



THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS INCLUDING REINTEGRATION MEASURES (AVRR)

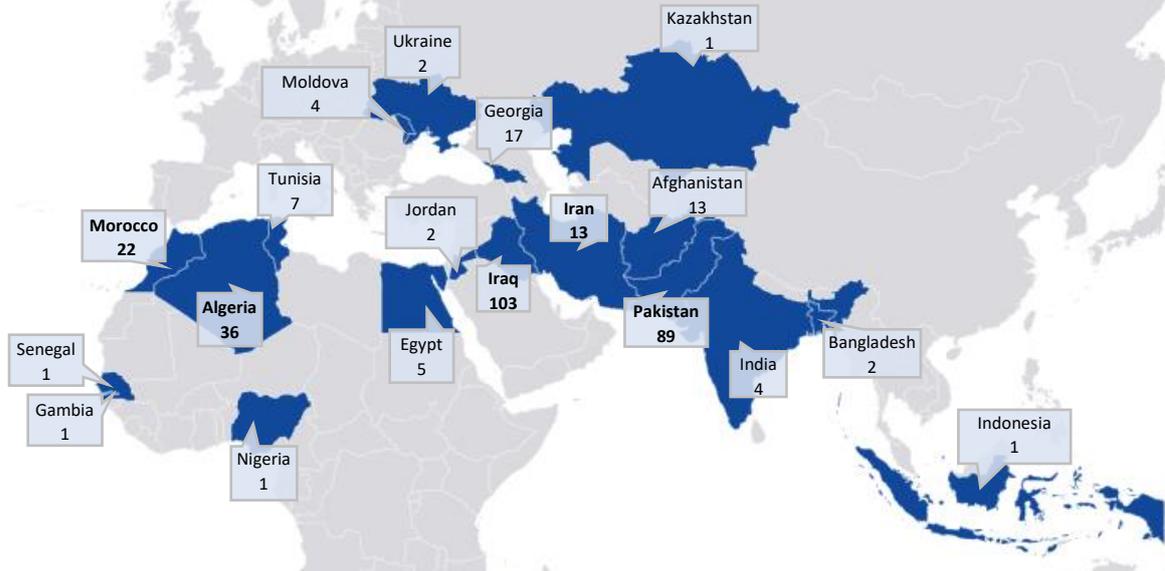
IOM-Office in Greece

41,404
Voluntary Returns

3,034
Reintegration Plans

February 2018 map

View total statistics [here](#)



FEBRUARY 2018

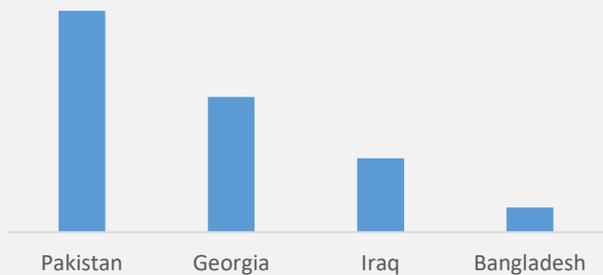
42 BENEFICIARIES RECEIVED

REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IN KIND

- DAIRY FARMS
- MINI MARKET
- CONSTRUCTION SERVICES



TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



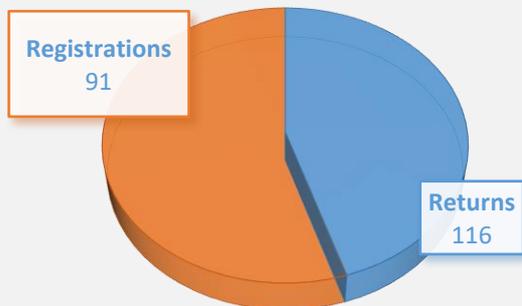
“ My next step was to call IOM and find out more details about voluntary returns. Somehow, I knew that my future is there, in my home country ” - Omar Mahjoob

324 BENEFICIARIES RETURNED HOME



via **63** COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS

AVRR FIGURES FROM THE ISLANDS & CRETE



248 MEN

34 WOMEN

42 CHILDREN

33 MEDICAL CASES

NUMBERS IN TOTAL

41,404 returns
from 2010 up to February 28th, 2018

9,810 returns
from June 2016 up to February 28th, 2018

2,411 reintegration plans in kind
623 reintegration plans in cash
from June 2016 up to February 28th, 2018



The project is co-funded 75% by European Funds (Asylum Migration and Integration Fund) and 25% by National Funds



Voices of Returnees

Omar Mahjoob and his family from Iraq



Omar and his 7 children

"I was born in Sargat village, located near to Said Sadiq town. I have 13 sisters and 7 brothers and now I am a father of 7 children; Khattab, Hendie, Jiehia, Zakariya, Shahd, Al-Rayyan and little Marina, the 3-months-old newborn baby. My father was very famous and rich man in Iraq and even though I did not get much love from him, I always knew that I do not want to raise my kids in the same way.

I started to work at my mother's market, selling sweets, while I was studying engineering in college. When I completed my studies I got a work as an engineer in an American oil company operating in Duhok. I was a hardworking businessman, I had a good job and a decent income, but since ISIS was coming to my village, I had to protect myself and my family. This is why I decided to leave.

First, I bought a house in Sulaimaniya governorate, one of the major cities in Iraq. However, ISIS attacked us and the city was almost destroyed. I was robbed and I lost everything I had including my car and my savings. After that incident, I realized that the situation was unstable and dangerous for my family. Hence, I took the decision to leave. My wife took care of our children and I went to Egypt. I bought a house there in order to travel to Iraq and work, when necessary. Every week I was traveling from Egypt to Iraq and from Iraq to Egypt. But this lasted only some weeks. Egypt was not a safe choice either. I returned to my home town, from where I took my family and travelled to Turkey. We stayed there for 60 days. Our next stop was Orestiada, Greece, in April 2017. Being safe and finding a job were my top priorities. I was thinking that the best place for us to make a new start was Belgium or Germany, since they have great achievements in technology and science. I tried to find a job there but without any result.

Greece is how I had imagined it; amazing weather, 100% safety and nice people. My children were really excited to attend school every day. Unfortunately, our income remained low. The price of one carton of milk for babies is 9 euro and my little daughter needs 5 of them per month. Hence, even in Greece I was struggling to cover our basic needs. Meanwhile, I was always staying in close contact with my friends back home. Few days ago, I was informed that ISIS has left and although my house was completely destroyed I decided to go back. My next step was to call IOM and find out more details about voluntary returns. Somehow, I knew that my future is there, in my home country."



Gurwinder set up his business back home in the district of Amritsar in India

“My name is Gurwinder and I am from India. I am a beneficiary of IOM AVRR programme. I had been living in Greece for 6 years and with IOM Greece help I returned back to my country on March 2017, benefiting with reintegration assistance.

Initially, with the help of IOM, I purchased two cows for my living and I set up my business back home in the district of Amritsar in India.

Once I earned enough income, I purchased another one and I managed to earn more money. Owing land next to my house facilitates my daily business routine and I am planning to buy more cows in order to produce more milk and expand my customers' list. My job made me feel part of the community and contributed in starting a new life in my country.

Thank you very much IOM. I am something more than happy. I feel important in my neighborhood. Coming back from Greece with nothing would be embarrassing.”