

IOM Finland

**PAYMENT OF REINTEGRATION
SUPPORT TO VOLUNTARY
RETURNEES FROM SWEDEN**

MONITORING REPORT

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SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a monitoring survey conducted among beneficiaries of the project *Payment of reintegration support to voluntary returnees from Sweden*, implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in cooperation with and funded by the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA). Under the project, reintegration cash support is provided for applicants for international protection whose application has been rejected or who have decided to withdraw their application, and who are willing to voluntarily return from Sweden and reintegrate in their countries of origin. The Swedish Migration Agency decides on the beneficiary's eligibility for the reintegration cash support, after which the case is referred to IOM for implementation.

The monitoring survey is based on interviews conducted from July to October 2020 with project beneficiaries having received cash support in Afghanistan and Iraq between December 2018 and March 2020. The main objective of the monitoring survey was to analyse the extent to which returnees have achieved a level of sustainable reintegration in their communities of return. Gathering such context-specific data on post-return outcomes helps to understand the varied needs among returnees and contributes to further developing reintegration policies and practices. The survey also included some project-specific questions, gathering feedback from beneficiaries about the assistance provided and the procedure for disbursing the cash support.

The results are presented in two parts, one focusing on the reintegration sustainability of the respondents and one focusing on the additional project-specific questions. The main results suggest that the beneficiaries are generally satisfied with the project activities; the information provided about the reintegration cash support is generally considered clear and very few problems were reported with the payment of the support. The cash support caters to the very basic needs upon return, such as housing, daily subsistence, and for a large share also for investments in income-generating activities. However, the sustainability survey indicates that the respondents struggle especially with economic self-sufficiency.

The results show significant differences in reintegration outcomes on the individual level and across the different dimensions of reintegration. Some patterns related to background factors can also be seen. In both countries, those having returned with families show on average lower levels of reintegration sustainability. The same applies for those having returned to another community than that of their origin. Although the survey indicates that slightly over half of respondents have reached a fair level of reintegration, the average result of the survey indicates that the cash support itself is not sufficient to allow for the beneficiaries to achieve a sustainable reintegration in the two countries studied. IOM recommends applying an integrated approach to reintegration, where ideally also communal factors and overall structures in the country of origin are considered when designing and delivering future reintegration assistance schemes.

INTRODUCTION

IOM and the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA) have long-standing cooperation on providing reintegration support for international protection applicants whose application has been rejected or who have decided to withdraw their application, and who are willing to voluntarily return from Sweden and reintegrate in their countries of origin. The assistance takes the form of a cash support amounting to SEK 30,000 for each person over the age of 18, and SEK 15,000 for children under 18 years of age. A family can receive up to SEK 75,000 in total. The SMA takes the decision on eligibility and the cash support is paid out by IOM in countries of origin as a one-time payment.

While IOM and Sweden have provided similar reintegration cash support since 2007, no systematic monitoring of the beneficiaries of this reintegration assistance has been carried out. The monitoring survey at hand, as part of the project *Payment of reintegration support to voluntary returnees from Sweden*,¹ examines, for the first time, reintegration sustainability among project beneficiaries. It has further allowed the beneficiaries to express their views on the assistance received in an open and confidential manner.

The overall objective of the reintegration assistance provided under the project is to contribute to the sustainable reintegration of returnees. According to IOM, reintegration can be considered sustainable when returnees have reached levels of economic self-sufficiency, social stability within their communities, and psychosocial well-being that allow them to cope with (re)migration drivers. When a sustainable reintegration has been achieved, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity.² Hence, a sustainable and successful reintegration does not necessarily exclude a possible remigration.

The reintegration cash support can be paid to individuals who return to a country of origin where there are limited opportunities for reintegration due to security reasons.³ While the project covers payment of cash support in a total of 14 countries,⁴ this monitoring survey has focused on the two countries currently representing the largest number of returnees, namely Iraq and Afghanistan.

This monitoring exercise does not aim to draw general conclusions on how the reintegration cash support has contributed to sustainable reintegration of returnees, but it provides systematized information on the extent to which migrants assisted by IOM have achieved a level of sustainable reintegration in their communities of return. This contributes to an increased overall understanding of the first months of post-return lives of migrants voluntarily returning from Sweden to Iraq and Afghanistan. The survey also

¹ As described in the Project Proposal as per the donor agreement between the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Swedish Migration Agency (SMA) valid from 1 April 2019.

² IOM (2017), *Towards an Integrated Approach to Reintegration in the Context of Return*.

³ The provision of the reintegration cash payment assistance is based on Swedish regulation SFS 2008:778.

⁴ Under the current project period, IOM Finland has been primarily responsible for providing reintegration support for eligible migrants returning to the following countries: Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen.

contributes to outline the extent to which the provided cash support has responded to the individual needs of the returnees, in connection to their return and in their process of reintegration. Such context-specific information is essential in improving the understanding of the needs of returning migrants and thus helps to inform evidence-based programming.

METHODOLOGY

The monitoring methodology used in this project builds on IOM's integrated approach to reintegration.⁵ This is a comprehensive way to view the reintegration process, recognizing that the complex process of reintegration is affected by factors on the individual, community as well as structural levels.

To ensure coherence with other similar studies, IOM applied the *Reintegration Sustainability Survey*, which is an institutional tool developed in 2018 in the framework of the EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub, based on the indicators identified and field tested under the DFID-funded Mediterranean Sustainable Reintegration (MEASURE) project.⁶ The survey includes a total of 32 questions, which allow to examine the returnee's reintegration according to a set of indicators related to three dimensions within each of the above-mentioned levels:

The *economic dimension* covers aspects of reintegration connected to economic self-sufficiency. This includes, among other factors, perceived access to employment and training, ability to borrow money and need for food rationing.

The *social dimension* observes the extent to which returnees have reached social stability within their community. In this dimension, the survey includes indicators such as access to infrastructure and public services in the community (such as housing, education, health, and justice).

The *psychosocial dimension* explores the emotional, mental, and psychological elements of reintegration. Indicators in this section of the questionnaire include participation in social activities, sense of physical security, feeling of discrimination and sense of belonging to community, among others.

The indicators are accompanied by a scoring system allowing to measure the sustainability of reintegration in each separate dimension, as well as for calculating an overall composite reintegration score. These scores are generated from the respondents' answers using a weighting system, where each indicator has a separate score weight for the dimensional scoring, and one for the composite scoring.

⁵ See IOM (2019) Reintegration Handbook: Practical Guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance.

⁶ The Reintegration Sustainability Survey is available in the IOM (2019) Reintegration Handbook: Practical Guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance (Annex 4.B).

In addition to the Reintegration Sustainability Survey's battery of indicators, some project-specific interview questions were agreed upon with the SMA and added to the survey (Annex 1). These questions focus specifically on the process and procedures related to the provision of the reintegration cash support. They concern the beneficiaries' satisfaction with clarity of information provided, the importance of the reintegration assistance for the return decision, satisfaction with the payment process itself, as well as information on how the beneficiaries have used the received cash support. Upon request by the donor, some specific questions related to the payment of the family support were also included, to analyse how female returnees who have returned with their spouse perceive the procedure where the cash support to returning families is paid out as a lump sum to the main applicant, which usually is the male head of the household.

Data collection, practical arrangements & caseload

The data collection was carried out by local IOM offices in Afghanistan and Iraq between July and October 2020. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, all interviews were carried out by phone. The interviews were performed in the native language of the interviewee, or in a language in which the interviewee could freely express his/her thoughts. To ensure that social desirability bias was avoided, the interviews were conducted by an IOM staff member who had not been responsible for the provision of reintegration assistance to the beneficiary.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the overall number of returnees from Sweden, and thus also the number of beneficiaries assisted with reintegration under the project, turned out to be much lower than anticipated in the original project plan. This also affected the caseload of potential respondents in a negative way. The initial plan was to interview 100 returnees in each country. To secure a large enough number of respondents, the returnees monitored were chosen among the individuals who had received their cash support 3 to 18 months before the cut-off date of 30 June 2020. The respondents had hence received their cash support – usually paid out within a few weeks after the return – between December 2018 and March 2020. Only beneficiaries over the age of 18 years were included. All in all, this included a total of 310 potential interviewees in Iraq and 110 in Afghanistan. The sex distribution among the project beneficiaries varies highly between the two countries. Out of the potential interview respondents in Iraq, 24 per cent were women and 76 per cent men. In Afghanistan, 5 per cent were women and 95 per cent men.

The selection of respondents was made independently in both countries. In Iraq, where the beneficiaries form a more heterogenous group compared to those returning to Afghanistan, a purposeful, non-proportional quota sampling method was used. The aim was to secure a sample with an equal distribution of female and male respondents, as well as equal distribution of respondents having returned with family or alone. A special effort was made to include female returnees who had returned with their husbands and hence received cash support through a family grant. This means that women as well as beneficiaries having returned with families are overrepresented in the sample population compared to the overall target population (Table 1).

The beneficiaries in Afghanistan form a more homogenous group when it comes to sex and age, mostly consisting of young men having migrated without family. Based on IOM's previous experience of data collection in Afghanistan, it was expected that it would be challenging to get in touch with this target group. A convenience sampling was hence conducted. IOM reached out to all potential beneficiaries in the country, and interviews were conducted with those returnees who could be reached and who agreed to participate in the study.⁷ Due to the non-random sampling approaches employed, it is important to note that the results of this survey cannot be generalised across all beneficiaries who voluntarily returned from Sweden to the two target countries under the project.

