



Ad-Hoc Query on Productive Return

Requested by ES EMN NCP on 12th July 2010

Compilation produced on 27th September 2010

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom (15 in Total)

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1. Background Information

The Spanish Government, through the Ministry of Labour and Immigration, is studying different mechanisms for fostering the productive nature and efficiency of Return Programmes. Productive return is defined as that which is linked to the effective development of some type of economic activity upon return, whether through self-employment, (micro) business projects, or salaried employment. In this regard, productive return programmes represent a more advanced phase when compared with assisted return programmes.

For this reason we would like to know about those initiatives concerning voluntary productive return which have been designed or started up by different Member States.

In particular, we are interested in receiving responses from Member States to the specific questions which follow:

1. Has your country designed a return programme or project specifically aimed at productive return as described above?

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If affirmative, may you indicate which programmes or projects are considered the most efficient?

2. Which public or private bodies manage these programmes?

3. What requirements must programme beneficiaries fulfil?

4. Which mechanisms for cooperation have been defined with the countries of origin in the management of these returns so that these will fulfil their objective concerning productivity?

It would be very much appreciated if we could receive your answers by **29th July 2010**.

2. Responses

		Wider Dissemination?	
	Austria	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Belgium	Yes	<p>1. BE started a program on productive return since March 2010 (with co-funding from the ERF). The program provides 2.000 EUR in kind assistance for the creation of micro-businesses (on top of the 250 EUR p.p financial and 700 EUR p.p. in kind support that is provided in the regular AVR-program). On the spot specialized guidance and counselling by a micro-business development consultant can be provided. It is –however- too early to make a decent assessment of the outputs and efficiency of this program.</p> <p>2. The program is co-ordinated by Fedasil, the government agency that is responsible for the development of AVR-policy. The operational implementation is guaranteed by IOM and Caritas. Both organisations are structural partners in the implementation of the national AVR policy (= IOM implements the REAB-program, providing basic return logistics to whomever wants to return; IOM and Caritas are the implementing agencies for the post arrival in kind reintegration assistance).</p> <p>3. To obtain the complementary assistance, the beneficiary must develop a business plan (based on a standard format). This business plan is judged by the local reintegration partner (local IOM mission or Caritas organisation). If they judge it to be feasible, the complementary assistance will be granted upon arrival.</p> <p>4. At this stage, the countries of origin or not involved in the planning or the management of these programs. The program is centrally designed by Fedasil. A structural involvement of countries of origin is however considered a possible way forward.</p>

