

# EU-IOM

Joint Initiative for  
Migrant Protection  
and Reintegration



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## BIANNUAL REINTEGRATION REPORT #3 JULY 2020



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## ACRONYM LIST

AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
AICS	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
AJESUD	Accompagnement des jeunes vers l'emploi au Sud du Sénégal
AMPCU	Automated Mobile Cassava Processing Units (Nigeria)
ANAPEJ	Agence Nationale de Promotion de l'Emploi des Jeunes (National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment) (Mauritania)
ANPE	Agence Nationale Pour l'Emploi (National Agency for Employment) (Burkina Faso)
CB	Capacity Building
CBR	Community-Based Reintegration
CFW	Cash for Work
COFEC	Cercle d'orientation et de formation Emergency Consult (Orientation and Training Society) (Burkina Faso)
CoO	Country Of Origine
COOPI	Cooperazione Internazionale (International Cooperation, Italian NGO)
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CV	Curriculum Vitae
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)
DGEP	Direction Générale de l'économie et de la planification (General Directorate for Economy and Planning) (Burkina Faso)
DGSE	Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure (General Directorate for External Security) (Senegal)
DGSN	Direction Générale de la Sûreté Nationale (General Directorate for National Security) (Côte d'Ivoire)
DNE	Direction Nationale de l'Emploi Jeune (National Direction for Youth Employment) (Guinea)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDOJOB	Edo State Job Agency (Nigeria)
EIG	Economic Interest Grouping

EJOM	L'emploi des jeunes crée des opportunités, ici au Mali (Youth employment creates opportunities here in Mali) (SNV project)
ENABEL	Belgian Development Agency
ENDA	Environment and Development Action in the Third World (Mali)
EU	European Union
EUD	European Union Delegation
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) (Niger)
GIZ	Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Development Cooperation Agency)
IMVF	Instituto Marqués de Valle Flor
INS	National Statistics Institute (Guinea)
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITC	International Trade Center
LuxDev	Luxemburg Agency for Development Cooperation
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MFI	Microfinance institution
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MIAIE	Ministère de l'Intégration Africaine et des Ivoiriens de l'Extérieur (Ministry for African Integration and Ivoirians Abroad) (Côte d'Ivoire)
MINAS	Ministère des Affaires Sociales (Ministry of Social Affairs) (Cameroon)
MINJEC	Ministère de la Jeunesse et de l'Education Civique (Ministry of Youth and Civic Education) (Cameroon)
MINREX	Ministère des Relations Extérieures (Ministry of External Relations) (Cameroon)
MINSANTE	Ministère de la Santé Publique (Ministry of Public Health) (Cameroon)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSCP	Ministère de la Solidarité, de la Cohésion Sociale et de la Lutte contre la Pauvreté (Ministry for Solidarity, Social Cohesion and fight against Poverty) (Côte d'Ivoire)
NACC	Nigeria American Chamber of Commerce

NBCC	Nigeria British Chamber of Commerce
NECA	Nigeria Employers Consultative Association
NGCC	Nigeria German Chamber of Commerce
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OEMIT	Organisation pour l'Eveil des jeunes sur la Migration Irrégulière et la Traite des personnes (Organisation for youth Awakening on Irregular Migration and Traffick in person) (Cameroon)
OGLMI	Organisation Guinéenne de Lutte contre la Migration Irrégulière (Guinean Organisation Combatting Irregular Migration) (Guinea Conakry)
ONFP	Office National de Formation Professionnelle (National Office for Professional Training) (Senegal)
PAARDIC	Programme d'appui aux actions rurales de développement industriel et commercial (Programme to support rural actions for industrial and commercial development) (Cameroon)
PFA	Psychological First Aid
PPE	Personal protective equipment
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PSEA	Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse
SENAH	National Service of Humanitarian Action (Guinea Conakry)
SIYB	Start and Improve Your Business
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
STEP	Skills Training for Employment Program
SWG	Sub Working Group
ToT	Training of Trainers
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VHR	Voluntary Humanitarian Return
WHI	World Hope International (NGO)
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association (the Gambia)



