



Sustainable Reintegration Workshop

Concept Note

September 7-8, 2022
Puebla, Mexico

Background

In the region, and particularly in Northern Central America and Mexico, high and sustained numbers¹ of returned migrants have been recorded over time.² While efforts have been made in countries of origin to ensure the safe and dignified return and reception of their nationals and/or habitual residents, programs to facilitate and ensure the sustainable reintegration of these persons are still in their early stages.

Reintegration is generally understood as a multidimensional process in which migrants re-establish their economic, social and psychosocial ties with the environment to which they return within their country of origin or habitual residence.³ In this process, the sustainability of the outcome depends not only on the individuals themselves but also on the community and the structural conditions of the context to which they return, which is why intervention at these levels in association with other actors becomes indispensable.

Countries have made efforts to include this issue in their national agendas.⁴ The inclusion in the Global Compact on Migration of the twenty-first objective: *Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration*, is a key result of this. This goal shows the commitment of States both to "facilitate and cooperate for safe and dignified return" and to "create conducive conditions in order to ensure that reintegration of migrants upon return to their countries of origin is sustainable."⁵ Addressing this issue is also part of efforts to improve migration governance more broadly and consolidate peace.

¹ According to the Northern Triangle Migration Information Initiative-NTMI, between January and December 2021, approximately 125,257 returns of migrants to northern Central American countries from the United States and Mexico have been registered, representing a 39% variation with respect to the total number of returns registered in 2020 (90,138), a year already marked by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which affected the possibilities of mobilization of migrants. In 2019, 251,778 migrants returned to their countries of origin.

² For the purposes of this concept note, the term returned migrants includes both those migrants who have voluntarily decided to return and those who have been deported.

³ International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2017). Towards an integrated approach to reintegration in the context of return. Available at: https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl486/files/our_work/DMM/AVRR/Towards-an-Integrated-Approach-to-Reintegration.pdf

⁴ International Organization for Migration (2019). Estudio sobre reintegración: migración y ciudades. Informe regional. Available at: <https://kmhub.iom.int/es/estudio-sobre-reintegracion-migracion-y-ciudades-informe-regional>, p.25

⁵ United Nations General Assembly (2019). Resolution 73/195. Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. Objective 21. Available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/451/99/PDF/N1845199.pdf?OpenElement>



The interest in making reintegration sustainable has led to increased recognition of the role of communities of origin in the design and implementation of beneficial and effective reintegration programs that address the specific needs of returnees and are tailored to the specific context. At the same time, this has led to highlighting the role of local level actors as well as return and reintegration service structures and capacities in contributing to the achievement of States' economic and social development plans, as well as of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global frameworks.

As an example of the activities that have been implemented in the region to facilitate the reintegration of returnees, the following are mentioned in areas such as:

- **Employment and skills development:** connecting returnee migrants with job vacancies in the private sector, providing assistance to certify skills, and offering programs to train returnees in areas of high labor demand.⁶
- **Mental health and psychosocial support:** dissemination of psychoeducational messages through theater and ludic activities and raising awareness of mental health care.⁷
- **Dissemination of information and awareness-raising:** mobile units provide information on the risks of irregular migration through playful and educational activities.⁸
- **Tools for addressing the specific needs of returnee populations:** assistance protocols, articulation of inter-institutional efforts, and opening of services such as service and information hubs.⁹

In recent years, there has been consensus that in order to have a more profound impact, reintegration programs must be based on an integrated approach, i.e., one that considers the economic, social and psychosocial dimensions at the individual, community and structural levels.¹⁰ This could, in the long term, contribute to addressing migration drivers.

⁶ For more information, please refer to initiatives such as [Guate te incluye](#), [Programa de certificación en gastronomía](#) of the World Food Program, Pilot Program in El Salvador *Formación para la empleabilidad de mujeres migrantes en Centroamérica* which contributed to the [certification of 33 women in computer and marketing skills](#), [Centros de formación Quédate](#), [Programa Integral de Inserción para la Población Salvadoreña Retornada de El Salvador](#), among others.

⁷ For more information, please refer to initiatives such as: [Proyecto Pepita](#), and [Reintegración sobre Ruedas](#).

⁸ To learn more, see initiatives such as: [Reintegración sobre Ruedas](#)

⁹ For more information, see initiatives like: [Protocolo y Ventanillas de Atención a Mujeres Migrantes Retornadas](#) (El Salvador), Plan de Atención y Protección Integral a Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes Migrantes Retornados y sus Familias (El Salvador) and [Unidades Municipales de Atención al Migrante Retornado](#) (UMAR, Honduras). Government of El Salvador (2017). National Policy for the protection and development of Salvadoran migrants and their families. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Politica%20Nacional%20para%20la%20Proteccion%20y%20Desarrollo%20de%20la%20Persona%20Migrante%20Salvadorena%20y%20su%20Familia.pdf>

¹⁰ IOM (2018). Towards an integrated approach to reintegration in the context of return. Available at: https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd486/files/our_work/DMM/AVRR/Towards-an-Integrated-Approach-to-Reintegration.pdf



RATIONALE

Migration governance must consider return migration¹¹ as a fundamental human right and promote public policies and programs that leverage the advantages and address the challenges that this process entails, including the safe and dignified return and reception and the availability of programs that facilitate the reintegration of returnees.