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	Estonia	Yes	<p>1. In Estonia we have only one voluntary return program which provides also the economic support or activity upon return (small business set-up, vocational trainings, education courses, work placement)- IOM Varre project. The project is financed by Ministry of Internal and European Return Fund.</p> <p>2. Project is managed by IOM Tallinn.</p> <p>3. The most important requirement is that the person should live the country voluntarily – usually seven days is a period during which a person has the right to voluntarily leave the country and receive the voluntary return support.</p> <p>Since 2007 Estonia has supported less than 10 person’s voluntary return under assisted voluntary return programmes – so our experience in cooperation with countries of origin is quite low.</p>
	Finland	Yes	<p>1 and 2. At the beginning of 2010 the Finnish Immigration Service and IOM started a new project on assisted voluntary return. The office of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Helsinki has since 1 January 2010 implemented a return project that provides travel arrangements for persons, who want to return voluntarily from Finland to their country of origin. In addition to the travel arrangements, returnees can receive cash grants ranging from €200 to €1,500 for an adult and €100 to €1,000 for a child to support their reintegration in the communities of return. The cash grant may be used e.g. for studying or business purposes.</p> <p>3. One may apply for voluntary return support if he or she is an asylum seeker in Finland or if he or she has already received a residence for protection reasons. If one’s asylum case is still ongoing, it should be cancelled in order to return and receive support from the project. An alien is not eligible if he or she is a citizen of an EU country, if he or she has acquired Finnish citizenship, or if he or she does not want to return voluntarily to your country of origin.</p> <p>4. There are not yet mechanisms for monitoring productivity in the country of origin. The ongoing project will be, however, developed further on this aspect.</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p>1. The Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI), represented by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), along with the federal states Northrhine-Westphalia, Lower Saxony, Baden-Württemberg and Saxony Anhalt have come together and continued the "URA 2" Kosovo Return Project begun in 2008. It is a national project to promote successful and sustainable return management. The project will initially run from 01 Jan 2010 to 31 Dec 2010, with a continuation planned for 2011.</p> <p>130 deportees, 70 volunteers and 20 natives are to receive support in 2010.</p> <p>The following support measures are available:</p> <p>Immediate Aid - Comprehensive social counselling, support in dealing with authorities, family reunification and apartment locating services</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grocery allowance of up to €50 per person - Monthly rent stipend of up to €100 for 6 months - Start-up stipend of up to €600 for voluntary returnees and €300 for deportees - One-time reimbursement of necessary medication costs up to €75 per person (one-time) <p>Reintegration Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One-time education stipend for language courses of up to €50 per person - Placement in vocational training courses - Job placement/procurement of job creation measures through a wage stipend of €150 for voluntary returnees and €100 for deportees. - One-time stipends in the following forms will be issued to support start-up: Education stipend of up to €500; Education assistance of €100; start-up funds for promising business ideas of up to €3,000 <p>2. See Question 1: BMI represented by the BAMF, Northrhine-Westphalia, Baden-Württemberg, Lower Saxony and Saxony Anhalt</p> <p>3. There are no special requirements; however, support services are only available to returnees from the participating federal states.</p> <p>4. There are currently no agreements with Kosovo. A readmission agreement between Germany and Kosovo has been concluded, but it is not yet into force. There is an administrative agreement in Germany between the BMI and the participating federal states mentioned above.</p>
	Hungary	Yes	<p>1. IOM Budapest, in close cooperation with the Office of Immigration and Nationality, is successfully implementing AVR programmes since 1994. These programmes have recently been complemented with a reintegration element; therefore productive return is promoted in the framework of the traditional AVR programmes. The following programmes could be mentioned in this regard: “Enhancing mechanisms and harmonizing standards in the field of voluntary return of irregular migrants in EU Central European Member States” regional programme and the “Hungarian Assisted Return and Reintegration Programmes (HARRP)”. An overall assessment on the efficiency of AVR programmes and of their reintegration element was carried out this year by IOM financed from the European Return Fund which also includes conclusions and recommendations for the future.</p> <p>2. These programmes are managed by IOM Budapest. The regional programme is financed by the EC Return Preparatory Actions, while the HARRP programmes are financed from the European Return Fund.</p> <p>3. Long-term reintegration assistance is aimed either at promoting business activities in the host countries by providing financial support to start up businesses or at supporting vocational/educational training. The experience shows that so far the establishment or the development of businesses was preferred. In the framework of the programmes mentioned under Q1, not all participants, but only a certain number of returnees – usually maximum 10 % of the total number of returnees – received assistance. The returnees had to apply and qualify for this kind of support. It is a precondition of the qualification that the applicant must not have an ongoing asylum claim and he/she must sign a declaration stating that</p>

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			<p>he/she will not apply for asylum in another country and will not receive reintegration assistance from another IOM programme. The business plans (and the applications for completing a vocational/educational training) submitted by the applicants have to be approved by IOM Budapest taking into account the viability of the business proposal, its impact on the local community and the profile of the returnee.</p> <p>4. The responsible IOM office in the country of origin has an important role in the management of reintegration support. It helps in assessing the labour market and economical conditions and demands in the country of origin, in administrative tasks and in arranging formalities. Since it has up-to-date information on the circumstances in the country of origin, this office makes a proposal to IOM Budapest on the supportability of submitted business plans and applications.</p> <p>In 2010 an assessment on the efficiency of reintegration assistance (see also under Q1) was carried out, which may contribute to the better management of this kind of support in the future.</p>
	Lithuania	Yes	<p>1. Yes. In the framework of the Assisted voluntary return programmes Lithuania from 2010 offers possibilities of productive return by providing reintegration assistance to voluntary returnees. The returnees are entitled to in kind support for business set-up (new or joint, extension of existing family business), re-qualification and training coverage (EC allows 4 months), part of salary payment (usually 3 months), short-term accommodation coverage. Reintegration assistance does not have a one-fits all model but is designed according to individual needs (taking into account the needs of vulnerable persons, persons with medical needs in particular). Most successful is business set up (i.e. tea-house, taxi business for returnees from Lithuania), especially in countries where unemployment is high. However, reintegration is an individual solution so must remain flexible.</p> <p>2. Assisted voluntary return and reintegration is not a governmental programme but is implemented on a project basis by International Organization for Migration, (IOM) Vilnius office. These projects currently are funded from the Return Fund (RF) and implemented according to national annual programmes.</p> <p>3. Currently reintegration assistance is provided only to voluntary returnees, they must prepare an individual reintegration plan, in case they'd like to set up a business, they must prepare a business plan. IOM Office in country of origin assesses the plan and makes sure it's viable and sustainable. IOM in country of destination confirms funding in kind. There are no other requirements (motivation and sustainable plan, not quick solution, are the main criteria how projects which can be supported are selected).</p> <p>4. IOM has a wide network of offices so everything is done through local offices.</p>
	Malta	Yes	<p>1. Programme currently in place to assist voluntary return includes a component assisting re-integration, which is mostly used to help migrant set up a small business, besides possibly attending vocational training courses or school/university fees.</p> <p>2. The Project is being implemented by the International Organisation for Migration in partnership with the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs.</p>

