



Co-funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

EUROPEAN REINTEGRATION NETWORK (ERIN) SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM

BRIEFING NOTE FOR BANGLADESH (also available in Bengali)



I. ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The ERIN (European Reintegration Network) Specific Action Program is a joint return and reintegration program that aims to implement sustainable return and reintegration of third country nationals in their country of origin, with further cooperation among participating ERIN partner countries. The Specific Actions of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund of the European Commission funds the ERIN Specific Action Program with co-funding from the eighteen participating ERIN partner countries: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The program is implemented by nineteen ERIN Partner Institutions and the selected local service providers in the ERIN countries of return.

2. IOM MISSION STATEMENT

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the UN Migration Agency, is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. IOM was established in 1951 to help governments to manage migration and to assist migrants in the migration process. Today, with 401 Country Offices and 9 Regional Offices, 2 Administrative Centres, 1 Global Migration Data Analysis Center (GMAC), IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. IOM continues to grow, currently counting 166 Member States, with a further 8 States holding observer status, and 134 international and non-governmental organizations. Amongst other activities, IOM supports people all over the world in returning home and building a new life under its assisted voluntary return and reintegration program (AVRR), an area of IOM expertise that has been developed through 30 years of experience. Since 1979, IOM's AVRR activities have grown to include more than 100 projects, helping individuals return to some 160 countries worldwide. More than 80,000 voluntary returnees from the EU were assisted by IOM in 2016, and in 2015, IOM assisted 52,512 migrants through approximately 75 AVRR programs in the EU.

IOM also works with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and uphold the well-being and human rights of migrants. IOM has confirmed its readiness to support the European Union and its partners to achieve the priorities set out in the EU's external migration policy framework, the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), and the European Agenda on Migration.

3. PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

The potential returnees will be informed by the respective ERIN Partner Institutions (EPIs) of the services that are available for them upon return. The counsellor will identify the type of assistance to be provided depending on the applicant profile and needs identified in the information counselling. Each EPI has counsellors operating in the reception centres and (administrative) detention centres and provides pre-departure counselling to the potential returnees residing in the centres. The meetings should be in informal and friendly manner and ensure the participants clearly understand the objective of the meeting and feel comfortable to ask questions.

Special emphasis should be given to the below mentioned information:

- Provide the IOM contact details to the returnee before departure.
- Define as much as possible the reintegration package before departure, or inform the applicant of the type and quantity of reintegration grants he/she could expect.
- IOM will only assist non-voluntary returnees once they have been formally admitted and entered into Bangladesh.
- Translate the medical documents and/ or educational and training certificates before return, in the language of the country of return, or (if not possible), into English. This will help to register in local institutions and to facilitate medical follow up.
- The beneficiaries should be informed by the EPI counsellors prior to return that they can address IOM in country of return for post-arrival reintegration assistance.
- Try to perform as many information and counselling meetings as possible pre-departure.
- Social and economic considerations must be factored in when envisaging the return of potentially vulnerable individuals, such as women, children and the elderly or single parents with small children.

Arrival assistance: Initial contact with the returnees may only take place once they have cleared all procedures related to the admission to the country. IOM's airport/ port of entry presence is outside the immigration and customs processing areas.

Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC) can be assisted on a case by case basis according to the following general parameters:

1. IOM will:

a) Confirm the identity of the legal guardians in both the host country and the country of origin (or in a third country, where applicable and subject to the legal requirements of the third country) through the partner organization Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRC).

b) Confirm that the Best Interests Determination (BID) process has concluded that it is in the best interest of the UMC to return, and;

c) Confirm that a family assessment has been completed.

2. IOM's assistance will be determined by the outcome of the BID process and the confirmed willingness of the child to return.

3. Due to the inherent vulnerability of UMC, and the interest of the Organization in maintaining the highest standards of protection and assistance, IOM will in general adhere to UNICEF's policy positions on child protection.

4. Prior to facilitating the AVRR of an UMC, IOM will:

a) Receive letters of confirmation from the legal guardians in both the host country and the country of origin confirming that the return to the country of origin is in the child's best interest.

b) Conduct a family assessment to 1) confirm the identity of the parents or legal guardians and that they are willing and able to care for the child until he/she reached the age of 18 years, and 2) to determine the feasibility of assistance by IOM.

Non-IOM returnees:

- IOM can assist people who return to Bangladesh on their own or with the facilitation of other government and non-governmental organizations, as long as sending/host countries have a bilateral agreement with the Government of Bangladesh. IOM will request EPIs for the confirmation that the Government of Bangladesh provided its consent per sending/host country before engaging in assisting such returnees.
- IOM in Bangladesh will provide support only if such assistance is considered appropriate by both the sending and receiving States, and only once the process of return is concluded. The availability of IOM post arrival assistance cannot be a determining factor for a forced return process to take place.

