruz Silva	Interview conducted	
SÃO PAULO	Marta Cecília Monteiro de Mello	Interview conducted	
SÃO PAULO	Magaly Ferraz da Silva	Interview conducted	
SÃO PAULO	Micheli Koloski	Not conducted	Telephone off
SÃO PAULO	Nildo Santos	Interview conducted	

STATE	NAME	INTERVIEW STATUS	NOTE
SÃO PAULO	Rita Cristina Vasone	Interview conducted	
SÃO PAULO	Roseane Alves Coelho	Not conducted	No contact details
SÃO PAULO	Tatiane de Carvalho	Interview conducted	
SÃO PAULO	Vander Rodrigo dos Santos	Interview conducted	
SÃO PAULO	William Basaglia	Not Conducted.	Did not want to speak to us.
MINAS GERAIS	Amanda Luiza Cabral	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Analice Luiz da Silva de Jesus	Not conducted	Not found at the address
MINAS GERAIS	Ângela Cristina dos Reis	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Carla Maria Ramos	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Cristina Alves de Sousa Cravo	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Edim Nascimento da Silva	Not conducted	Did not want to speak to us
MINAS GERAIS	Edima Maria de Souza Fernandes	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Eliane Cristina Diniz Vieira	Not conducted	Telephone off
MINAS GERAIS	Eliane Maria Rodrigues	Not conducted	No contact details
MINAS GERAIS	Eliane Sousa Santos	Not conducted	Telephone off
MINAS GERAIS	Érica Priscylla Nascimento de Almeida	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Evaristo Lopes da Silva	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Ezequiel Coelho Oliveira	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Fernando Pereira Silva	Not conducted	No contact details
MINAS GERAIS	Geraldino Luiz Almeida	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Hanilton Eustáquio Aranha Junior	Not conducted	Not found at the address
MINAS GERAIS	Henrique Marcos Rodrigues	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Jaconias Constantino	Not conducted	Deceased
MINAS GERAIS	Juliana Pacheco Xavier	Not conducted	Telephone off



STATE	NAME	INTERVIEW STATUS	NOTE
MINAS GERAIS	Karla Maria Laurindo Fabiano	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Katia Cristina Silva Decaux	Not conducted	Telephone number changed
MINAS GERAIS	Katia Florentino da Silva	Not conducted	Incorrect address
MINAS GERAIS	Lauriene Figueiredo	Not conducted	Telephone number changed
MINAS GERAIS	Lecemes da Silva Morais	Not conducted	Not found at the address
MINAS GERAIS	Lincoln Inácio Prado Junior	Not conducted	Not found at the address
MINAS GERAIS	Marcia Aparecida do Prado	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Marizete Barbosa Gomes	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Marlindo Pereira da Silva	Not conducted	Telephone off
MINAS GERAIS	Milton Dias Filho	Not conducted	Did not want to speak to us
MINAS GERAIS	Pedro Ferreira Leite	Not conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Rogério Germano Rodrigues	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Rosangela Oliveira Dias Donato	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Sidney Mendes Reis	Not conducted	Telephone number changed
MINAS GERAIS	Silvana Oliveira Dias	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Suely Rodrigues de Souza	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Valeria Rodrigues	Not conducted	No contact details
MINAS GERAIS	Valmira Sebastiana de Souza	Interview conducted	
MINAS GERAIS	Vanderley Fernandes Avelar	Not conducted	No contact details
MINAS GERAIS	Viviane Nunes Leite	Not conducted	No contact details
GOIÁS	Alex Guimarães Martins	Not conducted	Not found at the address
GOIÁS	Ana Machado de Oliveira	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Bruna Gomes Viana	Not conducted	Changed address
GOIÁS	Carolyne Borges Amorim	Interview conducted	