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			<p>3. Individuals who may apply include those who have not yet received a final negative decision in relation to their request for asylum, those enjoying a form of international protection, and those who no longer fulfil the conditions for entry-or stay in Malta. Beneficiaries will have to prove that the funds are being used for the agreed purpose, and are only provided in tranches rather than as a whole lump sum.</p> <p>4. No particular agreements with the country of origin have been made. Beneficiaries are monitored throughout the project lifetime to ensure that the conditions established with regard to integration are adhered to.</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	<p>Yes, offering reintegration assistance <i>in kind</i> to ex-asylum seekers is considered an important return measure by the Dutch government. The Netherlands has designed several productive (or sustainable) return projects and is working on some new project proposals as well. Up to now the Netherlands has initiated and/or co financed the following return projects for a number of countries. All the projects concern assistance <u>in kind</u> and include assistance aimed at (self)-employment / economic activity.</p> <p><u>Voluntary return:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iraq: Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration of Iraqi Nationals (AVRR Iraq) - Afghanistan: reintegration project - Sierra Leone: reintegration project <p>The Dutch government co finances these projects. All three projects are being implemented by IOM.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Dutch government is financing reintegration projects aimed at sustainable return that are carried out by a collaboration of Dutch organisations working with (ex)asylumseekers and/or aliens residing illegally in the Netherlands. The collaboration is offering assistance to many nationalities and is active in many countries. However, not all nationalities / countries that this collaboration covers are urgent as regards return (but some are). This collaboration started only very recently. Therefore it is not yet possible to say something about the results.</p> <p><u>Forced return:</u></p> <p>At the moment, Post Arrival Assistance (PAA) projects are being implemented in Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine. Returnees from these countries that participate in this project, receive assistance. The assistance starts when the returnee arrives in his/her home country and includes information, shelter for the first days, reintegration assistance (aimed at (self)-employment) and medical assistance if needed.</p> <p>In the near future we hope to have a more integrated approach. We hope to start projects that are open to both voluntary and forced returnees. The integration was already proposed in the (draft) annual working programme 2010 by the European Commission. We do however, make a distinction between voluntary and forced in the amount of in kind contribution. In other words: if the person returns voluntary he/ she is entitled to a higher contribution than the person that was returned by force.</p> <p><i>If affirmative, may you indicate which programmes or projects are considered the most efficient?</i></p> <p>Since the projects started only recently, it is not yet possible to say something about the effectiveness. The AVRR projects in Iraq and Sierra Leone (zero persons) and Afghanistan (a handful) have not shown high results so far. In the case of the forced return projects we have to wait for the first results. The PAA project in Georgia started on 1 February 2010. The projects in Armenia and Ukraine have</p>

