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EU-IOM

Joint Initiative for
Migrant Protection
and Reintegration
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LAST PERIODIC REINTEGRATION REPORT JULY 2023



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2. ACRONYM LIST



ACRA	Associazione di Cooperazione Rurale in Africa e America Latina (Organization for Rural Cooperation in Africa and Latin America)
AECID	Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation)
AIDA	Association of International Development Agencies
AJESUD	Projet d'accompagnement des jeunes vers l'emploi au sud du Sénégal (Support project for young people towards employment in southern Senegal)
ARSIM World	Association de recherche de solutions et d'informations pour les migrations dans le monde (Association for the search for solutions and information for migrations in the world)
AVR	Assisted Voluntary Return
AVRR	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
BAOS	Bureaux d'Accueil, Orientation et Suivi (Reception, Orientation and Monitoring Offices)
CBR	Community-Based Reintegration
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale (International cooperation)
CSO	Civil Society Organization
ENABEL	Belgian Development Agency
EU	European Union
EUTF	European Union Emergency Trust Fund for Africa
FAFPA	Fonds d'appui à la formation professionnelle et à l'apprentissage (Funds for the Support of Professional training and Apprenticeship)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Development Cooperation Agency)
IMVF	Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr (Marquês de Valle Flôr Institute)
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Centre
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MPSG	Migrant Peer Support Group
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Associations
WHO	World Health Organization
WFP	World Food Programme

3. INTRODUCTION



Launched in 2016, following the 2015 Valetta Summit, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration (hereinafter referred to as the EU-IOM Joint Initiative or the Joint Initiative) was designed based on IOM's experience in return and reintegration programming and builds upon the integrated approach to reintegration.

In the Sahel and Lake Chad region, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative covers 13 country contracts and 3 regional contracts, the first of which started in April 2017. The reintegration pillar of the said-Initiative in the Sahel and Lake Chad region is implemented in 12 countries, namely: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

This last periodic report constitutes the sixth periodic thematic report on reintegration assistance under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in the Sahel and Lake Chad region. The [first report](#), covering until January 2019, described the approach established for reintegration assistance under the Joint Initiative, as well as the main results of the reintegration pillar of the programme. The [second issue](#), covering until July 2019, provided an update on the results achieved and presented initial findings from the monitoring exercises conducted by IOM and its partners. The [third issue](#), covering until January 2020, reported on the results of the different types of partnerships, the evolution of Community-Based Reintegration (CBR) projects and the mainstreaming of psychosocial support in the reintegration process, and provided first indications on the sustainability of the reintegration assistance through a scoring model. The [fourth](#) and [fifth reports](#), covering respectively until July 2020 and January 2021, showcased the adaptation of the reintegration assistance to the COVID-19 pandemic and support to national responses, presented updates of the previously reported activities and reported on the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) results.

This sixth and last reintegration report covers the period from 01 April 2017 to 31 July 2022, hence it does not present final reintegration data as some reintegration activities are still ongoing.¹ Beyond providing updates on the reintegration activities since the last previous report, this report summarizes the overall achievements of the reintegration pillar under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative regarding governance, national ownership and capacities, and beneficiary satisfaction, and highlights their impacts in the targeted countries. The report also presents lessons learned aiming to inform reintegration initiatives in future programming.

¹ This sixth report reports on EU-IOM Joint Initiative data, i.e. data from National Actions and Regional Top-Up Action, as done for previous reintegration reports. In addition, this report also includes relevant data from the Individual Measure for the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa whose implementation started on 01 November 2021.

4. KEY HIGHLIGHTS

74,746²

MIGRANTS COMPLETED
THEIR REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE



76,202 migrants received economic support and 52,423 microbusiness have been created, **23,075 acquired social support** and **27,582 psychosocial support**. More details in [Supporting returnees and their communities](#) on page 42.



The programme has already engaged **441 CBR projects** in target countries with 5,913 beneficiaries comprising **2,578 (44%) returnees** and **3,335 (56%) community members**. More details in [Community-based reintegration assistance](#) on page 44.



Overall, **84% of beneficiaries were satisfied with their reintegration assistance** (source: Reintegration Satisfaction Surveys, n=6,041). More details in [Overview of reintegration assistance provided](#) on page 42.

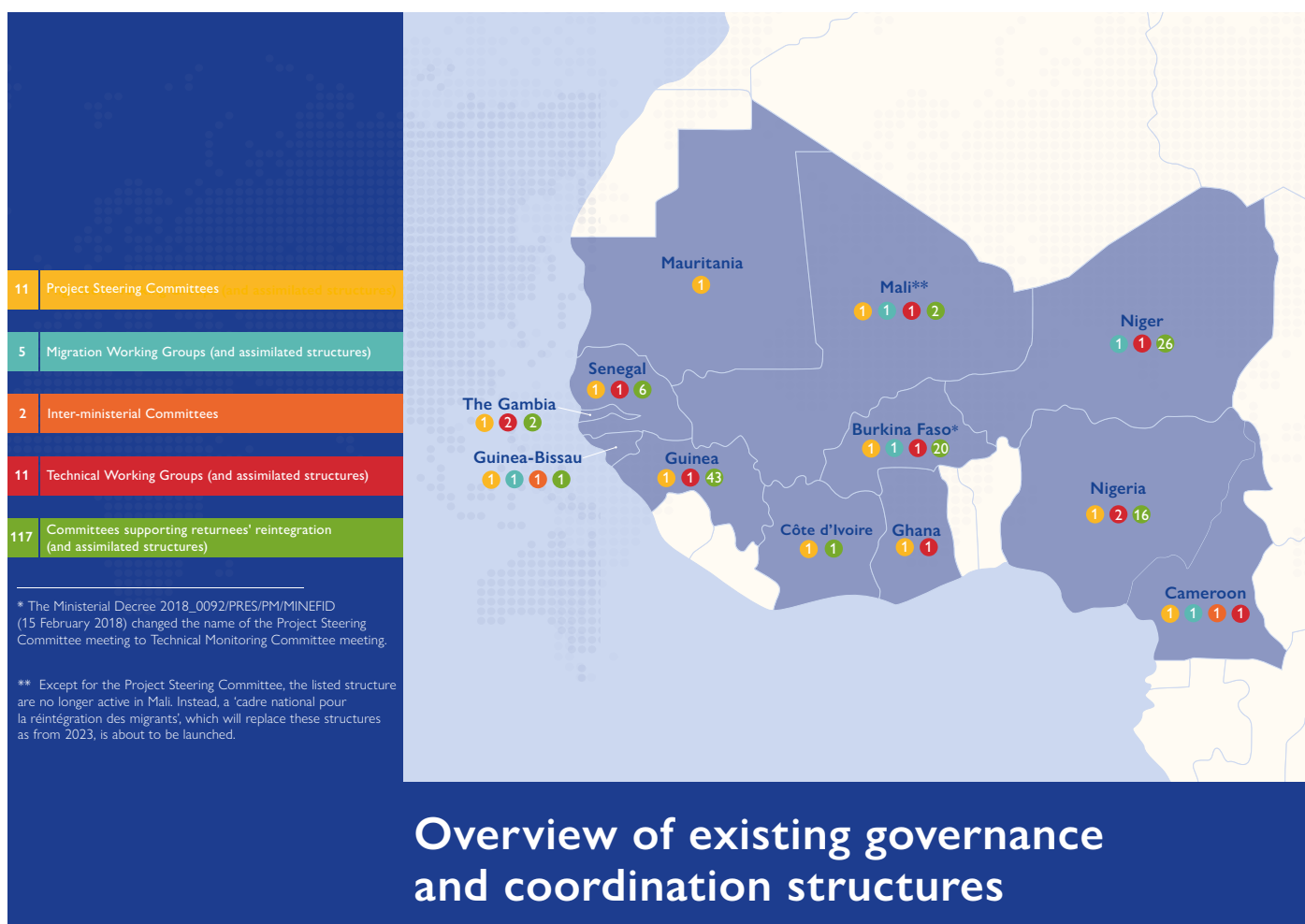


The adapted “Framework Standard Operating Procedures for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration” (hereinafter referred to as Framework SOPs) have been validated in the 12 countries covered by the reintegration pillar of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative and operationalized in most countries. More details in [SOPs on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration](#) on page 24.



There have been **154 capacity-building activities** conducted in 12 countries to which **5,514² stakeholders** involved in reintegration assistance (including governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)) participated since the inception of the programme. More details in [Capacity-building for the delivery of reintegration assistance](#) on page 26.

² 5,514 is the sum of participants to the 154 capacity-building activities. It should be noted that it is possible that some persons have benefitted from more than one capacity-building activity and, hence, have been counted towards each activity.



More details in [Governance and partnerships](#) on page 11.

5. GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS



a. COORDINATION AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES ESTABLISHED UNDER THE EU-IOM JOINT INITIATIVE

The EU-IOM Joint Initiative has allowed to **establish and develop various coordination and governance structures on migrant protection, including reintegration**, in the targeted countries³ since its roll-out in April 2017, ranging from Project Steering Committees (PSCs) to committees supporting returnees' reintegration.

Through these structures, the Joint Initiative has **successfully brought together the target countries' governments, civil society, private sectors, NGOs, and other international development organizations** at both central and local, political and technical levels.

As highlighted by the 2021 IOM-led Regional Final Evaluation⁴, the programme's migration governance objectives were challenging given the amount of time and investment needed for consultation, ownership and capacity development on the one hand, and the pressure to rapidly implement return and reintegration assistance on the other amid surging migrant caseloads. However, **trust and cooperation with national governments** were successfully established over time, ensuring buy-in for voluntary return and placing for the first time reintegration of returnees firmly on the national agenda. This was reflected by the coordination and governance structures which allowed to harmonize and maximize the reintegration assistance provided to migrant returnees, demonstrating that coordinated action with established governance structures facilitates sustainable reintegration for returnees.

These structures have indeed encouraged the involvement of government and civil society actors in the provision of services to returnees in the context of their reintegration while sensitizing them to adapt some of their services to the target group, especially in terms of attitude, language and methods used. In addition to the services provided by IOM and its partners in the framework of the Joint Initiative, **services have been made available to returning migrants by some of the actors participating in these coordination platforms**. This is the case of the Regional Directorate of Animal and Fisheries Resources in **Burkina Faso** offering technical support to farms set up by beneficiaries; The Directorate General for Communities in **Guinea-Bissau**, through its Secretariat of State for Communities, running an office (help desk) for returning migrants which serves to provide assistance and advice on the legal rights of migrants (including identification documents and registration of children); The Legal hub in Lagos, a coordination platform of government, academia and civil society experts in **Nigeria**, offering sensitization sessions on returning migrants' rights and pro bono legal services. Moreover, **in some countries, the coordination structures established have been expanded or used as an example to establish other similar structures**. Thus, in **Guinea**, the Central Regional Technical Unit and Local Monitoring Committees, established by the Joint Initiative in six regions of the country at the prefectures and communal levels, have been replicated for other IOM programmes as well as other partner organizations to support the implementation of activities and facilitate the interaction with government counterparts.

The structures established and developed are presented below, with a focus on developments that occurred since the last report, as well as in Annexe 1 which provides an overview of coordination and governance structures per country since the programme inception.

³ The targeted countries are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. As for Chad, the country is not covered by the reintegration pillar of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative but receives funding from transit and host countries to provide reintegration support to returnees. Guinea-Bissau has phased out of the Regional Top-Up Action in August 2021, after which its reintegration activities also became funded by host and transit countries.

⁴ EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration, Regional Final Evaluation Report, December 2021, available at this link; <https://www.migrationjointinitiative.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1261/files/articles/regional-final-evaluation-final.pdf>.

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEES

The general coordination of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative has been ensured at the country level by the PSCs involving in general relevant governmental and non-governmental actors, IOM and the EU Delegations (and eventually EU Member States). Assessing the progress of the programme and providing guidance and recommendations, the **PSCs have ensured national ownership, accountability, and the sustainability of the Joint Initiative** throughout its implementation and beyond. Established in 11 Sahel and Lake Chad countries covered by this report (all except Niger), the PSCs have **marked an important step for coordination, engagement and ownership** in country contexts where laws on migration are in place but responsibility for implementation is scattered across a range of government bodies, as highlighted by the Regional Final Evaluation.

Since the inception of the programme, and as listed in Annexe 1, a total of **46 PSC meetings took place in 11 countries covered by the reintegration pillar of the Joint Initiative** (all except Niger), including 5 since the last report in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, and Senegal.

In **Ghana**, the fourth EU-IOM Joint Initiative PSC meeting took place on 24 February 2021, gathering a total of 22 government officials and non-state actors. The meeting presented the achievements and progress of the Joint Initiative in the country and allowed to discuss on project phase-out strategies. Among the key recommendations from the meeting was the establishment of a National Migration Commission to overlook all facets of migration management in Ghana.

In **Guinea**, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative PSC met for the third time on 12 March 2021 with ten representatives of government and non-government agencies. This meeting was the occasion to discuss the Joint Initiative sustainability strategies, with the first step consisting of the development of a comprehensive document enlisting the lessons learned of the Joint Initiative implementation within the country.

On 08 and 09 June 2021, two PSC meetings were facilitated respectively in **Nigeria** and **Côte d'Ivoire**, attended by representatives of key government and non-government organizations involved in migration governance and migrant and community welfare. Beyond showcasing the achievements of the Joint Initiative since its inception, the meetings were also a venue to discuss recommendations and possible future activities. In Nigeria, some of the recommendations of this fifth PSC meeting were to strengthen the already established migration governance structures through further promoting ownership and accountability of the programme to state and local actors, as well as to establish a structured sustainability plan for projects and to improve data sharing amongst partners.

As for Côte d'Ivoire, among the recommendations discussed in this fourth PSC meeting were to involve more private companies in the employment of returnees with specific skills; to promote access to universal health coverage to benefit the returnees; and to strengthen the involvement and accountability of the government in the reintegration process of returnees.

The last PSC meeting that took place since the last report was the third PSC meeting facilitated on 29 October 2021 in **Senegal** in which participated a total of 21 representatives from different government agencies and CSOs concerned with migration issues. The meeting also focused on the post Joint Initiative prospects and key recommendations for future programmes were to revise the SOP, incorporating the new approaches and dynamics developed to date; to match future capacity-building activities or vocational training with employment and investment opportunities; to adopt an approach respecting cultural and social norms in the framework of capacity-building activities for migrants, through direct involvement of the community authorities.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

The operational coordination of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative has been ensured at the country level by Technical Working Groups (TWGs) usually involving relevant ministries and technical departments as well as non-state actors involved in return and reintegration interventions, and eventually IOM and EU Delegations. They provide support and technical guidance for project implementation (including for example work on SOPs), address operational issues, and aim to enhance collaboration and coordination among stakeholders. Those TWGs are often complemented by Committees (e.g. Selection Committees, Case Management Committees or Local Committees) aiming to support returnees with their reintegration plans to ensure the sustainability of their projects. The Committees can also be involved in the selection of community members for community-based projects, in the selection of implementing partners, and in the monitoring of reintegration projects. Also, in some countries, in addition to the TWGs, other technical fora aim to coordinate migration and reintegration works, such as the Migration Working Groups (discussing migration issues and initiatives in the country) and Inter-ministerial Committees (mobilizing other thematic ministries on the subject). The members' expertise and broad knowledge of the local situations and realities have **allowed to provide technical guidance fitting into the national context of each target country for the effective reintegration of returnees**. Moreover, the set up of these technical structures has prompted the **creation of synergies with all actors** and has **allowed for the direct contribution of all counterparts in jointly implementing reintegration assistance**.

Since the inception of the programme, as listed in Annexe 1, at least **126 TWGs and other technical fora meetings took place in the countries covered by the reintegration pillar of the Joint Initiative**, including 12 since the last report in Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Mali, and Nigeria.

In **Mali**, two meetings of the Migration Working Group were organized on 15 June and 13 July 2021. Gathering stakeholders involved in migration management, one of the objectives of this Working Group, led by the Regional Directorate of Civil Protection and co-led by IOM, is to ensure the sustainable reintegration of returnees. These meetings aimed to recall the specific roles and services of each actor evolving in the field of migration, including mixed movements, as well as to present and explain the extent of the assistance provided by IOM on various themes such as the reintegration of returnees. The Working Group also facilitated the creation of a referral mechanism for the most vulnerable migrants, allowing to avoid duplication and creating a synergy of actions to assist.

Two meetings of the Sub-Working Group on Reintegration were held in the **Gambia**. The first one was held on 29 June 2021 and gathered 10 stakeholders. It allowed to provide an update on IOM activities, mostly on CBR and referrals of migrants to IOM partners, and to discuss the opportunity of providing cash support to the returnees. The second one was held on 27 July 2022 and gathered ten participants from different Ministries. It notably allowed to review and endorse the terms of reference for the Regional Coordination Mechanism on Migration in all the regions and form Regional Migration Sub-committees. In addition, the meeting was the opportunity to discuss the status of reintegration assistance, including regarding entrepreneurship skills training delivered by the National Enterprise Development Initiative and benefitting all returnees since November 2021.

In **Nigeria**, two meetings of the Standing Committee on Return and Reintegration took place. The first one held on 18 March 2021 and attended by 45 participants, aimed to discuss the operationalization of the SOP on Return, Readmission, and Reintegration, while the second meeting, organized on 14 December 2021 with 47 state and non-state actors, validated the action plan for this SOP, and updated on the activities of the State-level Reintegration Committees.