STATE	NAME	INTERVIEW STATUS	NOTE
GOIÁS	Célio Rosa dos Santos	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Cleidiana Maria de Sousa Tributino	Not conducted	Changed address
GOIÁS	Conceição Pires Xavier	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Elmi Alves Martins	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Erica Rosa de Aguiar Silva and Fabrício Leandro Dias da Silva	Not conducted	Did not want to speak to us
GOIÁS	Gedeon Honorato Chagas	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Gilson Antonio Amaral	Not conducted	Changed address
GOIÁS	Hellen Teixeira Mamedes	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Ivanildes Silva Ribeiro	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	João Batista Pedrosa	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Karyne Souza Abreu de Faria	Not conducted	Not found at the address
GOIÁS	Leandro Silva Caetano	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Luis Antônio Borges Junior	Not conducted	Not found at the address
GOIÁS	Marcos Medeiros Belasque	Not conducted	Not found at the address
GOIÁS	Maria Abadia Moreira	Not conducted	Not found at the address
GOIÁS	Maria Aparecida Daniel da Silva	Not conducted	Not found at the address
GOIÁS	Maria José Gomes Camilo	Not conducted	Not found at the address
GOIÁS	Paulo Henrique de Souza Lisboa	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Paulo Oliveira da Silva Duarte	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Simone Gonçalves Peixoto	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Vanilda Alves Martins Lima	Interview conducted	
GOIÁS	Werikldari Gomes da Costa	Interview conducted	

## ANNEX V – INDICATORS: MUNICIPALITY OF GOIÁS

	HDI-M – GO		GDP per capita – GO				Population Density – GO (inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	1991	2000	2000	2005	2009	2010	2010
Goiás	0.7	0.776	R\$ 5,246.41	R\$ 8,991.95		R\$ 16,251.70	17.95
Goiânia	0.677	0.764	R\$ 7,259.12	R\$ 11,257.97	R\$ 16,682.51	R\$ 18,777.09	1776.75
Aparecida de Goiânia	0.677	0.764	R\$ 3,163.02	R\$ 5,121.98	R\$ 9,008.70	R\$ 11,297.44	1580.27
Anápolis	0.664	0.759	R\$ 6,078.26	R\$ 9,008.87	R\$ 24,139.35	R\$ 30,025.66	358.58
São Luís de Montes Belos	0.669	0.752	R\$ 5,216.25	R\$ 8,327.04	R\$ 12,433.83	R\$ 12,630.76	36.36
Pontalina	0.682	0.805	R\$ 4,231.41	R\$ 6,402.40	R\$ 10,355.38	R\$ 10,798.01	11.91
Jussara	0.664	0.74	R\$ 3,920.81	R\$ 7,381.78	R\$ 9,846.52	R\$ 3,547.83	4.69

	% of urban population – GO				Illiteracy rate		
	1980	1991	2000	2010	1991	2000	2010
Goiás	67.29	80.77	87.88	90.29	17.5	11.2	7.6
Goiânia	98.07	99.05	99.34	99.62	8	4.7	3.1
Aparecida de Goiânia	48.56	98.36	99.75	99.9	14.5	8.4	5
Anápolis	90.60	94.80	97.25	98.25	12.7	8.6	5.3
São Luís de Montes Belos	65.65	76.75	84.41	88.52	19.3	11.8	9.5
Pontalina	60.60	73.57	80.83	81.17	20.5	12.5	13.7
Jussara	56.67	68.71	78	79.4	19.3	16.1	12.6

	Proportion of people with low income <sup>11</sup>			Unemployment rate		
	1991	2000	2010	1991	2000	2010
Goiás	69.02	46.84	26.46	3.84	12.1	5.95
Goiânia	47.81	26.32	15.2	4.24	11.28	5.05
Aparecida de Goiânia	72.12	46.46	23.84	3.13	12.23	5.64
Anápolis	64.06	41.43	23.51	4.33	12.59	6.42
São Luís de Montes Belos	71.87	50.97	22.92	2.44	12.35	5.2
Pontalina	75.94	44.84	31.05	1.78	7.89	5.07
Jussara	73.26	55.76	27.51	2.76	10.69	5.18

SOURCE: THE BRAZILIAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS, 2013/SOURCE: DATASETS, 2013

<sup>11</sup> People with low income are considered those with income less than half the minimum wage.