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			<p>started on 1 July. I would like to add here that the forced return projects are not only focused on the number of persons that use the facilities but much more on the effect they have on the authorities of the third countries. We hope that by assisting their returning nationals they will become more willing to issue travel documents. So the effectiveness of these projects is also measured in the amount of Laissez-Passers.</p> <p>2. In the Netherlands, the Repatriation and Departure Service (R&DS) of the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the return of asylum seekers who are no longer entitled to residence, reside illegally and are obliged to leave the country. The R&DS coordinates most of these programmes. However, the actual implementation in the third country is carried out by a service provider that was either contracted or has signed a partnership agreement. In the case of the AVRR projects in Iraq, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone IOM is the service provider. IOM is also responsible for the implementation of the PAA project in Georgia. In Armenia we work with an NGO (ICHD) and in Ukraine we work with ICMPD (international organisation).</p> <p>3. AVRR: only open to ex-asylum seekers.</p> <p>PAA: both ex-asylum seekers and irregular migrants can participate.</p> <p>Returnees that fall under the Dublin Treaty are excluded (as they will not be directly returned to their home country) and that also implies for persons with serious criminal records and persons that are considered to be a danger to national security. Last but not least persons that were rejected under article 1F of the Refugee Treaty are also excluded (war crimes).</p> <p>4. There is a tailor made approach. First there should be a reason to start a project: the authorities in the third country should be positive towards (forced) return but are still hesitant. By offering them this “burden sharing” instrument (in the case of PAA) we hope to motivate them to make the last step. In the case of AVR(R) the main reason is to make return more attractive for the individual that has to be returned. When a country is singled out as a potential PAA or AVR(R) candidate we will see what facilities will have to be on offer and what the candidates for implementation are. In some cases this will lead to the conclusion that IOM is the most likely candidate but sometimes there are very professional NGO’s that are able to implement the project.</p> <p>The authorities in the third countries will always be notified that a project will start. Sometimes this will be done in advance and sometimes after the actual start of the project. In the majority of cases this will be done prior to the start of the project as this approach will most likely lead to better results. There are no specific contracts or agreements. The role of the authorities in most of the projects is limited, sometimes as an observer or member of a project steering group.</p>
	Poland	Yes	<p>1. Poland hasn’t so far designed a return programme/project aimed in particular at productive return. However, it has to be noted that almost all voluntary return projects which are currently under implementation involve providing reintegration assistance to migrants returning to their countries of origin or other receiving countries, either by offering them <u>financial support to cover the costs of their basic needs upon return</u> (money to buy food, clothing, hygiene products etc.), or in the form of <u>additional reintegration assistance</u> (aid in kind) for the purpose of, among other things, starting and running business activity or pursuing education, including vocational trainings. In special cases, the supplementary aid can be also intended at restoration or repair of the house.</p>