Finally, the last technical events since the last report took place in **Burkina Faso** where six Mixed Migration Working Group meetings were organized between March 2021 and July 2022 gathering key state and non-state organizations (government agencies, local and international NGOs, and CSOs).

b. PARTNERSHIPS AND REFERRALS

Definition of referral:

Process led by IOM or its partners consisting of directing beneficiaries to appropriate services or programmes which:

- Directly address the returnee's needs and preferences identified during the reintegration counselling sessions, and
- Are provided to returnees through already existing services provided outside of the programme (i.e. not designed or implemented in the framework of the Joint Initiative).

To increase the successful reintegration of migrant returnees, throughout its implementation the EU-IOM Joint Initiative has strived to develop partnerships with both state and non-state actors aiming to offer a wider variety of services and opportunities to beneficiaries. Some of these actors are also supported through other EU and EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF)-funded programmes. As highlighted by the Regional Final Evaluation, **the Joint Initiative played a pivotal role in putting the needs of returning migrants on the map for government and civil society partners** despite the challenges faced. Such challenges were related, inter alia, to eligibility criteria and conditions of access which could hinder returnees' participation (e.g. education level, geographic location, lack of coverage of access costs) and the fact that the referral partners were not incentivised to receive returnees (or penalised for not including them), to the different implementation periods of projects impacting the cost opportunity for migrants (they risk having to wait for several months with limited guarantees to eventually be integrated into the partner's programme), or to the amount of time and resources needed to engage the relevant organizations, establish the referrals process and include the relevant safeguards.

Indeed, building partnerships and establishing referrals require considerable work to be undertaken by IOM, ranging from identifying and engaging with partners, and eventually conducting a capacity assessment, to the lengthy process of a Memorandum of Understanding or data sharing agreement signature (due to each structure own rules and requirements), as well as in some cases the necessary capacity-building of partners on certain key concepts (e.g. gender, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, data protection, economic/social/psychosocial dimensions of reintegration, inter alia). It is also important to keep in mind that many actors have or can have a role to play in the reintegration of returning migrants, which translates into multiple, dedicated partnership agreements. In addition, engagement with decentralized structures often requires preliminary engagement with the central structure that oversees them, hence multiplying the number of partnerships to develop, and in some cases, poor communication between the central and local levels hindered the ability to refer returnees. Therefore, building partnerships and establishing referrals take time, sometimes up to years, such as in **Cameroon** where political discussions to integrate returnees into the categories of vulnerable populations targeted by the Government through a national reinsertion/reintegration working group lasted for three years (in parallel, solutions were found at the operational level to assist beneficiaries while political discussions were ongoing).

Considering the above, **IOM often resorted to referrals as a means to provide specialized support in complement to the assistance it provides**, so referrals replacing IOM assistance were rare. This approach reduces the risks for beneficiaries related to the waiting time, eligibility criteria and intake process by ensuring they receive timely support. However, it does not sort out the challenges related to coordination, timeframes of implementation, capacity development and the lack of incentives for partners to integrate returnees into their programming. Despite the challenges faced, the above-mentioned Regional Final Evaluation found that **referrals and implementing partnerships were often successful in improving returnees' economic wellbeing** especially, with a **regional satisfaction rate for beneficiaries assisted by partners reaching 72%**. This is however lower than the overall reintegration satisfaction rate standing at 84% as presented in section 9 'Supporting returnees and their communities', which indicates that returnees' satisfaction is higher when IOM provides reintegration assistance in full. This shows the **importance to continue capacitating partners and ensuring that referral criteria and opportunities take returnees' profiles into full account**. Essential to implementing the foreseen activities under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, partnerships established throughout the programme have also **allowed for improving and extending the delivery**

of **reintegration assistance and services to returnees** in different manners. By allowing first a better understanding of reintegration challenges by partners and their recognition of good migration management for better economic and socio-political stability, partnerships have then led to a more comprehensive provision of reintegration for returnees, with access to services such as a national medical insurance scheme, (easier) access to identification documents, as well as to a larger variety of fields for the establishment of income-generating activities (agropastoral, construction, inter alia). From the partners' side, partnerships enabled them to **further build their capacities, reinforcing also their ownership of the subject**.

The partnerships developed and referrals done are presented below, with a focus on developments that occurred since the last report as, even towards the end of its implementation, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative continued to explore, enhance the already established, and conclude new partnerships with key stakeholders.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENTS

The EU-IOM Joint Initiative has continued to work closely with governmental actors to mainstream and enhance the reintegration of migrants' returnees while promoting accountability and contributing to national ownership (as further described in section 6 'Government ownership').

Since the last report, close collaboration between IOM and governmental structures allowed to further support migrant returnees in countries of the Sahel and Lake Chad region, such as in **Senegal** where the collaboration with the Departmental Council of Goudiry facilitated access to universal health coverage for 30 returnees living in the area, with a gratuity for one year. In addition, through enhanced collaboration with local authorities in the Tambacounda region, 35 hectares of farming land have been made available in support of the returnees' community-based or collective projects in the agricultural sector.

In the **Gambia**, the continued partnership with the Gambia Immigration Department, which started in 2020, led to the issuance of 11 national identity cards to returnees in November 2021 (with IOM covering the cost of identity cards and the Gambia Immigration Department facilitating the issuance of those identity cards), hence facilitating returnees' transactions in various institutions such as schools, banks, police, hospitals, and travelling in and out of the country.

Similarly, in **Ghana**, the partnership with the National Disaster Management Organization has supported issuing national identity cards for 17 returnees since February 2022. IOM covered the related cost, but discussions are ongoing within the PSC to waive or subsidize the fees for returnees. The National Disaster Management Organization sets the appointment with the National Identification Authority and accompanies returnees to their appointment. IOM staff noticed this positively impacted returnees' confidence in government services.

In addition, IOM and governmental structures developed new partnerships, mostly aiming to provide training to returnees through the Joint Initiative funding.⁵ In **Mauritania**, a project implementation agreement was signed with the National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment in February 2021 to train returnees in micro-enterprises management. As of 31 July 2022, 13 returnees were trained. Another partnership materialized in **Ghana** with the Ghana Enterprises Agency (formerly National Board for Small-Scale Industries) in April 2021 to provide business skills training to returnees and assist them with microbusiness set ups. Following the agreement signature, 30 returnees have received business skills training with microbusiness set up.

Likewise, an agreement was signed in the **Gambia** with the National Enterprise Development Initiative in October 2021 to provide entrepreneurship skills training for returnees choosing to venture into microbusiness. As of 31 July 2022, 300 returnees benefitted from the training and confirmed through post-test evaluation that it was suitable and relevant to their needs.

⁵ It is worth highlighting that 37% of individuals aged 15 or more that have completed their reintegration assistance have received training, including 3% who were trained by existing governmental structures and programmes through referral. This percentage does not consider the number of returnees assisted by government actors through training designed specifically for the Joint Initiative. Already existing training schemes are often difficult to access for returnees due to their length and/or the entry conditions (e.g. literacy or education level). For this reason, government actors and IOM often work together to develop training programmes that are more adapted to returnees' profiles and needs, which is not considered a referral.

In **Senegal**, IOM met with the Bureaux d'Accueil, Orientation et Suivi (BAOS) representatives in January 2022. The BAOS are funding projects for returnees and community members in the location where they are present. In March 2022, they organized focus group discussions with returnees about the modalities to access additional support to consolidate their existing businesses. As of 31 July 2022, IOM referred 96 migrants to the BAOS. IOM in Senegal also piloted a co-funding approach with a national training agency called 'Financing Fund for Vocational and Technical Training' under the Ministry of Vocational Training, Apprenticeship and Integration. IOM entered into an agreement following the Financing Fund co-funding scheme, whereby the agency funds 90% of the training and the partner structure the remaining 10%. IOM identified the Forestry Recycling Centre in Thiès to provide agriculture and entrepreneurship training to 25 migrants in Kayar in October and November 2021 through this co-funding mechanism.

In **Burkina Faso**, IOM met with the Director General of the National Employment Agency in June 2022, which resulted in an agreement with the Agency to re-launch entrepreneurship training for returnees, as well as being informed about the Agency's projects and getting advice on how to refer returnees to access additional funding through the Burkinabe State Funds.

Additional initiatives are worth being highlighted, such as in **Senegal**, where IOM discussed with the 'Société d'aménagement et d'exploitation du Delta du fleuve Sénégal' in March 2021 for possible referral of migrants to their agricultural activities. Following the discussion, the Society committed to providing the migrants with agricultural advice whenever needed and directly sharing their job vacancies with IOM. Since then, IOM has encouraged returnees to apply to the national youth employment and socio-economic integration program, "Xeuyou ndaw yi", launched in May 2021.

In April 2022, IOM met with the Senegalese National Employment Centre⁶ in Sedhiou, Southern Senegal, which agreed to facilitate migrants' access to their services and to collaborate with IOM on all its activities. Lastly, IOM in Senegal started discussions in March 2021 with the Directorate of Employment under the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection to put in place a cooperation protocol for the inclusion of returnees in national employment schemes, as well as with the Ministry of Microfinance, Social Economy and Solidarity for the provision of microfinance to migrants. Both discussions remain ongoing.

By the end of 2021, IOM in **Ghana** met with the Ghana Enterprise Agency and the Youth Employment Agency to explore collaboration, particularly in providing returnees with business development and skills training. The partnership could also lead to creating platforms for job placements for the returnees.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH EUTF-FUNDED PARTNERS

In addition to partnerships with governmental actors, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative has continued to develop partnerships with organizations funded by the EUTF. Such partnerships mainly take the form of migrants' referrals toward existing programmes either to provide reintegration assistance to returnees in place of IOM or to complement IOM's reintegration assistance. Despite the challenges in the development and implementation of referral mechanisms to other EUTF-funded programmes, as explained in the previous Biannual Reintegration Reports and above, the Joint Initiative returnees were able to benefit from these partnerships with other EUTF-funded stakeholders throughout the programme's implementation, including since the last report as per following illustrations. IOM organized **2,081 referrals to EUTF-funded agencies**, with at least **36% of the referred caseload benefitting from assistance from these partners**.

For instance, in the **Gambia**, following a meeting with GIZ in October 2021, IOM started referring returnees to GIZ as of January 2022, returnees who previously received support to launch horticulture, poultry, and fishery businesses and require assistance to expand their business. Also, a partnership with the Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr (IMVF) allowed 18 already assisted returnees from the Central River Region and Upper River Region to participate in a three-month training in smartphone repair in April 2022.

New partnerships for referrals of returnees have also been discussed in several countries. In **Burkina Faso**, IOM met with the Commerce et Artisanat pour le Bien-Être Social – Groupement d'Intérêt Économique (an International Trade Centre (ITC) local partner) in February 2022 following the end of their EUTF-funded Ethical Fashion Initiative in the framework of which IOM referred returnees for training. Building on the achievements of this Ethical Fashion Initiative (which has assisted returnees accessing sustainable economic opportunities), the meeting aimed to discuss the maintenance of the partnership for training and placement of beneficiaries in workshops for employment beyond EUTF funding. A partnership proposal is being discussed.

⁶ Falling under the Ministry of Labour, Social Dialogue and Relations with Institutions.

Likewise, in **Senegal**, a visit to the IOM sub-office in Kolda by Terre des Hommes and the coordinator of the 'Protection des Enfants et Jeunes en Mobilité – PROTEJEM' project (Save the Children) in September 2021 allowed exploring partnership for the assistance to migrant children.

In **Mali**, the partnership that was in discussion with the Danish Red Cross during the last reporting period was finalized in January 2022 within the framework of another IOM project, a pilot for medical, psychosocial and profiling assistance in several regions of Mali. The partnership aims to refer returnees to the Danish Red Cross for psychosocial and medical assistance. As a result, 2,724 returnees have been assisted.

On a different note, IOM attended two 'Appui à la protection des migrants les plus vulnérables en Afrique de l'Ouest – PROMISA' PSC meetings in **Mali** and **Burkina Faso** in November 2021. The recommendations from the meetings included, inter alia, the dissemination of information and development of advocacy messages through existing national migration coordination forums; the strengthening of national data collection mechanisms.

BOX 1: UPDATE ON THE IOM-ARCHIPELAGO PARTNERSHIP

The IOM-ARCHIPELAGO partnership continued since the last report through both the organization of cross-country meetings and country-level cooperation.

IOM continued to participate in the ARCHIPELAGO programme steering committee virtual meetings, in June 2021 and in October 2021. These meetings were the occasion to take stock of the partnership and referral situation and discuss ways forward.

The June 2021 steering committee meeting led to the organization of a webinar in October 2021 gathering ARCHIPELAGO partners and IOM representatives in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. The recommendations of this meeting included the signature of data sharing agreements between IOM and the African members of the ARCHIPELAGO consortia to promote cooperation beyond the ARCHIPELAGO projects; Better and timely communication of information to returnees regarding the ARCHIPELAGO activities (such as theme, date, location, access condition); The organization of joint monitoring missions; Coordination of co-funding opportunities to cover costs related to the training which are often preventing returnees to participate (i.e. food, transport, housing, subsistence, equipment); Joint discussions on possible adaptations of the activities and eligibility criteria to include more returnees.

Regarding the country-level cooperation, in **Cameroon**, IOM and the ARCHIPELAGO partners have held a few meetings since the last report. One coordination meeting was held in March 2021, during which it was recommended to clarify ARCHIPELAGO's training offers and modalities, as well as to enhance sensitization activities for a wider range of training opportunities and avoid possible duplication. Two consultation meetings were held on 05 and 08 April 2021, aiming to identify concrete and achievable actions within the framework of the collaboration between IOM and the ARCHIPELAGO projects for the returnees. Resulting of these meetings, briefing sessions on ARCHIPELAGO's projects were done in April 2021 for the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education integration advisors; Awareness-raising activities about opportunities with ARCHIPELAGO were organized in April 2021 reaching 86 migrants and in May 2021 reaching 181 migrants; A data-sharing agreement was signed in September 2021 with the Chamber of Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock and Forests, implementing ARCHIPELAGO 'Projet de Formation Professionnelle Agricole et d'Elevage Camerounais – PROFOR', to facilitate the referral of returnees to the Chamber's series of training on agriculture.

The partnership with ARCHIPELAGO in Cameroon also led to the referral of 91 returnees to agricultural skills training, particularly in the cocoa and poultry sector, under the project 'Professionnalisation des Jeunes Agriculteurs au Cameroun – PROJACAM'. Moreover, in January 2022, 16 new candidates in Yaounde and 15 in Douala were registered to attend ARCHIPELAGO training in automobile mechanics, aviculture, milk production and transformation, and agropastoral entrepreneurship.

Developments also occurred since the last report in **Mauritania**, where a data-sharing agreement between IOM and the Mauritanian

Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture, implementing the ARCHIPELAGO programme ('FORMAEMPLOI-Mauritanie' and 'FAIDOP' projects), was signed in March 2021 for IOM to refer returnees to the Chamber for training and other vocational opportunities. As of 31 July 2022, 5 Mauritanian returnees and 12 third-country national migrants in Mauritania had been referred to the Chamber and assisted with either vocational training or training in entrepreneurship.

The ARCHIPELAGO partnerships also bore fruits beyond the framework of the programme, as IOM was able to refer returnees to the partners' other activities and programmes. For instance, in **Chad**, IOM referred 28 returnees to ACRA under the ARCHIPELAGO programme and referred an additional 46 returnees to ACRA's other activities after the end of the ARCHIPELAGO ones.

The below table provides a snapshot of the number of beneficiaries referred to partners implementing EUTF-funded programmes, both since the last report and since the inception of the Joint Initiative. The low number of referrals in several countries demonstrates the challenges faced to establish such partnerships as explained in previous Biannual Reintegration Reports and at the beginning of this sub-section 5. B), e.g. the lengthy process of partnership establishment, the mismatch of geographic locations or beneficiaries' profiles, and late starting date of several EUTF-funded programmes. However, it is important to highlight that **the partnership developed in the framework of the EUTF-funded programmes has allowed the development of sustainable cooperation between IOM and EUTF-funded partners that will benefit future interventions**. This was the case for the ARCHIPELAGO programme, as described in the box above.

COUNTRY	Referrals to EUTF-funded programmes – since the last report (01/02/2021 – 31/07/2022)	Referrals to EUTF-funded programmes – cumulative (01/04/2017 – 31/07/2022)	Actual support confirmed – cumulative (01/04/2017 – 31/07/2022)
Burkina Faso	02 (ITC)	16 (ITC)	14 (ITC)
Chad ⁷	72 (ARCHIPELAGO)	74 (ARCHIPELAGO) ⁸	64 (ARCHIPELAGO)
Cameroon	147 (ARCHIPELAGO)	147 (ARCHIPELAGO)	147 (ARCHIPELAGO)
Côte d'Ivoire	06 (ARCHIPELAGO)	06 (ARCHIPELAGO)	03 (ARCHIPELAGO)
Gambia (the)	847 (ITC, ENABEL, IMVF, GIZ)	962 (ITC, ENABEL, IMVF, GIZ)	321 (ITC, ENABEL, IMVF, GIZ)
Ghana	28 (UNCDF)	28 (UNCDF)	N/A
Guinea	0	191 (ENABEL, ITC, UNDP)	79 (ENABEL, ITC, UNDP)
Guinea-Bissau	No other EUTF-funded programmes in the country		
Mali	30 (ARCHIPELAGO)	279 (ARCHIPELAGO, SNV)	42 (ARCHIPELAGO, SNV)
Mauritania	05 (ARCHIPELAGO)	05 (ARCHIPELAGO)	05 (ARCHIPELAGO)
Niger	05 (ENABEL)	207 (ENABEL, FAFPA)	15 (ENABEL, FAFPA)
Nigeria	No referrals to other EUTF-funded programmes in the country		
Senegal	103 (ENABEL, ARCHIPELAGO)	166 (ENABEL, AIDA, GRET, ⁹ ARCHIPELAGO)	63 (ENABEL, AIDA, GRET, ⁹)
Total	1,245	2,081	753

Table 1: Referrals to EUTF-funded programmes

⁷ Chad is not covered by the reintegration pillar of the Joint Initiative but receives funding from transit and host countries to provide reintegration support to returnees.

