ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION (AVRR)

AVRR at a glance

- 34,000: average number of migrants assisted per year from 2005 to 2014
- 69,540: number of migrants assisted in 2015
- 98,403: number of migrants assisted in 2016

2016

- 110: host or transit countries
- 161: countries or territories of origin
- 32% women
- 68% men
- 27% children
- 0.9% victims of trafficking
What is AVRR?

AVRR relates to the administrative, logistical and financial support, including reintegration assistance, provided to migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host/transit country, who volunteer to return to their countries of origin.

Beneficiaries of AVRR programmes may include stranded migrants, irregular migrants, regular migrants, asylum seekers who decide not to pursue their claims or who are found not to be in need of international protection. AVRR assistance could also be extended to migrants in vulnerable conditions, such as victims of trafficking, elderly people, unaccompanied migrant children and migrants with health-related needs.

IOM considers AVRR as an indispensable part of a comprehensive approach to migration management aimed at orderly and humane return and reintegration of migrants. IOM also supports the principle that AVRR is the most desirable form of return as it takes the migrant’s decision into account.

The successful implementation of AVRR programmes requires the cooperation and participation of a broad range of actors, including the migrants, civil society and the governments in origin, host and transit countries.

The benefits of AVRR

For a migrant

AVRR represents a more humane and dignified approach to return, enhancing reintegration perspectives at home. For migrants who need to return home but lack the means to do so, assisted voluntary return and reintegration is often the only approach to address their immediate plight. AVRR allows the migrants concerned to prepare for their return, encouraging them to identify potential opportunities for socioeconomic reinsertion into communities of origin, thereby facilitating the sustainability of their return.

For the governments of host and transit countries

AVRR is a consensual and cost-effective option that allows strengthening the integrity of asylum and immigration systems, without the systematic (and generally costly) use of law enforcement and detention.

For the governments of countries origin and for the migrants’ communities

AVRR is an acceptable option to support the reinsertion of returning nationals. IOM assists the governments of origin in the development of strategies and programmes facilitating the management of return migration and strengthening capacities for reintegration in these countries. AVRR also facilitates and enhances a cooperative approach to return between the relevant authorities in host, transit and origin countries.

Key values

The key values of IOM AVRR programmes are:

- Voluntariness
- Dignity and respect of human rights
- Holistic and gender-sensitive approach
- Support to migrants
- Confidentiality

The following values are particularly relevant when reintegration assistance is provided:

- Tailored approach
- Opportunity
- Empowerment towards sustainability
- Partnerships
The three stages of an AVRR programme

1. Pre-departure assistance
   - Counselling and return-related information, including on reintegration support whenever applicable
   - Administrative assistance including acquisition of travel documents
   - Purchase of flight tickets

2. Travel assistance
   - Health-related support for migrants with specific health needs
   - Travel assistance: Movement coordination including support in transit and escort when needed

3. Post-arrival and reintegration assistance
   - Reception and inland transport to the final destination
   - Referral services: Counselling and referral to local partners if necessary
   - Reintegration assistance tailored to the returnees’ needs
   - Monitoring and evaluation of the assistance delivered
Talking about AVRR?

When raising awareness and communicating on AVRR, it is important to maintain an open, objective, flexible and empathetic approach towards the different stakeholders and audiences.

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<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Audience</th>
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<td><strong>Increase migrants awareness of AVRR</strong></td>
<td>Migrants</td>
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<td>Provide migrants with accurate and up-to-date information about AVRR services</td>
<td>Direct engagement through AVRR programmes</td>
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<td>Inform migrants on IOM and partners’ role (such as governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society)</td>
<td>Consular representations</td>
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<td><strong>Foster engagement on AVRR among involved stakeholders and donors</strong></td>
<td>Governments/ donors</td>
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<td>Increase understanding of governments and donors on AVRR activities implementation and funding</td>
<td>Civil society Communities</td>
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<td>Increase knowledge among migrant communities, partners, public services and civil society on AVRR</td>
<td>International organizations Migrants</td>
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<td>Encourage participation of stakeholders in AVRR information activities</td>
<td>General public, Media, Academia</td>
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<td><strong>Broaden the understanding of AVRR among the general public</strong></td>
<td>Partners and external audiences</td>
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<td>Deepen the knowledge of policy makers, academics, governmental representatives about AVRR as a key element of migration management</td>
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<td>Facilitate an exchange of information on return migration with the general public</td>
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Twitter: @MigrantAssist
Web: iom.int/assisted-voluntary-return-and-reintegration

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

IOM
Department of Migration Management
Migrant Assistance Division