



THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURNS INCLUDING REINTEGRATION MEASURES (AVRR)

IOM-Office in Greece

June 2016 - January 2018



[View total statistics here](#)

2,369 BENEFICIARIES RECEIVED REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IN KIND
623 BENEFICIARIES RECEIVED REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE IN CASH
 in **26** COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

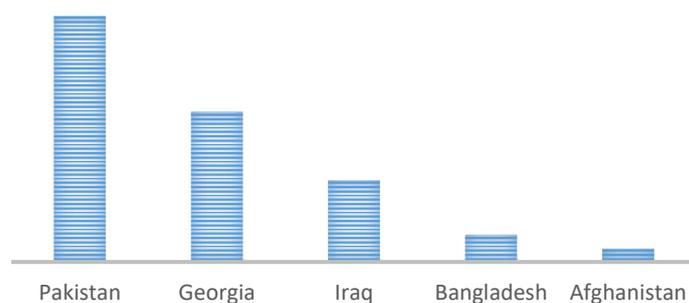
TYPES OF ASSISTANCE IN KIND



In **January 2018**, 68 returnees (53 male and 15 female) were benefited from reintegration assistance in kind. The vast majority of them were nationals of Pakistan, Georgia, Iraq and Bangladesh.

The most preferred reintegration activities were: dairy farms, mini markets and construction services.

TOP COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



1,968
MALE

401
FEMALE

1,410
VULNERABLE CASES

4,861 referrals by registration unit

4,419 reintegration counselling interviews

2,992 approved reintegration plans in Country of Origin



The project is co-funded 75% by European Funds (Asylum Migration and Integration Fund) and 25% by National Funds



EUROPEAN UNION
ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND
INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF)

Salome in Kutaisi, Georgia

Salome, aged 27, was living in Greece with her mother for more than 5 years when she decided to return in Georgia due to financial issues.

Her plan was to open an after school day care centre for children unlike the usual ones, where children will be involved in various creative and artist activities; not just a place only for reading school books. This plan, which was just an idea for many years, was impossible to be implemented due to financial restraints. However, through the reintegration assistance in kind of IOM Greece, the returnee finally managed to implement her plan with success in her home town, Kutaisi. The after school day care centre opened in November 2017. Fairytales, drawing, reading and TV documentaries or cartoons (depending on the age group) are just some of the activities with which she keeps the children busy. Salome is being assisted by her sister, Sophie, who is also very experienced in this area. The care centre profits approximately 430 GEL per month, while the school fees are usually 50 GEL per month for every child who is registered in the centre. Beneficiary mentions that the monthly income is very satisfying and is sufficient enough in order to make savings as well.

Salome and her sister Sophie expressed their gratitude towards IOM Greece since this business plan could never be a reality without the Reintegration assistance of IOM. Their near-future plan is to extend the centre, as work is gradually increasing.

[View her story on the video:](#)



Ahmed Wali Mahmood with his two children from Iraq



“My name is Ahmed Wali Mahmood and I came to Greece one year ago, in January 2017, with my two children, Bereevan and Heryard. My daughter is 11 years old and my son is 6. We left our home country due to a serious family issue. We began our journey from Erbil, Iraq. Turkey was our first stop, then the Greek island of Samos and finally Athens, where we stayed in an open accommodation center run by NGO “Praksis” for almost a year.

Leaving your home country is never easy, especially when you have a good job and a decent income. I was running a butcher shop, selling chicken for more than 24 years. Here in Greece, it is very difficult to find a good job. Furthermore, I want my children to go to school. While we were staying in Athens, some family members from Erbil informed us that our family problem was solved. Allow me not to say more, since it is very personal.

These were actually good news for me and my children. We started thinking about returning home, so I called IOM to find out more details about voluntary returns. All IOM staff was really helpful and we booked an appointment very quickly. Since I have an experience as a butcher, we discussed the possibility of getting a reintegration package, which will allow me to operate again my small business. IOM counsellor was positive and now not only I am ready to return to my home country but I can also start working again. My children are also very happy since they are looking forward going back to school.”