⁸ It should be noted that out of the 74 returnees referred to ACRA, 46 have been referred to ACRA after the closure of the EUTF-funded Archipelago programme.

⁹ In the previous Biannual Reintegration Reports, referrals to "AJESUD" were reported, while AJESUD is a EUTF-funded programme implemented by the NGO GRET in Senegal.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Finally, returnees assisted under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative also benefitted from partnerships with other stakeholders such as the private sector, International Organizations and NGOs, inter alia, besides governmental and EUTF-funded ones. Since the last report, IOM continued to seek such partnerships:

▼ In **Burkina Faso**, a new partnership with the Entreprise Jeune Electro-Mécanique was established in February 2021 to provide returnees with training in electromechanics.

- Contracts between IOM and the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Maison de l'Entreprise du Burkina Faso allowed to support 11 returnees on employment, entrepreneurship, and vocational training.
- The partnership with ARSIM World was renewed in March 2022 to ensure returnees remain mobilized to implement their reintegration activities after their return to their communities; To conduct follow-up visits to the homes/workplaces of reintegration beneficiaries; To support survey/data collection activities among the reintegration beneficiaries.

▼ In **Nigeria**, IOM held a meeting with the Skills for Prosperity Nigeria in July 2022, a private technical and vocational education and training centre, and the Industrial Training Fund for a potential partnership to extend the training assistance given to beneficiaries and coordinate potential referrals to training. A follow-up meeting was scheduled to take place in the following weeks.

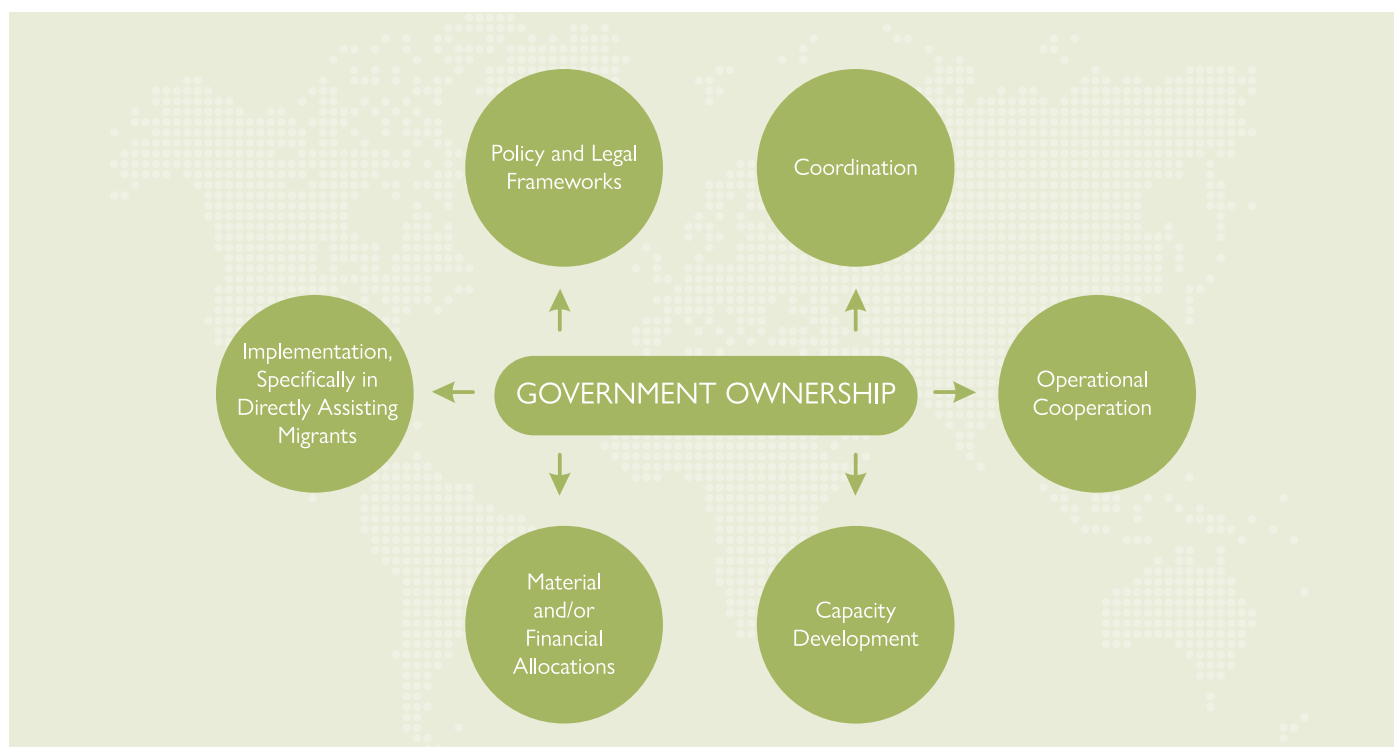
▼ In **Senegal**, a new partnership was explored with the Centre Africain de Complémentarité Scolaire, Universitaire et de Promotion to include returning migrants in their vocational training.

- A partnership agreement was discussed in April 2021 with FAO for returnees who decide to venture into the agribusiness sector.
- A visit by CIVIS MUNDI, a Spanish NGO, in May 2021 resulted in the development of a data-sharing agreement (underway) to involve returnees in the NGO's upcoming project. This project, which will be implemented in collaboration with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), aims at offering training, technical assistance, financial aid, subsidies, and advice to all the value chain actors, including producers, vegetable sellers, traders, input sellers, and transporters.
- Possible avenues of collaboration were explored in September 2021 with the NGO Eco-Tri Senegal to train returning migrants on waste prevention and management as well as to recruit returnees as technical agents. However, so far returnees have not expressed interest in these activities, sometimes due to the negative perception associated with waste management and sometimes because the training period before employment was perceived as too long.
- A new partnership with the NGO Amref Health Africa was underway by the end of the reporting period to build returnees' capacities in social entrepreneurship.
- Discussions took place with the French Office for Immigration and Integration in January 2022 to support the professional integration of returnees through vocational training.
- Discussions also took place with the NGO Great PACIFICA in January 2022 to refer returnees to their second vocational training in operating agricultural machinery and installation of photovoltaic systems.
- By the end of March 2022, the partnership with the NGO ECLOSIO allowed referring 20 returnees at no cost to IOM to their six-month training programme on business management.
- A partnership with the ENDA Energie programme (funded by GIZ) led to the referral of 15 beneficiaries to their training sessions, started in July 2022, in eco-construction, production, and installation of compressed earth bricks, and agriculture.
- Finally, support for the returnees' children was also explored through the integration of migrant children within the Departmental Child Protection Committee, a Committee set up in November 2021 by the Ministry of Family, Gender and Child Protection, UNICEF and UNFPA, and of which IOM is a member.

Other engagements with partners included facilitation of events, participation in meetings and organization of visits such as in **Senegal** where IOM and WFP conducted a two-day joint field visit in the Sedhiou and Kolda regions in May 2021 to assess how returnees were involved in both organizations' agricultural initiatives. On a different note, still in May 2021, IOM participated in the microproject selection and evaluation committee organized by the Association de Coopération Rurale en Afrique et en Amérique Latine following which some returnees' microbusinesses developed under the Joint Initiative received a favourable opinion from the selection committee to obtain additional grants. Likewise, a joint IOM-GIZ workshop was held in October 2021, which resulted in the establishment of a IOM-GIZ action book and in the selection of ten community-based projects to benefit from additional support from GIZ.

In **Ghana**, the FAO and the University of Ghana (as well as a governmental partner, the Counselling Department) joined IOM to conduct psychosocial therapy sessions for returnees in February 2022.

6. GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP



The EU-IOM Joint Initiative implemented capacity-building activities which were informed by participatory capacity-building needs assessments and consultations at local level; built on existing systems, structures, and capacities; promoted the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches as guiding principles; and helped create environments encouraging mutual learning and knowledge sharing among stakeholders (further elaborated under section 8 ‘Capacity-building for the delivery of reintegration assistance’ of this report). Such actions contributed towards ensuring local ownership and sustainability through national systems which are responsive, inclusive and effective. Among the specific activities which fostered local ownership are: establishment of national or sub-national coordination platforms and dialogues which involved local actors; provision of capacity-building and technical assistance targeting local authorities and stakeholders to enhance their roles and capabilities; and promotion of exchange of information and experiences among local actors at local and regional levels.

To ensure safer, more informed and better-governed migration for both migrants and their communities, the Joint Initiative strives to promote migration mainstreaming into national policies and, ultimately, ownership of the subject by targeted countries and communities. In this regard, the Joint Initiative has worked with a wide range of stakeholders to embed reintegration interventions, in particular, into national development plans, as well as to encourage national ownership of reintegration, as demonstrated in the examples in this report. Throughout the Joint Initiative implementation, efforts have been observed regarding partner governments’ contributions to various areas such as policy, coordination, cooperation, capacity development, resource allocation and implementation.

Several African partner countries made significant progress in developing, adopting and/or updating key policy and legal frameworks on migration and mobility as well as in mainstreaming migration considerations into other policy areas. This contributed to supporting the implementation of the programme and ensuring sustainability at the macro level. For instance, migration-related national policies have been developed, adopted and/or revised in **Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Mauritania** during the Joint Initiative implementation. While this work on policies goes beyond the Joint Initiative itself, the implementation of the latter has played an important role in these developments, either through IOM's direct support in policy development or revision building capacities of relevant stakeholders or through the programme's influence and the awareness brought on the subject. In addition, it is worth noting that **Chad, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal** are 'champions' in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), which is a sign of commitment from the governments towards achieving better migration governance that benefits all, whereas **Nigeria** revised its National Migration Policy action plan in line with the GCM's objectives and guiding principles.

Many of these migration policy and legislative developments may be attributed to the stronger leadership demonstrated by the governments, backed by the technical and capacity-building support from the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. This was particularly reflected in the strengthened coordination platforms chaired by the relevant ministries/agencies bringing together stakeholders as well as the increased government participation and contribution in several fora established and/or strengthened under the Joint Initiative. This is the case in **Ghana and Nigeria**, among others, where the governments are leading national Working Groups on migration in general or reintegration specifically. Similarly, PSCs are led by partner governments in countries of implementation.

Going further, the **Gambia** has developed Inter-disciplinary Regional Migration Sub-Committees in every region of the country to coordinate migration issues, especially reintegration assistance and support to returnees. As previously mentioned, in 2021, **Guinea-Bissau** created an office to support migrants through the Secretariat of State for Communities. Finally, it is worth noting that in **Mali**, the Ministry of Malian Abroad and African Integration is about to launch a government-led National Reintegration Network coordinating and steering the efforts of all reintegration actors. Thus, beyond leading and facilitating the development of migration policies and legal frameworks, government coordination has had a significant impact on the success of the programme, contributing to local ownership and a more effective migration management.

Governments' contributions have also been reflected in their commitment in formalising operational cooperation. This was particularly the case with the developed Framework SOPs which were validated by all governments of the targeted countries in the Sahel and Lake Chad region. Governments played a lead role in the development of the SOPs, ensuring a convening role, clarifying mandates of agencies, monitoring, resolving operational challenges, institutionalising and clarifying roles, inter alia. The validation of such SOPs also had a significant impact in fostering collaboration and referrals among actors as well as on the overall success of the programme as described in the following section 7 'SOPs on assisted voluntary return and reintegration'.

Strengthened cooperation between governments and key partners, including IOM, was also reflected through the establishment of National Referral Mechanisms for vulnerable migrants such as in **Burkina Faso** and in the **Gambia**.

Furthermore, throughout the Joint Initiative implementation, governments have been active in the capacity development of both national stakeholders and returnees. In the **Gambia and Senegal** for instance, capacity-building for government officials has been jointly organized by the respective governments together with IOM. In **Nigeria**, following the training provided under the Joint Initiative, some States decided to cascade received training to reach out to more government officials.

Some governments, such as **Ghana**, have also supported returnees through their employment agencies through job counselling and entrepreneurship training. **Cameroon, Guinea and Nigeria** have also engaged in the capacity development of returnees through the deployment of staff as trainers, often in offices dedicated to youth and/or education for various pieces of training such as health, electricity, masonry, mechanics, or business skills training. In these cases, IOM usually covers the trainers' and migrants' transport costs.

Governments have also demonstrated their commitment through material and/or financial allocations. For instance, in **Burkina Faso** and **Cameroon** rural municipalities and youth centres have provided rooms free of charge for counselling and orientation activities for returnees, including training, while in **Mali** and **Nigeria**, the Ministry of Malians Abroad and the Lagos State Government respectively made a facility available to be used as a reception centre. Other examples include the cost-sharing between the government and IOM of the PSC events in **Senegal**, or the efforts to mainstream migration, including return and reintegration, in each ministerial budgetary plan in the **Gambia**.

Government counterparts and their staff are also involved in implementation, specifically in directly assisting migrants, at various stages of the returnees' reintegration process. In **Cameroon**, 15 agents from the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education were deployed to IOM premises as facilitators for reintegration, responsible for the socio-economic counselling for migrants and the setting up of their reintegration projects. In the **Gambia**, officials from the Department of Community Development supported the development and management of CBR projects in rural areas and officials from the Department of Social Welfare supported community-based psychosocial assistance all over the country. In **Guinea**, five government staff have been made available to work in the Migrant Resource and Response Centre, located in Conakry and co-managed by the Government and IOM. The authorities are also involved in the review and approval of reintegration plans, as well as the follow-up and monitoring visits (through Local Monitoring Committees). In **Guinea-Bissau**, an official from the Directorate General for Migration and Borders has been assigned as a focal point and deployed in IOM premises to support returnees' reception and reintegration. In **Senegal**, one government official from the General Directorate of Support for Senegalese Abroad has been nominated as the reintegration focal point and is closely working with IOM to support the successful implementation of the Joint Initiative. Local authorities are also members of the regional committees set up with the support of IOM to validate returning migrants' reintegration projects. In Senegal, but also in **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Nigeria**, governmental counterparts participated in monitoring activities.

Worth mentioning that the governmental agencies in **Côte d'Ivoire**, which were selected as Joint Initiative implementing partners for returnees' reintegration, committed to provide additional support beyond the contract's allocation such as longer monitoring and support assistance.

7. SOPS ON ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION



One of the main achievements of the Joint Initiative has been the support to targeted countries to put in place SOPs to outline a common approach to the return and reintegration process, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the actors involved. As foreseen at the beginning of the intervention, **the EU-IOM Joint Initiative successfully supported the nationalisation of its Framework SOPs in all targeted countries in the Sahel and Lake Chad region and their operationalization in most of the countries.**

Firstly, the adoption of SOPs at the national level constituted an important step in the reintegration of returnees as it **ensured that the implementation of reintegration is harmonized and in line with international standards, while also being adapted to the local context.** In addition, the process helped identify the main actors involved in reintegration assistance and assess the existing opportunities for reintegration as well as the gaps in the availability of services for returning migrants. Secondly, the operationalization of SOPs in most of the countries **allowed increasing stakeholders' engagement and capacities in the provision of support to migrant returnees** leading to a larger variety of reintegration services and opportunities accessible to returnees as well as a reduced delay in reintegration delivery.

Furthermore, while individually tailoring the SOPs to each country's context required extensive consultation with the governments, such a process **laid the foundation for the close cooperation between IOM and Sahel and Lake Chad governments** in implementing the programme in addition to securing national buy-in. The SOPs process also **broke the ice on the sensitive topic of return and reintegration of returnees and started a wider conversation about the longer-term migration management issues** linked to return and reintegration. This central role and the time invested in detailed consultations contributed to placing IOM as a trusted partner when discussing further migration policies and strategies.

A breakdown of validation dates per country targeted by the EU-IOM Joint Initiative is presented in the below table:

COUNTRY	STATUS OF THE SOPS NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROCESS (END OF JULY 2022)
Burkina Faso	SOP on Reintegration validated in March 2019 (workshop) SOP on Assistance to Migrants in Transit validated in April 2019 (workshop) and revised in November 2020
Cameroon	SOP validated in September 2017 (PSC)
Chad¹⁰	SOP validated in November 2019 (PSC)
Côte d'Ivoire	SOP validated in October 2017 (workshop) and updated in September 2020 (workshop), pending adoption by the Council of Ministries
Gambia (the)	SOP validated in October 2018 (workshop) Additional SOPs developed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOP on the Identification and Referral of Vulnerable Migrants National Referral Mechanism validated in August 2021 - SOP on complementary Reintegration Assistance for Migrants Returning Involuntarily from EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland developed with partners in the Sub-Working Group and validated in March 2020
Ghana	SOP validated in March 2019 (PSC)
Guinea	SOP validated in January 2019 (PSC)
Guinea-Bissau	SOP validated in July 2018 (PSC)
Mali	SOP covering both Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) from Mali and reintegration in Mali validated in March 2018 (PSC) The reintegration component of the SOP has been replaced by a new SOP for the National Migrant Reintegration Framework developed in August-September 2021 and pending validation ¹¹
Mauritania	SOP covering both AVR from Mauritania and reintegration in Mauritania validated in January 2018 (workshop) Additional SOPs developed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOP on the Best Interest Determination of migrants and refugees, validated in September 2021 (under the EU-funded 'Regional Development and Protection Programme' project) - SOP on the disembarkation and assistance to migrants and refugees intercepted or rescued in Nouadhibou, validated in September 2022
Niger	SOP for Niger as country of origin (reintegration) and SOP for Niger as a host and transit country validated in May 2019 (workshop)
Nigeria	Joint Initiative SOP merged with the national SOP on reintegration to become the national SOP on Return, Readmission, and Reintegration validated in October 2019 (TWG)
Senegal	SOP validated in December 2018

Table 2: SOPs national adaptation status by country (as of the end of July 2022)

The above SOPs are operational in most countries. The SOPs adoption required important capacity-building efforts for state and non-state actors involved, like in **Nigeria**. In **Côte d'Ivoire** joint ways of working have been agreed with the Government but the SOPs remains to be adopted by the Council of Ministries, together with a budgeted action matrix for the National plan on the assistance for the voluntary return and reintegration of Ivorian migrants.

