



Co-funded by the Asylum,
Migration and Integration Fund



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Organisation internationale pour les migrations (OIM)
Internationale Organisatie voor Migratie (IOM)

EUROPEAN REINTEGRATION NETWORK (ERIN) SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM BRIEFING NOTE

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

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



I. ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROJECT OVERVIEW

The ERIN (European Reintegration Network) Specific Action Program, is a joint return and reintegration project that runs from June 2016 to end of May 2017 and aims to implement sustainable return and reintegration of third country nationals in their country of origin, with further cooperation between ERIN partner countries. ERIN Specific Action Program builds on the European Reintegration Network (ERIN) project implemented from June 2014 to May 2016.

ERIN Specific Action Program is funded by the European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, AMIF, as well as the eighteen ERIN Partner Countries (i.e. Austria, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom).

2. IOM MISSION STATEMENT

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) was established in 1951 to help governments to manage migration and to assist migrants in the migration process. IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. Today, with 481 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 programme (AVRR). AVRR is an area of IOM expertise that has been developed through 37 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.

3. PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

The potential returnees will be informed by the respective ERIN Partner Institutions about 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 ERIN Partner Institution has counsellors operating in the reception centres and administrative detention centres and provide pre-departure counselling to the potential returnees residing at and outside the centres. The time of the counselling, meetings are to be arranged in advance by coordinating with the reception and (administrative) detention centre staff to provide participation of potential returnees. Information sheets will be available for distribution among participants. 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.

The following information must be provided with special stress:

- Nigerians 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 Nigeria.
- 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 Nigeria for post-arrival reintegration assistance.
- Return assistance will be provided by the ERIN Partner Institutions, while IOM Nigeria 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. In such cases, reintegration in a socially and religiously conservative environment presents additional challenges.

Unaccompanied Migrant Children (UMC): UMCs returning from ERIN Partner Countries are eligible under this project to be assisted in Nigeria. As they have also been and are assisted by IOM Nigeria during recent years. Although there are some differences between requirements of donors, sending missions and prevailing situations in Nigeria, but, there is a well-founded procedure which is conducive for all stakeholders with the focus on donor's requirements.

Non-Voluntary returns: PARA cases returning from ERIN Partner Countries can be assisted in Nigeria.

4. IOM IN NIGERIA

Reintegration assistance has been a core component of AVRR in Nigeria since its inception in 2002 and is designed to assist smooth assimilation of the returnees into the society. More than 3000 migrants from over 20 countries in Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa have returned to Nigeria through the AVRR program. The programme has assisted a wide spectrum of returnees including, irregular and stranded migrants, labour migrants, survivors of trafficking, migrants with medical problems, and unaccompanied minors.

Reintegration assistance has mainly consisted implementing a business activity for the returnee, with over 1000 reintegration projects, spread across 44 different types of small businesses, implemented so far. Housing assistance, vocational and educational training, and medical assistance have also been implemented.

Assistance services provided by IOM Nigeria include, but are not limited to reception assistance upon arrival; organizing overnight accommodation and onward transportation; counseling and supporting the development of the reintegration plan according to the needs, skills and preferences of the beneficiary; implementing the reintegration assistance; providing special and tailor made assistance to vulnerable beneficiaries such as trafficked persons; organizing interactive sessions amongst

beneficiaries; and arranging business management training for beneficiaries. Furthermore, IOM Nigeria monitors all reintegration measures and facilitates the monitoring and evaluation visits by donor and sending missions.

The IOM AVRR team comprises 6 operations assistants with over 23 years of combined experience in managing the implementation of various reintegration assistance projects. In managing beneficiaries with medical problems, their experience is complimented by support from the IOM medical health assessment centre with extensive experience in managing migrant health related issues.

