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المنظمة الدولية للهجرة  
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International Organization for Migration  
The UN Migration Agency

## EUROPEAN REINTEGRATION NETWORK (ERIN) SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAM

### BRIEFING NOTE

### SUDAN

Post-arrival and reintegration assistance to Sudanese nationals



## **I. ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAMME 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 Organization 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 Institution of the ERIN Programme 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.
- › IOM will assist non-voluntary returnees once they have been formally admitted and entered into Sudan.
- › It is encouraged to translate medical documents and/ or educational and training certificates before return, in the language of your country of return, or (if not possible), into English. This will help the returnee to register in local institutions and to facilitate medical follow up.
- › Prior to return the program beneficiaries 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 back in Sudan.
- › Information counselling meetings can be more effective if conducted on regular basis 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.

### **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 (Sudan);
- b) Confirm that the Best Interests Determination (BID) process has concluded that it is in the best interest of the UMC to return to Sudan, 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 Sudan confirming that the return to Sudan is in the child's best interest.
- b) Conduct a family assessment i) to 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.

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

IOM can assist Sudanese non-voluntary returnees who are admitted in Sudan, as long as the sending/host countries has a bilateral agreement with the Government of Sudan. IOM will obtain confirmation that the government in Sudan provided its consent to the sending/host countries before engaging in assisting such returnees.

**Arrival assistance:** Initial contact with the Sudanese returnees may only take place once they have cleared all procedures related to the admission to Sudan. 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 both the sending/host countries and Sudan, 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 Sudan before engaging.

## 4. IOM IN SUDAN

Relying on its 17 years of programming in Sudan, IOM Sudan is currently collaborating with more than 35 different countries on AVRR projects to assist a large number of clients to return to/from Sudan and reintegrate into their home country in a sustainable manner.

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

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

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ERIN SPECIFIC ACTION PROGRAMME IOM POINT OF CONTACT IN SUDAN</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mr. Burhan ADEM, Operations/ AVRR Unit</b> Available from Sunday to Thursday from 08:00 to 17:30 <i>(local time is GMT+3)</i> Email: <a href="mailto:badem@iom.int">badem@iom.int</a> Mobile phone: +249 92 240 6662, +249 256 554 600</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Address:</b> International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Sudan Gerief West—Manshiya P.O. Box 8322 House No.1/38. Block G Khartoum, Republic of Sudan</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Website:</b> <a href="http://erin-iom.belgium.iom.int/?q=sudan">http://erin-iom.belgium.iom.int/?q=sudan</a></p>
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## 5. ERIN AVRR SERVICES PROVIDED BY IOM SUDAN

Services offered to AVRR clients by IOM Sudan start once each case arrives in Sudan 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 and the amount is determined by the Partner Institution (i.e. the sending/host countries) reintegration grant, the type of return, and the beneficiary profile and needs. Additional reintegration services will be provided to unaccompanied minors. 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 Sudan 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 in view of the reintegration package.

## CASE BY CASE AIRPORT ARRIVAL ASSISTANCE

- Meet and greet and orientation service upon demand.
- Onwards transportation assistance: Upon request, IOM can provide onward transportation to returnees' specific area of return within Sudan, and charges will be covered through the approved individual reintegration grant.
- Referrals to urgent medical care for treatment continuity
- Emergency housing upon demand

## 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 Sudan can refer returning Sudanese migrants 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 Sudanese returning migrants to register locally as members of the community of return.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND REFERRALS

IOM can provide administrative support with, and referrals to:

- Federal, State, and local services (governmental, non-governmental, charitable, etc.)
- Local employment initiatives
- Micro-financial organisations
- Enrolment in schools and educational institutions
- Educational and vocational training
- Specialised medical assistance
- Psycho-social assistance
- Local social network
- Legal advice

## 6. SUDAN COUNTRY INFORMATION

### IMMIGRATION, CUSTOMS AND TRANSPORT

**Arrival:** Travelers must complete an arrival immigration form and undergo the due formalities. Processing arriving Sudanese who travelled with emergency travel documents (ETD) takes relatively longer than if holding passports as immigration authorities excel a thorough background verification on the ETD holders.

**Customs Regulations:** Immediately after immigration process, arriving passengers' hand/cabin baggage is checked prior to the baggage claims area. Arriving passengers then proceed to exit and should respect which customs channel to pass through depending on the content of the respective luggage; i.e. whether carrying items that require being declared or not.

