



EUROPEAN REINTEGRATION NETWORK (ERIN) SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM

BRIEFING NOTE

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA (also available in French)

Post-arrival and reintegration assistance to Guinean nationals returning from Austria, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom



I. ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The ERIN (European Reintegration Network) Specific Action Program is a joint return and reintegration program that runs from 1st June 2016 to end of 31st May 2017 and aims to implement sustainable return and reintegration of third country nationals in their country of origin, with further cooperation among participating ERIN partner countries. This Program was built on the European Reintegration Instrument (ERI), which was implemented from 2012 to 2014 and the ERIN project which was implemented from June 2014 to May 2016.

The European Commission (European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund – Specific Action) funds the ERIN Specific Action Program with co-funding from the eighteen participating ERIN partner countries (i.e. 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: Ministry of Interior- Austria, Department Of Immigration and Border Protection- Australia, Federal Immigration Office and Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers- Belgium, Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Denmark, Finnish Immigration Service- Finland, French Immigration and Integration Office- France, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees- Germany, Ministry of Public Order and citizen Protection-Greece, Ministry of Interior- Italy, Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs- Luxembourg, Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security- Malta, Repatriation and Departure Service – Netherlands, Norwegian Directorate of Immigration- Norway, General Inspectorate for Immigration- Romania, Integration of Immigrants Migration Board- Spain, Swedish Migration Agency- Sweden, State Secretariat for Migration- Switzerland and the UK Home Office – Immigration Enforcement (UKHO); and the selected local service providers in the ERIN countries of return.

2. IOM MISSION STATEMENT

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) 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 offices and representations across the world, and 165 Member States, IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. 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. In the past decade alone, IOM has assisted upwards of 3.5 million migrants to return voluntarily to their home countries.

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.

3. PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

The potential returnees will be informed by the respective ERIN Partner Institution of the ERIN Program services that are available for them upon return. The national counsellor will identify the type of assistance to be provided depending on the applicant profile and needs identified in the information counselling. Each ERIN Partner Institution 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 should expect.
- Those nationals choosing to return voluntarily will be incentivized through larger re-integration packages than those returned non-voluntarily.
- IOM will assist non-voluntary returnees once they have been formally admitted and entered into Guinea.
- It is encouraged for you to translate your medical documents and/ or educational and training certificates before your return, in the language of your country of return, or (if not possible), into English. This will help you to register in your local institutions and to facilitate your medical follow up.
- Prior to return the target group (including voluntary and non-voluntary returnees) will be informed by the respective ERIN Partner Institution counsellors that they can address IOM in country of return for post-arrival reintegration assistance.
- Return assistance will be provided by the ERIN Partner Institution, while IOM will provide required reintegration assistance upon arrival that will enable the returnees to build up their lives independently.
- Information counselling meetings can be more effective if conducted on regular basis.
- 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.

Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC)

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);

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 by IOM 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 i) 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 ii) to determine the feasibility of assistance by IOM.

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Non-Voluntary returns (i.e. non-IOM returnees)

IOM can assist non-voluntary returnees who are admitted in their country of origin, as long as sending/host countries have a bilateral agreement with the Government of Guinea. IOM will obtain confirmation that the government in the country of origin provided its consent per sending country before engaging in assisting such returnees.

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.

Reintegration assistance: IOM can support ERIN returnees with reintegration assistance, if the assistance is considered appropriate by the sending and receiving States, and only once the process of return has been concluded. However, the availability of IOM post arrival assistance cannot be a determining factor for the forced return process to take place. IOM will obtain the consent by the government in the country of origin per sending country before engaging.

4. IOM IN GUINEA

Relying on its 14 years of experience, IOM Conakry is currently collaborating with more than 25 countries on AVRR projects to assist a large number of clients to return to/from (Guinea) and reintegrate into their home country in a sustainable manner.

IOM in Guinea has its focus on the assisted voluntary return and reintegration, capacity building, advocating the integration of migration into development planning and programs, encourages links with Diasporas, including through knowledge and skill transfer programs and remittance facilitation.

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

ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM IOM POINT OF CONTACT IN GUINEA
<p>Mrs Kadiatou SOUMAH, Operations/ AVRR Unit Available from Monday to Thursday from 08:00 to 17:30 And on Fridays: 08.00-13.30 <i>(local time which is the same as GMT)</i> Email: ksoumah@iom.int Mobile phone: : +224 628 64 08 17</p> <p>Address: International Organization for Migration IOM Conakry Donka, Bloc des Professeurs, Dixinn, Rue DI 252, Conakry, Republic of Guinea</p> <p>Website: http://erin-iom.belgium.iom.int/?q=guinea</p>

5. ERIN AVRR SERVICES PROVIDED BY IOM CONAKRY

Services offered to AVRR clients by IOM Conakry starts once each case arrives in Guinea until the successful conclusion of the case in order to ensure the sustainability of proposed plans by returnees.

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 minor. Upon screening and evaluation from the ERIN Partner Institution, as well as a further identification of needs post-return; the following services are available for ERIN beneficiaries.