In particular, reintegration requires the joint and coordinated work of multiple stakeholders. This should be based on an analysis of community, structural and individual factors to define in which areas intervention is needed and how it should be carried out in order to shape an environment conducive to reintegration and achieve sustainable, effective and beneficial results for all – while keeping in mind that circumstances may change over time. An integrated approach to reintegration in this sense responds to economic, social and psychosocial needs, while addressing cross-cutting issues such as the rights of returned migrants, gender equality, data collection, monitoring and evaluation of reintegration processes, amongst others.

Sharing information and best practices is also an important exercise, as it contributes to building synergies and expanding opportunities through the implementation of joint initiatives and bilateral coordination between countries of origin, transit and destination.

It is relevant that public servants in charge of the processes of reception, assistance, protection and reintegration of returnees have an integrated perspective of reintegration and direct their actions to achieve its sustainability in order to ensure:

- That returnees can benefit from and participate in human development opportunities
- that progress is made in achieving the commitments set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, in particular by implementing planned and well-managed migration policies with international support and by building effective partnerships in the public, public-private and civil society spheres.
- returnees are able to make migration decisions as a matter of choice, rather than a necessity.

OBJECTIVES

- **OVERALL OBJECTIVE:** To promote dialogue among key stakeholders in the region to improve the national and regional articulation processes for the support of the returned migrants, in order to guarantee their sustainable reintegration into the society of origin and/or habitual residence, in accordance with the existing commitments and standards

¹¹ Return migration is understood as the movement of persons returning to their country of origin after having moved away from their place of habitual residence and crossed an international border. This can be voluntary or forced, assisted or independent. Such return is motivated by different factors including personal or family circumstances, migratory status, public migration policies at the destination, with or without restrictive criteria; the political and socioeconomic context in the host country and in the country of origin (IOM Glossary on Migration).



at the global, regional and national levels through the development of a roadmap in the region.

- SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- Review key concepts and frame sustainable reintegration in the regional context as well as in the context of existing global and regional tools.
- Identify challenges and good practices in the reintegration of returned migrants in the region.
- To lay the foundations for the systematization of good practices in the region, to serve as a practical guide for actors involved in reintegration issues.
- Promote the adoption of public policies (such as national or local plans) on sustainable reintegration that aim to improve protection and assistance services for returned migrants and that are evidence-based.
- Emphasize the special protection needs of the most vulnerable groups, such as: unaccompanied or separated returnee children and adolescents, returnees who are forcibly displaced upon arrival in their country of origin, and women.
- Formulate regional recommendations on the next steps to improve the response and articulation on sustainable reintegration of returnees among the member countries of the Regional Conference on Migration.

METODOLOGÍA

The methodology of the workshop will be based on a participatory dialogue in order to achieve concrete results that will allow progress in the implementation of actions for the sustainable reintegration of returned migrants.

The first day will include presentations by experts who will frame the topic in the regional and global context, and will provide some conceptual foundations that will serve as a basis for discussion. In addition, the space will be open to Member States and observer organizations to present the challenges, progress and good practices related to the sustainable reintegration of returned migrants, taking as a starting point the inputs generated in the reviews of the Global Compact on Migration and the information collected by the different entities. **Member States and observer organizations interested in sharing challenges and good practices are invited to complete Annex I and submit it in advance to facilitate logistical arrangements.** The results of this exercise will serve as the basis for the mapping of challenges and good practices in reintegration. In this regard, participants are kindly requested to share the presentation (if applicable) and/or supporting documents that can feed into this mapping.

On the second day, participants will be divided into three working groups with the purpose of formulating recommendations for the development of an operational roadmap for sustainable



reintegration in the region. Each working group will be assigned one of the following levels of reintegration:

- Group A: individual level: *initiatives to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of returnees and returning family members.*¹²
- Group B: community level: *initiatives that respond to the needs, vulnerabilities and concerns of communities to which migrants return, including returnee families and the non-migrant population.*¹³
- Group C: structural level: *initiatives promoting good governance of migration through engagement with local and national authorities and stakeholders and supports continuity of assistance through adequate local public services*¹⁴

It is suggested to work on recommendations at the three levels considering dimensions such as: economic, social and psychosocial (if possible) reintegration support.¹⁵

The working groups will be co-moderated by one or more Observer Organizations. The recommendations will be shared in the plenary session; therefore, a rapporteur is invited to be designated for each group. These recommendations will serve as the basis for the elaboration of the roadmap for implementing national and/or regional actions for sustainable reintegration, hence, an electronic document containing the recommendations is requested to be shared with the moderators of the group, in order to facilitate the process of compilation and distribution.