It should be noted that beneficiaries in the target group, in addition to the cash support provided by IOM, can also apply for in-kind reintegration assistance provided through *The European Return and Reintegration Network* (ERRIN). This support can amount up to EUR 2,500 and includes reception assistance and other services in the country of origin, such as temporary accommodation, allowance for establishing a home, help with getting onto the job market, education (including vocational training), support in contacts with the authorities, legal advice and medical care.⁸ As IOM is not involved in the ERRIN project, there were unfortunately no possibilities to get access to systematic information as to what extent the beneficiaries included in the survey have benefitted from this type of in-kind support in addition to the cash support. This implies that possible correlations between differences in the reintegration assistance received and differences in reintegration outcomes could not be analysed.

Demographic observations of the survey respondents:

- A total of 133 beneficiaries were interviewed, whereof 33 in Afghanistan and 100 in Iraq.
- Out of all respondents, 35 per cent were women and 65 per cent men. In Afghanistan 6 per cent were women and 94 per cent men. In Iraq 45 per cent were women and 55 per cent men (Table 1).
- Among the respondents in Afghanistan 82 per cent were 18-34 years old and 18 per cent 35-64 years old. In Iraq 44 per cent were 18-34 years old, 52 per cent 35-64 years old and 4 per cent 65 years or older (Table 2).
- In Afghanistan, all respondents had returned alone, whereas in Iraq 51 per cent had returned alone and 49 per cent with family (including spouse and/or children) (Table 1). It should be noted that the breakdown of family status at time of return does not refer to family status in the traditional sense of the term; many of those having returned alone may have spouses and/or children in their country of origin or in other countries.

⁷ A majority of the potential beneficiaries could not be reached through the contact details they had provided in connection to the disbursement of their cash support. A total of six beneficiaries refused to attend the survey. A handful of respondents were reported to have remigrated to another country, according to relatives that could be reached.

⁸ Swedish Migration Agency: <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Leaving-Sweden/Rejection-of-application-for-asylum/Support-for-re-establishment/Forms-of-support.html>

- On average the respondents had been absent from their country of origin for three and half years (42 months). For respondents in Afghanistan the average length of absence was 45 months and in Iraq 42. The median value was four years (48 months) in both countries. Sixty-eight per cent of beneficiaries had been away from their countries of origin for more than 3 years (85 per cent in Afghanistan and 63 per cent in Iraq).
- Forty-two per cent of respondents in Afghanistan had returned to the same community they had originally left, while 58 per cent had settled in another community. In Iraq, 59 per cent of respondents had returned to their community of origin and 41 per cent to another community.

Table 1: Background characteristics of survey respondents compared to potential interviewees

	Target population (N=420)				Survey respondents (n=133)			
	Sex		Family status at return		Sex		Family status at return	
	Female	Male	Alone	With family	Female	Male	Alone	With family
Afghanistan	5%	95%	95%	3%	6%	94%	100%	0%
Iraq	24%	76%	20%	80%	45%	55%	51%	49%

Table 2: Respondents by age group

Age group	Afghanistan (n=33)	Iraq (n=100)
18-34	82%	44%
35-64	18%	52%
65+	0%	4%
Grand Total	100%	100%

SURVEY RESULTS PART 1: REINTEGRATION SUSTAINABILITY

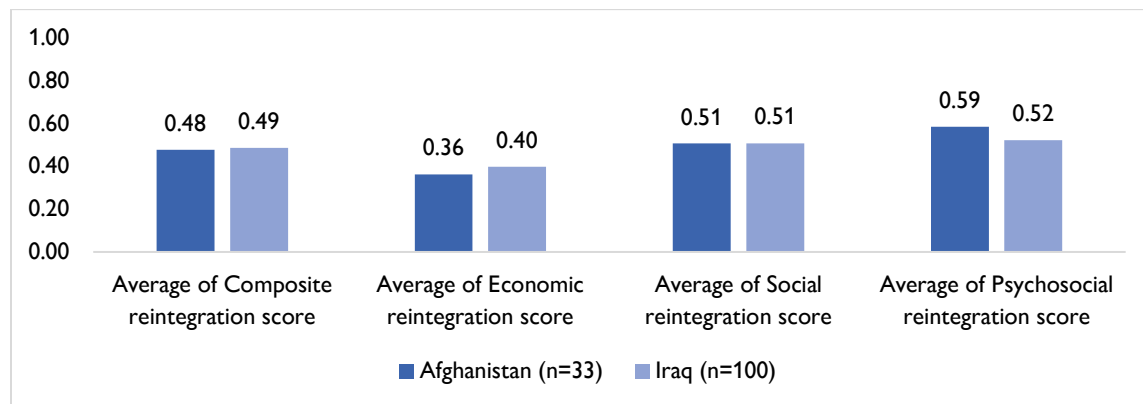
Overview of average reintegration scores

This chapter compiles the results of the Reintegration Sustainability Survey that looked at the extent to which returnees interviewed have achieved a level of sustainable reintegration in communities to which they have returned. The results are presented for the two countries separately. Due to the differences in the return population and samples mentioned above, this enables a more reliable comparison based on respondents' background factors, such as sex, age, and family status at the time of return. As the survey only includes two female respondents in Afghanistan, possible sex differences among returnees in Afghanistan could unfortunately not be explored.

As explained above, IOM's methodology for measuring reintegration sustainability generates a composite reintegration score, providing a numerical measure of overall reintegration sustainability, as well as three separate dimensional scores measuring economic, social, and psychosocial reintegration. While the composite score provides only a general picture, the dimensional scores can highlight discrepancies in progress between specific components of reintegration, indicating areas where further assistance might be desirable. An extreme score of 0 would indicate that a returnee does not demonstrate any signs of reintegration, while a score of 1 would suggest that a returnee is fully reintegrated. Respondents with a reintegration score below 0.50 are in general more likely to require additional, more comprehensive individual support, while those reaching above 0.50 can be seen to have reached "sufficient levels" of sustainability.⁹

As shown in Figure 1, the average composite score among the beneficiaries surveyed is roughly at the same level for respondents in both countries, 0.48 in Afghanistan and 0.49 in Iraq. Among the three reintegration dimensions, the economic one displays the lowest average score among respondents in both countries, whereas the psychosocial dimension is on average the highest.

Figure 1: Average reintegration scores among respondents from Afghanistan and Iraq



⁹ Samuel Hall / IOM (2017) Setting Standards for an integrated approach to reintegration, p. 24. IOM (2019) Reintegration Handbook.

Average scoring according to sex and age

No significant difference can be observed between male and female respondents from Iraq. On the composite score, women score 0.49 compared to 0.48 among men, due to female respondents scoring slightly higher in the psychosocial dimension (Table 3). The average composite score for men is 0.48 both in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Neither can any clear pattern be seen when looking at age as a background factor. In Afghanistan, the younger age group of 18-34-year-olds score slightly lower across all dimensions compared to 35-64-year-olds (Table 4). However, the difference is likely to be influenced by the varying sample sizes with 82 per cent of respondents being in the younger age group and 18 per cent in the older. No clear pattern between age and scoring can be seen in Iraq. Respondents 65 years or older score higher in many dimensions, but since this age group only included four respondents, the data does not allow for more detailed analysis or comparison with the two other age groups.

Table 3: Average reintegration scores of female and male respondents in Iraq

Sex	Iraq		
	Female (n=45)	Male (n=55)	Grand Total (n=100)
Composite reintegration score	0.49	0.49	0.49
Economic reintegration score	0.40	0.40	0.40
Social reintegration score	0.51	0.51	0.51
Psychosocial reintegration score	0.52	0.53	0.52

Table 4: Average reintegration scores according to age and country

Age	Afghanistan			Iraq		
	18-34 (n=27)	35-64 (n=6)	65+	18-34 (n=44)	35-64 (n=52)	65+ (n=4)
Composite reintegration score	0.47	0.51	-	0.50	0.48	0.54
Economic reintegration score	0.36	0.38	-	0.39	0.41	0.47
Social reintegration score	0.50	0.55	-	0.51	0.51	0.49
Psychosocial reintegration score	0.58	0.61	-	0.54	0.50	0.58

Average scoring according to return community and family status

As indicated above, a large part of the respondents did not return to their community of origin (around 60% in Afghanistan and 40% in Iraq). This seems to have a negative impact on the scoring outcomes, as those beneficiaries who returned to their community of origin on average have a higher score in all dimensions, compared to those returning to another community. The difference applies to all dimensions in both countries but is especially significant in the psychosocial dimension (Table 5). As will be further elaborated below, one possible explanation seems to be related with higher levels of feelings of unsafety. The negative impact on the scoring outcome that returning to another community seems to imply, can be seen among both women and men in Iraq but is slightly more prominent among men.

Among the respondents in Iraq, those who had returned alone show a higher average composite score than those having returned with family. As shown in Table 6, they score higher in all dimensions except the social one. For women, the lower scoring among those having returned with family is most notable in the psychosocial dimension (0.49 vs. 0.57), while men score equally lower in the economic (0.35 vs. 0.43) and psychosocial dimension (0.48 vs. 0.56).