¹⁰ IOM adapted the regional Framework SOPs to focus on specific modalities of Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) in Chad, while keeping the general information on reintegration. Since the Joint Initiative does not cover reintegration in Chad, IOM primarily uses the SOPs developed by sending countries to ensure appropriate provision of reintegration assistance.

¹¹ A new coordination mechanism is expected to be established by the end of 2022 in Mali, which will then ratify the new SOP.

8. CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE



The EU-IOM Joint Initiative strengthened the capacities of key state and non-state actors providing services to returning migrants in their respective countries.

As highlighted by the Regional Final Evaluation, before the Joint Initiative there was limited programming serving returnees in the Sahel and Lake Chad region, **the capacity-building activities were hence essential for laying the groundwork to get national partners involved in return and reintegration activities**. In this vein, IOM supported capacity development through various activities, ranging from training and workshops to secondments, study visits, facilities rehabilitation, and provision of material. The transversality of capacity-building should also be noted, hence allowing, besides those specific activities, the reinforcement of key stakeholders' capacities throughout the other components of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. Indeed, enhancing governance and coordination through dedicated structures in countries, supporting the establishment of partnerships, developing and operationalizing SOPs, and jointly implementing and monitoring activities, as described throughout the report, are interventions that have also contributed to increasing the knowledge and capacities of key stakeholders.

Overall, since the inception of the Joint Initiative in the Sahel and Lake Chad region until the end of July 2022, **154 capacity development activities have been conducted** (out of which 71% of training, 14% of workshops and 10% of institutional and/or material support), in which **5,514¹² state and non-state stakeholders participated across all target countries**.

In the Regional Final Evaluation, out of 367 training participants surveyed, **99% reported that their skills and knowledge improved** as a result of the training and **95% reported feeling more engaged in migration management**. This statistic is in line with what has been observed throughout the Joint Initiative implementation, i.e. that capacity-building activities have induced several changes which can be summarized as follows:

- **Better knowledge of the returnees' needs** leading to increased participation and engagement of stakeholders in the reintegration provision and contributing to advocacy interventions. For example, in **Côte d'Ivoire** governmental partners advocated for higher pocket money for returning migrants considering the high cost of living in the country.
- **Change in attitude and approach technique concerning returnees**, in particular in counselling skills (more positive, open and welcoming attitude, better listening, adaptation of language considering the level of education and vulnerabilities, and adaptation of frameworks and periods for interviews). For instance, this led stakeholders in **Cameroon** to change the case management mechanism for vulnerable migrants with reintegration being now carried out separately by the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education and the Ministry of Social Affairs, allowing to respond first to vulnerabilities before the provision of the economic reintegration component.
- **Increased understanding of the different dimensions of reintegration** (i.e. economic, social and psychosocial levels) and the importance of providing support to returning migrants at these different levels (and especially psychosocial support), as well as monitoring this support. As an example, in **Côte d'Ivoire**, the General Direction of the Diaspora presented in November 2021 an action plan for the reintegration of 200 migrants per year over five years, which took into account the referral to relevant psychosocial structures, citizenship education, technical and economic support as well as regular follow-up for the establishment of their income-generating activities.

¹² 5,514 is the sum of participants to the 154 capacity development activities. It should be noted that it is possible that some persons have benefitted from more than one capacity development activity and, hence, have been counted towards each activity.

- **Elevation of the migratory subject in the national debate and better consideration of reintegration in national policies and local development plans.** For example, in **Guinea**, the Government's understanding of the migration phenomenon through capacity-building has been instrumental in the establishment of several other institutions such as the Guinean Migration Observatory (to manage migration data and make evidence-based decisions and policies), the Assistance Fund for Guinean Returnees or the Migrant Orientation Office.

Such changes ultimately impacted returnees' reintegration, allowing **overall more support and follow-up of returnees throughout the implementation of their reintegration**, especially thanks to the increased involvement of local partners. For instance, in **Cameroon**, the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education deployed its expert trainers to host technical vocational training within the Centres Multifonctionnels de Promotion des Jeunes. Another example pertains to **Ghana** where the Ghana Enterprise Agency coordinates with vendors to ensure beneficiaries obtain correct invoices.

Continued since the last report, an overview of the various capacity-building activities focusing on reintegration is presented in the below table, and an overview of all capacity-building activities carried out during the entire intervention is presented in Annexe 2.

	Capacity-building activity			Participants	
	Type	Topic	Description	Number	Description
Burkina Faso	Training	The integrated approach to reintegration	IOM facilitated a training on the integrated approach to reintegration which was funded by the EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub. The training aimed to enhance stakeholders' capacities in developing, managing and monitoring reintegration assistance with an emphasis on sustainability. 21-23 September 2021	21	Representatives from the Government and civil society participated in the training: Fonds d'Appui à la Promotion de l'Emploi; Ecole Polytechnique Privée du Faso; Ethical Mode; Direction Provinciale de l'Action Sociale du Kadiogo; Direction Générale des Productions Animales; Direction Générale de l'Économie et de la Planification; Agence Nationale pour l'Emploi; Centre de Promotion de l'Aviculture Villageoise; ARCHIPELAGO; Red Cross; Maison de l'Entreprise; Agence Nationale de la Formation Professionnelle; ARSIM; TOCSIN.
	Workshop	Psychosocial support	IOM organized a capacity-building workshop in Tenkodogo for the mobile psychosocial support team members. The event's main objective was to strengthen the mobile team members' operational capacities to provide psychosocial support to migrants. 19-23 April 2022	12	Participants in this workshop were members of the Association Jeunesse Volontaire pour la Promotion du Leadership, la Santé et le Développement.
Côte d'Ivoire	Training / Material support	Mental health and psychosocial support	IOM organized a training for social workers of the Directorate of Child Protection to present good practices in the psychosocial care of returnees and talk about the challenges of migration. At the end of the workshop, computer equipment was donated in the presence of the cabinet director of the Ministry of Women, Family, and Children and the Director of Child Protection. 09-11 May 2022	24	Participants in this training were social workers of the Directorate of Child Protection, social centres and social-educational centres from different parts of the country (Abengourou, Gagnoa, Bondoukou, Yopougon MACA, Port-Bouet, Bouaké, Soubré, Cocody, Koumassi, Man, Aboisso, Duekoué, San Pedro, Adjamé, Odienné, Treichville, Korogho).
	Training	Protection	Training workshop for diplomats on trafficking, protection and assistance to victims of trafficking. 02 June 2022	81	Participants in this training were Ivorian diplomats from the Primature.

Gambia (the)	Training	Project management	<p>The IOM sub-office in Basse conducted a training session on project management for community members. The training focused on group management dynamics and record-keeping in three communities (Sare Hamadi, Bohoum Kunda and Dampha Kunda in the Upper River Region). The training enhanced the participants' capacities for the proper operational management of community-based projects.</p> <p>24-26 May 2021 (Sare Hamadi) 27-29 May 2021 (Bohoum Kunda) 31 May-01 June 2021 (Dampha Kunda)</p>	45	Participants in this training were from the Management Committee of the community-based projects and the Village Development Committee of the three mentioned communities.
	Training	The integrated approach to reintegration	<p>IOM, in collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, organized and facilitated a reintegration training funded by the EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub. The training, aimed at key governmental stakeholders, introduced the integrated approach to reintegration to assist migrant returnees in the Gambia and to ensure their sustainable reintegration. Participants were trained in counselling, needs and vulnerability assessment, and provision of economic, social, and psychosocial support.</p> <p>05-07 October 2021</p>	28	Participants in this training were from the Ministry of Interior (Gambia Immigration Department); Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (Department of Social Welfare); Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Trade, Industry and Employment; Ministry of Youth and Sports (National Youth Council and Regional Youth Councils); Ministry of Lands and Regional Government (Department of Community Development, Area Councils of North Bank Region, Central River Region, West Coast Region and Upper River Region, and Kanifing Municipality).
	Students orientation	IOM migration work	<p>Higher National Diploma students from the Rural Development Institute of Mansa Konko (Lower River Region) composed of government and NGO staff were oriented on IOM migration work in the region and the country overall. As part of the activities, participants visited and assessed the socio-economic impact of migration in Dampha Kunda (Upper River Region), an area with a high return rate of migrants.</p> <p>24-25 November 2021</p>	30	<p>Many of the students who participated in this capacity-building activity serve in the communities through their work and often support IOM activities on the ground as part of the Multidisciplinary Facilitation Team or the Technical Advisory Committee.</p> <p>As a result of the visit, the students stated their continued engagement and support towards IOM activities as part of their future work interventions.</p>

	Training	IOM activities, including reintegration	<p>A capacity-building training and sensitization on IOM activities, reintegration, and community-based projects were held for Chiefs and Alkalolu in the Central River Region – North and South.</p> <p>27-28 December 2021</p>	52	Immediate feedback from sensitized Chiefs and Alkalolu indicated that they have a better understanding of IOM's work, the purpose of the CBR projects, and the number of projects implemented in the region.
	Training	Group management dynamics and record-keeping	<p>IOM conducted training for the Monokoto Foday village (Upper River Region) community members on group management dynamics and financial record-keeping. This training aimed for the participants to effectively manage the community-based project in Monokoto Foday village, a 14-seater passenger van, which creates employment for returnees and community members and provides transportation services to the village and surrounding villages.</p> <p>26-28 January 2022</p>	14	Participants in this training were from the Executive Committee and Village Development Committee.
	Training	Group management dynamics and record-keeping	<p>Returnees and community members were trained on group management dynamics and record-keeping in simultaneous training held in the Tabayel village and Sami Madiana in the Central River Region – North. The training, organized by IOM and facilitated by the Department of Community Development, aimed to introduce proper financial record-keeping of the community-based project proceed and sustainable management.</p> <p>Following the training, one returnee and one community member in Tabayel village opted for a passenger van as a microbusiness for CBR. In Sami Madiana, a multi-purpose milling machine was chosen by one returnee and two community members as their CBR project.</p> <p>06-08 April 2022</p>	30	Participants were returnees as well as community members from the Project Management Committee and the Village Development Committee (composed of local authorities, women leaders, and village chiefs) of the two mentioned localities.

	Training	National Referral Mechanism	<p>Two cascading training sessions were held in Bansang (Central River Region) and Basse (Upper River Region), allowing participants an enhanced understanding of the National Referral Mechanism.</p> <p>31 March-01 April 2022 (Central River Region and Upper River Region simultaneously)</p>	57	<p>Participants in this training were from the Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Interior (Gambia Immigration Department, Gambia Police Force, State Intelligence Services, Gambia Drug Law Enforcement Agency); Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (Department of Social Welfare, Women's Bureau); Ministry of Lands and Regional Government (Department of Community Development, Village Development Committees, Governors, Area Councils, Chiefs); Ministry of Youth and Sports (National Youth Council, Regional Youth Committees); Ministry of Education; NGOs (TOSTAN, Wuli and Sandu Development Association, Gambia Red Cross Society, Network against Gender-Based Violence); National Aids Secretariat; CSO (Community Child Protection Committees).</p> <p>Knowledge of assistance and protection to migrants in vulnerable situations was evaluated before and after the training and showed that, after the training, participants perceived an improved knowledge of assistance and protection of vulnerable migrants.</p>
	Training	Group management dynamics and record-keeping	<p>IOM trained members of the Project Management Committee and Village Development Committee in Jalako village (Central River Region – North) on group management dynamics and record-keeping while providing a venue for deciding on the type of community-based project participants would like to develop. The returnee and his community opted for a passenger van as their CBR project with one returnee and one community member as beneficiaries.</p> <p>14-16 June 2022</p>	15	<p>Participants in this training were members of the Project Management Committee and Village Development Committee.</p>

	Training	National Referral Mechanism	<p>Three training sessions were organized by IOM in North Bank Region, Lower River Region, and the West Coast Region for actors working in the protection and assistance of migrants in vulnerable situations.</p> <p>30-31 May 2022 (West Coast Region) 07-08 June 2022 (North Bank Region) 09-10 June 2022 (Lower River Region)</p>	75	<p>Participants in this training were from the Ministry of Interior (Gambia Immigration Department, State Intelligence Services, Gambia Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Gambia Police Force); Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare (Department of Social Welfare, Women's Bureau); Ministry of Lands and Regional Government (Department of Community Development, Village Development Committee, Governor's office, Area Council, Chief); Ministry of Youth and Sports (Regional Youth Committee; Migration Information Centre National Youth Council); Ministry of Education; NGOs (Saama Kaira, SOS, CaDO, Red Cross Society); CSO (Community Child Protection Committee); Gambia Radio and Television Services; COOPI; Revenue Authority.</p> <p>The level of understanding of the overall protection and assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations significantly increased. The pre-training survey showed that 92% of the participants in the North Bank Region, 96% in the Lower River Region, and 78% in the West Coast Region were not familiar with the subject while the post-training survey confirmed that respectively 88%, 96% and 74% of the participants have a basic understanding of protection and assistance to migrants in vulnerable situations after the training.</p>
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Ghana	Training	SOP for the Reintegration of Returnees	<p>Government and non-government officials were trained by IOM on the SOP for the Reintegration of Returnees. The training provided an in-depth understanding of the operationalization of the SOP towards sustainable reintegration for returning migrants in Ghana.</p> <p>29 March-01 April 2021</p>	40	<p>Participants in this training were representatives of governmental structures (Ghana Immigration Service; Ghana Health Service; National Board for Small Scale Industries; National Disaster Management Organization; Labour Department; Department of Rural Housing; Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training; Youth Employment Agency; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Region) and non-governmental structures (NGO Research & Counselling Foundation for African Migrants; African 2000 Network; ARCHIPELAGO; Migrants Watch and Revolutionary Front; Ghanaian-German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration; BOK Africa Concern).</p>
	Training	SOP for the Reintegration of Returnees	<p>IOM organized a second training for government and non-government officials on the SOP for the Reintegration of Returnees. The training enhanced the capacity of the key stakeholders and provided an in-depth understanding of the processes of the SOP for the successful and sustainable reintegration of Ghanaian returnees. Specifically, the training taught the participants how to handle psychosocial issues manifested by the returnees, guided them on the provision of holistic reintegration in line with their mandates and roles as outlined in the SOP, and identified clear referral pathways and effective monitoring mechanisms.</p> <p>07-11 June 2021</p>	37	<p>Participants in this training were representatives of governmental structures (Ghana Immigration Service; Ghana Enterprises Agency; National Disaster Management Organization; Labour Department; Department of Rural Housing; Ministry of Trade and Industry; Department of Agriculture; Kumasi Municipal Assembly; Youth Employment Agency) and non-governmental structures (Don Bosco Child Protection Institute; BOK Africa Concern; Top Vision Foundation; Yamfo Training Institute, Community Development).</p>

	Training	SOP for the Reintegration of Returnees	<p>IOM, jointly with GIZ, organized a training session for state and non-state stakeholders on the SOP for the Reintegration of Returnees. At the end of the training, participants were able to make use of the content of the SOP and to contribute to an effective National Referral Mechanism; Implement and manage psychosocial, social and economic reintegration assistance delivered at the individual and community levels; Identify mechanisms and tools to monitor interventions and carry out evaluations to maximize effectiveness and learning. In addition, the training allowed them to exchange institutional experiences while building familiarity with the SOP.</p> <p>27-30 June 2022</p>	26	Participants in this training were government and civil society partners, Challengers Ghana, WHO, and UNICEF.
Guinea	Training	Psychosocial reintegration	<p>In Labe, IOM trained local actors in conducting a psychosocial interview and filling out family tracing forms. This training aimed to strengthen the psychosocial support for the returnees in the local community.</p> <p>28 April 2021</p>	09	Participants were local actors, including the Regional Technical Unit and Local Monitoring Committee members, Organisation Guinéenne de Lutte contre la Migration Irreguliere, Prefectural children's officer and Regional protection inspector.
	Training	Approaches and dimensions of reintegration	<p>Capacity-building workshop for governmental partners on reintegration approaches and dimensions.</p> <p>12-14 July 2021</p>	25	Participants were members of the Regional Technical Unit and Local Monitoring Committee.
	Training	Sustainable reintegration	<p>Training of state partners on proximity support and mentoring for returnees' sustainable reintegration.</p> <p>30 November-02 December 2021</p>	58	Participants were members of the Regional Technical Unit and Local Monitoring Committee.