## INTRODUCTION AND KEY HIGHLIGHT

This report constitutes the third thematic report on reintegration assistance under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Sahel and Lake Chad region (hereunder the “EU-IOM Joint Initiative”). The first report, published in March 2019, described the approach established for reintegration assistance under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, as well as the main results of the reintegration pillar of the programme from the start of the programme (April 2017) until January 2019. The second issue, published in November 2019 and covering the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 July 2019, provided an update on the results achieved and presented initial findings from the monitoring exercises conducted by IOM and its partners. This third issue, covering the period from 1 April 2017 to 31 January 2020, reports on results of the different types of partnerships, the evolution of previously reported community-based reintegration projects and mainstreaming of psychosocial support in the reintegration process. The report also provides first indications on the sustainability of the reintegration assistance through a scoring model.

*Launched in December 2016, with the support of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration is the first comprehensive programme bringing together African countries, IOM and the EU around the shared aim of ensuring that migration is safer, more informed and better governed for both migrants and their communities. It is implemented in 26 countries of the Sahel and Lake Chad region, the Horn of Africa, and North Africa.*

*The reintegration pillar of the EU-IOM Joint 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.*

*The reintegration assistance approach implemented in the framework of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative builds upon IOM's integrated approach to reintegration. According to it, the complex, multidimensional process of reintegration requires a holistic and a need-based approach: one that takes into consideration the various factors impacting an individual's reintegration, including economic, social and psychosocial dimensions across individual, community and structural levels. This report presents the interventions realized and results reached on all these levels and dimensions of reintegration.*

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

59,518 returning migrants eligible for reintegration assistance under the IOM-EU Joint Initiative in the Sahel and Lake Chad region had started their reintegration assistance process as of end of January 2020. Among them, 19,716 (33%), had completed their reintegration assistance process.

The reintegration assistance provided through the programme supports the economic, social and psychosocial reintegration of migrants at the individual, community and structural levels.

255 community-based projects bringing together 2,618 returnees and 2,891 members of the local communities are being or have been implemented in ten countries of the region. The report highlights also how psychosocial support is mainstreamed in all levels of assistance.

According to M&E surveys, the proportion of beneficiaries who are satisfied with their reintegration assistance stands at 84 per cent (including 17% who were very satisfied). In total, 87% of returnees report that they feel able to stay and live in their country of origin.

Reintegration assistance under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative is governed by Framework Standard Operating Procedures for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (Framework SOPs). These have been adapted and validated in eleven countries and are in the process of being adapted and validated in one remaining country (Ghana).

Coordination and governance structures for reintegration activities have been established in all 12 target countries of origin. IOM has built or strengthened partnerships and created reintegration support networks with state and non-state actors in all 12 countries to improve reintegration conditions for returning migrants.

## 1. GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

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

The implementation of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Sahel and Lake Chad (hereinafter referred to as the 'EU-IOM Joint Initiative') has allowed the establishment or strengthening of coordination and governance structures on migrant reintegration in the targeted countries.<sup>1</sup> The various mechanisms also reported on in previous biannual reintegration reports,<sup>2</sup> enable all partners involved to have access to information relating to the evolution of return flows and reintegration mechanisms in their countries.

Since the previous report, there has been no significant change in the coordination mechanisms already established. Regular meetings of the actors involved in the structures established since the launch of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative<sup>3</sup> ensure a rapid response to developments that may emerge during the implementation of the project by taking consensual decisions that take into account the mandate, competences and capacities of each actor involved.

#### PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEES

The general coordination of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative is ensured at country level by a project steering committee (PSC) involving relevant governmental structures, IOM and the EU delegation. PSC meetings allow enhancing cooperation between actors with different mandates and across different sectors, and shaping the reintegration support in line with the needs and priorities identified by the government and civil society in each country.