## ANNEX VI – INDICATORS: MUNICIPALITY OF MINAS GERAIS

	HDI-M – MG		GDP per capita – MG				Population density – MG (inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	1991	2000	2000	2005	2009	2010	2010
Minas Gerais	0.697	0.773	R\$ 5,623.45	R\$ 10,013.75		R\$ 17,931.89	33.41
Belo Horizonte	0.791	0.839	R\$ 7,008.21	R\$ 12,188.24	R\$ 18,182.74	R\$ 21,748.25	7167.02
Esmeraldas	0.653	0.748	R\$ 2,207.84	R\$ 3,191.52	R\$ 4,901.81	R\$ 5,698.37	66.13
Ibirité	0.668	0.729	R\$ 2,134.71	R\$ 3,938.56	R\$ 6,800.85	R\$ 7,953.34	2190.26
Santa Luzia	0.686	0.754	R\$ 3,176.67	R\$ 5,516.92	R\$ 7,711.35	R\$ 10,331.48	862.38
Ipatinga	0.735	0.806	R\$ 9,772.27	R\$ 19,218.79	R\$ 23,145.75	R\$ 30,904.60	1452.34
Timóteo	0.768	0.831	R\$ 12,160.88	R\$ 23,119.14	R\$ 21,212.11	R\$ 26,405.21	562.7
São João do Oriente	0.593	0.679	R\$ 2,150.70	R\$ 4,042.58	R\$ 5,791.57	R\$ 6,806.52	65.55
Caratinga	0.659	0.754	R\$ 3,315.46	R\$ 5,899.72	R\$ 8,007.02	R\$ 10,541.52	67.72
Governador Valadares	0.717	0.772	R\$ 4,349.39	R\$ 7,855.11	R\$ 10,809.16	R\$ 12,687.47	112.58
Tumiritinga	0.613	0.683	R\$ 2,063.53	R\$ 3,534.86	R\$ 5,528.32	R\$ 6,155.90	12.58
Divino das Laranjeiras	0.611	0.703	R\$ 2,306.33	R\$ 4,029.40	R\$ 5,763.01	R\$ 6,626.35	14.43
Teófilo Otoni	0.651	0.742	R\$ 3,144.82	R\$ 5,789.70	R\$ 8,848.41	R\$ 9,510.79	41.56
Padre Paraíso	0.56	0.656	R\$ 1,426.51	R\$ 2,552.59	R\$ 3,779.05	R\$ 4,317.83	34.63

	% of urban population – MG				Illiteracy rate			
	1980	1991		2010	1991	2000	2010	2010
Minas Gerais	67.28	74.86	82	85.29		17.4	11.3	8.1
Belo Horizonte	99.68	99.66	100	100		6.7	4.3	2.8
Esmeraldas	32.88	28.99	81.08	93.27		16.4	10.3	8.2
Ibirité	68.63	98.40	99.47	99.77		15	8.7	6
Santa Luzia	86.58	94.46	99.62	99.72		10.8	6.9	4.6
Ipatinga	99.22	99.31	99.25	98.96		10.6	6.8	4.7
Timóteo	92.34	94.34	99.76	99.85		9.5	6.5	4

	% of urban population – MG				Illiteracy rate		
	1980	1991		2010	1991	2000	2010
São João do Oriente	54.77	60.26	76.58	80.33	32	20.9	17.5
Caratinga	50.26	60.87	80.14	82.68	23.6	13	9.8
Governador Valadares	90.65	93.31	95.54	96.06	15.3	9.5	7.2
Tumiritinga	56.21	63.19	66.46	68.7	32.3	24.1	17.9
Divino das Laranjeiras	37.13	47.68	58.45	83.21	30.1	23.7	18.1
Teófilo Otoni	68.28	72.40	79.44	81.69	26.6	17.3	12.6
Padre Paraíso	51.91	58.42	61.16	61.12	40.3	28.6	21.3