Expected outputs

- Mapping of key challenges and good practices in reintegration in the region.
- Roadmap to implement national and/or regional actions for sustainable reintegration.

PARTICIPANTS

Two (2) representatives from each Member State of the RCM are invited. These representatives will come from institutions involved first-hand in the reception of returned migrants, the elaboration of public policies on reintegration or decision makers involved in the processes of reception, assistance, and reintegration of returned migrants. Recommended profiles are:

- Official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of providing support to diasporas.
- Official of the institutions in charge of the reception and reintegration of returned migrants.
- Official of the Ministries of Labor in charge of labor inclusion of returned migrants.

¹² IOM. (2020). Reintegration Handbook: Practical guidance on the design, implementation and monitoring of reintegration assistance. Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/reintegration-handbook-practical-guidance-design-implementation-and-monitoring-reintegration> , p. 13.

¹³ *Ídem.*

¹⁴ *Ídem.*

¹⁵ *Ídem.*



- Local official, who provides assistance and support to migrant returnees.

Two (2) representatives of the Regional Network of Civil Organizations for Migration (RNCOM) are also invited to participate.

Other observer agencies and organizations with an interest in reintegration are welcome to attend.

The event is expected to have simultaneous interpretation (Spanish-English-Spanish) and to be broadcast live (except for the group work section on day 2).

AGENDA

Session 1: Reintegration Challenges in the Region

September 7, 2022

Moderated by the RCM Executive Secretary

10:00 – 10:20 Welcoming remarks and purpose of the session (live streaming).

- Pro-Tempore Presidency
Representative of the National Institute of Migration, as the host of the Workshop.

10:20 - 12:00 - Regional and global overview (live streaming)

- General context of return and reintegration in the region (MPI - 15 minutes)
- Return and reintegration in the global framework. Global Compact on Migration: progress and challenges (joint presentation by ILO and IOM - 15 minutes)
- Plenary discussion: reactions and updates from Member States and other Observers

12:00- 14:00- Lunch (during this time slot some stands will be available with information on best practices on reintegration and voices of returnee migrants)

14:00 – 14:40 – Conceptual aspects of reintegration (live streaming)

- Conceptual aspects of sustainable reintegration and the integrated approach to reintegration (IOM - 15 minutes)
- Labor reintegration issues (ILO - 15 minutes)
- Q&A (10 minutes)



14:40 – 16:00 Participatory dialogue: challenges and best practices in reintegration (live streaming)

- Presentations by Member State representatives on challenges and good practices in reintegration at the individual, community and structural levels (in plenary). * Member States that would like to participate voluntarily, please let the Secretariat know in advance in order to facilitate the planning of this section of the event and to determine the use of time.
- Q&A

16:00 – 16:20 – Coffee break

16:20 – 16:30 - Closure of the session (live streaming)

- Presidency Pro-Tempore

Session 2: Regional approach and roadmap for full reintegration

September 8, 2022

Moderated by the RCM Executive Secretary

10:00 – 10:15 - Welcome remarks to day 2, day 1 recap and session objective (live streaming)

- Pro-Tempore Presidency
- Representative of the National Institute of Migration, as the host Mexican institution of the Workshop.

10:15 – 10:20 - Remarks by returned migrant(s) (live streaming)

10:20 – 10:30 - Overview of the integrated approach to sustainable reintegration and instructions for the group activity (live streaming)

- IOM

10:30 – 12:30 - Drafting of operational recommendations in working groups (*face-to-face work session).

- Group A: reintegration at the individual level (including protection and gender considerations). Moderator: RCM Executive Secretary
- Group B. Reintegration at the community (local) level. Moderator: IOM
- Group C. Reintegration at the structural level (public policies and national-regional guidelines). Moderator: ILO



12:30 – 14:30 – Lunch (during this time slot some stands will be available with information on best practices on reintegration and voices of returnee migrants)

14:30 - 16:00 - Sharing and discussing recommendations (in plenary) (live streaming)

* Each working group presents its recommendations through a rapporteur, and participants are invited to provide feedback on the ideas.

- Moderated by: SE CRM

16:00- 16:30 – Coffee break

16:30 – 16:40 - Joint reading of the recommendations that will be part of the roadmap (live streaming)

- Lead by: Presidency Pro Tempore

16:40 – 17:00 - Next steps and closure of the event (live streaming)

- Pro-Tempore Presidency
- National Institute of Migration

17:00 - Official photo of the event

- National Institute of Migration