Table 5: Average reintegration scores and community of return and community of origin

Community of return the same as origin?	Afghanistan		Iraq	
	No (n=19)	Yes (n=14)	No (n=41)	Yes (n=59)
Composite reintegration score	0.46	0.51	0.43	0.53
Economic reintegration score	0.35	0.38	0.37	0.42
Social reintegration score	0.50	0.51	0.49	0.53
Psychosocial reintegration score	0.55	0.64	0.42	0.60

Table 6: Average reintegration scores and family status at time of return

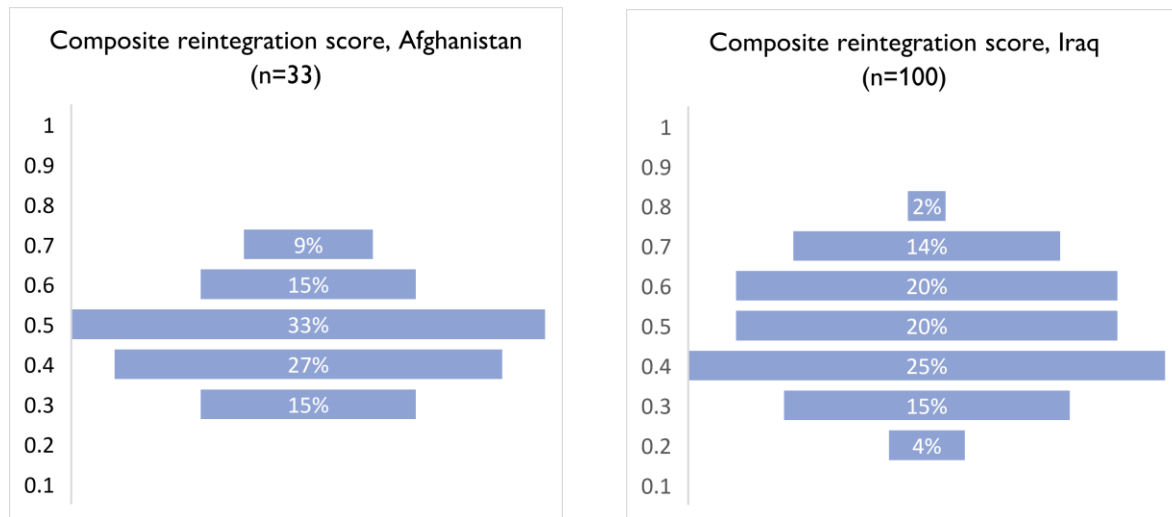
Returned alone or with family?	Iraq		
	Returned alone (n=51)	Returned with family (n=49)	Grand Total (n=100)
Composite reintegration score	0.51	0.46	0.49
Economic reintegration score	0.43	0.37	0.40
Social reintegration score	0.50	0.52	0.51
Psychosocial reintegration score	0.56	0.48	0.52

Significant differences in reintegration outcomes on the individual level

Although the average composite score falls just below the threshold of 0.50 in both countries, 58 per cent of the respondents from Afghanistan and 56 per cent of the respondents in Iraq scored 0.50 or above. The scoring could be interpreted as indicating that a majority of respondents have reached a fair level of reintegration. As can be seen from Figure 2 however, there are significant differences between the individual respondents' composite scoring, which range from 0.2 to 0.8 in Iraq, and between 0.3 and 0.7 in Afghanistan. Some gender differences can also be seen, as in Iraq a higher share of women score 0.5 or above (64% of women vs. 49% of men), due to larger shares of high scores in the social and psychosocial dimensions compared to male respondents. A possible explanation for the gender differences is the cultural context, with women (in general) having more household and care taking responsibilities than men, which could have an impact on their social networks and psychosocial wellbeing, translating into relatively higher reintegration outcomes.¹⁰

In order to illustrate measurement elements that lie behind the dimensional and composite scores presented above, and to elaborate on the factors in the post-return lives of respondents that affect their reintegration sustainability, some dimension-specific observations will be presented below. Although the survey tool does not provide explanations for why some respondents score higher than others, a deeper analysis into the dimensional scores helps to interpret the findings.

Figure 2: Composite reintegration score: distribution of respondents per score in Afghanistan and Iraq

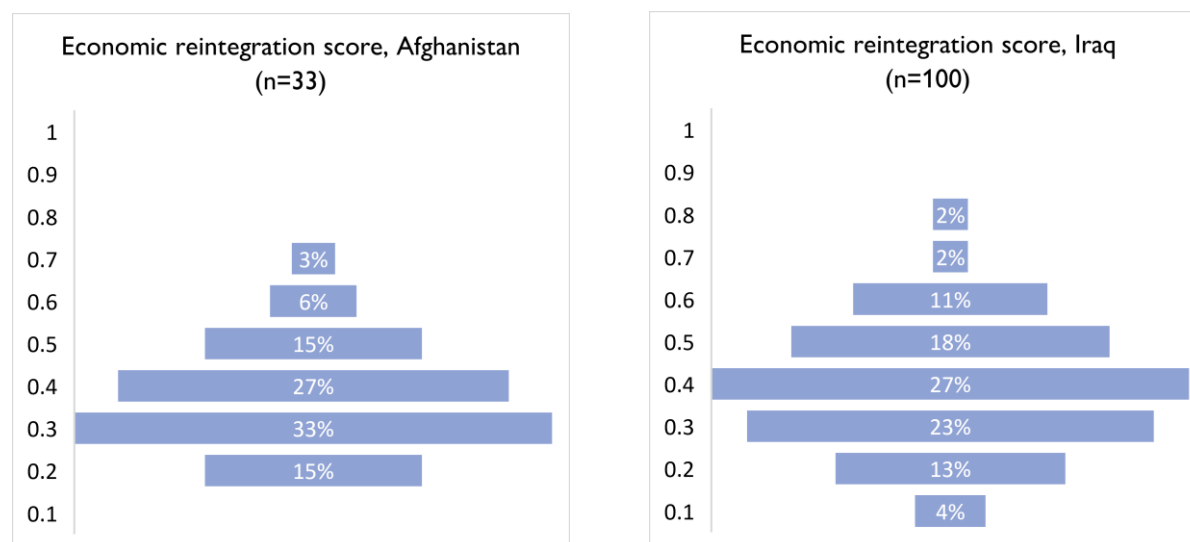


¹⁰ Findings in [IOM's Sustainable Reintegration Knowledge Bites Series \(Knowledge Bite #1\)](#) suggests that the employment status of the returnees has a significant impact on their social and psychosocial reintegration outcomes.

The economic dimension

As described above, the economic dimension covers aspects of reintegration that contributes to economic self-sufficiency. This is the dimension where both countries show the lowest average scoring. The fact that economic reintegration seems challenging for survey respondents is also illustrated by a low share of respondents scoring 0.5 or above in this dimension (24% in Afghanistan and 33% in Iraq) as can be seen in Figure 3. In Iraq, slightly more men than women scored over 0.5 (35% vs. 31%). This section will investigate some indicators under the economic dimension to shed light on the beneficiaries' economic situation and explore the difference between the countries.

Figure 3: Economic reintegration score: distribution of respondents per score in Afghanistan and Iraq



The economic dimension of the survey includes a question where the respondent is to rate his or her satisfaction with the current economic situation. Respondents in Afghanistan show a higher degree of satisfaction with their economic situation compared to Iraq. In Iraq, only 5 per cent of respondents reported to be either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their economic situation, while the corresponding rate in Afghanistan was 24 per cent.

In both countries, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the already pressing socio-economic situations and weakened labour demands.¹¹ The dissatisfaction with the economic situation appears to be mostly connected to a lack of employment, or income not being sufficient to meet the needs of the beneficiary. At the time of the survey, 45 per cent of the 18 to 64 years old respondents in

¹¹ See for example [UNDP \(2020\) Country Note IV: Afghanistan – COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment](#) and [UNDP \(2020\) Impact of COVID-19 on the Iraqi Economy](#).

Afghanistan were working, compared to 24 per cent in Iraq. As traditionally few women work outside the household, it is however warranted to look separately at the share of men working, which was 48 per cent in Afghanistan and 39 per cent in Iraq. Among the female respondents, only 5 per cent of women were working in Iraq, and none in Afghanistan. However, 45 per cent of working aged female respondents in Iraq reported to currently be searching for a job.

The fact that the majority of those currently working (80% in Afghanistan and 61% in Iraq) also said they were *currently searching for a job*, indicates an unstable economic situation even for many who have found a job. The situation on the labour market is also what lowers the scoring in the economic dimensions for those having returned with family in Iraq; the share of men working was about the same among those who had returned alone (39% working) as among those who had returned with family (38% working). However, among the share of respondents working, those who had returned with family were to a larger extent still looking for another job, compared to those who had returned alone (75% vs. 54%). And while those who had returned alone looked for another job mainly due to dissatisfaction with the current working conditions, those who had returned with families mostly referred to dissatisfaction with the current salary, indicating the plausible explanation that incomes received were not enough to support a family.

For men in Iraq, returning to another community than that of their origin, seems to be connected to a lower score in the economic dimension. The average score in the dimension was 0.43 for those who returned to their community of origin and 0.33 for those who returned to another community. Those returning to another community than that of their origin were to a lower degree currently working (around 30%, vs. 40% among those who returned to their community of origin) and a larger share were searching for a job (around 90% vs. 70%). The same pattern was not observed among women, as those who returned to their community of origin scored 0.39 in the economic dimension, compared to 0.40 for those who did not.