4. IOM IN BANGLADESH:

Relying on its 19 years of experience, IOM Bangladesh has collaborated with more than 25 countries on AVRR projects to assist a large number of clients to return to Bangladesh and reintegrate in a sustainable manner. IOM in Bangladesh also focuses its activities on capacity building, advocating the integration of migration into development planning and programs, and encouraging links with Diasporas, including through knowledge and skill transfer programs and remittance facilitation.

The country office of IOM Bangladesh is in Dhaka. Apart from this office the mission has two sub offices in Cox's Bazar and Sylhet. Currently IOM Bangladesh has 150 staff members working in different fields of migration. The reintegration assistance to the migrants is managed by the country office mainly.

Potential returnees and the counsellors of ERIN Partner Institutions can directly contact the ERIN Single Point of Contact if they have additional questions or need more information:

ERIN IOM POINT OF CONTACT: BANGLADESH

Md. Saiful Islam Shaheen, Operations Assistant

Available from Sunday to Thursday, from 08:30 hrs to 17:30 hrs (GMT +6.00)

Email: sishaheen@iom.int

Office phone: +880-2-55044811 – 13

Fax: +88-02-55044818 - 19

Address:

International Organization for Migration,
House# 13A, Road# 136, Gulshan - 1
Dhaka – 1212
Bangladesh

Website: <http://erin-iom.belgium.iom.int/?q=bangladesh>

5. ERIN AVRR SERVICES PROVIDED

Services offered to AVRR clients by IOM Bangladesh starts once each case arrives in Dhaka until the successful conclusion of the case in order to ensure the sustainability of proposed plans by returnees. IOM is consistently engaging with the national institutions to achieve sustainable reintegration process for the returnee through access to social and economic assistance available in the country. As previous monitoring and evaluations reveal, majority of returnees regard irregular migration as a formative experience relying on which they are loath to repeat the same experience toward any other countries. They generally consider provided reintegration assistances as momentum towards resuming a well-established life in their home country notwithstanding the disproportionate amount of assistance they receive comparing to actual cost of running a business. IOM Bangladesh consistently is on the lookout for any opportunity to further enhance the sustainability aspect of each return and strives to provide tailor-made advice to clients on most feasible plans to benefit from their entitlements.

CASE BY CASE ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

- Meet and greet service upon demand pre-departure
- Onwards transportation assistance: Upon EPI request, IOM can provide returnees with onward transportation to their final destination within the country, and charges will be covered through their reintegration grant.
- Referrals to urgent medical care for treatment continuity
- Emergency housing upon demand pre-departure

REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE:

The reintegration assistance package is delivered in-kind (unless stated differently in the National Annex) and the amounts vary according to the sending country, the national reintegration grants, the type of return, and the beneficiary profile and needs. Additional reintegration services will be provided to unaccompanied migrant children. Upon screening, evaluation, and approval from the ERIN Partner Institution, as well as a further identification of needs post-return, the following services are available for beneficiaries:

- **Micro-business support:** Assistance to start, to re-launch, or to partner into a micro-business activity for economic autonomy and income generation: If you choose to start your own business, IOM helps you to identify a suitable business type. The choice of business depends amongst others on your previous experience, other businesses in your area of return etc.
- **Vocational training** enrolment to enhance skills and employability: trainings can be identified based on availability, prior work experience, education, interest, local market demand for specific skills.
- **Temporary accommodation** to respond to immediate material needs.
- **Medical costs** coverage (medication, consultations) to enable you access to healthcare upon return.
- **Legal/administrative costs** coverage to enable you to register yourself locally.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND REFERRALS:

IOM can provide you with administrative support with, and referrals to:

- National, regional, and local services (governmental, non-governmental, private sector.)
- Local employment initiatives
- Micro-financial organisations
- Enrolment to schools and educational institutions
- Educational and vocational training
- Specialised medical assistance
- Psycho-social assistance
- Local social network
- Legal advice

6. BANGLADESH COUNTRY INFORMATION

TRANSPORT

Arrival Information: Transportation from Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka to the other districts is quite easy. Rental Car booths are available inside the airport terminals. In addition, the airport is also accessible by auto-rickshaw, taxi and bus.

Transportation facility: The inter-district bus and train services are not always available from the airport but rental car service is always available.

HOUSING

Temporary at arrival: IOM can provide returnees with temporary accommodation at the hotel for up to 24 hours upon their return. IOM does not work with local companies, which provide temporary housing for returnees.

Renting Accommodation: In general, there are sufficient number of houses and apartments available in Dhaka and throughout the country. The price for purchasing or renting a residence varies and depends on the city or location. There is no bank for providing loans for renting a house. Loan is available only for buying a house or an apartment through mortgaged property.

Average monthly rent: The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in a good residential area in metropolitan cities is around BDT 20000 - 30000 per month. This amount can be further negotiated with the landlord and two to three months' rent has to be paid in advance as the security deposit.

MICROBUSINESS START-UP

People often opt for the development of micro enterprises in the fields of agriculture, dairy farm, fisheries, poultry farm, shops, transport, and agri-business.