As an example, during this reporting period, the PSC meeting that took place in Nigeria resulted in the drawing of several recommendations, including:

- The project duration should be extended to allow IOM and partners to be able to support in their reintegration a higher number of returnees than expected (17,000 returnees against 3,800 initially planned).
- The Terms of Reference of the Case Management Committee should be reviewed and each MDA should ensure a proper understanding of these ToRs, including by involving their legal services. A meeting should then take place where all present actors will validate and adopt the ToRs.
- The National Human Rights Commission, as the only agency with the mandate of protection of human rights in Nigeria, should be incorporated in the PSC at federal and state levels.
- A training on the Standard Operating Procedures on Return, Readmission and Reintegration should be carried out.
- A Project Monitoring Team (from among members of the PSC) should be set up to monitor the project achievements. The National Human Right Commission should be part of the team.

In the Gambia, the members of the PSC agreed on the need to strengthen reintegration assistance by encouraging beneficiaries to move towards collective and community projects. In Burkina Faso, the president of the PSC, the Director General of Economy and Planning (DGEP) suggested to involve returnees and community members in (cross

<sup>1</sup> The targeted countries are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

<sup>2</sup> [Biannual Reintegration Report #1](#), published in March 2019, and [Biannual Reintegration Report #2](#), published in November 2019

<sup>3</sup> National projects constituting the EU-IOM Joint Initiative started at different dates between April 2017 and December 2017.

border) value chains such as the transformation of agricultural products, or to increase use of solar energy in remote areas.

The below table presents the date of the latest PSC meeting held in each country involved.

COUNTRY	LATEST PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE
Burkina Faso <sup>4</sup>	28 January 2020
Cameroon	12 November 2019
Côte d'Ivoire	6 June 2019
The Gambia	30 October 2019
Ghana	28 May 2019
Guinea	25 January 2019 (next PSC planned for March 2020)
Guinea Bissau	7 February 2019 (next PSC planned for first semester 2020)
Mali	19 March 2019 (next PSC planned for March 2020)
Mauritania	12 April 2019 (next PSC planned for first semester 2020)
Nigeria	4 October 2019
Senegal	24 January 2019 (next PSC planned for first semester 2020)

Table 1 : Date of the latest PSC meeting in each country

## TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS (TWG)

During the reporting period, operational matters and implementation decisions on reintegration continued to be coordinated at the level of 'technical committees' or 'technical working groups' (TWGs) established in most countries.<sup>5</sup> These technical groups, generally composed of members of ministries and civil society organizations, allow its members to express their views on the progress of their activities and to coordinate actions in order to best meet the expectations and developments emerging from the implementation of activities. Such a holistic but very operational approach, enhancing cooperation between different sectors, especially in areas with high numbers of returns, brings concrete responses in the multidimensional and complex process of reintegration.

In March 2018, the TWG in the Gambia, initially meant as a platform to discuss the content of the presentation and messages to be communicated at the PSC, was split into Sub Working Groups (SWG). The SWG on reintegration evaluates, selects and recommends potential partners' proposals and provides technical advice on market-driven skills and potential economic sectors that could be explored by returnees.

## SELECTION COMMITTEES

Throughout the Sahel and Lake Chad region, 'selection committees' or 'case management committees' have been established to review and validate migrants' reintegration plans, and/ or discuss cases or interventions particularly challenging or of particular relevance. These 'selection' or 'case management' committees seek to find collegial solutions to challenges faced by some beneficiaries. They can also have the authority to select, reject or suggest revisions to migrants' reintegration plans. They assess the plans according to various criteria, including their viability and potential

<sup>4</sup> Reference to the Ministerial Decree 2018\_0092/PRES/PM/MINEFID (15 February 2018); name is changed from "Comité de pilotage" to "Comité technique de suivi du projet".

<sup>5</sup> Technical Working Groups or Committees were organized during this reporting period in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Nigeria, Niger and The Gambia

impact, as well as migrants' needs, skills and preferences. They can also provide guidance on complementary trainings or equipment needed.