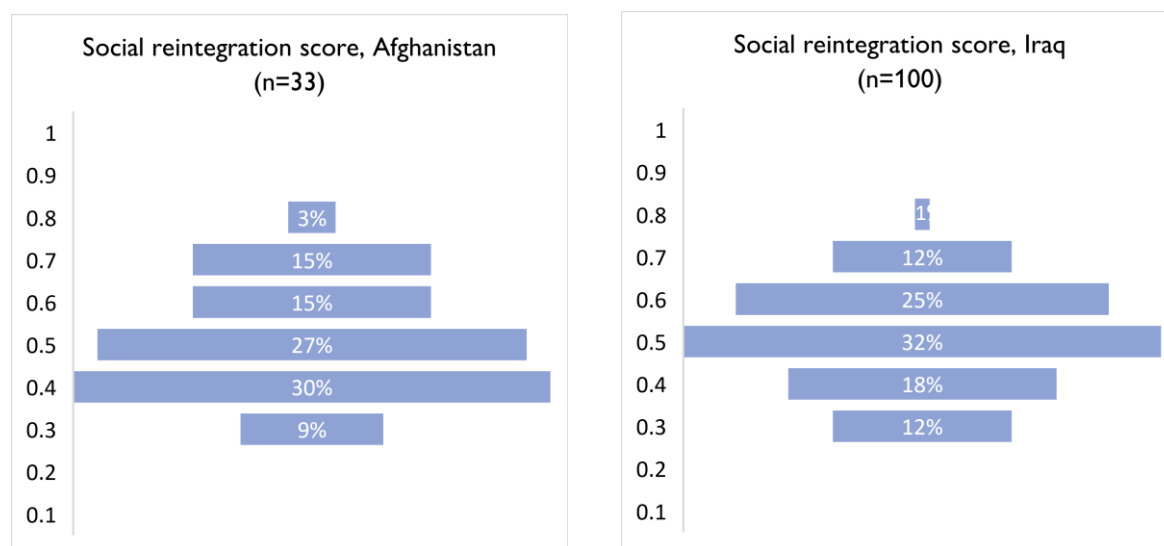
Despite scoring lower in the economic dimension, the respondents in Afghanistan were hence working to a larger extent and – in general – more satisfied with their economic situation. Their lower scoring seems connected to an indicator related to food security. On the question “Since you returned, how often have you had to reduce the quantity or quality of food you eat because of its cost?”, over 60 per cent of respondents in Afghanistan answered, “very often”.¹² In Iraq the same share amounted to 9 per cent. As food insecurity has implications also for social and psychosocial dimensions of reintegration, this indicator is weighted more heavily in the scoring system.

¹² This reflects findings in recent IPC Analysis on Afghanistan, according to which food insecurity remains alarmingly high in Afghanistan caused by continuing conflict, high food prices and natural disasters, all exacerbated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. IPC (2020). *Afghanistan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation August - October 2020 and Projection for November 2020 - March 2021* <http://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/ipc-alerts/issue-21/en/>

The social dimension

The social dimension of reintegration reflects the extent to which returnees have reached social stability within the community of return. The related indicators include access to basic services and infrastructure, such as housing, education, justice, and health. Although the average score reached the same level of 0.51 in both countries, a larger share of the respondents in Iraq (70%) scored 0.5 or above compared to respondents in Afghanistan (61%), as indicated in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Social reintegration score: distribution of respondents per score in Afghanistan and Iraq



The average score in the social dimension is at the same level among male and female respondents in Iraq, but some gender differences can still be seen when further investigating the data. A larger distribution of women than men score 0.5 or above (76% of female respondents and 65% of male respondents). Men tend to rate access to housing, justice and law enforcement as poorer than women. Female respondents, on the other hand, rate the access to healthcare and the quality/adequacy of healthcare as poorer. Among respondents in both countries, the major reason given for healthcare not being easily accessible was that it was too expensive. Among female respondents in Iraq, however, the major reason reported was health care facilities being too far away.

In both countries, those who returned to another community than their community of origin reported more challenges in access to public services. On average, they scored lower on indicators related to access to education, access to justice and law enforcement as well as on access to safe drinking water. A reasonable interpretation for this is that they are less familiar with the communities and might have smaller networks to rely on in guiding them to services and in understanding local procedures.

Access to education is considered better by respondents in Afghanistan compared to respondents in Iraq. 76 per cent of respondents in Afghanistan reported overall access to education as being “good” or “very

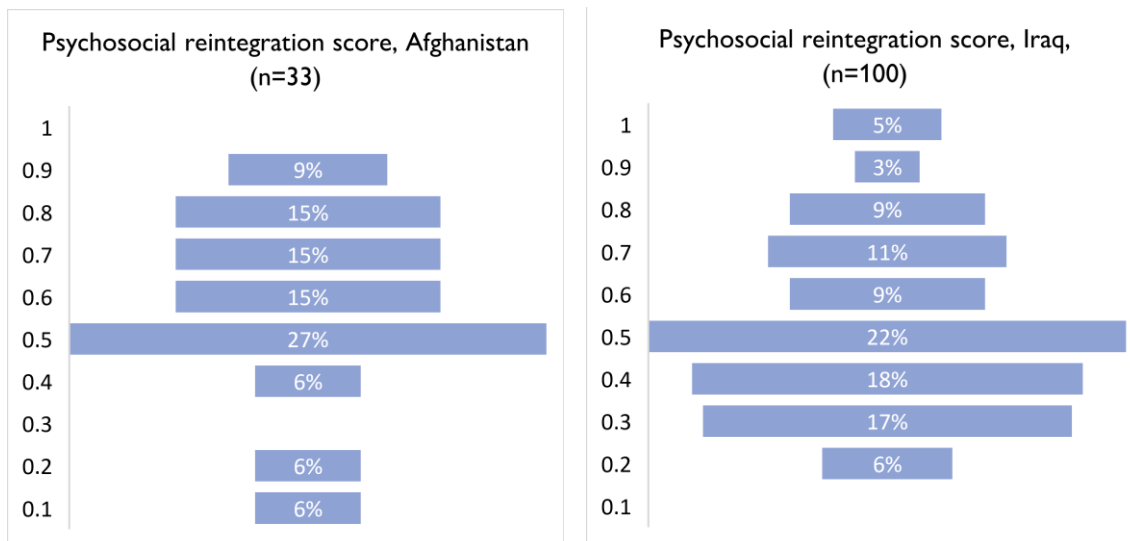
good”, compared to 26 per cent among respondents in Iraq. Among returnees who returned with family to Iraq, five families out of 21 reported their school-aged children were not enrolled in school. The reasons reported were varying; the children having problems to adapt to the local schools, the children not speaking the local languages, the child suffering from intellectual disability and problems with recognition of previous education. Additionally, one family reported the children had not yet been enrolled in school due to the pandemic.

The psychosocial dimension

The indicators in the psychosocial dimension of reintegration includes participation in social activities, sense of physical security, feeling of discrimination and sense of belonging to community, among others. As shown above, the psychosocial dimension displays the highest average reintegration score among respondents in both countries. This dimension also has the largest difference in scoring outcomes between the two countries, with an average of 0.59 in Afghanistan and 0.52 in Iraq.

In Afghanistan, as many as 82 per cent of respondents scored 0.5 or higher in the psychosocial dimension. In Iraq, the share was 59 per cent (64% of women and 55% of men). As shown in Figure 5, this dimension is however also where the largest distribution can be seen in the scoring between individual respondents.

Figure 5: Psychosocial reintegration score: distribution of respondents per score in Afghanistan and Iraq



The psychosocial dimension has two indicators that are weighted more heavily in the scoring system; one on physical safety and one on the respondents' views on their ability to stay in the country of origin. When asked how physically safe the returnees feel during everyday activities, 76 per cent of respondents in Afghanistan and 52 per cent of respondents in Iraq said they feel "very unsafe" or "unsafe" (Table 7). Returning to another community than the community of origin seems to have had a negative impact on the feeling of safety. Among those who did not return to their community of origin, as many as 89 per cent in Afghanistan and 76 per cent in Iraq reported feeling "unsafe" or "very unsafe".

Those returning to another community than that of their origin scored lower in most indicators in the psychosocial dimension, as reflected in the overall lower scoring in the psychosocial dimension for this group of returnees (as already shown in Table 5 above). Notably, those who did not return to their community of origin reported a greater desire to receive psychological support (in Afghanistan 21% compared to 7% of those returning to their community of origin, in Iraq 37% in comparison to 14%).

As explained above, IOM's definition of sustainable reintegration suggests that returnees who have reached a sustainable level of reintegration are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity. When asked to self-evaluate their ability to stay and live in their country of origin in the future, a majority of respondents in both countries answered they are not able to stay (Figure 6). The respondents were further asked to elaborate on the reasons that makes them feel that way, in order to determine whether it is a *need to leave* – e.g., because of security reasons or lack of essential services, or rather a *wish to leave*. A total of 52 per cent of all respondents in Afghanistan, and 47 per cent of respondents in Iraq, expressed a *need to leave*.

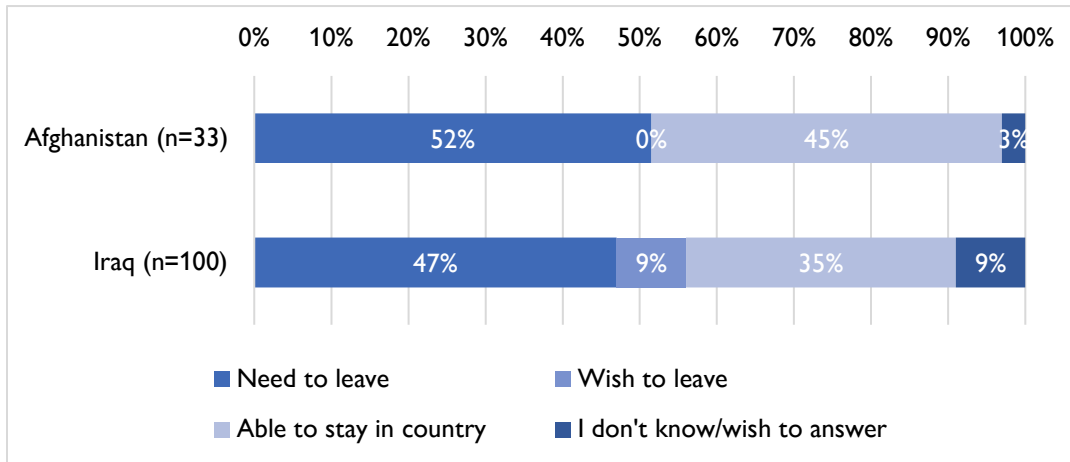
On average, all respondents, but particularly in Afghanistan, indicators suggest low level of discrimination, domestic tension, and desire to receive psychological support. This indicates such problems are not predominant obstacles in the reintegration process and contributes to increasing the overall average scoring in the dimension. However, the outcome on these indicators varies widely among the respondents. For example, in Afghanistan approximately one third of respondents reported to be discriminated 'very often' or 'sometimes', another third 'only rarely', and the last third 'never'.