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		<p>As an example of the above-mentioned project - currently being under implementation - one can name a project called "Support for the voluntary return and reintegration of the Polish irregular migrants" run in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) the HQ of the Polish Border Guard under the Agreement between the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration and the International Organization for Migration IOM dated 12 July 2005. Project is co-finance by the European Return Fund and was designed to allow and support the voluntary return of foreigners to their country of origin who did not receive refugee status/asylum, received a decision on obligation to leave the Polish territory as well as persons who have been identified as victims of trafficking. Within the project the HQ of the Polish Border Guard support and co-finance: assistance in obtaining travel documents, purchasing tickets to a place of destination, costs associated with access to the point of departure (airport, train station, etc.) as well as costs associated with medical care for the foreigners.</p> <p>All returnees involved in this project receive about 350 PLN to meet basic needs after return (food, clothing, hygiene, etc.). In special cases, this amount may be increased to the equivalent of 100 EUR. Returnees have the opportunity to apply for additional reintegration's help up to approximately 6 500 PLN which may be increased to a maximum 8 000 PLN in special cases (when the additional measures will be necessary for the effective implementation of the reintegration plan). This aid is intended, inter alia, to start and run a business, education, including vocational training, employment subsidies. In special cases, aid can also intended for housing purposes, including the restoration or repair.</p> <p>Yet so far no profound research on the effectiveness of voluntary return as well as on reintegration assistance has been conducted and there aren't any detailed information regarding the scope or opinions of foreigners. However, the results of the evaluation polls and the monitoring visits conducted so far show that one of the important factors contributing to the sustainability of return is definitely access to information about the situation and the perspectives in the country of origin or another receiving country, which facilitates the migrant's decision on the possible participation in the voluntary return programme. Other decisive elements, which determine the success of this programme, include development of the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries, whose aim and objective is to define their needs and motivation, as well as efficient monitoring upon their return to the country of return, contributing to providing for the right scope and continuity of reintegration assistance.</p> <p>2. Reintegration assistance is <i>de facto</i> implemented and monitored by IOM offices in the countries receiving foreigners and co-ordinated by IOM Warsaw Office. During duration of each voluntary return project evaluation polls are conducted with the beneficiaries of reintegration assistance, in order to determine its impact on their situation and the sustainability of the return of a foreigner. Monitoring visits take place once a year with an aim to verify the results of reintegration assistance provided in the new environment of the beneficiary and their evaluation.</p> <p>3. Additional reintegration assistance is granted on condition that a foreigner presents a business plan to IOM Warsaw Office before their departure from Poland or upon return to the receiving country. The aid is granted under the award procedure, which means that the best business plans are selected from all the submitted proposals. The business plan, i.e. the document describing the planned business activity or ways to become independent, is evaluated by IOM Warsaw Office in co-operation with IOM office in the country receiving the foreigner in terms of its viability, which includes assessment of implementation capacity of the very beneficiary, of the impact the project would have on the situation of the beneficiary and their family and on securing them a regular source of income, as well as of the efficiency of expenditure etc. In the event IOM does not have its office in the relevant country of return, a co-operation with the non-governmental organizations operating in the territory of this country is being established, so that the action plan can be evaluated and</p>
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			<p>implemented.</p> <p>4. See answer to question no.3</p>
	Portugal	Yes	<p>The Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) Project in Portugal foresees a reintegration component. The organization implementing this project in Portugal is the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This project is funded by the European Return Fund and co-funded by the Portuguese Government (through the Border and Alien Service (SEF), also IOM's close partner in AVRR project). IOM also has a network of partners throughout the country that help it implementing AVRR. These partners are NGOs, civil society organizations, SEF.</p> <p>Migrants willing to benefit from reintegration of AVR need to fulfil an individual reintegration plan where they have to explain what they want to do upon return and how they plan of doing it.</p> <p>Reintegration support can vary according to the need of the migrant: it can be information about the country of origin, support for a professional training course and/or to start a micro business. The grant given in Portugal is calculated based on the migrant's need but the maximum allowed is of 1100€.</p> <p>When a migrant returns to a country where IOM has a mission, IOM counts on the support and assistance of this mission that gives assistance upon return to the migrant benefitting from reintegration. Also, IOM missions monitor the implementation of the returnee's reintegration plan.</p> <p>When a migrant returns to a country where there is no IOM mission, IOM Lisbon tries to establish cooperation with local NGOs in the country of origin. This is what happens with Brazil. It is important to mention that over 80% of migrants benefitting from AVRR in Portugal are from Brazil. Hence, IOM Lisbon established a network of partners in main states of return in Brazil (Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Goiás). These NGOs help IOM in providing very efficient reintegration assistance to Brazilians returning to the above mentioned states.</p> <p>This specific part of IOM Lisbon's AVRR project is elaborated with the close cooperation of IOM Buenos Aires.</p> <p>When a migrant returns to Brazil but for a state where there is no IOM local partner, IOM Buenos Aires gives direct assistance to these returnees (by transferring the reintegration grant and monitoring the reintegration plan).</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. Yes, Slovakia runs a return programme with productive return. Slovakia meets the criteria of productive return by offering reintegration assistance within the framework of the project entitled: Return and Reintegration Assistance to Unsuccessful Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants from Slovakia to Countries of Origin II. This is the only project aimed at productive return.</p> <p>2. This project is run by the IOM Bratislava and funded 75% by the Return Fund and 25% by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. The managing authority is the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.</p> <p>3. Beneficiaries need to apply for reintegration assistance (in addition to return). Beneficiaries need to elaborate a reintegration scheme. The IOM mission in country of origin (CoO) has to confirm the feasibility of such a scheme. The IOM Bratislava selection committee selects the final beneficiaries. The main criterion applied being the efficiency of reintegration assistance in providing for a sustainable</p>

