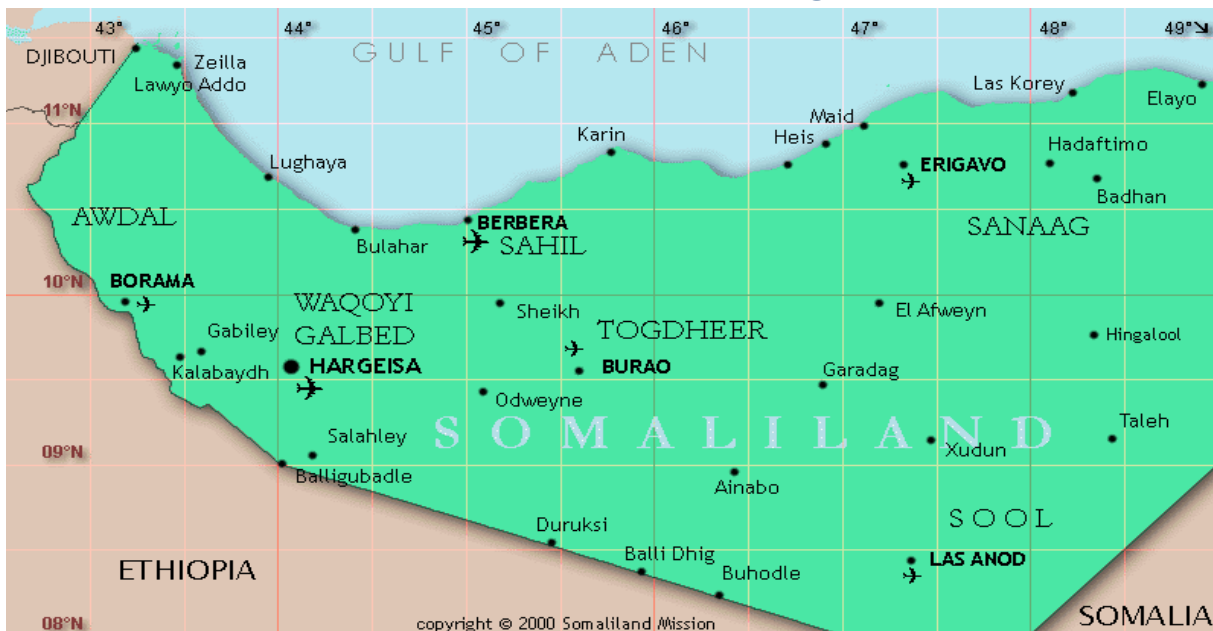




EUROPEAN REINTEGRATION NETWORK (ERIN) SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM BRIEFING NOTE

SOMALILAND REGION OF SOMALIA

Post-arrival and reintegration assistance to Somalia 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 SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM 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 Institutions of the ERIN Specific Action services that are available for them upon return. The national Partner Institutions counsellor will identify the type of assistance to be provided depending on the applicant profile and needs identified in the information counselling. Each Partner Institution has counsellors operating in the

reception centres and administrative detention centres and provide 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.

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

- Provide the IOM contact details to the return applicants 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.
- Information counselling meetings can be more effective if conducted on regular basis.
- Nationals choosing to return voluntarily will be incentivized through larger re-integration packages than those returned non-voluntarily.
- 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.
- 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.
- IOM Somalia will assist non-IOM returnees once they have been formally admitted and entered into Somaliland.
- 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)

Non-voluntary returnees who are admitted in their country of origin can be assisted as long as sending/host countries have a bilateral agreement with the Government of Somaliland. IOM will obtain the consent by the government per sending country before engaging, which is done on a case by case basis.

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.

Vulnerable Cases:

Assistance can be provided with the following:

- Payment of hospital bills: sick returnees can be assisted with access to medical facilities and bill payment as part of their reintegration assistance. These included those with mental health problems who were referred to mental health facilities where they received treatment;
- Referral to rehabilitation centres: returnees who have an acute problem with drug and/or alcohol addiction are assisted with rehabilitation services.

4. IOM IN SOMALILAND:

IOM has been operational in Somalia since 2006 and in the Horn of Africa for the last three decades (IOM Nairobi operates as the regional office).

In 2015, IOM Hargeisa received 44 returnees from: Germany, Malta, Netherlands, South Africa, Sudan, Libya, Slovenia, Slovakia, Indonesia, and other States.

Under the ERIN project, as of September 2016, IOM Somaliland has assisted 11 returnees.

“For many years I have been hearing from my friends the success stories in Europe and in 2011 I left my country and started my journey from Hargeisa to Europe and after a long and tedious journey across many countries I finally got into Germany. I suffered a lot and did not meet what I was expecting in Europe that my friends had told me. [...] After 4 years with out proper documents I heard about IOM ERIN project and thanks to IOM in both Germany and Hargeisa I was assisted to return with the provision of reintegration package and also I was lucky to meet my mom and family whom I thought will never meet them again”. Quotation from Mohamed, 26 years old, ERIN beneficiary.