It should be noted that some of the scores in the psychosocial dimension also might be affected by stigma. For example, on the question whether the respondent would wish to receive specialized psychological support, 24 per cent of respondents in Iraq said they don't know/wish to answer (27% of women and 22% of men). This contributes to a lower average scoring in the psychosocial dimensions among respondents in Iraq compared to the scoring of respondents in Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, 87 per cent of respondents simply answered no to the question. All in all, 23 per cent of respondents in Iraq and 15 per cent of respondents in Afghanistan expressed a wish to receive psychological support.

Table 7: Sense of physical security according to country of origin

Feeling of safety	Afghanistan (n=33)	Iraq (n=100)		
	Total	Total	women	men
Safe or very safe	15%	26%	22%	29%
Neutral	9%	22%	25%	20%
Unsafe or very unsafe	76%	52%	53%	51%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Figure 6: Ability to stay in country of origin



SURVEY RESULTS PART 2: PROJECT-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

The purpose of the additional questions included in the interview survey alongside the Reintegration Sustainability Survey was to focus on project operations, namely the provision of reintegration cash support to the beneficiaries upon their return in the country of origin. The questions focused on whether the possibility to receive the support had affected the decision to return, clarity of information provided, if the returnees had encountered any problems with the reception of the cash assistance, how the beneficiaries made use of the money received and whether the support was considered to meet the needs of the beneficiaries upon their return. The beneficiaries were also given the opportunity to give feedback on the provided information and the payment procedure.

The role of the reintegration cash support for the decision to return voluntarily

When asked whether their decision to return was affected by the possibility to receive the reintegration cash support, a majority of respondents (73%) said “no”. However, the responses differ substantially between respondents from the two countries: in Afghanistan only two respondents said the possibility to receive reintegration cash support had affected their decision (in both cases “to some extent”), whereas the remaining respondents said it did not affect their decision. Among the respondents in Iraq, one third of the respondents said the reintegration support did affect their decision, either “to a great extent” (7%) or “to some extent” (26%). No significant differences can be seen between female and male respondents in these responses.

Many beneficiaries from Afghanistan added spontaneous comments to this question. Alongside the most commonly stated reason of having exhausted possibilities to lawfully remain in Sweden, a frequently occurring reason for the return decision was related to family reasons, where beneficiaries stated that their families needed them in Afghanistan. A couple of respondents also referred to ceased entitlements to financial support in Sweden as playing into the decision to return. No spontaneous comments were recorded for the respondents in Iraq. The responses are in line with findings in literature, suggesting that social relations are a key factor influencing the decision to return, while financial incentives alone do not significantly influence potential returnees’ decisions.¹³

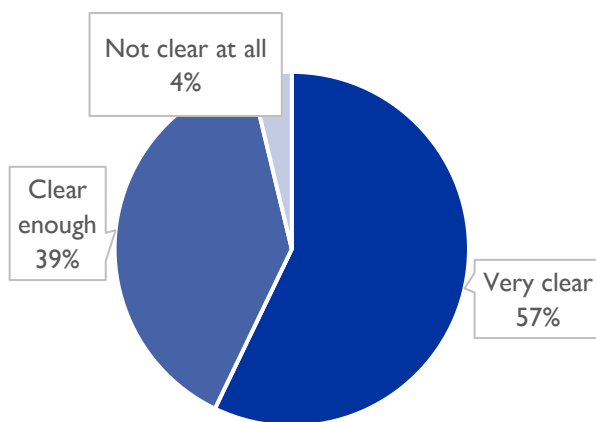
Clarity of information received about the reintegration cash support

The beneficiaries generally considered the information they had received about the cash support to be clear (either “very clear” or “clear enough”), as shown in Figure 7. Only a handful of respondents found the information “not clear at all”. The share of beneficiaries who said the information was not clear at all was higher among respondents in Afghanistan (9%) than in Iraq (2%). Although the majority described the information as clear, the results can also be interpreted as indicating that over 40 per cent may have

¹³ OECD (2020), *Sustainable Reintegration of Returning Migrants: A Better Homecoming*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

benefitted from even clearer or additional information. Worth to mention is also that two of the beneficiaries who stated the information was not clear at all, were elderly respondents above the age of 64 years, hence representing vulnerable beneficiaries.

Figure 7: How would you describe the information given to you about the reintegration cash support before departure? (n=133)



The beneficiaries were also asked whether they have suggestions on how the information could be provided in a better way. Only eleven beneficiaries provided such input. The suggestions included face-to-face meetings prior to departure in order to explain the reintegration cash support payment procedure in more detail, as well as suggestions to provide returnees with more information about life in the country of origin. Specifically, more information about life after return was sought, and a couple of respondents suggested providing beneficiaries with return stories, including information about previous experiences from beneficiaries who had already returned.

Figure 8: Examples of respondents’ answers to the question: “Do you have any suggestions on how the Swedish Migration Agency can improve the information given about the reintegration cash support?”

“I suggest that IOM provide some real return stories of families and how they have started their life in the home country again. To understand the real situation of families.”

Female, 39 years old, having returned to Iraq with her family.

“The SMA should arrange face-to-face meetings with the migrant and provide them full information on the available assistance. I was only told that I will receive some assistance and that further details would be provided.”

Male, 20 years old, having returned alone to Afghanistan.

The payment procedure – reception of the cash support

The payment of the cash support is initiated when the beneficiary, according to instructions in the payment decision received from SMA, contacts the local IOM office after the arrival in the country of origin. Upon presenting the appropriate identification documents, the payment is carried out in accordance with local procedures, in cash, as a bank check or bank transfer.

When asked whether the beneficiary had encountered any problems with the reception of the cash support, a total of 128 beneficiaries (96%) reported that no such problems had occurred. Out of the five beneficiaries who reported problems with receiving the grant, two beneficiaries reported problems related to living in a remote area, one of them in combination with old age and the other one in combination with security problems. One respondent mentioned the waiting time for receiving the cash support, in his case two weeks, was considered too long. A couple of respondents mentioned problems that did not relate to the cash support, but overall expectations of the return assistance. These respondents had expected reception assistance at the airport that failed to arrive. This, however, is not part of the assistance provided by IOM to project beneficiaries.

It should be noted that there is no clear correlation between reported unclarity regarding the information provided and reported problems with the payments. A majority of those who said the information had not been clear at all, had not experienced any problems with reception of the assistance.

The respondents were also asked if they had any suggestions for improvements related to the payment of the cash support. Only five respondents did, suggesting to making the payment procedure either quicker or easier (not providing any suggestions as to how), or suggesting the amount of the grant should be increased in order to further support the reintegration process.

Family benefits

A couple of questions were included specifically for women who had returned together with their families and hence received their cash support in the form of a lump sum paid to the husband. Out of the 22 female respondents in this category, 21 said they had been able to influence how the cash support was spent.¹⁴ Two of the respondents said they would have preferred having the money paid out in equal shares. There was no correlation between the respondents being able to influence how the money was spent and preference for the benefit being paid in equal shares. The one respondent who said she was not able to influence the spending of the cash support said she would not have preferred having the benefit paid out in equal shares, stating “Because I can see that my husband works and spends the grant for the benefit of the family”.

¹⁴ All of these respondents were from Iraq, as no beneficiaries falling into this category could be reached in Afghanistan.

The two respondents who wished for individual equal shares, said they themselves had been able to influence how the support was spent, but still argued there might be cases where equal shares might help to ensure that the spouses' individual needs are met.

Those who were satisfied with the lumpsum payments gave very uniform reasons for not seeing a problem with the set-up: the respondents said the money in any way is used for the best interest of the family, they trust their husbands, and that the support would have been used in the same way even if it would have been paid out in individual shares to both adults in the family.

Use of the cash grant

The purpose of the cash support is to enable the beneficiary to re-establish him/herself in the country of return, allowing the beneficiary to make decisions about how to meet their needs best. When asked about what the support had been used for, the most common answers in both countries were daily subsistence (mentioned by 71% of respondents) and housing (mentioned by 41% of respondents) (Figure 9). Around a quarter of the respondents in each country had used part of the cash support to invest in an income-generating activity (e.g., taxi/grocery/tailoring businesses, mobile phone stores). Many beneficiaries who said they used part of the support for setting up an income-generating business mentioned such activities had partly been financed also with means from other sources, such as support from ERRIN or with loans/borrowed money. Another frequently mentioned usage of the cash support was for medical needs (mentioned by around 20% of the respondents).