Guinea Bissau	Training	SOP for the Reintegration of Returnees	<p>In Bissau, a capacity-building workshop was organized on returnees' reintegration. This workshop allowed for capacity-building and knowledge sharing of state actors and CSOs on the issue of reintegration governance.</p> <p>27-28 May 2021</p>	11	<p>Participants in this training included representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Public Ministry; Directorate General of Employment and Vocational Training; Directorate General of Migration and Borders; NGOs (Manitese, CARITAS, Associazione Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau); Association des Emigrants et Amis de la Guinée-Bissau; Ajuda de Desenvolvimento do Povo para o Povo; Associação amigo das Crianças.</p>
Mali	Workshop	Reintegration issues	<p>Through funding from the EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub, IOM organized a workshop to build key state and non-state stakeholders' capacity on reintegration issues in the country.</p> <p>The training highlighted IOM's integrated approach, with a particular focus on CBR assistance and the structural level of reintegration, particularly the coordination of actors. Participants were also trained in case management and the psychosocial approach to reintegration.</p> <p>07-08 March 2022</p>	40	<p>Participants included key state (Ministry of Malians Abroad, General Delegation of Malians Abroad, Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training, National Directorate of Vocational Training, National Directorate of Employment, National Directorate of Social Development, Vocational training and apprenticeship support fund, National Observatory for Employment and Training, Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment, National Employment Agency, High Council for Malians Abroad) and non-state stakeholders (AECID, GIZ, AFD, Swiss Cooperation, MIC, SNV, COOPI, OFII, ENABEL, CARITAS, DRC, UNDP, ILO, UNHCR, UN Women), involved in reintegration.</p>
Niger	Training	The integrated approach to reintegration	<p>IOM facilitated a training session on the integrated approach to reintegration funded by the EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub. The training enhanced the participants' knowledge of the governance of reintegration as showed by the pre and post-training test: 12% progression among government partners and 22% progression among non-governmental partners.</p> <p>25-26 May 2021</p>	18	<p>Participants in this training were administrative and communal authorities, NGO partners and service providers working on the reintegration process.</p>

	Training	Prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse	<p>IOM organized a training session for partners implementing re-integration community-based projects in the regions of Zinder, Tahoua, and Maradi. The training, presenting the essentials of IOM's policy on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, allowed enhancing the knowledge of the participants on the detection of victims and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.</p> <p>30 June 2021</p>	05	Participants in this training were two reintegration implementing partners, the NGOs CADEL and AGIR PLUS.
Nigeria	Training	Mental health	<p>A training, aimed to strengthen the capacity of primary health workers, was held in Delta State as part of the regional strengthening of mental health structure intervention. The training, facilitated by IOM and the Ministry of Health, equipped the participants with skills and knowledge on the assessment and management of people with various mental health conditions. In addition, the training addressed when and how to refer individuals with mental health problems and disorders according to the Mental Health Gap Action Plan Intervention Guidelines contextualized for Nigeria.</p> <p>12-15 January 2021</p>	22	Participants in this training were primary health workers.
	Training	Psychological first aid and reintegration	<p>Two training sessions organized by IOM for key state and non-state actors on psychological first aid and the reintegration handbook were held in Kano and Abuja. The training covered the integrated approach to reintegration, sustainable reintegration programming, M&E, and reintegration assistance at the structural level. The participants reported an enhanced knowledge of the reintegration assistance processes after the training.</p> <p>01-05 March 2021 in Kano 16-18 March 2021 in Abuja</p>	56	Participants in the training included key state and non-state actors from Kano and Abuja: Industrial Training Fund; National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons; National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons; Ministry of Women Affairs; Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria; Women Economic Empowerment Organization; Adolescent Health and Information Projects; Organization for Community Civic Engagement.

	Training	Psychosocial support	<p>Returning migrants were trained by IOM as Psychosocial Support Volunteers in Edo State as part of the regionally-led interventions on mental health. The training focused on the basics of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) assistance provided by IOM, sexual and gender-based violence, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse identification and reporting. The training informed the participants on facilitating basic psychosocial reintegration support for their peers in the community. As already being done in Nigeria, these newly trained returnees will be facilitating individual and group psychoeducation sessions and conducting virtual and in-person psychosocial support for other migrants.</p> <p>17-19 March 2021</p>	13	Participants in the training were returnees successfully reintegrated in Edo State
	Training	Psychosocial support (with a focus on art-based interventions)	<p>A training on basic art-based interventions was convened by IOM for Psychosocial Support Volunteers in Benin City. The training equipped the Volunteers with basic knowledge of art interventions that can be facilitated for the expression of emotions, distress reduction, and improvement in self-esteem and awareness.</p> <p>18-21 May 2021</p>	13	Participants in the training were Psychosocial Support Volunteers.
	Training	Psychological first aid and reintegration	<p>IOM, together with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, conducted a refresher training on psychosocial first aid and the reintegration handbook to enhance the knowledge of key stakeholders involved in the reintegration of returning migrants to better assist with the return, re-admission, and reintegration of migrants.</p>	19	Participants in the training were representatives from the Government (including National Orientation Agency) and civil society.

			<p>Key outputs of the training include a good understanding of the integrated approach to reintegration by participants; identification of economic, social, and psychosocial assistance arrangements for reintegration; a clear understanding of opportunities for guidance concerning reintegration, and better knowledge of roles and responsibilities of Case Management Expert Team members in the reintegration process of the returnees.</p> <p>05-07 October 2021</p>		
	Training	Reintegration	<p>In the Enugu State, IOM organized a training session on the reintegration handbook which was co-funded by GIZ and the Netherlands-funded COMPASS project.</p> <p>Post-evaluation of the training showed that participants improved their knowledge of integrated reintegration by 90%.</p> <p>27-29 October 2021</p>	22	<p>Participants in this training were state and non-state actors working directly and indirectly on the reintegration of returnees: National Commission for Refugees Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons; National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons; Federal Ministry of Women Affairs; Patriotic Citizen Initiative; Network of Civil Society organization against Child trafficking, abuse and labour; Society for the Empowerment of Young Person.</p>
	Training	Reintegration	<p>IOM, in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, organized a reintegration handbook training for key stakeholders from the Northeast (Damaturu, Yobe state).</p> <p>Pre and post-test evaluations of the training showed an overall increase of 28% in the knowledge of reintegration assistance. To cascade the knowledge shared during the training, all the participating organizations were asked to plan training in their organization and if needed, to request IOM for training support.</p> <p>09-12 February 2022</p>	27	<p>Participants in this training were state and non-state actors involved in the provision of reintegration assistance: National Commission for Refugees Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons; National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons; Federal Ministry of Women Affairs.</p>

	Training	SOP on Return Readmission and Reintegration	<p>As part of the action plan for the operationalization of the SOP on Return, Readmission and Reintegration, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons organized a training for the Reintegration Committee in Lagos, supported by IOM and co-funded by GIZ. The overall objective was to identify the key stakeholders' role in the operationalization of the SOP in Nigeria.</p> <p>17-18 March 2022</p>	41	<p>Participants in this training were state and non-state stakeholders.</p> <p>The pre and post-results showed a 12% increase in knowledge gained by the participants on their role in the operationalization of the SOP.</p>
	Training	Reintegration	<p>IOM facilitated a training, co-funded with GIZ, on the reintegration handbook for stakeholders assisting returnee reintegration in the country and implementing partners involved in the reintegration of returnees.</p> <p>The training, held in Abuja, aimed to enhance the knowledge and define the roles of the key stakeholders in a sustainable and integrated approach to the reintegration of returnees in Nigeria. The training covered the identification of economic, social, and psycho-social reintegration assistance, information about the reintegration programmes in Abuja, and M&E strategies.</p> <p>21-26 March 2022</p>	40	<p>Participants were members of the Case Management Expert Team, the M&E Expert Team, and CSOs (Concern for Women and Youth Empowerment, Girls' Power Initiative).</p>
	Workshop	Reintegration assistance	<p>The workshop, organized to strengthen actors' capacity in reintegration assistance, mainly centred around the Case Management Expert Team structure, the IOM integrated approach to reintegration, individual and family counselling and information gathering, the assessment of migrants' needs and vulnerabilities, CBR, and the basic concepts of M&E.</p> <p>17-20 May 2022</p>	61	<p>Participants in this workshop included state and non-state actors through the Case Management Expert Team of Delta and Edo States. The pre and post-evaluations demonstrated a 38% increase in participants' knowledge of IOM's integrated approach to reintegration.</p>

	Training	Art-based interventions	Two training sessions were conducted for state and non-state actors to facilitate art-based interventions. The objective of the art-based intervention is to promote the expression of emotions, build self-awareness, facilitate recovery, and build resilience among returnees and their communities.	21	Participants in this training were state and non-state actors: National Orientation Agency, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, Child Protection Network, and SOS Villages.
	Training	Art-based interventions	09-12 May 2022 and 23-26 May 2022	22	Participants in this training were state and non-state actors: National Orientation Agency, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, Ministry of Women Affairs, and shelter providers.
	Training	M&E	<p>A four-day M&E capacity-building workshop, co-funded by the Netherlands-funded COMPASS project, was organized for the M&E Expert Team members in Kano State.</p> <p>This training is part of IOM's efforts to strengthen state and non-state actors' participation in the M&E of the AVRR programme in Nigeria. Participants were trained on the process and procedures, and the use of institutional tools developed for the M&E of the AVRR programme. One of the key outcomes of the training is the development of a joint monitoring work plan which activities will commence in August 2022.</p> <p>26-29 July 2022</p>	30	<p>Participants in this training were M&E Expert Team members.</p> <p>The analysis of pre and post-test results showed a 15% increase in knowledge.</p>
Senegal	Training	The integrated approach to reintegration	<p>IOM organized an online training to strengthen reintegration facilitators' knowledge of the integrated approach to reintegration. Participants were also provided with a refresher on identifying vulnerable migrants in need of specialized assistance such as psychosocial support. Examples of community projects implemented in the region of Kolda were also discussed as good practices, to be emulated in the other regions. Finally, opportunities to support job placements and referrals to existing services were presented.</p> <p>26 January 2021</p>	26	Participants in this training were reintegration facilitators.

	Training	Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA)	<p>A training session was conducted for prospective VSLA facilitators to strengthen those VSLAs. Participants gained skills related to setting up VSLAs, the basics of community savings, credit granting and repayment schemes, as well as capital sharing. These trained facilitators are set to replicate the system in their areas through follow-up and coaching activities and ensure the follow-up of VSLAs they already set up.</p> <p>27-28 April 2021</p>	06	Participants in this training were prospective VSLA facilitators.
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Table 3: Overview of the capacity-building activities focusing on reintegration for government and other counterparts (01 February 2021 – 31 July 2022)

9. SUPPORTING RETURNEES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES



a. OVERVIEW OF REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

By the end of July 2022, **74,746 migrants completed their reintegration assistance process** and a few thousand are still receiving services. By the end of the programme, it is expected that close to 94,000 migrants will be assisted with reintegration.

As of the end of July 2022	Active caseload having started the assistance process	Assistance process completed
Burkina Faso	2,595	2,485
Cameroon	4,190	3,937
Côte d'Ivoire	6,644	6,524
Gambia (the)	4,922	4,821
Ghana	2,187	1,519
Guinea	17,840	14,874
Guinea-Bissau	742	688
Mali	18,464	16,781
Mauritania	38	36
Niger	2,980	2,783
Nigeria	16,288	14,743
Senegal	5,651	5,555
Total	82,541	74,746

Table 4: Number of returnees assisted in their reintegration (EU-IOM Joint Initiative in the Sahel and Lake Chad) since 01 April 2017 and until 31 July 2022

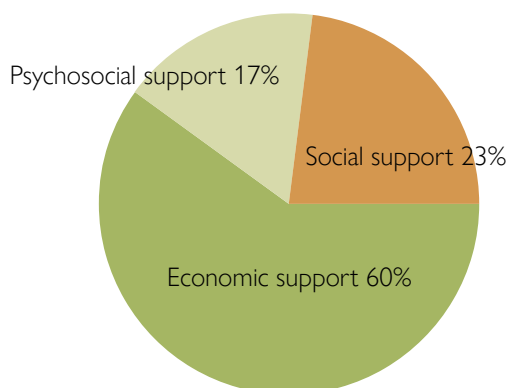
The table below presents the disaggregation of support provided per dimension.¹³ As of 31 July 2022, **76,202 migrants already received economic support, 23,075 acquired social support and 27,582 received psychosocial support.**

As of the end of July 2022	Economic support	Social support	Psychosocial support
Burkina Faso	2,322	768	1,338
Cameroon	3,748	810	1,364
Côte d'Ivoire	5,834	4,081	3,405
Gambia (the)	4,569	1,686	1,663
Ghana	1,922	149	305
Guinea	17,168	1,252	1,655
Guinea-Bissau	449	556	317
Mali	17,484	7,207	3,920
Mauritania	38	09	0
Niger	2,437	559	03
Nigeria	14,728	2,983	10,342
Senegal	5,503	3,015	3,270
Total	76,202	23,075	27,582

Table 5: Number of returnees assisted in the economic, social, and psychosocial dimensions of reintegration since 01 April 2017 and until 31 July 2022

¹³ The total support per dimension differs from the total assistance process completed (74,746) as beneficiaries can receive assistance under one or more dimensions throughout their reintegration process.

Number of returnees assisted in the economic, social, and psychosocial dimensions of reintegration



As of 31 July 2022, 10,542 migrants returned from host countries covered by the Joint Initiative in the Sahel and Lake Chad window (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger) to countries of origin not covered by the Joint Initiative External Actions (inter alia Benin, Chad,¹⁴ Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Togo).

Host country Country of origin	Burkina Faso	Chad	Mali	Mauritania	Niger	Total
Benin	28	01	42	10	1,208	1,289
Central African Republic	05	0	18	05	187	215
Chad	01	0	05	01	445	452
Liberia	113	11	373	90	1,649	2,236
Sierra Leone	110	15	707	734	3,960	5,526
Togo	09	38	21	18	237	323
Other	07	45	29	65	355	501
Total	273	110	1,195	923	8,041	10,542

Table 6: Returns to countries of origin not covered by the Joint Initiative between 01 April 2017 and 31 July 2022

On top of the reintegration assistance provided to the migrants stranded along their migratory journey in North and West and Central Africa, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in the Sahel and Lake Chad window also assists migrants returning from EU Member States, Switzerland and Norway. In total, 5,331 migrants returned from the EU, Switzerland, and Norway since the rollout of the Joint Initiative in the Sahel and Lake Chad.

Countries	IOM AVR ¹⁴	Non-IOM facilitated returns	Forced return	Total number of returns	Post-arrival assistance provided through the Joint Initiative
Burkina Faso	130	10	0	140	09
Cameroon	218	09	0	227	04
Côte d'Ivoire	95	17	0	112	03
Gambia (the)	416	76	422	914	429
Ghana	703	38	0	741	0
Guinea ¹⁵	246	49	0	295	21
Guinea-Bissau ¹⁵	27	28	0	55	06

¹⁴ Chad has an AVR component but no reintegration assistance component under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative.

¹⁵ It should be noted that in the previous Biannual Reintegration Report, the total number of returns reported for Guinea was way lower (52) than the total reported in the present report (295), while for Guinea-Bissau the total number of returns was way higher (220) than the total reported in the present report (55). This is due to a switch between the two countries' data in the previous Biannual Reintegration Report.

Mali	97	17	0	114	06
Mauritania	22	02	0	24	01
Niger	69	04	0	73	0
Nigeria	1,999	154	09	2,162	08
Senegal	374	19	81	474	05
Total	4,396	423	512	5,331	492

Table 7: Returns from EU Member States, Switzerland and Norway between 01 April 2017 and 31 July 2022

Overall, **84% of beneficiaries were satisfied with their reintegration assistance (out of 6,041), including 46% who were very satisfied.** This is higher than the satisfaction rate (of 72%) of beneficiaries assisted by partners, as highlighted by the Regional Final Evaluation, indicating that returnees' satisfaction is higher when IOM provides reintegration assistance in full.

Specific Objective # 2	Indicators	Target	Achieved
To improve the reintegration of returning migrants and to strengthen national structures and capacities to manage reintegration in a dignified and sustainable manner	% of beneficiaries who report they are satisfied with the reintegration assistance received from IOM	70%	84%

Looking at gender-disaggregated data, satisfaction rates are nearly equalling with 83% of women (out of 1,085) being satisfied or very satisfied compared to 85% of men (out of 4,955).¹⁶ More information on the level of satisfaction with each dimension of the reintegration support (economic, social psychosocial) can be found in the next sub-sections.

b. COMMUNITY-BASED REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

As highlighted in the previous Biannual Reintegration Reports, successful and sustainable reintegration largely depends on the conditions and environment in communities of return. Aware of the challenges faced by the communities, such as their limited resources, services and basic infrastructures, or the fact that often community and family members are the ones who fund the migration endeavour of the returnees, it appears that one of the important factors for the success and sustainability of the reintegration is the acceptance and involvement of the community.

Following the recommendation of the 2020 IOM-led Regional Reintegration Evaluation,¹⁷ the EU-IOM Joint Initiative continued to support CBR projects in the countries of the Sahel and Lake Chad region.

So far, the Joint Initiative has successfully engaged 441 CBR projects. Overall beneficiaries engaged are 5,913¹⁸ comprised of 2,578 (44%) returnees and 3,335 (56%) community members.

These activities are developed and implemented in close coordination with the communities. In this regard, 48 out of 61 community leaders surveyed in five countries¹⁹ reported they were consulted for the identification and design of the intervention. 47 also said they participated a lot in the implementation of the activity, while 08 said they sometimes participated. These activities allow to address both

¹⁶ One respondent did not wish to indicate gender.