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

ERIN IOM Point of Contact in Nigeria:

ABUJA:

**Mr. Sunday Tunde OMOYENI, National Project Officer (Abuja Office) Available from Monday to Thursday from 08:00 to 17:30
Fridays from 08:00 to 12:00
(Nigerian time is at GMT+1:00)**

Email: somoyeni@iom.int

Tel: +2348141375875

Address:

International Organization for Migration (IOM) ABUJA
11 Haile Selassie Street
Asokoro, Abuja, Nigeria

LAGOS:

Mrs. Opeyemi KOLAWOLE, Senior Programme Assistant (Lagos Office)

**Available from Monday to Thursday 7:00 to 16:30
Friday 7:00 to 11:00AM**

Email: okolawole@iom.int

Tel: +2348167548994 and +2348053916641

IOM LAGOS

1, Isaac John Street
GRA Ikeja, Lagos

Webpage: <http://erin-iom.belgium.iom.int/?q=nigeria>

5. ERIN AVRR SERVICES PROVIDED BY IOM IN NIGERIA

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 before departure, as well as a further identification of needs post-return; the following services are available for ERIN beneficiaries. IOM Nigeria 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.

CASE BY CASE AIRPORT ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

- Meet and greet and orientation service is provided as follows:
 - For Lagos office; Mondays to Thursdays: 6:30hr to 18:00hrs and Fridays: 6:30hrs to 11:00hr local time.
 - For Abuja office; Mondays to Thursdays: 7:00hr to 18:00hrs and Fridays: 7:00hrs to 12:00hr local time)
- Onwards transportation assistance: Upon your request, IOM Nigeria 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

REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

IOM Nigeria staff will inform the returnees and their families about the reintegration possibilities and will help them plan their reintegration strategy and how to spend their grant in the most thoughtful and constructive manner, taking into account their needs and background, as well as available resources (i.e. defined grants, individual capacities, and social and economic capital). 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 Nigeria helps you to identify a suitable business type and develop a business plan. The choice of business depends amongst others on your previous experience, other businesses in your area of return, business viability vis-a-vis the market condition and the amount of funds allocated by the sending country for your reintegration assistance.

Wage subsidy allowance to encourage employment: IOM Nigeria 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. For the vocational training courses and on the job placement components, IOM Nigeria has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and currently engaging with the Nigeria Directorate of Employment (NDE) for possible partnership in strengthening the vocational skills of the returned migrants. However, returnees are able to choose other training institutions that are located close to where they reside and within the scope of their needs and interests. The training tuition fees are paid by IOM Nigeria directly to the training institution.

Medical and school enrolment assistance to respond to the medical and educational needs of the returning migrants, most especially young and minor children.

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

Education costs coverage to enable a returnee or his/her dependent(s) to register for schooling.

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
- business registration
- enrolment to schools and educational institutions
- educational and vocational training
- specialised medical assistance
- psycho-social assistance
- local social network
- legal advise

6. NIGERIA COUNTRY INFORMATION

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

Airports

Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (ABV) (Abuja)

Telephone: +234 803 561 6109

Website: <http://abuja.airport-authority.com/>

Abuja's airport is serviced by bus and taxi. Due to safety concerns, it is not advisable to travel by bus, especially at night. A taxi ride into the city center takes 30-45 minutes. Only take a taxi directly outside the terminal labeled Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport Taxi. Offices of many registered car hire are located within the airport terminal. Some of the taxis are painted green. Registered drivers have ID.

Murtala Muhammed Airport (LOS) (Lagos)

Telephone: +234 1 493 3385

Website: <http://lagosairport.net/>

Lagos's airport is located in Ikeja, a suburb 14 km outside the city center. It is serviced by Navy buses with light blue stripes to a point and the airport buses move travelers from there to the airport building. Registered car hire is available and advisable. They are readily available, and take 1 – 4

hours from the airport to the city center depending on traffic congestion. Roads are motor able. For security reasons, night travel is not advisable in some areas.

MEDICAL CARE

The health/medical care infrastructure in Nigeria remains inadequate with a limited capacity of staff and facilities, especially in the rural diseased-ridden areas where less than 10% of the facilities are located. All states in Nigeria have at least a general hospital with affordable health services. The teaching hospitals and federal medical centers scattered all over the country are usually handy for special cases.