IOM is consistently engaging with the national institutions to achieve sustainable reintegration process for the returned through access to social and economic assistance available in the country.

As previous monitoring and evaluations reveal, majority of returnees regard the ordeal of 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. Hopefully, returnees widely disseminate their first-hand experience among their peer group, which per se, inhibits other people to have the same experience.

IOM Conakry 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 AIRPORT ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

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

REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

The reintegration grants can be used for the following reintegration services:

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...

Wage subsidy allowance to encourage employment: IOM Conakry can refer you through its network of partners to potential employers, and show you how to operate the relevant recruitment websites. If you get a job, your reintegration assistance will be released as a salary subsidy/salary top-up.

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, charitable, etc.)
- 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. GUINEA COUNTRY INFORMATION

TRANSPORT

Arrival Information: Transportation from Conakry International Airport Bgessia (AICB) to the city centre is fairly easy. Once the arrivals hall has been exited, taxis are available outside the terminal. In addition, the airport is also accessible by car and bus.

Customs Regulations: Passengers must complete a customs form upon arrival; the form is usually issued after clearing immigration and before proceeding to the baggage claims area. The forms should be filled in as comprehensively as possible, in order to minimize delays. The customs form explains which customs channel to pass through.

Road network system: The road network system in Guinea is not well organized. There are bad roads but they are connecting to all the cities and towns.

MICROBUSINESS START-UP

Young people often opt for the development of micro enterprises in the fields of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, services, shops, transport, and agri-business. The microfinance institutions support youth projects and women with subsidized interest rates. Note that commercial banks with high credit rates do not facilitate access for young entrepreneurs.

EDUCATION

The primary school completion rate has improved from 56.63% in 2009-2010 to 58% in 2010-2011 and 58.5% in 2011-2012. There is also an improvement in the level of the indicator in rural areas where, in 2010-2011, 40% of pupils complete primary education against 26% in 2009-2010 and 42.3% in 2001-2012. The number of primary classrooms has increased by 2 049 classrooms, from 33,755 in 2009-2010 to 35,804 in 2011-2012. The total number of primary school pupils rose from 453,355 to 1,536,722 (victim including 725,543 girls), and 1,599,839 in 2011-2012; or a respective increase of 83,367 and 63,117 pupils between 2010 and 2012.

Technical education and vocational training in Guinea is characterized by inadequate training to the needs of the labor market and low socio-professional integration of graduates. Despite the willingness and commitment conjugates of the State and the international community, it is clear that much of the Guinean population is little or not formed and the country has a significant deficit of skilled workers; which largely explains the high unemployment prevails.

At the level of higher education, an important place was given to curricular renovation in the institutional development plans of the institutions to revitalize the sub-sector and raise the quality of training provided to students. The recruitment of 157 teachers was effective. The renovation of the study plan, programs and training methods was made under the Licence Master Doctorat system (LMD).

MEDICAL CARE

Access to medication: The Guinea Central Pharmacy (GCP) is the focal point for import of all medicines and provides for special patients through designated pharmacies. In general, almost all critical medication is available in Guinea. Medication is usually only distributed in small quantities in order to avoid resale on the black market. The three below pharmacies are the most famous in Guinea:

- Manquepas Pharmacy: Avenue of Republic in downtown Kaloum, Conakry
- Donka Pharmacy, near the central Univeristy Hospital (hospital-Universitaire), located in the suburbs of Conakry;
- Manize Pharmacy: Located in the town of Dixinn, Conakry

Health Insurance: Although 20% only of the population uses insurance system to reimburse their health expenses, the government never subsidizes pharmaceutical production/importation in order to increase affordability of medicines.

HOUSING

Temporary at arrival: IOM can provides 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 Conakry and throughout the country. The price for purchasing or renting a residence varies and depends on the city and location. Subsidized housing is only available for government employees. There is no bank for giving loan for housing.

Average monthly Rent: Conakry: the average rate for a two-bedroom apartment in a good residential area is around GNF 1 500 000 – 2 000 000 per month. This amount can be further negotiated with the landlord and has to be paid as a security deposit and monthly rent.

EMPLOYEMENT

Requirements to access the job market: To access the labor market, it is necessary to hold a birth certificate and to get a special permission from relevant labor union.

Average salaries indication:

- Construction workers: average salary is between GNF 200,000 and 350,000 per day
- Taxi drivers: average salary is between GNF 65,000 and 75,000 per day
- Municipality workers: average daily salary is between GNF 50'000 and 70'000 per day
- Computer Specialists: approximately GNF 40,000 per hour.

Working Hours: The workweek in Guinea is based on a 40-hour week. Typically, employees work Monday through Thursday (8.75 hours per day) and a half day on Friday (5 hours). Any hours worked beyond these will entitle the employee to overtime.

Latest update: 10th November 2016

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), as well as the eighteen participating ERIN Partner States:

ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM Partner Countries and Institutions	
Countries	Institutions
Austria	Ministry of Interior
Australia	Department of Immigration and Border Protection
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