	Proportion of people with low income			Unemployment rate		
	1991	2000	2010	1991	2000	2010
Minas Gerais	72.53	48.5	30.29	3.62	13.4	6.53
Belo Horizonte	46.18	27.52	16.13	4.57	16.39	6.21
Esmeraldas	83.4	65.47	37.64	1.92	18.51	7.59
Ibirité	82.5	56.41	31.5	3.8	22.29	7.66
Santa Luzia	76.18	48.76	28.78	5.72	21.95	7.16
Ipatinga	64.37	38.24	21.29	4.49	18.13	9.18
Timóteo	61.11	36.56	21.4	4.08	18.43	11.91
São João do Oriente	85.25	67.77	46.26	1.72	8.68	5.61
Caratinga	85.46	55.14	36.07	3.34	8.38	6.81
Governador Valadares	68.22	45.59	32.22	3.88	16.06	9.72
Tumiritinga	92.48	73.16	52.87	1.39	10.17	8.86
Divino das Laranjeiras	90.06	68.71	48.58	3.61	11.24	7.63
Teófilo Otoni	79.83	59.34	42.53	3.9	16.15	9.29
Padre Paraíso	92.96	82.46	70.41	2.42	16.69	10.14

SOURCE: THE BRAZILIAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS, 2013/SOURCE: DATASETS, 2013

## ANNEX VII – INDICATORS: MUNICIPALITY OF SÃO PAULO

	HDI-M – SP		GDP per capita – SP				Population Density – AP (inhabitants/km <sup>2</sup> )
	1991	2000	2000	2005	2009	2010	2010
São Paulo	0.778	0.820	R\$ 11,453.78	R\$ 17,975.61		R\$ 30,243.17	166.25
São Paulo	0.805	0.841	R\$ 15,361.48	R\$ 23,925.35	R\$ 35,271.94	R\$ 39,450.87	7387.69
Campinas	0.811	0.852	R\$ 12,930.16	R\$ 21,653.17	R\$ 29,731.98	R\$ 33,939.56	1,358.63
Indaiatuba	0.765	0.829	R\$ 10,682.33	R\$ 18,991.73	R\$ 28,055.38	R\$ 28,905.86	647.54
Santo André	0.808	0.835	R\$ 11,459.60	R\$ 16,834.54	R\$ 21,843.98	R\$ 25,609.30	3,866.35
Itanhaém	0.730	0.779	R\$ 4,780.67	R\$ 6,380.32	R\$ 9,436.08	R\$ 10,769.19	145.20
Araçatuba	0.787	0.848	R\$ 7,454.86	R\$ 10,490.79	R\$ 16,472.10	R\$ 19,281.36	155.54
Birigui	0.753	0.829	R\$ 6,013.99	R\$ 9,426.19	R\$ 12,705.79	R\$ 15,008.53	204.79
Buritama	0.734	0.79	R\$ 8,035.43	R\$ 11,147.49	R\$ 14,751.59	R\$ 16,721.47	47.19
Taubaté	0.797	0.837	R\$ 12,759.58	R\$ 17,450.48	R\$ 30,445.86	R\$ 35,083.20	445.98
Ubatuba	0.752	0.795	R\$ 5,428.86	R\$ 7,315.90	R\$ 10,403.77	R\$ 11,671.58	110.87
Presidente Prudente	0.794	0.846	R\$ 8,768.83	R\$ 12,402.27	R\$ 17,433.77	R\$ 20,489.14	368.89
Marília	0.774	0.821	R\$ 7,312.85	R\$ 10,073.79	R\$ 15,197.17	R\$ 18,076.94	185.21
Quintana	0.695	0.741	R\$ 3,631.77	R\$ 6,874.57	R\$ 10,995.14	R\$ 12,144.61	18.79
Botucatu	0.783	0.822	R\$ 7,318.21	R\$ 14,463.90	R\$ 17,776.46	R\$ 22,458.85	85.88