¹⁷ EU-IOM Joint Initiative, Evaluation of reintegration activities in the Sahel and Lake Chad region, June 2020, available at this link: <https://www.migrationjointinitiative.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1261/files/articles/regional-reintegration-evaluation-report-final.pdf>, page 47 "Expand community-based activities projects to promote social cohesion and reduce risk of creating migration pull factors. Involving community members reduces the risk of returnees' assistance creating jealousy or encouraging others to migrate in order to receive assistance. However, as assisting host community members was not initially factored into the programme budget, this would need to be matched by corresponding resources to avoid depleting the funds available for reintegration".

¹⁸ Numbers of beneficiaries are indicative and might vary depending on return flows to communities and the different phases of the project preparation, implementation and completion.

¹⁹ Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Niger and Senegal.

returnees' and community members' needs, according to 49 respondents, and improve the social cohesion between returnees and community members. In fact, 58 community leaders reported noticing improved relationships between returnees and other community members following the activities.

However, these activities also present challenges to ensure the group's cohesion is maintained and thus ensure the sustainability of the project. Preliminary monitoring data indicates that this is best achieved through close monitoring, allowing to address the issues, give advice and offer mediation in a timely manner. It also shows that activities must be implemented where migrants reside, as otherwise the costs become too high for returnees to participate in the long-term. Similar observations were made when referring migrants to partners' activities taking place outside of their usual place of residence. Migrants also noted that their issues and complaints were better

addressed when shared directly with IOM compared to implementing partners. This information can be linked with feedback received from implementing partners, which clarified that IOM training on return and reintegration, and specifically on the psychosocial approach, helped them better understand some of the returnees' reactions and behaviours they had difficulties addressing. This shows the need to systematically capacitate partners to better consider returnees' specific needs and profiles.

	Status (as of 31 July 2022)	Number of interventions	Number of beneficiaries		
			Returnees	Community members	Total
Burkina Faso	Completed	04	409	496	905
	Implementation				
	Preparation				
Cameroon	Completed	03	04	26	30
	Implementation				
	Preparation				
Côte d'Ivoire	Completed	210	946	1,052	1,998
	Implementation	04	26	24	50
	Preparation				
Gambia (the)	Completed	33	37	43	80
	Implementation	03	03	03	06
	Preparation	04	04	04	08
Ghana	Completed	02	14	34	48
	Implementation				
	Preparation				
Guinea	Completed	57	435	294	729
	Implementation				
	Preparation				
Guinea-Bissau	Completed	17	210	370	580
	Implementation				
	Preparation				
Mali	Completed	02 ²⁰	30	41	71
	Implementation				
	Preparation				
Mauritania	N/A				

²⁰ The number of CBR projects in Mali decreased compared to the last reintegration report (from 07 to 02) as five projects reported in the preparation stage in the last reintegration report were finally cancelled. This is due to an in-depth analysis which showed too high an establishment and implementation cost per beneficiary.

Niger	Completed	89 ²¹	319	356	675
	Implementation				
	Preparation				
Nigeria	Completed	05 ²²	101	124	225
	Implementation				
	Preparation				
Senegal	Completed	08	40	468	508
	Implementation				
	Preparation				
Total ²³	Completed	430	2,545	3,304	5,849
	Implementation	07	29	27	56
	Preparation	04	04	04	08
Grand total	All	441	2,578	3,335	5,913

Table 8: Overview of the CBR projects per country between 01 April 2017 and 31 July 2022

GUINEA: AGRICULTURE PROJECT IN LELOUMA

A community-based market gardening project has been set up in January 2021 in the locality of Lelouma targeting youth and women. The 28 beneficiaries of the project (08 returnees and 20 community members, including 16 women) have already carried out three rotations of market gardening crops (chilli, eggplant, tomato, potato) and are currently working on the fourth rotation (tomatoes, onion and cabbage).

In terms of administrative organization, the group has a president, a secretary and a treasurer. The beneficiaries grow a common crop on behalf of the group and each of them also grows the crop of their choosing within the 4-ha site. The income from the common crop is deposited in a rural credit account for the operation of the group and the income from individual crops is used for the daily needs of the beneficiaries. They are also associated with village tontines (local and traditional saving mechanism) for better income savings.

Besides the direct positive benefits of the project for its members, the project has a wider interest for the locality in which it is implemented as, on top of associating community members to the initiative, project members sometimes cede part of the land area to other community members for various cultures. Thus, this community-based project contributes to the well-being of all.

NIGER: BAKERY PROJECT IN TABALAK

A community-based bakery project was set up in April 2021 in Tabalak, region of Tahoua which is the main region of returns in Niger. This project, one of the six bakery CBR projects set up in different localities of Niger with the implementing partner NGO CADEL, targeted seven youths (including four migrants and three community members). They benefitted from various support such as structuring into a group, training and orientation for business set up, building of and equipment for the bakery, as well as goods (flour, sugar, other materials) for the starting of their business.

By the end of the reporting period, the bakery was still in activity. The bakery has a strong customer base in the village and through the weekly markets which are important in the area and therefore constitute a considerable asset. Besides, the fact that the village is located

²¹ The number of CBR projects in Niger decreased compared to the last reintegration report (from 90 to 89) due to a bakery project in Tabalak erroneously reported twice among the projects indicated in the implementation stage in the last reintegration report.

²² The number of CBR projects in Nigeria decreased compared to the last reintegration report (from 06 to 05) as one project reported in the preparation stage in the last reintegration report was finally cancelled. This is due to a lack of interest from beneficiaries in the proposed activity (a plantain chip and flour processing factory).

²³ Projects in implementation or in preparation stage will be finalized under the Individual Measure for the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa.

in an agropastoral area allows diversification of customers (people from the village but also farmers, and breeders) thus promoting the sale of bread as well as derived products.

UPDATES FROM THE PREVIOUS REPORT:

BURKINA FASO: PLASTIC WASTE COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROJECT IN TENKODOGO

The plastic waste collection and management project initially planned to be set up in the municipality of Garango and then reoriented to an existing but non-functional site in Tenkodogo belonging to the Ministry of Environment, Green Economy, and Climate Change, is still under discussion. This community project, led by the Ministry of Environment since its relocation to Tenkodogo, has benefitted from IOM material donation (a plastic shredder and an electric press of plastic bags) to boost its start. However, due to the Ministry of Environment's internal difficulties, the project did not start yet. Thus, out of the 26 returnee migrants initially foreseen to join this project, some have been supported differently by IOM (either through cash for work, or training) while some others have become unreachable.

GHANA: GARRI²⁴ PROCESSING FACTORY IN PRAPRABAABIDA

The Garri Processing Factory project, which has been in operation since November 2020, is managed under the Dormaa East District Assembly through an 11-member committee headed by the District Chief Executive. The factory project was developed and implemented with the district authorities and a local returnee association to build their capacity to support the reintegration of returnees. It provides commercial opportunities to returnees supported with reintegration by IOM and local farmers to transform and add value to their agricultural products. Since the last report, the project continued to provide direct and indirect employment to the people of Praprabaabida and nearby communities.

NIGER: AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS IN TILLABERY REGION

In the region of Tillabery, all activities of the agricultural community-based projects in the villages of Filingue, Bonkougou and Chikal (benefitting 25 beneficiaries each) have been completed, including capacity-building of the projects' members through various training sessions, provision of agricultural inputs and materials, distribution of livestock, and the establishment of an irrigation network with solar pumping system in each site. Regarding the fourth agricultural community-based project in the village of Tounfaliss (also benefitting 25 beneficiaries), difficulties were faced related to the water supply. Indeed, despite the multiple attempts undertaken by the implementing partner Groupe Éducatif pour le Développement Durable to realize the drilling on the market garden site, the water could not be reached due to the physical properties of the soil. Therefore, the group has been reinforced in livestock to increase their breeding activities.

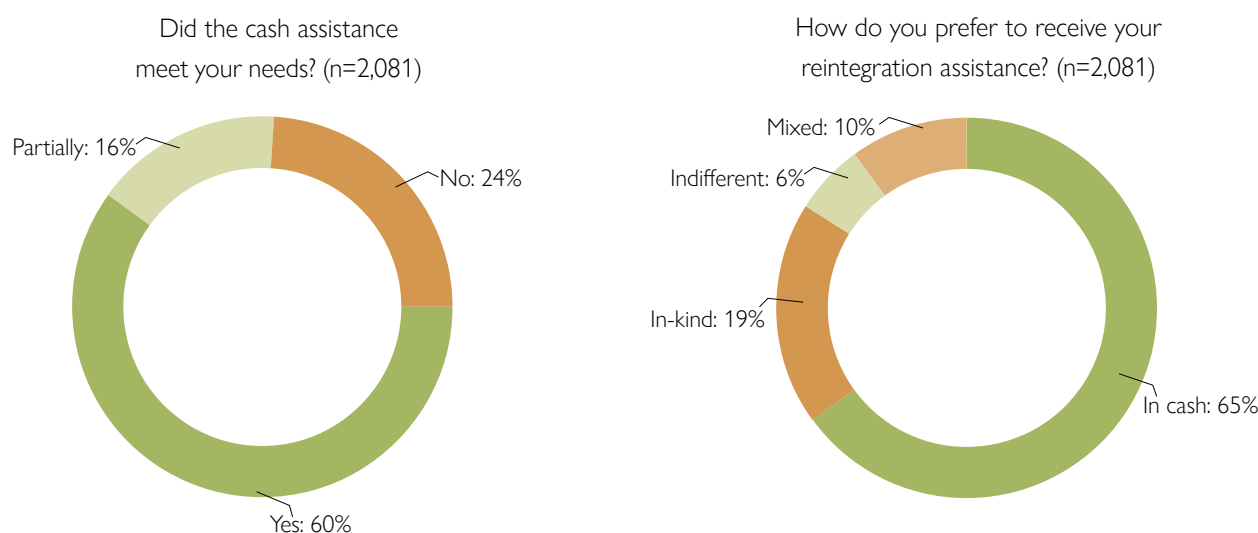
c. CASH TRANSFERS

As described in the previous [fourth](#) and [fifth reports](#), IOM introduced cash transfers as an assistance modality²⁵ halfway through the programme, to address the challenges raised by the occurrence of the COVID-19 crisis. **Two forms of cash assistance are implemented in several Sahel and Lake Chad countries: one is covering the implementation of the entire reintegration assistance plan through cash transfers, while the other is mixing cash to cover primary needs and in-kind assistance to implement the economic reintegration project.** In any case, the reintegration support is provided to migrants with safeguards according to national SOPs, such as disbursement of cash in instalments when the entire reintegration assistance is provided in cash, or distribution of a fixed amount of cash upon arrival to cover various costs and the rest of the reintegration assistance provided in-kind after training and the development of a reintegration plan.

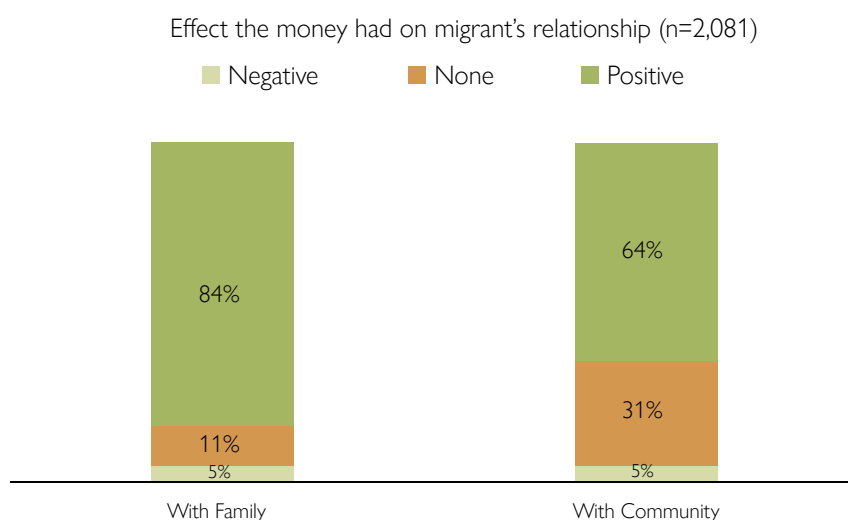
²⁴ Garri is a granular cassava flour.

²⁵ Cash transfers are an alternative modality to deliver assistance, to be compared to in-kind transfers. It is not a type or dimension of assistance per se and does not necessarily fall under the economic dimension, as it can also be used to cover social and psychosocial needs, as detailed in this sub-section.

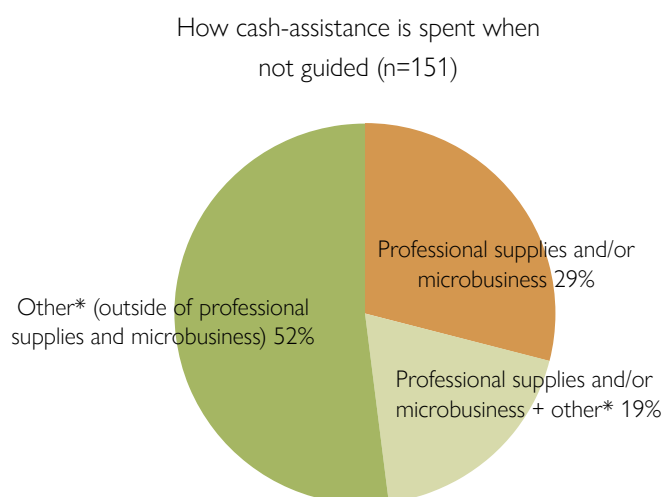
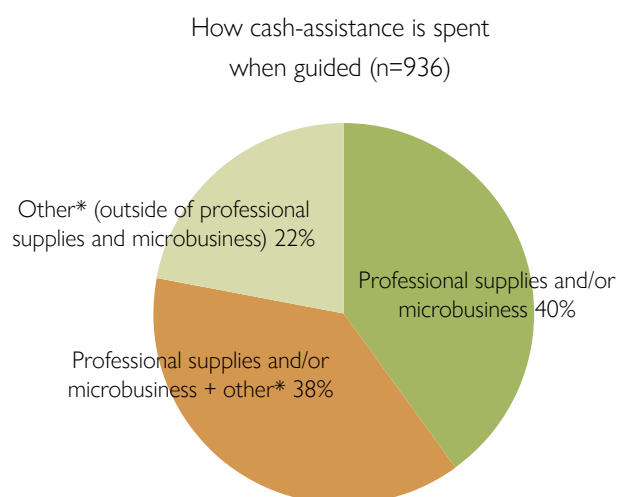
On average, beneficiary feedback ($n=2,081$) was positive, with more than half (**60%**) stating that the cash assistance had met their needs while another 16% said their needs had been partly met. Those who were not satisfied with the cash assistance explained that the amount received was not enough to cover their needs. Also, when asked how they felt about cash vs. in-kind assistance, **beneficiaries tended to have a stronger preference for cash assistance (65%)** than for in-kind (19%) while a small percentage (10%) preferred a mixed approach of the two assistances.



They also mentioned that **cash assistance had helped them in their relationship with community members (64%)** and **more importantly with their families (84%)**. Only a small percentage of beneficiaries (5%) stated that it had a negative impact on their relationships, often due to the pressure received to share the money.



Besides, the data collected allowed analysing the areas in which the cash assistance was spent, distinguishing between guided cash assistance (through a reintegration plan) and non-guided one. Data shows that three-quarters of beneficiaries who received guided cash-assistance spent the money entirely or partially in professional supplies and/or microbusiness set up (78%, $n=936$), hence following the reintegration plan. It is worth noting that among the beneficiaries who received non-guided cash assistance (i.e. to cover immediate needs), half spent the money entirely or partially in professional supplies and/or microbusiness set up (48%, $n=151$) and the other half in other areas (52%, $n=151$).



* Other may include food and other basic items, rent and bills, medical fees, payment of debts, and tuition fees.

Based on these results, several partners have recommended to continue using cash transfers as an assistance modality beyond the COVID-19 response, as detailed in the section 10 'Way forward'. Several IOM country offices have therefore continued providing such assistance, with efforts to increasingly use it in a mixed approach combining in-kind and cash support.

d. PSYCHOSOCIAL REINTEGRATION SUPPORT

As described in the IOM Reintegration Handbook,²⁶ the psychosocial dimension of reintegration encompasses the reinsertion of returning migrants into personal support networks (friends, relatives, neighbours) and civil society structures (associations, self-help groups, other organizations and civic life generally). This also includes the re-engagement with the values, ways of living, language, moral principles and traditions of the country of origin's society. Indeed, the migration process brings changes to migrants' emotions, feelings, thoughts, memories and beliefs and their relations with others, and understanding these elements and considering them during the delivery of assistance is essential for sustainable reintegration.

The Regional Reintegration Evaluation highlighted the essential role of psychosocial wellbeing in the success of economic reintegration and vice versa. Improving livelihoods reduces returnees' stress and anxiety while addressing any psychosocial issues helps beneficiaries to focus on their microbusiness and training opportunities. Thus, psychosocial assistance to support reintegration is critical to complement other interventions.

During the Joint Initiative, **the emphasis on psychosocial CBR increased over the years**, with many IOM Offices expanding their psychosocial support services, staff and reach in 2019-onwards. As of 31 July 2022, **27,582 migrants have received psychosocial assistance under the Joint Initiative.**

²⁶ IOM, Reintegration Handbook – Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance, November 2019, available at this link: <https://publications.iom.int/books/reintegration-handbook-practical-guidance-design-implementation-and-monitoring-reintegration>.