HOUSING

Housing is a very pressing concern for returnees due to the high cost in real estate prices, great demographic pressure on Nigeria's urban centres, and a general shortage of dwellings that are in good condition. Below is an estimate of prices for renting apartments in two of Nigeria's urban centres:

Rent per month: Abuja

Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Center: USD 336.73

Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Center: USD 283.56

Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Center: USD 2,062.29

Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Center: USD 886.13

Real estate price for sale: Abuja

Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment in City Center: USD 2500

Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment Outside of Center: USD 1200¹

Rent per month: Lagos

Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Center: USD 779.80

Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Center: USD 45.49

Apartment (3 bedrooms) in City Center: USD 1,512.33

Apartment (3 bedrooms) Outside of Center: USD 531.68

Real estate price for sale: Lagos

Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment in City Center: USD 574.29

Price per Square Meter to Buy Apartment Outside of Center: USD 485.67

EMPLOYEMENT

Formal job opportunities across the country are mostly in banks, oil companies, telecommunications and other private companies, manufacturing industries and fast food ventures. Self-employment contributed heavily to the employment rates in Nigeria. Majority of those who are self-employed can be found in small-scale agriculture or enterprise sectors of the economy.

Vacancies are advertised through different means: by word of mouth, internally, through newspaper adverts or on the job opportunities websites.

¹ http://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/city_result.jsp?country=Nigeria&city=Abuja&displayCurrency=USD

Generally, the requirements for accessing the labour market involve the submission of curriculum vitae and three references from a former employer or educational institution.

Furthermore, in order to work in the civil service of the Federation one needs to apply through the Federal Civil Service Commission, presenting the following documents:

- West African Examination Council Certificate (WAEC Certificate for secondary school leavers)
- University degree certificate
- Local government identification signed by the chairman of the local government, the Secretary to the L.G or a Higher Personnel Manager
- National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) discharge certificate
- Nigerian certificate in Education (NCE), if applicable
- Birth certificate or age declaration
- Marriage certificate, if applicable
- One passport photograph

MICRO-BUSINESS

In order to start any business in Nigeria, it is required by law to register it with the CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) – regulated by the Companies Act of 1990.

Some useful links for CAC forms and for state offices:

<http://new.cac.gov.ng/home/forms/>

<http://new.cac.gov.ng/home/state-offices/>

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Pre-School Education

Enrollment in pre-primary early childhood care centers still remains low at 2.3 million children. This represents about 21% of the population of children in this age group. The caregivers of these centers are generally unqualified: about 85% do not possess basic qualifications and more than half have no formal education². For a directory of pre-schools in Nigeria, it is best to contact the school directly as many do not provide contact information online.

Compulsory General Education

In Nigeria, primary school students are required to take a Common Entrance Examination to qualify for admission into the Federal and State Government Secondary schools, as well as private ones. The Universal Basic Education (UBE) came as a replacement of the Universal Primary Education and an innovation to enhance the success of the first nine years of schooling. The UBE involves 6 years of Primary School education and 3 years of Junior Secondary School education, and is automatic but determined through continuous assessment. This scheme is monitored by the Universal Basic Education Commission, UBEC, and has made it "free", "compulsory" and a right of every child³.

² http://www.unicef.org/nigeria/children_1931.html

³ <http://ubeconline.com/>

Costs and Fees

In Nigeria, there are no particular fees for any federal or state university. Fees will depend on your course and year of study. Generally, the higher the education level, the lower the fees. Check with the specific university/institution for the particular study and level for fees.

Eligibility

Each university/institution requires specific criteria for admission depending on the course of study. Most universities generally have the following prerequisites:

1. For admission to 100 level (UTME), candidates must:
 - Possess five (5) credits at SSCE equivalent in relevant subjects at not more than 2 sittings;
 - Score acceptable points in the UTME in relevant subjects.
2. For admission to 200 level (Direct Entry), candidates must:
 - In addition to 5 SSCE credits passes as in 1 above;
 - Obtain a minimum of two (2) A' level (or its equivalent) passes in relevant subjects, or possess NCE, GCE A/Level, OND or HND with credit/merit passes, or possess a good first degree in a relevant field as the case may be.
3. Credit passes in English Language and Mathematics is compulsory for admission into all courses;
4. Candidates may be required to pass an internal screening test/interview in addition to passing the UTME⁴ generally called post UTME exams (it is administered by the university of choice).

Financial Aid

Three main (government) bodies working throughout the country to provide students with scholarships are as follows:

Federal Scholarship Board (FSB): <http://www.fsb.gov.ng/>

Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF): <http://www.ptdf.gov.ng/>

Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund): <http://www.tetfund.gov.ng/>

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

- Austria – Ministry of Interior
- Australia – Department of Immigration and Border Protection
- Belgium – Federal Immigration Office and 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

⁴ http://www.obonguniversity.net/NewStudents/General_Requirements.aspx

- 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