	% urban population – SP					Illiteracy rate	
	1980	1991	2000	2010	1991	2000	2010
São Paulo	88.65	92.79	93.41	95.94	9.7	6.1	4.2
São Paulo	98.16	97.58	94.05	99.10	7.1	4.5	3.1
Campinas	88.99	97.33	98.33	98.28	7.3	4.5	3.1
Indaiatuba	86.23	90.99	94.43	98.99	9.5	5.9	3.1
Santo André	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	6.3	4.1	2.9
Itanhaém	95.34	97.28	98.82	99.06	13.5	8.1	5.5
Araçatuba	89.98	94.58	97.16	98.07	9.1	6.2	3.7
Birigui	89.06	93.93	96.52	97.02	11.7	6.7	4.5

Buritama	81.33	88.88	91.20	94.21	17.6	11.8	8.5
Taubaté	95.38	95.57	94.14	97.84	6.5	4.4	2.8
Ubatuba	90.91	97.75	97.51	97.60	12.2	8.3	5.8
Presidente Prudente	94.72	96.82	97.91	97.96	9.9	5.9	3.7
Marília	88.08	93.04	96.14	95.51	10.3	6.5	4.0
Quintana	67.52	83.73	90.30	91.51	10.3	6.5	4.0
Botucatu	90.34	93.49	96.02	96.35	8.2	5.7	4.0

	% urban population – SP			Illiteracy rate		
	1991	2000	2010	1991	2000	2010
São Paulo	40.88	28.00	19.36	5.01	16.58	7.28
São Paulo	28.70	22.81	20.03	6.06	17.38	7.20
Campinas	26.92	20.02	15.82	4.29	15.44	6.26
Indaiatuba	37.03	21.53	9.45	4.81	14.45	5.86
Santo André	25.83	18.97	14.17	6.36	18.76	7.94
Itanhaém	54.88	40.48	28.44	2.93	20.71	10.15
Araçatuba	45.93	25.29	15.54	2.25	14.70	5.85
Birigui	44.19	20.60	11.11	1.21	6.89	3.52
Buritama	68.96	38.84	17.89	1.34	11.98	6.86
Taubaté	46.20	25.56	15.83	7.85	17.32	7.57
Ubatuba	54.58	38.34	28.21	4.08	17.54	7.27
Presidente Prudente	46.67	24.02	13.84	2.97	14.50	6.76
Marília	45.83	25.24	15.81	2.84	13.53	7.41
Quintana	73.98	50.68	27.18	1.64	14.04	8.27
Botucatu	39.75	26.61	17.20	3.27	14.32	6.89

NOTES: LOW-INCOME PEOPLE ARE CONSIDERED THOSE WITH MONTHLY INCOME LESS THAN HALF THE MINIMUM WAGE.



## ANNEX VIII – REPORT OF THE DIALOGUE WITH THE AUTHORITIES AND NGOs

### SEBRAE Rio Doce Region – Governador Valadares/MG

Within the framework of the actions directed at the target group of this study, SEBRAE participates, as a partner of Caixa Econômica Federal, in the Remittances Project. Initially planned to assist Brazilian returnees from the United States, more precisely from the Boston region, the programme was extended to returnees from other countries. The participation of SEBRAE is geared more towards training entrepreneurs by means of lectures and courses. The resources for these activities are provided by Caixa.

In the interviewee's view, the biggest problem faced by returnees is their lack of familiarity with business management. Many come into contact with advanced technologies during their stay abroad and, on returning, want to invest in businesses similar to those they have become aware of there. Despite the technical knowledge, there is a lack of familiarity with corporate management procedures and it is on this aspect that SEBRAE seeks to give its support.

This type of project is developed in partnership with city administrations, credit unions and other entities. However, experience has shown that acting in cooperation with government agencies, primarily the local municipal government, does not lead to the desired results. Activities with professional associations<sup>12</sup>, when supported by the community, have given the best results.

Another important detail of the activities of SEBRAE is that, except in specific cases, the programme acts more directly with entrepreneurs who are already established or in the process of setting up a business, with guaranteed capital.