**Transport network:** Transportation from Khartoum International Airport to different parts of Khartoum is fairly easy as the airport is located in the middle of Sudan's capital city. Once the arrival hall has been exited, formal and informal taxis are available outside the terminal. In addition, the airport is also accessible by private vehicles. There are bad roads despite connecting all destinations in the countryside, mainly done by bus.

### ECONOMY AND MICROBUSINESS START-UP

Sudan continues to suffer from macro-economic instability, high rates of poverty, debt and unemployment. In addition, the mismatch between educational/vocational outputs (labour supply) and labour market requirements (demand) has further hindered Sudanese individuals from gaining employment. Unemployment rates have steadily increased since 1990, with the rate peaking at 20.7% while the country's youth unemployment, estimated to exceed 70% by the end of 2015, remains among the highest in the world and one of the most daunting and widespread social and economic problems in the country. The lack of employment opportunities affects all Sudanese; however, it is felt more intensely by vulnerable groups, such as migrant returnees, and economically disadvantaged and impoverished families that reside in the Khartoum urban area.

Agriculture continues to be the main source of income and employment in Sudan, employing over 80% of Sudanese and accounting for one third of the country's economic activity. However, there remain numerous constraints to developing a more diversified and dynamic agricultural economy in a context where oil production drove most of Sudan's post-2000 growth. The oil export industry, which started in 1999, positively stimulated the national economy to some extent but the delay in economic diversification in the non-oil sectors hit the country hard after the separation of South Sudan in 2011 (South Sudan accounted for 85% of Sudan's oil revenue prior to the separation).

Today, Sudan is suffering from the lack of progress in transforming itself from an oil-dependent economy into a diversified economy with a flexible and responsive labour market structure. A job on demand in Sudan for skilled workers is in the field of construction seen the rapid growth of the country. Unskilled males can work in restaurants and on other casual work pieces in companies and/or factories, while unskilled females are preferably engaged as house maids. Self-employment is opened to all educated and non-educated depending on owned financial capabilities.

Young people often opt for the development of micro enterprises in the fields of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, services, shops, transport, and agri-business. Commercial banks with high credit rates do not facilitate access for young entrepreneurs.

Investments in transportation sector is the most attractive to returnees. Depending on reintegration amount coverage, the vast majority of returnees prefer to use their in-kind grants for procurement of tuk-tuks (motorbike taxis), and mini buses widely known as Amjad for the following reasons:

1. Easy implement
2. Very fast in generating income
3. Continuous market demand

The level of success is relatively high and depends on the mechanical technical situation of the purchased vehicle; i.e. the better mechanical situation for the vehicle the more success for the business is guaranteed.

## EDUCATION

Private and public sectors operate the education sector in Sudan. The access to public education facilities is generally free of charge though majority of schools apply some fees over students so as to enable covering their different central budget-short running costs due to public expenditure constraints. Private education facilities are relatively expensive and fees vary according to school standards and scholarship level.

Technical education and vocational training in Sudan has limited training standards and does not necessarily meet the needs of the labor market. Most of the Sudanese population is little or not formally educated and the country has a significant deficit in skilled workforce, which largely explains the prevailing high unemployment rates.

## MEDICAL CARE

The Federal Ministry of Health oversees the import and distribution of all medicines and facilitates access for people with special needs through designated pharmacies. In general, almost all critical medication is available in Sudan.

Health Care facilities in Sudan can be categorized into two major sectors, public facilities and private. Public facilities are relatively cheap but due to the overall federal budget constraints, public health facilities and services have been affected, and became less available for patients who have to pay for medicines, assessments, and other specialised services. On the other hand, the services in private health centers/clinics/hospitals are not affordable to all.

## HOUSING

**Temporary at arrival:** IOM can provide returnees with temporary accommodation at the hotel for up to 24 hours upon return. IOM does not work with local organisations that provide temporary housing for returnees.

**Renting Accommodation:** In general, there is sufficient number of houses and apartments available in Khartoum and throughout the country. The price for purchasing or renting a residence varies and depends on the city and location. There is no bank that provides loans for housing.

**Average monthly Rent:** the average rate for a two-bedroom apartment in a good residential area is around SDG 4,000 – 9,000 per month.

**EMPLOYEMENT**

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

**Working Hours:** The workweek in Sudan is based on a 40-hour week. Typically, employees work Sunday through Thursday (8.0 hours per day).

<b>Disclaimer</b>
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 nineteen participating Partner Countries Institutions. The Repatriation and Departure Service of the Netherlands is the lead partner.

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