BOX 2: EXAMPLES OF PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED

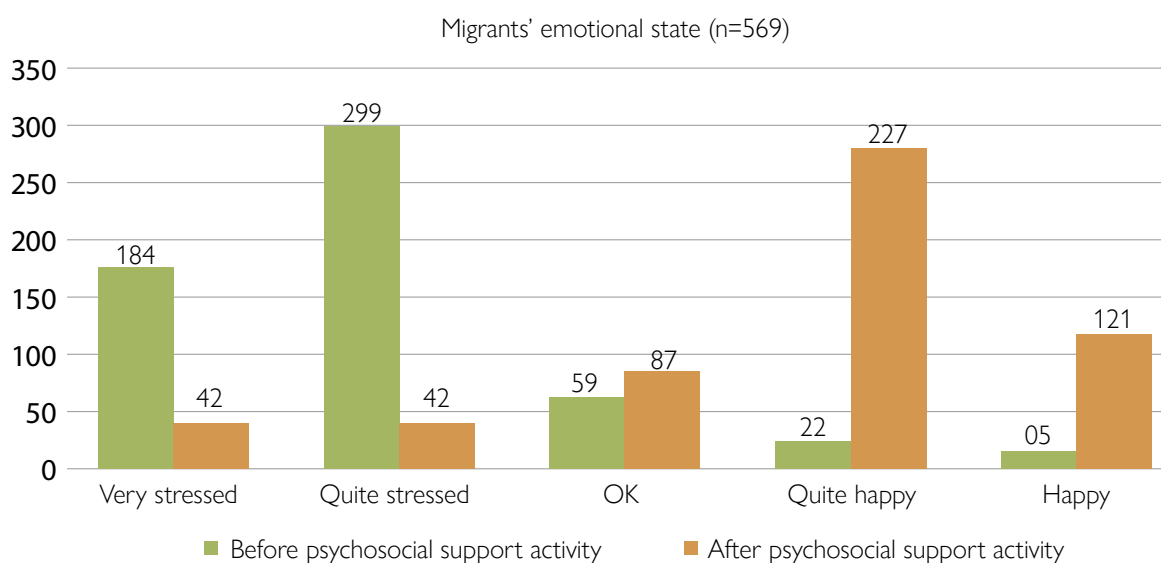
In **Cameroon**, effective partnerships with the Trauma Centre Cameroon, an NGO specializing in psychological care, and the Ministry of Social Affairs allowed IOM to refer migrants for additional psychosocial assistance, including during the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, the Ministry of Social Affairs put at the disposal of IOM four social workers to support in the provision of protection and psychosocial support.

In **Guinea**, IOM and the Association Guinéenne de Psychologues Cliniciens signed a three-month agreement (April to June 2021) for psychosocial support to migrants in vulnerable situations. Based on this partnership, 450 migrants were identified and referred for individual psychological screening at the transit centre. The objective was first to determine their level of vulnerability and the need for psychological care for each beneficiary. At the end of this evaluation, out of the 450 migrants identified and referred, 105 migrants were confirmed as being in more vulnerable situations and treated through individual and group therapy.

In addition, a female beneficiary was diagnosed with depressive disorder after her return in March 2022 when she became the victim of a scammer who pretended to be a smuggler. Rejected by her family upon her return, she had to stay with friends. She experienced insomnia, lack of appetite, anxiety, despair and suicidal thoughts. Worried, her friends recommended she reach out to IOM for support. She was supported by IOM's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support team through several counselling sessions. IOM staff also sensitized and supported her family to understand what happened and to finally accept her back. In the end, she was able to set up a bakery and said that she was able to rebuild her life and is now full of hope.

In **Mali**, IOM significantly increased Mental Health and Psychosocial Support to both foreign and returning Malian migrants, especially thanks to the signature of a partnership agreement with the Malian Red Cross. This partnership aimed to provide psychosocial support to migrants. As such, the Malian Red Cross trained its volunteers to profile and identify vulnerable migrants and provide psychological first aid. Volunteers also hosted focus group discussions with migrants and organized sensitization activities on psychosocial support in host communities.

Psychosocial reintegration surveys, conducted since the beginning of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, **demonstrate that psychosocial activities have been beneficial for the Joint Initiative returnees**. Indeed, data shows that returnees tend to feel better after having participated in a psychosocial activity as **85% of respondents (n=569) reported that they had felt stressed before the psychosocial activity, but only 15% reported still feeling this way afterwards**.



Data shows that psychosocial assistance has been provided mainly through group discussions (36%) or individual counselling (28%) ($n=713$), although clinical referrals have been done in some cases. **88% expressed they have been very satisfied or satisfied with the support received** ($n=700$) and **86% ($n=520$) said that participating in the psychosocial activity has changed something in their life**. In particular, for some returnees, such an activity helped them to regain self-confidence and for others to feel part of the community again.

These findings corroborate **the Regional Final Evaluation** which **highlighted that psychosocial support has contributed to enhancing migrants' wellbeing in their countries of origin**. In particular, key informants interviewed for this evaluation reported that psychosocial support was particularly relevant to ensuring successful reintegration since psychological wellbeing is often not prioritized in the Sahel and Lake Chad context and government support services are limited.

BOX 3: NOTEWORTHY COMMUNITY-BASED PSYCHOSOCIAL INITIATIVES

In **Burkina Faso**, the Association Jeunesse Volontaire pour la Promotion du Leadership, la Santé et le Développement together with IOM set up **mobile psychosocial support teams** (made up of two psychosocial support and case management specialists as well as two community facilitators per commune) in the communes of Boussouma and Garango, Centre Est Region. Benefitting returnees and their communities, those teams aim to meet the psychosocial needs of returnees while promoting social cohesion and the sustainability of the returnees' reintegration. More specifically, the mobile psychosocial support teams are responsible for, inter alia, implementing psycho-educational and socio-educational activities; providing mediation in case of family conflicts and reactive social support mechanisms; providing individual support to all migrants identified according to their needs; identifying, and referring to other actors those who express a particular need that cannot be met by the team.

In the **Gambia**, four **Migrant Peer Support Groups (MPSG)**, established in coordination with the Ministry of Health, Migration Information Centre focal points, and youth organizations, were activated in four regions (West Coast Region, Upper River Region, North Bank Region, and the Greater Banjul Area). Composed of returnees, shipwreck survivors and families of victims, as well as community members, MPSGs aim to organize various activities (such as training, focus group discussions, recreational interventions, and awareness campaigns) given returnees' long-term recovery from the traumatic experiences they encountered during the journey. MPSGs' activities also seek to counter stigma and discrimination returnees may face in their communities of return as well as support resilience to stress and develop positive coping strategies to COVID-19 and other negative life experiences. MPSG members were trained by personnel from the Ministry of Health to develop their capacities on peer-to-peer support, self-care, and COVID-19 precautionary measures, among others.

In **Nigeria**, the **peer-to-peer mentoring system** – presented in the previous report – continued since the last report. The Psychosocial Volunteers Mentors trained at the end of 2020²⁷ were further trained in March 2021 and May 2021, including on basic art-based interventions. The 13 trained Volunteers assisted their communities by conducting six psychosocial activities in Benin City (Edo State). As of 31 July 2022, 176 migrants in vulnerable situations participated in the psychosocial group activities animated by the Psychosocial Volunteers Mentors, allowing them inter alia to share their experiences, narrate their stressful moments and receive emotional support from their peers.

²⁷ It should be noted that out of the 14 Psychosocial Volunteers Mentors initially trained, one resigned.

e. SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

As presented in the IOM Reintegration Handbook, the social dimension of reintegration addresses returning migrants' access to public services and infrastructure in their countries of origin, including access to health, education, housing, justice and social protection schemes. Indeed, many returnees need some assistance accessing social services, whether immediately upon arrival or later during the reintegration process. While at the individual level social assistance is centred on facilitating access to and providing referrals for services, at the community level it is focused on improving the accessibility and availability of social services in communities of return for both returnees and community members.

In this regard, in parallel with the psychosocial support previously presented and the economic assistance presented in the next section, the EU-IOM Joint Initiative has provided social assistance to the returnees throughout its implementation. To this aim, returnees have been referred to partners and government-led services whenever possible, although in many instances these national services and infrastructures were lacking or had limited resources.

Since the beginning of the Joint Initiative and until 31 July 2022, returnees in the 12 Sahel and Lake Chad countries have benefitted from diverse social assistance as presented below:



10,997 migrants have benefitted from medical assistance upon assessment of their needs;



1,971 migrant children (accompanied, unaccompanied, and separated) **have benefitted from education support** through referral to schools, payment of tuition fees, and school materials and uniforms;



1,616 migrants, including 691 children, **have benefitted from housing support** through the payment of rental fees;



918 migrants have benefitted from identity document facilitation thanks to IOM partnerships with national authorities issuing such documents and proof of identity

BOX 4: EXAMPLES OF SOCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED SINCE THE LAST REPORT

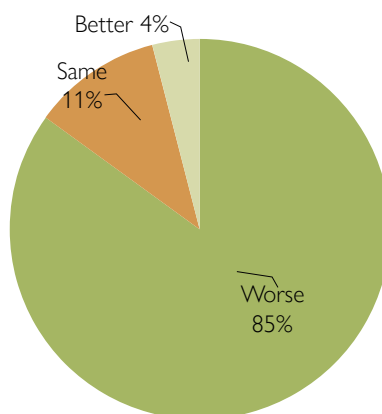
In **Côte d'Ivoire**, a family composed of two parents and their five children (two above 18 years old and three minors) who returned to the country by the end of 2021 benefitted from social support besides economic assistance. Identified as vulnerable, the family benefitted from housing support (both rental allowance and equipment) allowing them to rent an apartment. In addition, the family benefitted from school fees support for the three minors who completed their academic year 2021-2022, with one of them ranked as the best of the class.

In the **Gambia**, IOM supported 18 returnees in April 2022 from the Central River Region and Banjul to obtain national identity cards from respectively the Immigration Office in Janjanbureh and the Gambia Immigration Department. The national identity cards are notably a prerequisite to opening bank accounts for their businesses, acquiring a tax identification number, and moving within the country.

In the Tambacounda region of **Senegal**, IOM began advocacy with the decentralized territory of Goudiry in early 2021 to facilitate the enrolment of returning migrants for universal health coverage, a service allowing the most vulnerable populations to access health care at a lower cost. To join, the beneficiary must pay an XOF 1,000 membership fee and an annual contribution fee of XOF 7,000, giving them access to certain social benefits, including an 80% reduction for care at the level of health structures, and a 50% reduction for coverage at the level of pharmacies and mutual health insurance. IOM is in the process of partnering with the universal health coverage main Office in Dakar to provide this service to all returnees.

As per social reintegration surveys conducted since the beginning of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, beneficiaries' feedback indicates that the social assistance received had a significant impact on their reintegration. **81% (n=971) indicated being very satisfied or satisfied with the support received.** The majority had received medical assistance (46%), education support (15%) and material support (11%) (n=1,118). Beneficiaries expressed that **the assistance received has changed their life (89%, n=564) and that their situation would have been worst without this support (85%, n=508).**

If you had not benefited from social support,
how would be your current situation? (n=508)



These findings are in line with the Regional Final Evaluation in which the data gathered suggests that **social reintegration assistance contributed to enhancing migrants' wellbeing in their countries of origin.** Respondents reported that having necessities such as medical care, schooling and shelter taken care of reduced the immediate financial pressure on returnees and helped them to focus on their economic reintegration.

f. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

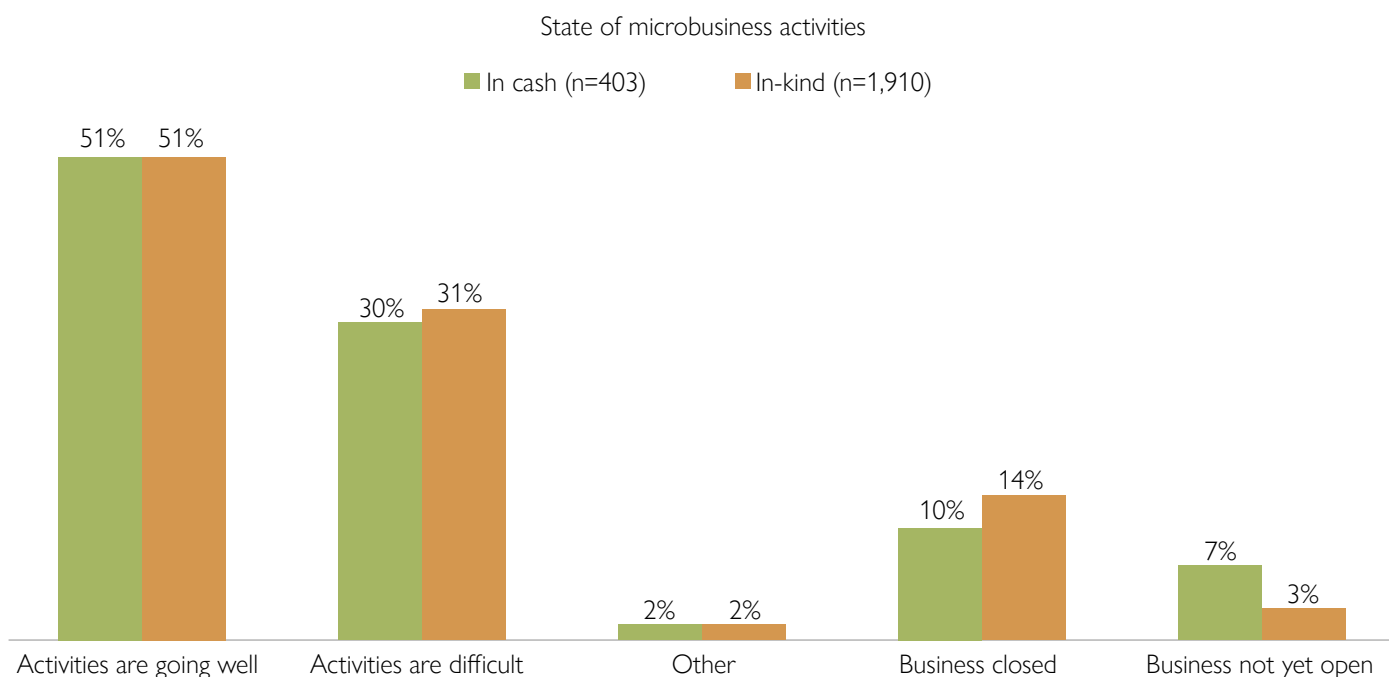
As per the IOM Reintegration Handbook, the economic dimension of reintegration covers aspects of reintegration that contribute to re-entering the economic life and sustained livelihoods. In other words, economic reintegration assistance helps returnees establish economic self-sufficiency upon their return. Many reintegration programmes include support for economic reintegration as often the reason returnees first left was because of the lack of a decent income. The perspective of receiving assistance upon return can also help migrants make the difficult choice to return when their migration journey does not succeed, and prevent them from pursuing riskier paths by fear of returning empty-handed. Besides, such support can help them cope with factors of re-migration. To help returnees, such assistance can include:

- Creation or strengthening of income-generating activities (for example, business start-up support, access to banking and microcredit);
- Job placement (apprenticeship/on-the-job training, paid internships);
- Training or educational support (vocational training, skills development, finance and budgeting counselling).

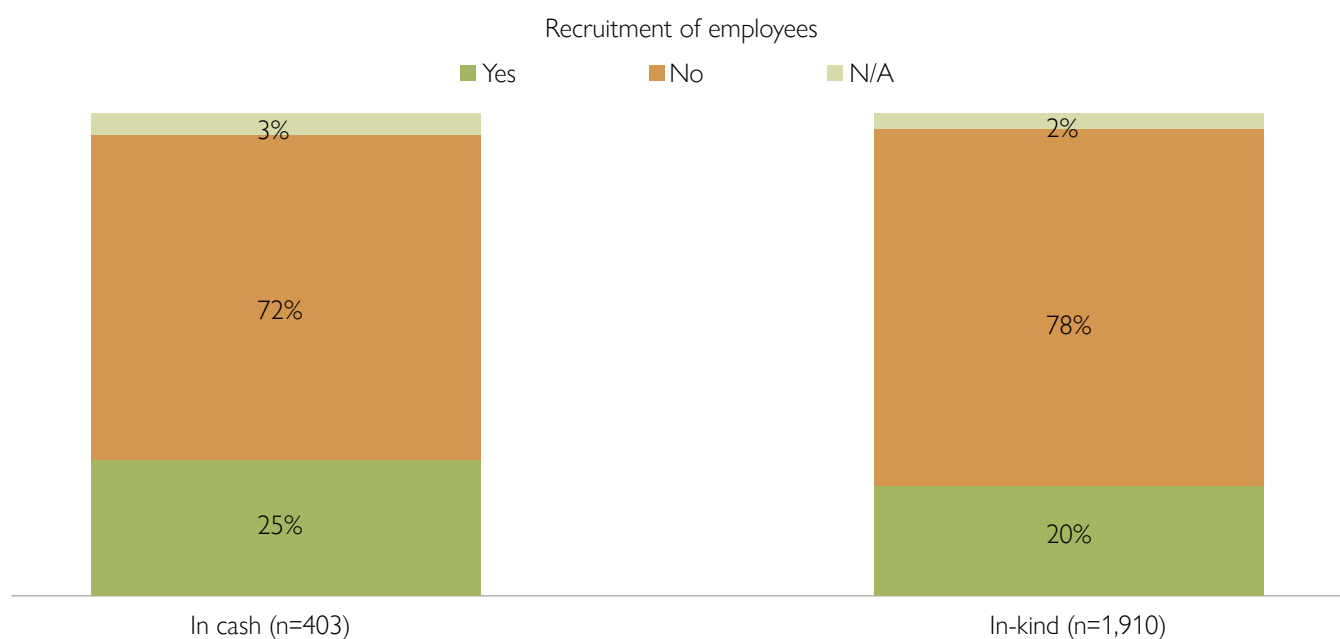
A lack of a livelihood can be one of the main sources of stress for an individual and having an occupation can help to alleviate negative feelings. However, for a returnee to have a successful and holistic reintegration, livelihoods must be accompanied by a healthy social life and strong networks and connections. Moreover, certain psychological states characterized by toxic levels of stress, deep anxieties and social stigma can make it difficult for an individual to engage in livelihood interventions or benefit from livelihood opportunities. As such, the economic reintegration measures outlined in this section should be considered in combination with the individually tailored psychosocial and social support presented in previous sections.