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			return. 4. The IOM Bratislava cooperates with other IOM missions in CoO. This cooperation is guided by general rules of reintegration assistance within the framework of IOM Assisted voluntary return and reintegration approach. The IOM missions in CoO provide assistance to migrants with elaboration of reintegration schemes, in assessing the feasibility of such schemes, in implementation of such schemes, in monitoring and evaluation, in administrative and financial reporting within the framework of donor requirements. As a general rule, the assistance in CoO is provided IN KIND, i.e. not in CASH. IOM pays to service providers, not to returnees.
	Slovenia	Yes	We don't conduct such programs.
	Spain	Yes	See Background Information.
	Sweden	Yes	<p>In this subject matter it may be worthwhile mentioning that the Ministry of Justice is the Government body responsible for migration policy in Sweden. The Swedish Migration Board (SMB) is the central administrative authority in the area of migration. SMB has operational responsibility for asylum examination, asylum reception, citizenship, resettlement and voluntary return. Furthermore, SMB has the main responsibility for aliens without residence permits until the time that a permit has been granted and the person has settled in a municipality, or left the country. SMB is also responsible for organizing accommodations centers and running detention centers.</p> <p>Regarding <i>return</i>, SMB handles <u>voluntary return</u> while the Swedish Police handles <u>forced return</u>. If the rejected person cooperates, the return is a task for SMB and SMNB then assists with facilitating the journey; for example obtaining travel documents, airport assistance in transit countries, travel arrangements for unaccompanied minors or other vulnerable persons and financing of tickets.</p> <p>1. Yes, SMB has reintegration return programs for those who voluntary returns. Currently SMB has such programs in Iraq and Afghanistan. These programs are similar, yet it is difficult to compare the countries since various factors affect the efficiency in the program. It is therefore difficult to comment specifically on the issue of efficiency. It may however be mentioned that the percentage of Iraqis who return to Iraq are much higher than the proportion of Afghans returning. For both countries there is a "helpline" by which the returnee can call and receive information. Both programs provide possibilities to receive information and counseling after arrival, starting up a business and skills development and training etc.</p> <p>Since these types of programs seem to be a method worth developing further, SMB is currently looking at other programs in other countries. It may also be noted that to Iraq and Afghanistan as well as another 20 countries there is also a possibility to apply for a so called reestablishment support (cash grant).</p> <p>2. Both programs are run by IOM.</p> <p>3. The program(s) is offered only to those who return voluntary.</p> <p>Agreements are signed with IOM, running both programs. SMB have no direct contact with the countries of origin in the way the question</p>

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			is asked.
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>1. There are currently 3 general Assisted Voluntary Return programmes – the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP), the Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM) programme and the Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) is for those who have sought asylum and those with certain forms of related temporary status in the UK. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to country of origin and onward domestic transport, airport assistance at departure and arrival airports and up to £1500 worth of reintegration assistance per person including a £500 relocation grant on departure for immediate resettlement needs, additional luggage allowance and, once home, a range of reintegration options. The majority of returnees use their reintegration assistance in income generation activities. • Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC) is for families comprising of a maximum of 2 adult parents or legal guardians and at least 1 child (under 18) and from unaccompanied children (under 18) who have either sought asylum or who are in the UK illegally and wish to return home. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to country of origin and onward domestic transport, airport assistance at departure and arrival airports and up to £2000 worth of reintegration assistance per person including a £500 relocation grant on departure for immediate resettlement needs, additional luggage allowance and, once home, a range of reintegration options. The scheme offers flexibility of reintegration for the whole family and increased emphasis is placed on the use of reintegration assistance for educational needs as well as income generation. • Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM) is for those migrants who have not sought asylum, but who are in the UK illegally and wish to return home. Returnees receive support in acquiring travel documentation, flight to country of origin and onward domestic transport, and airport assistance at departure and arrival airports. There is generally no reintegration assistance for AVRIM applicants however there is discretionary reintegration assistance of up to £1,000, considered on a case by case basis, available for vulnerable applicants. This scheme is concluding on 31 August 2010 and the preferred option is Voluntary Departure which can be arranged with UK Border Agency; <p>VARRP and AVRFC will be the closest to meeting the term ‘productive return’ as the reintegration assistance can be used towards a variety of actions and needs that provide short term assistance towards long term sustainability. These include business set-up, education, vocational training, job placement, housing (temporary accommodation or for repair work), childcare fees, medical and psychosocial support.</p> <p>2. The International Organization for Migration operates the programmes on behalf of the UK Border Agency</p> <p>3. To return under the AVR programmes, applicants must sign a declaration of voluntary return with their application, they must meet all elements of the eligibility criteria for each programme (currently being updated on the appropriate websites), they must maintain contact with the IOM and they must also depart the UK within 3 months of approval for return on the programmes. All AVR returnees must sign a</p>

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			<p>disclaimer withdrawing any outstanding asylum/immigration cases or appeals on departure. To obtain the reintegration assistance provided in the country of return, returnees must contact IOM within one month of their return. All reintegration assistance is supplied within the first six months of return.</p> <p>4. Returnees are assisted by the IOM missions in the country of return or directly through IOM London. Each mission has different links into the local facilities and services.</p>
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