

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION IN MOROCCO

Semestrial report January - June 2023

INTRODUCTION

Since the implementation of the National Programme for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) in the Kingdom of Morocco in 2005, and in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior, more than **20 000 people** have been able to **benefit from an assistance to voluntary return to their countries of origin**.

From January to June 2023, **1 732 stranded migrants** (1 017 men, 428 women, 145 boys and 142 girls) **contacted IOM Morocco** through referrals from partners, word to mouth within the community and through social media and registered for the AVRR programme.

VOLUNTARY RETURN FROM MOROCCO


Between January and June 2023, **938 migrants** (583 men, 232 women, 69 boys and 54 girls) **benefited from assisted voluntary return to their respective countries of origin**.

Breakdown by country of origin :

The eight main countries of origin represent **91%** of the total number of returns

 Côte d'Ivoire : 312	 Guinea : 251
 Senegal : 172	 Nigeria : 30
 Cameroon : 29	 Republic of the Congo : 26
 Mali : 21	 DRC : 15

Breakdown by age and gender category :





 232 Women
 583 Men
 54 Girls
 69 Boys

1 212 migrants (713 men, 320 women, 94 boys and 85 girls) received direct assistance such as food vouchers, medical assistance, transportation, accommodation and administrative and consular assistance.



Direct assistance in the form of vouchers

Breakdown by vulnerability factor :

 4 Elders (+60)	 18 Non accompanied or separated children	 5 Potential victims of human trafficking	 32 People with health needs
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

IOM has established an **intervention framework for migrants in a particular vulnerable situation** which allows to **identify the risks linked to these vulnerabilities and adapt the response** to better ensure the support and protection in coordination with the key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

FOLLOW UP OF REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

During the first semester of 2023, IOM Morocco coordinated the implementation of economic and social **reintegration projects** in Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Congo and Sri Lanka. Among the beneficiaries, five are unaccompanied and/or separated children that returned to their countries of origin. In total, 22 returnees (8 men, 4 women, 4 boys and 6 girls) received a reintegration assistance under IOM Morocco funding.

Breakdown by type of project* :

 3 Trade projects	 1 Livestock project	 2 Transportation projects
 3 Educational support projects	 1 Vocational training support project	 2 Housing support projects

* Some migrants may benefit from one or more types of projects.

For returnees for whom reintegration assistance cannot be granted in the country of origin, cash assistance is provided to meet their urgent needs upon arrival. **15 returnees** to Congo benefited from this cash assistance since IOM office in this country is no longer operational.

VOLUNTARY RETURN TO MOROCCO

The number of returnees to Morocco has continued to increase during the 1st half of 2023, due to the socio-economic crisis in Europe as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, current events such as the war in Ukraine, and the lifting of COVID-19 related movement restrictions in Morocco.

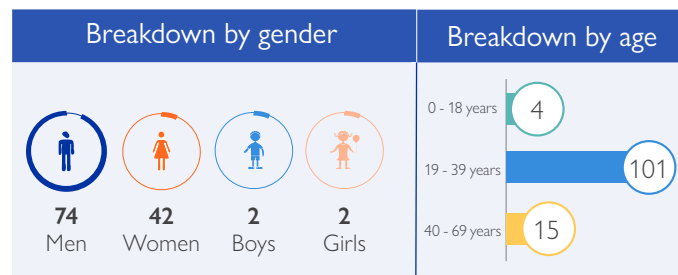
From January to June 2023, a total of 308 migrants (288 men, 14 women, 3 girls, and 3 boys) opted for voluntary return to Morocco. Compared to the same period in 2022, this reflects an increase of 29% in the number of returns and this upward trend is expected to continue over the next years. Return trends have gradually expanded beyond the European Union countries, especially with the increase in the number of returns from Türkiye since 2022.

Out of these returnees, 78 contacted IOM for a counselling and orientation session on arrival and have started the definition or implementation of their reintegration projects, with the support of different projects.

Main host countries



PROFILE OF THE ASSISTED MIGRANTS



Types of assistance¹



¹ Some migrants received two or more types of assistance.

Type of income-generating activities



COORDINATION WITH KEY ACTORS IN THE REINTEGRATION OF MOROCCAN RETURNEES

IOM continues to strengthen its partnerships with national and international agencies working on the reintegration of Moroccan returnees to strengthen their referral mechanism.

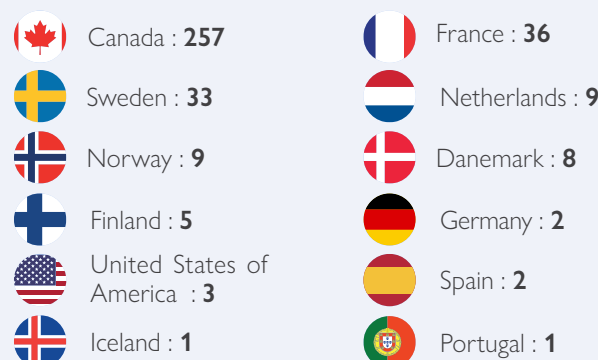
- 27 migrants** (23 men and 4 women) with social and/or medical needs were referred to Fondation Orient Occident for further complementary assistance.
- 46 migrants** (36 men and 10 women) were assisted by ANAPEC in setting up a legal form for their income-generating activities (cooperatives, SARLs, self-entrepreneurs' cards, etc.).
- 28 migrants** (3 women, 25 men) were referred to the INDH youth platform in several regions, and **12 migrants** (11 men and 1 woman) were referred to the German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Morocco for employment and entrepreneurship support.

RESSETLEMENT PROGRAMME

Resettlement is an international protection tool that responds to the specific needs of refugees and other vulnerable persons. Resettlement is also a durable solution for refugees and a demonstration of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing with those countries hosting large numbers of refugees. It gives a chance to restart their lives to a large number of people who would otherwise have no home or country to call home.

In Morocco, IOM works closely with UNHCR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates and the consular representations of the host countries. This support focuses mainly on the follow-up of medical examinations before travel, the organization of cultural orientation sessions to facilitate the integration of refugees in their host country as well as the organization and implementation of the movement which includes transport within the country and international transport.

Since 2011, IOM Morocco has facilitated more than **360 resettlement operations** in the following countries:



The AVRR programme is implemented with the support of :



N°11 rue Ait Ourir, « Pinède », Souissi, Rabat - Maroc



<https://morocco.iom.int>



iommoroccoavrr@iom.int