Throughout the Joint Initiative implementation, **85% of returnees interviewed expressed they have been very satisfied or satisfied with the economic support received** (n=4,370). Out of those respondents, 94% had received at least microbusiness support. Thus, since the beginning of the Joint Initiative and as of 31 July 2022, **52,423 microbusiness have been created (benefitting 59,350 migrants)**.

It is interesting to note that so far, the analysis of monitoring data shows that **there are no major difference between microbusinesses supported through in-kind equipment or through cash transfers**: half of the returnees supported with microbusiness have activities that go well while around a third of them experience difficulties.



Similar results have also been observed regarding the capacities of microbusinesses to employ staff.



BOX 5: EXAMPLES OF ECONOMIC SUPPORT PROVIDED SINCE THE LAST REPORT

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, IOM assisted a young returnee from Morocco who, upon arrival, expressed his desire to become an electrician. The beneficiary was referred to the Centre des Métiers de l'Electricité, one of the centres with which IOM had signed an agreement under the IOM-ARCHIPELAGO collaboration. As part of his reintegration assistance, he benefitted from a transportation and meal allowance to cover the expenses incurred during the four months of professional training, as well as from a rental subsidy. At the end of the training period, he was ranked among the five best learners, which allowed him to be selected as an intern for four months at the main national electrical company, the Ivorian Company of Electricity. While waiting to start his internship, the beneficiary works as an independent electrician, allowing him to cover his monthly expenses.

In **Guinea-Bissau**, IOM assisted a returnee to attend driving school and obtain a driving license for heavy vehicles. Such support permitted the beneficiary to enter the labour market and get a contract as a driver in a freight transport company. According to the migrant, this was the opportunity he needed to get a fixed contract, be independent, support his family and thus no longer need to try to enter Europe irregularly.

Over the years of implementation, IOM increasingly complemented support to the establishment of a microbusiness with the provision of training on business development and management. This way, the percentage of **beneficiaries receiving microbusiness management training represented 57% of adult beneficiaries with completed reintegration** in 2022 compared to 47% in 2017. Out of the returnees surveyed who had received such training, **97% declared that it was useful** ($n=1,256$). They explained that the training helped them to understand how to effectively manage their business, including how to manage profits and savings, and attract and retain customers.

IOM also offered professional and vocational training, either delivered directly or through referrals to partners, and lasting from one day to several months. The majority of the training sessions were delivered to beneficiaries ahead of the receipt of their installation kits to start their economic activities, to foster their business sustainability. In some cases, training was delivered even before the drafting of returnees' reintegration plans to help them make better-informed decisions and planning. The below table illustrates some non-exhaustive examples of training returnees benefitted from since the last report:

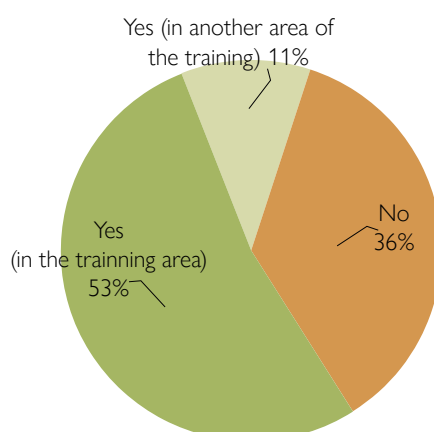
Country	Training topics	Number of beneficiaries
Burkina Faso	Two training sessions facilitated on animal husbandry techniques and farm management in March-April 2022.	78
Cameroon	Returnees referred to Professionnalisation des Jeunes Agriculteurs au Cameroun – PROJACAM, a project part of the ARCHIPELAGO programme, for various training sessions such as agricultural skills, poultry farming, automobile mechanics, aviculture, milk production and transformation, and agropastoral entrepreneurship.	91
Côte d'Ivoire	IOM training sessions organized on waste management and recovery to develop income-generating activities in July-August 2022.	14
Gambia (the)	Following the partnership agreement signed with the National Enterprise Development Initiative in October 2021, returnees benefitted from entrepreneurship skills training since the last report.	300
Ghana	IOM facilitated business development training and psychotherapy sessions in May-June 2022.	165

Guinea-Bissau	Three training sessions were conducted in partnership with the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries Institute in February 2021 on computer science, restaurant and bar management, and auto-mechanics.	32
Mali	Since the last report, returnees benefitted from six-day training sessions on simplified management of microenterprises.	4,246
Mauritania	Microbusiness training delivered by the National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment to returnees in February-March 2021 and May 2021.	13
Niger	Since the last report, returnees were trained on business management and other aspects linked to their reintegration business plan (such as cattle breeding).	898
Nigeria	Since the last report, returnees benefitted from business management skills training (incorporating psychosocial sessions since September 2021).	3,417

Table 9: Illustrations of professional/vocational training benefitting returnees between July 2021 and July 2022

Economic reintegration surveys show that, overall, **beneficiaries have been very satisfied or satisfied (92% – n=158) with professional/vocational training received and that such assistance has been useful for 94% of them (n=155)**. Indeed, 64% (n=154) of beneficiaries indicated that they found a job after the training, including more than half (53%) saying they found a job in the training area.

Did you find a job after the training? (n=154)



Another example of complementary economic support is the organization of or participation in job forums such as the Youth Connect Sahel Forum that took place in November-December 2021 in **Senegal** and which brought together youth from across the Sahel region, including returnees. The event provided an opportunity for returnees to engage with influential people, business leaders, political leaders, and development institutions. IOM supported the participation of four returnees who already received their economic reintegration support, including two migrants from the Dakar region working in carpentry and livestock, and two migrants from the Tambacounda region working in agriculture. The four migrants were able to exhibit their products at the event as well as develop their networks.

BOX 6: UPDATE ON VILLAGE SAVINGS AND LOANS ASSOCIATIONS ESTABLISHED IN SENEGAL

Established in different localities by returnees alone or together with community members, the VSLAs aim to strengthen the economic and financial empowerment of its entrepreneurs and beneficiaries. The VSLAs are established by the returnees themselves, using the revenue generated through the reception of IOM's assistance. IOM provides technical assistance to the VSLAs through coaching and mentoring. As presented in previous reports, the VSLA is a financial mechanism adapted to rural communities (which are usually excluded from traditional savings and credit systems operating with high-interest rates) giving access to simplified savings and small solidarity loans with low-interest rates.

Such initiatives have been developed in at least 13 localities of Senegal in the Kolda region (Guiré Yéro Bocar, Saré Yoba, Diamanouta, Missira Lenkento, Diambanouta, Medina Touat, Patim Couta, Tonguia, Missirah), in the Sedhiou region (Walicounda, Diaroumé, Marssasoum) and the Kaffrine region (Saré Sadjo).

As concrete examples of the VLSA benefits for its beneficiaries, the VSLA established in the community reintegration project of Walicounda allowed the returnees and community members to pay for seeds and other materials for the following farming season. The VSLA established in Missirah by the beneficiaries of the agricultural community-based project (founded in October 2019) granted a donation of XOF 150,000 (approximately EUR 228) to the community to pay for chairs to be used by the whole village during events.

10. WAY FORWARD

Building on the findings of the Action M&E exercises, IOM has engaged stakeholders to draw lessons and inform future programming. To this end, IOM launched a series of country-level consultations bringing together key stakeholders, including the EU Delegations, government counterparts, implementing partners, CSOs, the private sector and national coordination and referral structures. Between December 2021 and March 2022, IOM hosted country-level Participatory Lessons Learning Consultations in 12 countries of implementation of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal) and organized a follow-up regional workshop in Dakar in May 2022. This regional workshop provided an opportunity for regional discussion and review of the lessons from the field. A comprehensive list of recommendations and related priorities for the future EU-IOM programme were collectively identified by thematic areas and by importance (high/medium/low). The recommendations linked to reintegration with higher importance and addressed to IOM are presented below:

Domain	Recommendations
Economic reintegration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue efforts to shorten the time needed to receive economic reintegration. • Systematically guide returnees towards a technical, professional or entrepreneurial capacity-building activity, according to their level of education, experience and interest. • Integrate business development training into microbusiness support to enhance returnees' knowledge and skills to set up and manage businesses, where not yet done. • Provide information on viable business options, taking into consideration the context and needs of the individual. • Make available to governmental structures and partners the basic information related to the beneficiaries (full name, date of birth, gender and place of residence, nature of the training or support). • Further explore partnerships with agencies for job matching and placements as well as skills development and further involve the private sector.
Social reintegration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance referral mechanisms for migrants in vulnerable situations to provide access to health and education services, inter alia. • Continue to map services available (accommodation, health and education) in areas of high returns and special arrangements to subsidize schools and accommodations in particular for returning migrants. • Strengthen the medical care component and set up partnerships with medical facilities where not yet done. • Strengthen the technical capacities in terms of the protection of national and local actors who work with returnees in vulnerable situations. • Further advocate for institutions to nominate frontline staff, particularly at the local level, involved in providing daily services to migrants to participate in training (rather than senior representatives). • Coordinate with the government the development of an action plan related to the cascading and restitution of training. • Expand training and deployment of social workers across all regions of the different countries to strengthen the support for migrants. • Reinforce capacities and strategies for the effective reintegration of migrant children (by making provisions for the continuity of educational and school care or strengthening access to income-generating activities for those who do not or cannot go to school for example).

Psychosocial reintegration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the elaboration and implementation of the national mental health and psychosocial support strategies. • Strengthen the provision of psychosocial support and set up partnerships with structures specialized in psychosocial care whenever possible. • Strengthen the technical capacities in terms of psychosocial support of national and local actors who receive or work with returnees in vulnerable situations. • Further advocate for institutions to nominate frontline staff, particularly at the local level, involved in providing daily services to migrants to participate in training (rather than senior representatives). • Increase the number of community volunteers that are trained to provide psychosocial support to returnees. • Support the government to increase human and financial resources in the regions to address psychosocial support needs. • Increase the timeframe of counselling for returnees and extend the counselling sessions to include community members. • Promote family mediation initiatives in partnership with social actors and community leaders, to intervene in cases where the return of the migrant to the family or relatives is problematic: identify which actors are functional and work, with the same approach. • Select and train local religious and traditional actors on the provision of psychosocial assistance to returning migrants.
Community-based reintegration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Favour collective projects when the migrants themselves propose them, and there is a pre-existing relationship of trust and common interests in a collective project approach. • Strengthen synergies through continued collaboration between partners implementing community projects to reduce duplications. • Link reintegration projects with community development plans, follow the national migration-related guide, and ensure reintegration plans align with locally-identified needs. • Involve administrative authorities in the supervision of the projects to ensure sustainability. • Increase awareness of CBR through awareness-raising associations with community leaders and communities. • Organize studies on the green economy and potential links with reintegration.
Cash-based interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to provide or consider providing cash support and link it to vocational training and work experience (e.g. cash for work or cash for training). • Integrate cash support as part of the general strategy for the returnees' empowerment, as one part of their overall reintegration plan. • Adapt cash support payment modalities to the context of the area and the beneficiaries. • Consider moving from a one-time cash payment to a regular payment of a minimum stipend for six or eight months during the initial phase of reintegration. • Strengthen the monitoring, follow-up and feedback mechanisms linked to the provision of cash support.
Local ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the role of authorities in the referral of returnees. • Further strengthen capacities of local authorities in areas with high numbers of returns.
Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalize informal partnerships and enhance the gathering of knowledge on referral opportunities. • Strengthen National Referral Mechanisms for effective coordination of reintegration programmes with IOM, national authorities and other partners for effective assessment of national resources and enhancement of national capacities in terms of returning migrants' reintegration into communities of origin. • Develop synergies between the EU, IOM and local/traditional authorities in terms of information sharing on returning migrants to avoid duplication of roles and functions. • Promote partnership between IOM and government counterparts on psychosocial support.

Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better align reintegration programmes and activities with government socioeconomic policy priority areas and development programmes on reintegration. • Increase reintegration monitoring to understand potential gaps. • Increase migrant skill development opportunities, especially through referrals and synergies with other existing programs and initiatives. • Continue to provide a mix between cash and in-kind support, including training. • Continue to provide cash support during the initial phase post-arrival to help returnees cover their immediate needs and strengthen their trust in the programme. • Develop links with the private sector and governmental institutions for job placement. • Promote nature-based solutions linking reintegration with the green economy and community-based programmes for migrants' sustainable reintegration. • Work more closely with government actors and communities for creating ownerships to enhance sustainability in reintegration programmes.
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While this list does not include all the recommendations specific to each country context that emerged through the national-level consultations, they represent a comprehensive list of partners' recommendations at the regional level. **Some of these recommendations are in line with IOM's work detailed in previous sections, for instance on the development of partnerships and referral opportunities related to vocational training, job matching and placement, health, education, and psychosocial support, inter alia, as well as on capacity-building. This work continues under the Individual Measure for the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa and will remain a priority under future programming.** Some other recommendations require some caveats. For instance, while IOM can support governments and partners' capacity development, including on resource mobilization and strategic planning, and advocate for the allocation of resources, it cannot per se *"support the government to increase human and financial resources in the regions to address psychosocial support needs"*. In a similar manner, IOM can only *"make available to governmental structures and partners the basic information related to the beneficiaries (full name, date of birth, gender and place of residence, nature of the training or support)"* in the framework of a referral pathway framed by a data sharing agreement, and in line with its data protection principles. Finally, while IOM will continue to advocate for the implementation of CBR, its ability to continue to implement the recommendations in this field will rely on the resources made available for such activities.

Beyond the activities detailed in previous sections, other concrete response have been taken at the country and regional level. It is for instance the case in **Côte d'Ivoire** where, in response to the recommendations to *"involve administrative authorities in the supervision of the projects to ensure sustainability"* and to *"increase reintegration monitoring to understand potential gaps"*, an increasing number of joint monitoring missions have been carried out in the country under the Individual Measure for the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, in coordination with the General Direction of the Diaspora, IOM is assessing the current operational and technical capacity of Regional Committees whose role should be, inter alia, to monitor the reintegration activities of returning migrants. Based on this assessment, IOM and the General Direction of the Diaspora aim to revitalise these Committees under the Migrant Protection, Return and Reintegration Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa to ensure they have a more active role in supporting returning migrants to reintegrate more sustainably.

Another example includes **Ghana** where, responding to the recommendation to *"integrate business development training into microbusiness support to enhance returnees' knowledge and skills to set up and manage businesses, where not yet done"*, basic training in business skills has been included for all returnees in the Individual Measure for the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa. In general, efforts have been made in all countries of the region to implement this recommendation, and in 2022, 57% of adult beneficiaries with completed reintegration had participated in such training, compared to 47% in 2017.

In line with the recommendations to *“integrate cash support as part of the general strategy for the returnees’ empowerment, as one part of their overall reintegration plan”* and to *“continue to provide a mix between cash and in-kind support, including training”*, IOM in **Mali** is maintaining the provision of initial cash-based support upon arrival to all returnees (funds for children is provided to parents or guardians), followed up by in-kind reintegration. This approach was initially introduced during the COVID-19 crisis and proved beneficial for the beneficiaries. This mixed approach was also emulated in **Guinea** to replace the cash transfer covering the overall reintegration plan which was initially put in place as a response to the COVID-19 situation.

Furthermore, in June 2022, IOM in **Mali** launched a study on ‘Opportunities in the Green Economy: How to Improve the Resilience of Returning Migrants and Departing Communities’ and the IOM Regional Office based in Dakar launched a mapping of promising practices to mainstream environmental and climate considerations into reintegration programming to promote their replicability. This is in line with the recommendations to *“organize studies on the green economy and potential links with reintegration”* and *“promote nature-based solutions linking reintegration with the green economy and community-based programmes for migrants’ sustainable reintegration”*.

Finally, in line with the recommendation to *“enhance referral mechanisms for migrants in vulnerable situations to provide access to health and education services, inter alia”*, a National Referral Mechanism for the sustainable return and reintegration of migrants is being developed in **Ghana** under the Individual Measure for the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa. In June 2022, the Regional Coordination Unit in Dakar also organized an internal webinar to share good practices from Senegal and Sudan for the inclusion of returnees into national health schemes and support their replicability.

These Lessons learnt recommendations will orient future programming and will serve as a basis to continue supporting African countries in coordination with the donor community, including the EU and EU Member States.

11. ANNEXES



Annexe 1: Overview of coordination and governance structures per country

Annexe 2: Overview of all capacity-building activities carried out during the entire intervention



EU-IOM

Joint Initiative for
Migrant Protection
and Reintegration



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