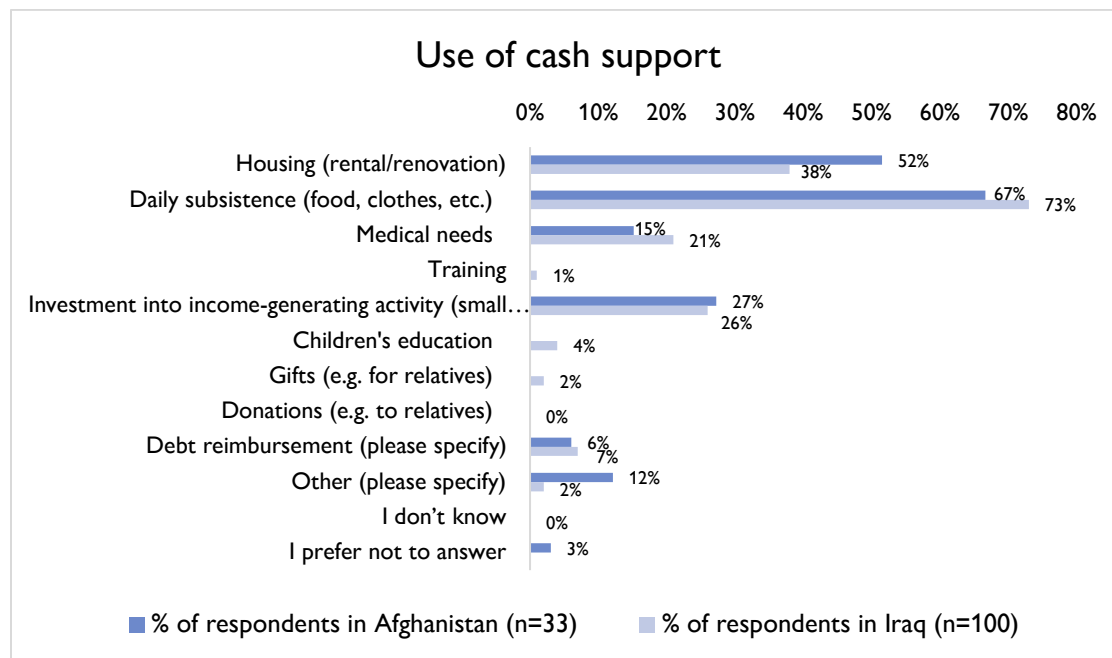
The pattern of how the money was spent is quite similar in both countries. In Afghanistan housing was a slightly more reoccurring answer (mentioned by 52% of respondents, compared to 38% in Iraq). In Iraq, some respondents mentioned part of the money was used for children's education, while in Afghanistan this answer did not occur. This difference could be explained based on the returnees' background, since the returnees in Afghanistan were mostly young men who returned alone.

Clear gender differences can also be seen, where men to a larger extent have invested in income-generating businesses. Among those having returned alone to Iraq, 35% of men and only 12% of women had used the support for such investments. Among those having returned to the country with family on the other hand, 29% of men and 21% of women mentioned the support had been used for income-generating activities. It should be noted that an investment into an income-generating activity is not necessarily a reliable way to having a sustainable income: several respondents mentioned that they later had to close the business due to the difficult economic situation in their country.

Altogether nine beneficiaries said they had used part of the money to repay debts, in most cases debts related to the migration journey. One respondent had used the entire support for repaying the money he had borrowed for migrating to Europe. Other use of the cash support mentioned sporadically, was sending money to family members in a third country and among young men returning to Afghanistan, paying for costs related to engagement ceremonies.

One remark made by IOM staff who conducted the interviews in Afghanistan is that when asked what the beneficiaries had used the cash support for, many respondents were expressing their regret on how they had spent the money.

Figure 9: Respondents' use of the reintegration cash support (N.B. multiple-choice question)



Meeting needs and respondents' suggestions for amendments

When asked whether the reintegration cash support had met the needs of the beneficiary, respondents in Afghanistan to a higher degree reported their needs had been met compared to respondents in Iraq.

Among beneficiaries in Iraq, those having returned alone to a slightly larger extent reported their needs have been met, or mostly have been met (26%) compared to beneficiaries who returned with family (20%). The pattern is in line with what was described above, regarding those having returned alone showing slightly higher average reintegration sustainability scores than those having returned with family. On the other hand, in both countries, those having returned to their community origin, to a lower degree reported their needs had been met. This again, is in contrast with the higher average reintegration scoring these respondents received above, compared to those having returned to another community than that of their origin.

Female respondents in Iraq report their needs have been met to a higher degree than male respondents, with 29 per cent of female respondents saying their needs had been met, or mostly had been met, whereas the share by male respondents was 18 per cent.

Some respondents said their needs had not been met at all (3% of all respondents in Afghanistan and 8% of respondents in Iraq). As a follow-up question, these respondents were asked how they think the assistance should be improved in order to better assist in the return and reintegration process. Most responses to this question suggested increasing the amount of the support, and to further help with the reintegration by assisting in finding employment or starting a business.

Figure 10: Example of respondents' answers to the question: If the needs have not been met, how could the assistance be designed to better assist in the return and reintegration?

<p><i>“The allocated amount was not enough for a family to start life again in the home country as they are in need of many essential needs after return.”</i></p> <p>Male, 40 years old, having returned to Iraq with his family.</p>	<p><i>“The assistance didn’t provide us with a livelihood, and I don’t have any source of income to be able to build my life again.”</i></p> <p>Female, 39 years old, having returned alone to Iraq.</p>
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A general conclusion on the results from the additional project-specific questions is that the responses are rather uniform – there is not a very big difference in how the respondents answered the questions. It is however worth bearing in mind that many of the respondents had already returned to their country of origin for some time before answering the survey, and not thus having all the details of their return process and information received fresh in mind might be reflected in the answers (i.e. recall issue).

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The limits of individual reintegration support

The Reintegration Sustainability Survey shows that the average composite reintegration score was at roughly the same level in both countries, reaching 0.48 in Afghanistan and 0.49 in Iraq. No significant differences in average reintegration scores could be observed between male and female respondents in Iraq, where the data allowed for comparisons between women and men. The average composite scoring in both countries was hence just below the threshold of 0.5, suggesting that the returnees could be in need of further support in order to achieve a sustainable level of reintegration.

The scoring also illustrates that the situation and needs vary across the different dimensions of reintegration. Despite reported low feelings of safety, and close to half of respondents in both countries implying they were not able to stay in the country, the psychosocial dimension was where respondents from both countries scored highest (0.59 for Afghanistan and 0.52 for Iraq). In the social dimension, the average scoring reached 0.51 in each country.

Respondents in both countries hence struggled especially with economic self-sufficiency, with the scoring suggesting that the beneficiaries would need intensified support particularly in this dimension. The project-specific questions highlighted that the beneficiaries use the reintegration cash support for their very basic and immediate needs upon return, such as housing and daily subsistence. In addition, around a quarter of the respondents in each country had also used the support as contributions to investments in income-generating activities. It, however, appears that due to the difficult economic conditions in both countries, further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, most respondents have not been able to achieve sustainable incomes. Among those having set up small self-employed business activities, several beneficiaries reported having had to close them later. In Iraq, the scoring in the economic dimension was especially low for those having returned with families, as well as for those having returned to another community than that of their origin. In Afghanistan, the score in the economic dimension was further lowered by a high frequency of food insecurity.

The above analysis shows that low reintegration scores were related to issues that cannot fully be addressed through reintegration support solely on the individual level.

Recommendation 1: Apply an integrated approach to reintegration

The basic premise of IOM's integrated approach to sustainable reintegration is that the complex, multidimensional process of reintegration requires a holistic and needs-based approach. Notwithstanding the importance of a migrant-centred approach to reintegration, IOM recommends that ideally also communal factors and overall structures in the country of origin should be considered when designing and delivering reintegration assistance schemes. This includes a stronger connection between return and development policy and hence requires a government-wide approach.

A need for a more coordinated and individualised return and reintegration process

The significant differences in respondents' composite scoring, which ranged from 0.2 to 0.8, could be an indication that more individualised support would be beneficial. Currently, most beneficiaries returning voluntarily from Sweden to Iraq and Afghanistan can benefit from both cash support (delivered by IOM) and in-kind support (delivered by ERRIN). Overall, a combination of cash and in-kind support, based on individual needs, make for a very good basis for reintegration assistance at the individual level. However, the fact that the in-kind and cash support is provided by different stakeholders, with a lack of coordination, entails a risk that the available individual reintegration support is not being utilized to its full potential.

The beneficiaries generally considered the information they had received about the cash support to be clear. Nonetheless, there seem to be room for improvement, to avoid uncertainty and unclarity among the beneficiaries. The beneficiaries might not be familiar with IOM as an organisation, and with many beneficiaries returning empty-handed, with a promise of receiving the reintegration cash support which they will need for their daily expenses only after having returned, might lead to doubts and feelings of insecurity. The results of the project-specific questions indicated that a more comprehensive and individualised pre-departure counselling might be beneficial. Some beneficiaries reported confusion as to what kind of support they would receive upon their return, some respondents were expressing their regret on how they had spent the money and several respondents wished to have received information on the situation in the country of origin, and return-stories in particular. The importance of preparedness for successful reintegration outcomes has also been described in research studies.¹⁵

Recommendation 2: Consider a more comprehensive and individualised pre-departure counselling

Ensure returnees receive detailed information on the support available and how it is disbursed/implemented to minimise the risk of misconceptions and allowing beneficiaries full control of their return. This does not only help to better prepare beneficiaries for the return, but also reinforces the legitimacy of the overall return assistance/return process. By linking counselling at the pre-return and post-arrival stages, the assistance could be better tailored for the specific situation of each returnee, while also reinforcing the beneficiary's agency to make decisions about how to best meet the individual needs. For example, for beneficiaries without experience in administrating a large budget, guidance on how the cash support could be used with a long-term perspective in mind might be beneficial. Further, providing beneficiaries with information on return experiences of other migrants in their country of origin, could help the returnees to get a better understanding of possible challenges in reintegration processes, and help to establish realistic expectations.