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<sup>12</sup> Professional associations are an association of companies or individuals with their own legal personality, civil in nature, not-for-profit and not subject to bankruptcy proceedings, established to provide services to their members. Every professional association has in common the gratuity of elected offices. Some examples of professional associations are confederations, federations, associations, unions, cooperatives and professional bodies, among others. (<http://www.jusbrasil.com.br/topicos/296162/entidade-de-classe>).

For a group such as the one assisted by IOM, it would be necessary to create a process of capacity-building geared towards the specific needs of the returnees who, for the most part, do not have management experience or even a higher level of education. However, the minimum number of students for each class is 30, which makes such an initiative impractical, considering the number of returnees assisted by IOM.

An important point that has been highlighted is that there is a great demand for information from SEBRAE from immigrants who, while still abroad, are already beginning to prepare to come back. The disclosure of the partnership with Itamaraty (Ministry for Foreign Affairs) has increased the demand for information. Another aspect pointed to is that, according to the interviewee, the returnees are struggling to “shake off” the past and, after some time, possibly due to the difficulties encountered on coming back, think of returning abroad. Those who were most successful in the implementation of the return project tend to appoint someone to administer the businesses in Brazil and to go back to the country they had lived in for periods which can last for years.

## **ASPAEMIG**

Councillor Paulo Costa is currently the President of the Association of Relatives and Friends of Emigrants from Brazil – ASPAEMIG, in Governador Valadares. He works with Brazilian migrants living in the United States. Although the focus of the association is aimed at a specific group, it also assists Brazilian migrants living in Europe.

The Association was founded at a time when the number of Brazilians living abroad was at a record high and its aim was to contribute to the protection of the rights of migrants and to facilitate contacts. The entity has a much more of a political character than of assistance and nowadays seeks to adapt to the new reality of increasing returns.

Paulo recalls that the Migrant’s House project, a partnership between the Municipal and the State Government, is to be launched in 2013. The reception centre will include psychologists, social workers and other professionals who can guide and direct the returnee immigrants to be assisted with their requirements.

This project, as already explained, the product of a long process of negotiations between the city and the state, has funding in the region of R \$ 250,000.00, for its first year of operation.

## Caixa Econômica Federal – Governador Valadares/MG

The meeting with Cornélio was aimed at learning about the Remittances Programme coordinated by Caixa Econômica Federal. This proposal came about after the assessment of the situation of remittances from Brazilian immigrants living in the United States. Around 2005, the institution noted that there was a niche business in the market of remittances from Brazilian immigrants living abroad. After evaluating the opportunities, both in the country and abroad, it was decided that the proposal should be focused on the emigrants living in the Boston area and on their families, residing in the micro-region of Governador Valadares – Brazil.

The proposal aims to better address the financial education of migrants and of their families to better manage the future, promoting training, by means of lectures and courses, both for those who send the money as well as those who receive it Brazil, for the best application of the capital accumulated by the migrant.

Cornélio said that, from the outset, the programme was better accepted abroad than in Brazil; this led to a change in the dissemination strategy for the proposal, opting for mass action to raise awareness in the region of Governador Valadares. This process has generated a strong positive effect on the demand for products offered by the Caixa.

The dynamics of the project foresees a period of awareness, financial education and training in entrepreneurship, which falls under the responsibility of SEBRAE. Caixa's evaluation is very positive because the institution had the opportunity to offer their products, home loans, personal loans and other items.

Although the target group for the Remittances Project is not the group receiving assistance from IOM, Cornélio indicated that they could adapt some elements of the project for the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme group, particularly in the case of financial education and the introductory elements of business management. The financial support, via loans for micro-entrepreneurs, could only happen after the business had been in operation for three months, due to Caixa rules, but it could be a way if the businesses started by returnees could prosper for at least 90 days.

In short, there could be interest from Caixa in assisting the project, but it would be necessary to rely on an interested group and to work in the area of entrepreneurship.

## Local Government and Bank of Brazil – Padre Paraíso/MG

In the city of Padre Paraíso, two interviews were conducted: one with the Mayor's Chief of Staff (Local Government) and another with the Manager of the local branch of the Bank of Brazil.

