



EUROPEAN REINTEGRATION NETWORK (ERIN) SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM

IRAQ - Kurdish Regional Governorates BRIEFING NOTE (also available in Sorani)

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



I. ERIN PROJECT OVERVIEW

The ERIN (European Reintegration Network) Specific Action Program 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, Netherlands, Norway, 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 Partner Institution of the ERIN 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 partner has counsellors operating in the reception centers and (administrative) detention centers and provides pre-departure counselling to the potential returnees residing at or outside the centers. The time of the counselling, meetings are to be arranged in advance by coordinating with the reception and (administrative) detention center staff to provide participation of potential returnees. 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.

In pre-departure counselling special emphasis should be given to the below mentioned information:

- please provide the IOM Iraq KRG contact details to the returnee before departure.
- please 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.
- The ERIN reintegration package is for migrants who return voluntarily to IRAQ KRG.
- IOM Iraq does not provide any assistance for non-voluntary returnees.
- Eligible returnees should contact IOM local offices at their earliest convenience and no later than a month after their return.

- based on the prior notification, the voluntary returnees are received at the airport by IOM operational staff and are guided to the IOM procedures and the way to reach its three local offices in Erbil, Dahok and Sulaimaniya.
- When returnees approach IOM Offices, they receive necessary counselling and advice. They go through detailed discussion on their plan about livelihood activities and then receive necessary counselling on the types of businesses and job market in his/her area of return.
- Information counselling meetings can be more effective if conducted on regular basis. For instance it is necessary for returnees to keep contact with IOM staff in case they need extra information on certain process of reintegration.
- 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. In such cases, reintegration presents additional challenges and such groups have to realize that the process is not easy and requires more patience.
- It is encouraged for the project beneficiary to translate any relevant medical documents and/ or educational and training certificates before the return, in the official language of the country of return, or (if not possible), into English. This will help the returnee register in their local institutions and to facilitate their medical follow up.

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. IOM will ensure that the legal guardian for UMC in Somaliland is identified prior to its involvement in assisting UMCs with reintegration assistance.
- 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 of age, and ii) to determine the feasibility of assistance by IOM.

Non-Voluntary returns (i.e. non-IOM returnees): IOM Iraq does not provide reintegration support to post-arrival reintegration assistance (PARA) cases; mainly due to the fact the authorities of the KRG does not support forced returns.

4. IOM IN IRAQ – KRG

The first step of commencing reintegration assistance in Iraq is to receive and welcome returnees from the airport (port of entry) by our operation staff, sometimes with disbursement of payment as cash upon arrival based on the prior notification. Onward transportation and temporary hotel accommodation can be provided upon request, and this needs to be well coordinated beforehand. IOM operations staff at the airport is in a position to provide necessary counselling related to the reintegration process in Iraq. For instance, arrived returnees are provided with local office contact numbers and advised to approach IOM offices as soon as possible. IOM staff also makes sure to record the returnee contact number to be able to contact them at later stages to encourage them to start the process.

Problems and difficulties that might be seen and faced by both sides, returnees and IOM staff, are that sometimes the returnees' arrival may get delayed which need more time for our staff to stay at the airport waiting to assist the returnees when they arrive. Another important thing which should be mentioned is that returnees sometimes do not provide their valid detailed information to our IOM staff in the airport, so please insist on this point in pre-departure counselling.

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

ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM POINT OF CONTACT AT IOM IRAQ KRG, ERBIL HUB

Mr. Halkawt Karem, IOM Program Assistant

**Available from Sunday to Thursday , from 08:30AM to 17:00PM
(Iraq time which is at GMT+3)**

Email: hkarem@iom.int

Phone number: 009647504729186 & 009647504628709

Address: International Organization for Migration, Iraq
Erbil-Ankawa , close to the Akad club

ERIN IOM Website: <http://erin-iom.belgium.iom.int/>

5. ERIN AVRR SERVICES PROVIDED BY IOM IN IRAQ KRG:

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

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 Iraq is consistently 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.

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, evaluation, and approval from the ERIN Partner Institution, as well as a further identification of needs done by IOM post-return; the following services are available for ERIN beneficiaries on a case by case basis:

CASE BY CASE AIRPORT ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

- Meet and greet and orientation service
- Onward transportation assistance: upon request, IOM can provide you with onward transportation to your final destination within the country.
- One night hotel accommodation, in case the returnee arrives at night wishes to travel the next day with a condition that he is entitled to temporary accommodation.
- In case of urgent medical needs, IOM staff operations are in a position to refer the arrived returnees to hospitals.

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 Iraq 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.
- **Assisting minor children:** The grant can be used to cover the costs of education and schooling for children, and any required medical care.
- The Ministry of Health provides vaccination obligatory and freely for children in certain ages, all children should take vaccine.
- Public schooling is free, whereas private schools annual fees vary between 1,000USD and 1,500USD.

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 organizations
- Enrolment to schools and educational institutions
- Educational and vocational training
- Specialized medical assistance
- Psycho-social assistance
- Local social network
- Legal advice

6. IRAQ (KRG) COUNTRY INFORMATION

MEDICAL CARE

The reintegration amount can be used for purchasing medicines, clinic check-ups, and other treatments if deemed necessary. Returnees need to coordinate closely with reintegration staff about certain medical needs they have. In exceptional cases when medical operations are urgently required, IOM may consider the reimbursement mechanism to make sure the package is used and benefited effectively.

HOUSING

In the case of housing assistance, returnees can use the assistance for renting a small house to live in with the family and sometimes they can use it for purchasing equipment and household items. In the Kurdish Republic of Iraq most of the houses available for rent are not furnished and this adds extra burden on returnee's shoulder to take the full responsibility of furnishing the house with basic furniture.

EMPLOYEMENT

In the case of employment, the returnee receives the assistance in the form of wage subsidies, in three or five instalment depending on the amount of assistance and donor's approval. It is important that returnees actively engage themselves with job-searching and contract of job service agreements last for one year.

MICRO-BUSINESS

Returnees can either opt for business start-up, where they need to identify a suitable business location, make lease agreement, and then calculate the needed goods, or join an existing business through partnership. In both cases reintegration staff provides counselling throughout the process and supports the returnees.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The public education system in Iraq is free of charge from the elementary level to the university level; however there are more available private schools and universities with high qualities but they are expensive. In case returnees interested in going back to schools, they can join evening schools and continue their studies as adult education. Furthermore, there are some training centers and language institutes for the returnees interested in upgrading their professional skills.

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.

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ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM DONORS

The program is funded by the European Commission (European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund), as well as the eighteen participating ERIN Partner Countries:

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