¹⁵ See for example IOM (2020) *Mentoring Returnees: Study on Reintegration Outcomes Through a Comparative Lens*

Disadvantages for families in the cash support system

The results of the Reintegration Sustainability Survey showed that those having returned with family scored lower in the economic dimension than those having returned alone, suggesting that families struggle more with economic self-sufficiency than single returnees. As the survey indicates, a key challenge might be obtaining an income large enough to support a family. This is unlikely to be solved with individual reintegration assistance solely. However, the current set-up of the cash support, with a maximum sum of 75,000 SEK for a family, means that large households are disadvantaged, as a family with two adult returnees receives the same amount of support irrespective of their number of children.

Recommendation 3: Reconsider the design of the family grant

In order to secure that project beneficiaries returning with families are not put in an economically disadvantaged situation at the early start of their reintegration process, a redesign of the set-up of the family grant should be considered. It is recommended that the size of the families should be better considered when granting cash support to families returning with children.

Disbursement of the family grants

Only a few respondents reported any problems with the reception of the reintegration cash support, indicating that the current form of distributing the support works well from the beneficiary's perspective. The majority of female respondents who had received cash support paid out as a lump sum to their husbands, did not see a problem with that arrangement. While the current procedure might have benefits related to practical aspects, as it only requires one of the family members to visit the IOM office and minimises the administration around the payment of the family benefits, it also comes with drawbacks. Although the majority of the respondents were indifferent as to whether the benefit is paid out as a lumpsum or in equal shares, it should be noted that from a rights and gender perspective, it would be more appropriate to disburse the support in equal shares. This way each adult beneficiary would have a greater opportunity to decide for themselves how the cash support should be spent, in line with rights principles of equality and non-discrimination.

Recommendation 4: Explore alternative ways to disburse the cash support for families

While practical considerations in the individual case needs to be taken into account, distributing the family benefits in individual shares for each adult would ensure the project's activities are implemented in a gender-sensitive manner, ensuring equal opportunities to all beneficiaries.

Monitoring activities

This monitoring survey was made to assess both the extent to which the respondents' reintegration appear sustainable and to monitor the returnees' views on the cash support assistance in the form of pre-departure information on the disbursement of the cash support. To secure a large enough number of respondents, the returnees monitored were chosen from individuals who had been back in their country

of origin between 3 to 18 months. A long time since return might however have affected the respondents' ability to give detailed answers on the *project-specific* questions included in the survey.

Recommendation 5: Include monitoring as a standard component to the cash support project to allow for continuous short- and long-term follow-up on beneficiaries

Including monitoring of project activities soon after the return as a standard component might prove more useful for gathering information on possible needs for adjusting project activities in the short run, as respondents have the return experience in fresh memory. Ideally a follow-up on beneficiaries' reintegration sustainability should however also be continued. Mainstreamed standardised beneficiary monitoring throughout project activities would allow for a more comprehensive analysis over time. The use of IOM's standard Reintegration Sustainability Survey can also enable comparisons with AVRR activities managed by other EU countries. Systematic beneficiary monitoring can play an important role in contributing to evidence-based policy and programme development in the longer run. By informing beneficiaries prior to their return that monitoring will be carried out and ensuring that sufficient contact details are collected, the possibilities of being able to follow-up on returnees are likely to improve.

CONCLUSIONS

Despite the monitoring survey being carried out in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a smaller respondent sample and face-to-face interviews having to be replaced with phone interviews, the survey was successfully completed. It is also worth mentioning that the respondents, despite challenges in reaching some of them, in general were happy to participate in the interviews and appreciated that someone followed up with them and showed an interest in their situation. The results of this survey cannot be generalised across all beneficiaries who voluntarily have returned from Sweden to the two target countries, given the significant differences in reintegration outcomes on the individual level. However, the tools applied proved useful to provide insights into the post-return lives among project beneficiaries, yielding concrete recommendations for further development of the cash support project, as well as of return and reintegration activities overall.

ANNEX 1: PROJECT MONITORING QUESTIONNAIRE (AVR SWEDEN RR.0063)

Includes project-specific questions as well as the IOM Reintegration Sustainability Survey

Profile (to be filled by IOM Staff prior to interview)

Name:	Country to which return took place:
Case ID:	Address in country:
Date of return:	Province/governorate:
Date of birth:	Community (if mapped):
Age at time of return:	Community of return same as community of origin? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> male <input type="checkbox"/> female	Date of interview: __/__/20__
Country from which return took place:	
Length of absence from Country of origin: __ (in months)	Interview location: <input type="checkbox"/> at IOM office
Situation of vulnerability: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> phone call
If yes, please specify _____	<input type="checkbox"/> on site (place of work, migrant's home, etc.)

The list of profile information to be collected contains variables essential for the purposes of case management and understanding of a migrant's reintegration experience. It is recommended that staff collects and/or verifies this information prior to beginning the Reintegration sustainability survey.

Interviewer Prompt:

If you agree, I would like to ask for about 40 minutes of your time to answer some questions about your experience after returning to your country. Your responses will help IOM understand the situation of men and women like you who were supported through Reintegration programmes. Your responses are important and will help us all improve our assistance to those who return in the future.

This is not a test, there are no right or wrong answers. You are not obliged to answer any question, and you can stop at any moment you want. If you feel uncomfortable answering any of these questions, please let me know so that we can stop. Your responses will be confidential. They will not influence our future cooperation. Thank you for your time.

If I have your permission, can we proceed?

PROJECT-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

PROJECT-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS			
	Questions	Answers	Notes <i>for staff needs, and/or follow-up explanations</i>
1	<p>Was your decision to return voluntarily (to your country of origin) affected by the possibility to receive reintegration cash support?</p> <p>select one do not prompt initially</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to a great extent (I would not have returned without the support)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, to some extent (it somewhat affected my decision to return)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I don't know</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer</p>	
2a	<p>How would you describe the information given to you about the reintegration cash support before departure?</p> <p>select one prompt</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Very clear</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Clear enough</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not clear at all</p>	
2b	<p>Do you have any suggestions on how the Swedish Migration Agency can improve the information given about the reintegration cash support?</p> <p>select one do not prompt</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes → please explain</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
3a	<p>Have you encountered any problems with the reception of the cash support?</p> <p>select all applicable do not prompt initially, specify under notes</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No problem</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Local bureaucracy/corruption</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty in providing documents requested by IOM</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Living in remote area</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Security problems</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unavailability of services → please specify...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Inadequacy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lack of trust</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Incompleteness (did not receive assistance in full)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other → please specify...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I don't remember</p>	

3b	<p>Do you have any suggestions on improvements relating to the payment procedure?</p> <p>select one, do not prompt</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes → please explain</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
4	<p>What did you do with the cash received after arrival?</p> <p>select all applicable, do not prompt initially, specify under notes</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Housing (rental/renovation)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Daily subsistence (food, clothes, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Medical needs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Training</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Investment into income-generating activity (small business, etc.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Children's education</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gifts (e.g. for relatives)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Donations (e.g. to relatives)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Debt reimbursement (→ please specify)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other → please specify...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I don't know</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I prefer not to answer</p>	
5a	<p>Did the reintegration cash support meet your needs?</p> <p>OR, in case of beneficiary returning with family:</p> <p>Did the reintegration cash support meet the needs of all the family members that returned with you?</p> <p>select one, do not prompt initially</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes, it met my needs (/the needs of my family)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mostly, yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It met some of my needs (/the needs of my family)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It only met a very small portion of my needs (/my family's needs), please explain...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It did not meet my (/my family's) needs at all</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I don't know/don't wish to answer</p>	
5b	<p>If the needs have not been met, how could the assistance be designed to better assist in the return and reintegration (of a family like yours)?</p>		

+ EXTRA QUESTIONS FOR FEMALE RETURNEES RETURNING WITH HUSBAND Questions 6 and 7 are additional questions for female returnees who have returned with their husbands as part of a family.		
6	<p>Were you able to influence how the cash support paid out to the family was spent?</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p> <p>take notes of possible comments</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7	<p>Would you have preferred having the family's benefit paid out in equal shares between you and your spouse?</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p> <p>specify under notes</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes → please explain why <input type="checkbox"/> No → please explain why

REINTEGRATION SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY			
ECONOMIC DIMENSION Questions 1-10 contain indicators of economic reintegration, which contribute to economic self-sufficiency			
	Questions	Answers	Notes
RSS1	<p>How satisfied are you with your current economic situation? (overall economic situation, self-assessed by respondent)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Dissatisfied → please explain <input type="checkbox"/> Very Dissatisfied → please explain <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	<p>for staff needs, and/or follow-up explanations</p>
RSS2	<p>Since you returned, how often have you had to reduce the quantity or quality of food you eat because of its cost?</p> <p>(Food rationing as a cost-reduction strategy is a strong indicator of unstable economic situation)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very often <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	<p>Given that this indicator is cross-sectional (has implications also for social and psychosocial dimensions of reintegration), it is weighted more heavily in the scoring system to reflect its overall importance in determining sustainability of reintegration. More information is available in the Methodological Note.</p>
RSS3	<p>Are you able to borrow money if you need it?</p> <p>(Perceived availability of credit, regardless of source - bank, family, friends, traditional loans system, microcredit, etc. - and</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	