In the case of the Local Government, there is recognition of the migration wave to Portugal and the United States of America, with greater emphasis on this second destination. According to the Chief of Staff, the results of this migration flow are visible in the city, where there was great growth in the construction sector in the period leading up to the crisis. This new situation, the European crisis, has also left its mark on the city, with work left unfinished and the return of several families, which can be seen with the arrival of children, children of immigrants, at state schools. However, the municipality has not taken any measures to address this population. According to the Chief of Staff, in case of need, they can approach the assistance network. He pointed out that the opening of a Vales do Jequitinhonha e Mucuri-UFVJM Federal University campus near the city will go a long way to reducing migration, both internally and internationally, because young people will have the chance to complete their studies in the region.

The contact with the Bank of Brazil showed that, although migration is important, there is not a large amount of resources to the city; remittances are few in number, three to four times a week, and involve amounts between USD 150 and USD 250. The Agency has never received amounts above USD 3,000.00, which requires authorisation from the Central Bank in Belo Horizonte. In his opinion, the crisis has brought a new perspective with the return and, in some cases, the need for reverse remittances (sending money to immigrants abroad). In the case of returnees, he believes that the arrival of residents with new skills could assist in the development of the municipality. He cited the fact that a recently hired employee had worked in a fast food chain, nothing similar to banking activity, where the fulfilment of goals and satisfaction of the client was a key point for maintaining the employment. These requirements are of great importance to a bank in contact with the public, which made this candidate achieve a higher rating than others who had applied for the vacancy. According to him, there are many opportunities for returnees. All that is required is to create actions that make it possible to identify them, because the knowledge acquired in any area is human capital that can be exploited.

## Social Assistance Reference Centres – Quintana/São Paulo

In the city of Quintana, the discussion was with Sandra Maria de Almeida, who said that the city is a very strong point of internal migration due to the seasonal rural activity of cane cutting for the local mills. However, she believes that international migration is not very important in the area. The population of just over 6,000 inhabitants consists mainly of the elderly and young people who, when they reach adulthood, seek opportunities in neighbouring towns. The region is well-served in the area of health and education and, despite not having higher education institutions in the city, the Municipal Government supports the departure of students for colleges in the nearby towns, which are not more than what 50 km away. On the aspect of social and health assistance, 100% of the population is covered, including taking into account the population of temporary immigrants who stay in the city for six months and bring their families.

### **Núcleo de Informação e Apoio a Trabalhadores Retornados do Exterior [Centre for Information and Support to Workers Returned from Abroad] NIATRE/São Paulo**

The interviewees were representatives of the NGO, Niatre.

Niatre, which was set-up in 2011, is linked to the Instituto de Solidariedade Educacional e Cultural (ISEC) [Institute for Educational and Cultural Solidarity], the Brazilian Society of Japanese Culture and Social Services (Bunkyo), and was founded through an agreement with the Ministry of Labour to assist emigrants returning, mainly from Japan. As stated by one interviewee, “[...] *this agreement foresees not only for the reception of returnees coming from Japan, but also from other countries, Brazilians who went to work abroad and are now returning, and we know how difficult this period of adaptation can be*”.

In working with returnees from Japan, this institution has partnered with SEBRAE to assist in the preparation of business plans and guide those who wish to engage in some sort of entrepreneurship. In the majority of cases, these returnees are returning with some capital and have the opportunity of choosing between the available business niches. Given that Bunkyo’s social framework includes several entrepreneurs and has contacts in Japan, there is synergy in the enterprises with larger proposals for production for export. The Centre partners with State and Municipal departments to hold training courses for the returnees. However, due to its poor resources, these activities

are always dependent on specific agreements. The Ministry of Labour resources are used for maintaining the technical staff (three employees) and overheads.

Niatre's experience shows that the solution based on entrepreneurship is a good one. However, it was emphasised that this is not an option for those who do not have an option. In other words, it should not be expected that people who are vulnerable pursue entrepreneurship as a solution, as this may only worsen matters if there is no desire and a lack of clear, concise ideas about what to do.