To start-up a small business, the owner should be aware of the following procedures:

- a) Businesses must be registered with the government authority. Owners must obtain a business registration from the government authority depending on the business location. Registration costs vary by considering the nature of business and its issuing authority also. This business license is renewable annually.
- b) If the business is related to an industry that makes noise or ejects gas or vapor, an approval from the environment authority is necessary. If the business is related to food or beverages (for example a bakery, snack bar, restaurant or pastry shop), permission from different government departments is a necessity. If the business is related to medicine selling, a separate license from Drug Administration Authority is a necessity.
- c) Notarized agreement is a requirement for renting or using business place or to proof the ownership of the business place.

EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment is a problem in Bangladesh, and also the remuneration, which often is not adequate to meet all basic expenses of a family. Job conditions are also not that favorable and that is why, a good number of people tend to leave the country for better earnings. IOM can help to refer the returnee as appropriate considering his or her qualifications, but this does not guarantee employment, which depends on the availability of suitable positions and the candidate's eligibility.

MEDICAL CARE

Bangladesh is one of the top-ranking countries that provide free medical services to the people at the community level through various public health facilities. The primary healthcare is provided through an extensive network of health facilities extended down to the community level with upward referral linkages and government-paid community healthcare workers. In most major cities there are state run tertiary level hospitals situated with modern technologies and skill mixed human resources. These facilities receive referred patients from across the country and are mostly overwhelmed and congested. There has been an exponential growth of private health facilities at major cities but mostly concentrated at Capital Dhaka with state of the art technologies and highly trained health professional but cost of the service remains out of reach for common people. Health insurance is considered as new concept where GoB is planning to pilot in few sector but still it is limited to certain corporate sector and international agencies.

IOM refers the medical cases to the appropriate hospital through its physicians of the Migration Health Department. It is the returnee's decision to follow the reference and IOM does not take any responsibility for any decision related to the treatment.

Please find a list of major hospitals at Dhaka city both at public and private level in the following link:
<https://econtactguide.wordpress.com/2014/09/07/list-of-all-hospital-in-dhaka/>

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The education system in Bangladesh is three-tiered and highly subsidized. At all levels of schooling, students can choose to receive their education in English or Bengali. Private schools tend to make use of English-based mediums while government sponsored schools use Bengali mediums of study.

The primary education level is from year 1 to 5. The secondary and higher secondary level is between year 6 to 12. On completion of primary education, students (11+) enrol for junior secondary education that spans 3 years. At the end of this phase of education, some students branch out to join the vocational stream, offered at Vocational Training Institutes (VTI) and Technical Training Centres (TTC) run by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour and Employment respectively. After 10 years of schooling at primary and secondary level, students (16+) who succeed in passing the Secondary School Certificate examination have the option of joining a college for a two-year higher secondary education in their respective areas of specialization or enrolling in technical or polytechnic institutes. Undergraduate education of various duration (2 to 4 years) is offered to students at a number of public and private universities, degree and honours colleges, technical colleges and specialized institutions. Post-graduate education normally of a one to two year duration, is provided at universities and affiliated colleges and institutions under National University.

Vocational Training: At present 14500 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutes are shortlisted in TVET census among which 7500 institutes are affiliated with Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) to run skills development training programmes. There are 62 Technical Training Centres (TTC) operating under Bureau of Manpower, Education and Training (BMET). 120 Government Polytechnic institutes and Technical School and Colleges (TSC) are operating under Directorate of Technical Education (DTE). Around 47 national Youth Training Centres are functional under Department of Youth Development (DYD). In total there are 162 Registered Training Organization (RTO)/ Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) centres affiliated with BTEB to train and assess in competency based system. Admission in these institutes depends on the education qualification of the candidate.

Disclaimer
IOM has carried out the gathering of information with great care. IOM provides information at its best knowledge and in all conscience. Nevertheless, IOM cannot assume to be held accountable for the correctness of the information provided. Furthermore, IOM shall not be liable for any conclusions made or any results, which are drawn from the information provided by IOM.

ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION DONORS

The program is funded by the European Commission (European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund), and co-funded by the participating Partner Countries as listed below:

ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM Partner Countries and Institutions	
Countries	Institutions
Australia	Department of immigration and Border Protection
Austria	Ministry of Interior
Belgium	Federal Immigration Office
	Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers
Denmark	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Finland	Finnish Immigration Service
France	French Immigration and Integration Office
Germany	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees
Greece	Ministry of Public Order and Citizen Protection
Italy	Ministry of Interior
Luxembourg	Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs
Malta	Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security
Netherlands	Repatriation and Departure Service
Norway	Norwegian Directorate of Immigration
Romania	General Inspectorate for Immigration
Spain	Integration of Immigrants Migration Board
Sweden	Swedish Migration Agency
Switzerland	State Secretariat for Migration
United Kingdom	Home Office – Immigration Enforcement