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

ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM POINT OF CONTACT

IOM SOMALIA, HARGEISA Office

Mr Mohamed OMER IDAN, AVRR Assistant

Available from Sunday to Thursday from 8:00 to 17:00 (GMT+3)

Email: momer@iom.int

Office phone: +252 (0) 63-4414180

Address:

International Organization for Migration

IOM Hargeisa

Mansoor Area, Behind Maan-Soor Hotel

Hargeisa, Somaliland

ERIN IOM Website:

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

5. ERIN AVRR SERVICES PROVIDED BY IOM IN SOMALILAND

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is operating in Somalia since 2006 and established an office in Hargeisa in 2007. The ERIN 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 done by IOM post-return; the following services are available for ERIN beneficiaries on a case by case basis:

Pre-return:

- Screening of returnees by the Ministry of Resettlement, Reintegration and Reconstruction in Somaliland to prepare for safe arrival and to ensure the exclusion of individuals posing a security threat, based on existing collaboration and for the purpose of transparency;

CASE BY CASE AIRPORT ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

- Reception and orientation service: Airport arrival assistance, hotel booking and accommodation arrangement for returnees in transit in Hargeisa or where there is an IOM office;
- 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. This includes onward land transport (bus) arrangement, tickets payment and assistance on departure to final destination; or provision of vehicles to be used as taxis as means of public transportation;
- Referrals to urgent medical care for treatment continuity;
- Emergency housing for a minimum of one week.

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...
- IOM Hargeisa has experience in supporting returning making **business partnerships** in established enterprises such as supermarkets and car dealerships; in the establishment of small businesses, including shops for basic commodities such as food, phones or and manufactured items.
- **Taxi Driving:** if the returnee choose to use his/her reintegration IOM Hargeisa will help connecting a suitable car dealers and obtaining taxi driving licence in Somaliland.
- **Wage subsidy allowance to encourage employment:** IOM Hargeisa 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 (e.g. IT, truck driving etc.) 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.

- **The grant can be used to cover the costs of education and schooling for children**, and any required medical care.

- **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. SOMALILAND COUNTRY INFORMATION

‘The north-western region of Somaliland unilaterally declared independence from Somalia in 1991 as a result of a home-grown, clan-based reconciliation process, culminating in the Boroma Conference of 1993, which elected Mahamed Haji Ibrahim Egal as President.’ (<http://www.so.undp.org/content/somalia/en/home/countryinfo.html> viewed on 27/11/2016). Currently, it remains unrecognized by any foreign government or international organization. ‘To the outside world, it is an autonomous region of Somalia, subject to the Somali Federal Government (SFG) in Mogadishu.’ (<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2015/11/economist-explains>)

Somaliland is bordered by Ethiopia in the south and west, Djibouti in the northwest, the Gulf of Aden in the north, and by Somalia (Puntland) in the east. Somaliland has a coastal line to the north of the country, which extends 460 miles along the Red Sea, and which remains the world’s region of greatest

risk for piracy and armed robbery against ships. Only 1.6% of the land is arable; the rest is principally desert. The most important sectors of the economy are telecommunications, remittance and money transfer companies, and livestock.

Somaliland's population is of about 3.5 million and the average population growth rate is of 3.1%. Population density is estimated at approximately 25 persons per square kilometre. Fifty five percent of the population is either nomadic or semi-nomadic, while 45% live in urban centres or rural towns. More than 73% of the Somaliland population live in poverty and 43% in extreme poverty and unemployment is widespread.

Somaliland continues efforts to establish a constitutional democracy. It has been governed by an administration that seeks self-determination as the Republic of Somaliland.

'SOMALILAND, a slim slice of Somali-inhabited territory on the southern shore of the Gulf of Aden, ticks almost all the boxes of statehood. It has its own currency, a reasonably effective bureaucracy and a trained army and police force. The government, located in the capital city of Hargeisa, maintains a respectable degree of control over its territory: the country is, by and large, peaceful, in stark contrast to Somalia to the south—where bombings and a rampage through a popular hotel in the capital killed at least 14 people at the weekend. Somaliland enters into legal contracts (signing, for example, oil-exploration licences with foreign corporations), and it engages in diplomatic operations with the United Nations, the Arab League, the European Union and nations such as Britain, America, and Denmark. But it has yet to receive official recognition from a single foreign government in the years since it declared independence in 1991.' <http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2015/11/economist-explains>, viewed on 27/10/2016.

Many foreign governments maintain informal ties with the State, with an increasing number of foreign delegations and embassies having been established in the capital Hargeisa.

The region, due to its unstable political situation, has had a vast number of its population migrating to other countries. It continues to be characterized by intense migration flows with irregular migration constituting a major challenge. Through its projects in Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia, IOM aims to decrease the pressure created by the movements of migrants and refugees by raising awareness among potential migrants; improving livelihood opportunities in the areas of origin and transit; enhancing the government's border management capacities; and further investigating the occurrence of human trafficking in the region. IOM in Somalia closely works with governments, regional organisations, UN partners, and the civil society.

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.

Latest update: 27 October 2016

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 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