Niatre's work is published by the House of the Brazilian Immigrant in Hamamatsu, Japan, and also by consular posts. However, interpersonal communication is shown to be the most important.

In terms of service, the agreement with the Ministry of Labour is intended to deal with labour issues only. However, experience has shown that it is necessary to include other services that are carried out through the referral to the Association's contact network, such as the CAIRU project, reintegration of the children of Brazilian returnees into the Brazilian school system, or partnerships with the Instituto Sol Nascente [Rising Sun Institute], which provides health, support, social and legal services. Another form of support is the labour reintegration inside the companies of business people who are linked to the Bunkyo Association and who seek to take advantage of the manpower returning from Japan.

### **House of the Immigrant / São Paulo**

The interviewee at the House of the Immigrant was Father Paolo Parisi, Director of the Centre for Migration Studies at the Mission of Our Lady of Peace.

The Scalabrini Office for Immigrants was opened in 1978 and has helped around 50,000 immigrants. In 2012, 4,600 immigrants received assistance. In Father Paolo's evaluation, the history of the House, which has existed for several years, even before the Service was opened, can be told dating back to the late nineteenth century, at the time of the foundation of the Scalabrinian Order, whose aim was to assist Italian immigrants in their countries of destination. Because Brazil was one of the main ports for this migration, the Scalabrini arrived in the country in the late nineteenth century. *"So right here,*

*this neighbourhood came about because of Italian immigration. The Italian migration put together a welcome centre. It used to have a large shed; we even have file photos and such. Then an architect, a sculptor and an Italian painter set up this structure, which was essentially an attempt to provide holistic support to Italian migrants, with religion, church, nursery, school, theatre, cinema, it had an entire structure, a framework, it was ideal". "With time over the years, we also began to welcome Koreans, Vietnamese, people fleeing from the dictatorship in Chile, Argentina and other places, they all came here. Then, in the 1980s, the Latin Americans came. Next to arrive, for example, last year almost 1,400 Vietnamese came through here, and we can say that this year the great phenomena are the Africans".*

Currently support to immigrants is through the Centro Pastoral e de Mediação dos Migrantes – CPMM [Religious and Mediation Centre for Migrants], which operates in five areas, as follows: work, legal/regulatory, health, community/family and education. This work counts on several partnerships that include government bodies as well as the academy, where trainees coming from different qualifications provide support to immigrants within their areas of expertise. It should also be considered that the Centre, as it belongs to a religious order, is very involved with Pastoral Care of Human Mobility of the National Conference of Brazilian Bishops – (CNBB), the reach of the institution covers virtually all of national territory and its main activity is assisting immigrants.

In respect to actions aimed at labour reintegration, the Centre only refers people and assists with placing them in jobs. In the case of Haitian immigrants, some entrepreneurs sought the house offering work proposals, and so, many Haitians were able to get into the labour market.

### **Board of Public Policies for Women – Annapolis / Goiás**

In Annapolis City, we contacted Cynthia Maria Ferreira Maia, a psychologist with the Board of Public Policies for Women. As already noted, in Goiás there is a prevailing vision of migration associated with sexual exploitation and human trafficking, therefore even government bodies are not prepared to help assisting returnee migrants who do not fit this profile.

We observed that even when very well-structured on a state level, the Programme to Combat Human Trafficking still has difficulties in functioning at a municipal level. Cynthia told us about some issues between municipal

and state entities in conducting actions in the fight against human trafficking.

### **Municipal Secretariat for Women – Goiania/Goias**

In Goiania City, we contacted Neide Maria, Director of Projects and Themed Actions at the Municipal Secretariat for Women, who had recently taken office in the new city administration. The Secretariat's work is focused on women who are in a situation of vulnerability, such as domestic violence, and on training activities to enable them to work in the local labour market.

Although she mentioned that the issue regarding migration is part of the concerns of Mayor Paulo Garcia, we could not find a single reference to this topic in the government programme or in any of the proposals for actions by the Municipal Government. In short, within the framework of the municipal authority, there is no evidence of there being any concerns with regard to the immigration issue.







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