	<p>regardless of whether respondent is effectively taking out loans or not)</p> <p>select one, do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	
RSS4	<p>Do you borrow money? How frequently?</p> <p>(Behavior self-reported by respondent, regardless of source of credit and amount – even very small amounts count)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very often <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	
RSS5	<p>On average, which amount is bigger: your spending every month, or your debt?</p> <p>(The comparison allows us to see whether respondent is able to cover their monthly expenses from earnings, or supplements basic life needs with loans, a much less sustainable behavior)</p> <p>select one, do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't have debt <input type="checkbox"/> Debt is larger <input type="checkbox"/> Spending is larger <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
RSS6	<p>How would you rate your access to opportunities (employment and training) ?</p> <p>(Perceived, personal ability to reach and access opportunities for income generation – jobs, courses for skills enhancement, etc.)</p> <p>select one,</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	
RSS7	<p>Do you currently work?</p> <p>(Either employment or self-employment, formal or informal. If respondent currently in unpaid training or attending school, select "N/A".)</p> <p>select one, do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	
RSS8	<p>Do you own any of the following productive assets?</p> <p>(Productive assets create a potential basis for an income-generating activity. As categories will differ based on context, it is suggested that interviewers consider potential of assets</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Land <input type="checkbox"/> Animals <input type="checkbox"/> Trees (fruits, nuts, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings and Structures	

	<p>in local economies, and adapt answers accordingly. For scoring purposes, it is only necessary to know if respondent does (yes) or does not (no) own a productive asset of any kind. However, knowing which particular asset a returnee owns, will support case management/reintegration counselling.)</p> <p>select all applicable prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment and Tools <input type="checkbox"/> Other - please explain →... <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	
RSS9	<p>Are you currently looking for a job?</p> <p>(Regardless of currently working or not. A respondent might be employed but unhappy with their current pay/conditions, etc., and searching for alternative opportunities.)</p> <p>select one do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (please continue to Q10) <input type="checkbox"/> No (please continue to Q11) <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer (Q11)	<p>If respondent indicates YES as an answer, please do include Q10. If respondent indicates NO or I DON'T WISH TO ANSWER, please skip Q10, and continue to Q11.</p>
(RSS10)	<p>Why are you looking for a new job?</p> <p>only if "yes" selected above select all applicable do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed <input type="checkbox"/> Unhappy with work at current job <input type="checkbox"/> Unhappy with work conditions (location, working hours, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Unhappy with salary at current job <input type="checkbox"/> Other - please explain →...	
<p>SOCIAL DIMENSION Questions 11-21 contain indicators of social reintegration, reflecting the extent to which returnees have reached social stability within their community, including access to services relating to housing, education, justice, health, and other public infrastructure services.</p>			
RSS11	<p>How would you rate your access to housing in your community?</p> <p>(Self-assessed ability to find/change and afford housing)</p> <p>select one do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	
RSS12	<p>How would you rate the standard of housing you live in today?</p> <p>(Self-assessment of standard of housing – safety, cleanliness, size, neighborhood and other conditions)</p> <p>select one</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	

	prompt if needed		
RSS13	<p>How would you rate the access to education in your community?</p> <p>(Self-assessed ability to take part in educational activities, programmes, courses, etc.)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	
RSS14	<p>Are all school-aged children in your household currently attending school?</p> <p>(This includes children to whom respondent is a parent or guardian, as well as other children in respondents' household.)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (also select if no children in home) <input type="checkbox"/> No - some but not all → please explain <input type="checkbox"/> None → please explain <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	
RSS15	<p>How would you rate the access to justice and law enforcement in your community?</p> <p>(Self-assessed ability to use and be protected by services and guarantees provided by courts, police, military, etc.)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	
RSS16	<p>Do you have at least one identification document?</p> <p>(passport, national, or local identification document, birth certificate, etc. – adjust specifics based on local context.)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	
RSS17	<p>How would you rate the access to documentation (personal ID, birth certificates, etc.) in your community?</p> <p>(Self-assessed ability to request and receive personal documents issued by the State)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	

RSS18	<p>How would you rate the access to safe drinking water in your community?</p> <p>(Self-assessed ability to access and use water which is suitable for drinking and hygiene)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	
RSS19	<p>How would you rate the access to healthcare in your community?¹⁶</p> <p>(Self-assessed ability to access and use medical services)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	<p><i>Please explain why healthcare is not easily accessible to you:</i></p> <input type="checkbox"/> No health care facility exists nearby <input type="checkbox"/> It is too expensive <input type="checkbox"/> It is too far <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
RSS20	<p>What is the quality of healthcare available to you?</p> <p>(Self-perceived standard of care, which respondent is able to get for themselves.)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>prompt if needed</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Very poor <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know	
(RSS21)	Access to public services overall is generated from average answers to above questions (Q11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19)		
PSYCHOSOCIAL DIMENSION Questions 22-32 contain indicators of psychosocial reintegration, encompassing the emotional and psychological elements of reintegration.			
RSS22	<p>How often are you invited or do you participate in social activities (celebrations, weddings, other events) within your community?</p> <p>(Both invitations and participation matter, showing strength of personal connections to community.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very often <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Never	

¹⁶ Given that this indicator is cross-sectional (has implications also for economic and psychosocial dimensions of reintegration), it is weighted more heavily in the scoring system to reflect its overall importance in determining sustainability of reintegration.

	<p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	
RSS23	<p>How do you feel about your support network? Can you rely on the network's support?</p> <p>(Self-perceived support network which can provide emotional or practical help in time of need, regardless of factual type/size/strength of support.)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very good - a very strong network <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Bad <input type="checkbox"/> Very bad - a very weak network <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	
RSS24	<p>Do you feel you are part of the community where you currently live?</p> <p>(Personal feeling of belonging.)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> I agree - I feel strongly that I am part of the community <input type="checkbox"/> I somewhat agree <input type="checkbox"/> I don't agree or disagree <input type="checkbox"/> I somewhat disagree <input type="checkbox"/> I strongly disagree - I don't feel part of the community at all <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	
RSS25	<p>How physically safe do you feel for yourself and your family during everyday activities outside?</p> <p>(Perceived physical safety from violence and persecution and/or other forms of insecurity. May be related to belonging to a social group or to the status of returnee alone.)</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> I feel very safe all the time <input type="checkbox"/> I feel safe most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> I feel unsafe most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> I feel very unsafe all the time <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	<p>Given that this indicator is cross-sectional (has implications also for social and economic dimensions of reintegration), it is weighted more heavily in the scoring system to reflect its overall importance in determining sustainability of reintegration.</p>
RSS26	<p>How frequently have you experienced important tensions or conflicts between you and your family since you returned?</p> <p>(Self-perceived frequency. Every family experiences/is accustomed to a different frequency of conflicts – this question asks about conflicts and tensions that feel subjectively important and disturbing to the returnee, therefore hampering the</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Very often <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Never <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	<p>For case management: follow up: do you experience more tensions than before your migration experience?</p>

	<p>reintegration process.) These tensions could be new or dating prior to return.</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>		
RSS27	<p>Have you felt discriminated since your return?</p> <p>(Frequency of a feeling, no need for additional information on specific instances of discrimination.)</p> <p>Definition: discrimination entails inability to enjoy rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status¹⁷</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Never</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only rarely</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes →... please explain</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very often →... please explain</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer</p>	<p>Follow up: if yes, please explain.</p>
RSS28	<p>Do you often suffer from any of the following?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feeling angry - Feeling sad - Feeling afraid - Feeling stressed - Feeling lonely - Feeling low self-worth - Difficulty concentrating <p>(Signs of psychosocial distress, answer should consider frequency of these symptoms.)</p> <p>prompt</p> <p>select one</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Never</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Only rarely</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes →... please explain</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very often →... please explain</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer</p>	
RSS29	<p>Would you wish to receive specialized psychological support?</p> <p>(Such support may include informal or formal counselling, and other forms of support. Does not refer exclusively to psychological therapy.)</p> <p>select one</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I don't know</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer</p>	

¹⁷ Paraphrasing definition set forth by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948, see also: [IOM Glossary](#)

	do not prompt		
RSS30	<p>Do you feel that you are able to stay and live in this country?</p> <p><i>(Focus on ability to stay in country of origin, as opposed to wish, is given by IOM's definition of sustainable reintegration: "Having achieved sustainable reintegration, returnees are able to make further migration decisions a matter of choice, rather than necessity.")</i></p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>(please continue to Q31)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know <input type="checkbox"/> I don't wish to answer	<p>Given that this indicator is cross-sectional (has implications also for social and economic dimensions of reintegration), it is weighted more heavily in the scoring system to reflect its overall importance in determining sustainability of reintegration.</p>
(RSS31)	<p>What is it that makes you feel that way?</p> <p><i>(Important distinction between the need and the wish to leave – reflecting the respondent's ability to deal with remigration drivers in country of origin. If respondent indicates both wish and need to leave, please select primary reason. For example, if a respondent has been struggling to find employment, is unable to cover their basic needs, and also misses their girlfriend in Belgium, select "need" – since inability to establish sustainable living is the primary underlining reason for wanting to leave.)</i></p> <p>only if "no" answered above</p> <p>select one</p> <p>do not prompt</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> I miss my friends/family members elsewhere; cultural factors; wish to continue studies abroad <p>(WISH TO LEAVE)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of jobs; lack of security; low earnings; lack of essential services; family pressure <p>(FEEL THE NEED TO LEAVE)</p>	
RSS32	<p>Who are the people and/or organizations that support you in this community?</p> <p>select all applicable</p> <p>do not prompt initially</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Family <input type="checkbox"/> Friends <input type="checkbox"/> Religious organizations and leaders <input type="checkbox"/> Community leaders <input type="checkbox"/> Work colleagues <input type="checkbox"/> IOM <input type="checkbox"/> NGOs <input type="checkbox"/> Other returnees <input type="checkbox"/> Other - please explain →... <input type="checkbox"/> No one	