In Cameroon, reintegration plans developed by returnees are submitted to the Working Group on Reintegration Support (composed of various Ministries and national programmes, IOM and EUD) for approval as part of validation sessions. During these sessions, an analysis of the different projects is carried out, as well as a synthesis by sector and by field of activity. Stakeholders then evaluate the projects submitted based on criteria such as the profitability, viability, relevance, and technical feasibility. On the latter aspect, the relevant ministries can make recommendations for improvement of the project. At the end of the meeting, the projects are either approved or amended with specific indications on inputs to be made. Between June 2017 and December 2019, 1,674 reintegration projects have been approved in the framework of four sessions.<sup>6</sup>

During this reporting period, no formal session of this WG took place, but 572 reintegration plans submitted by returnees were reviewed, and when relevant adjusted, by IOM and counsellors of the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education (MINJEC) and of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) working on a daily basis with IOM.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the participation of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and of the Ministry of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Social Economy and Handicraft, in technical and vocational training, allowed IOM validating the training beneficiaries' reintegration plans in the fields of livestock, agriculture and fast food.

In some cases, like in Burkina Faso, migrants are invited to introduce and justify their reintegration plan before a selection panel. The returnees' projects are scored based on criteria defined by the reintegration technical committee. The returnees are confronted by the panel with possible weaknesses of their reintegration plans, which allows for justifications and potential readjustments. The panel then takes a collegial decision on the assistance to be provided and on its value.

In Guinea, every region has "technical units" composed of representatives of different decentralized ministries (such as ministries of Social Affairs, Agriculture, and Local Economy) and local authorities. IOM presents the individual, collective and community-based projects to these units for validation.

In Senegal, the regional committees validated more than 800 reintegration plans since the beginning of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. These committees are organized in main areas of returns, like the region of Kolda. In addition to validating the plans, committee members make recommendations to improve the implementation of the reintegration plan activities as needed. As the reintegration plans (individual or collective) are established by the returnees with support from the network of IOM's community facilitators, the committee assures an additional quality check. The committee members are also involved in the monitoring phase, through regular monitoring visits to returnees.

## b) PARTNERSHIPS AND REFERRALS

The importance of establishing partnerships with a multitude of actors has been highlighted in the previous reports. Partnerships allow diversifying the range of activities available to beneficiaries, leveraging partners' expertise to the benefit of returnees, and can contribute to optimizing the resources available. Partnerships also constitute an important element to cope with the high number of returns experienced in the Sahel and Lake Chad region.

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<sup>6</sup> The different coordination mechanisms established under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in Cameroon have been described in a good practice factsheet published on the Return and Reintegration Platform and accessible at this [link](#).

<sup>7</sup> MINJEC and MINAS counsellors were deployed in IOM's offices in Yaoundé and Douala to support the reintegration programme (see previous biannual report and further below).

In some areas, first signs of ecosystems were noticed, with networks of partners that may support returnees also on the longer term, beyond the limited timeframe of this project. In these areas IOM can often rely on civil society organizations with strong territorial presence and increased knowledge of the microlocal context to provide reintegration assistance.

IOM fostered partnerships with national and local authorities, international organizations and development agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector. More details on some of these partnerships, including on how they led to referrals to partners' programmes, are presented below.

## PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENTS

A key underpinning principle of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative is to ensure local ownership of the reintegration assistance coordination mechanisms and interventions, and consequently sustainability after the end of the intervention and programme.

In Cameroon, the close relationship between IOM and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) resulted in the deployment of four staff from the Ministry to support IOM's team. Thanks to their support, migrant assistance has improved in terms of protection response and facilitating social reintegration through family reunification and access to social centres. In coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MINSANTE), each returnee is automatically vaccinated against yellow fever at the airport and vulnerable cases are referred to key government structures. Medical cases are jointly assisted by IOM and MINSANTE via government hospitals.

In Guinea, IOM and the Ministry of Social Action carry out family mediation for some migrants who are in conflict with their families or community. IOM also continues to work with various organizations and government structures for the systematic referral of medical cases requiring specific care.

In Burkina Faso, through the tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) established between IOM, the National Employment Agency (ANPE) and the semi-public institution Maison d'Entreprise, a network of locally organized initiatives coordinated by these two agencies became more accessible to returnees and communities. Information was shared regularly during operational coordination meetings and focal points in the different agencies have been assigned in areas of increased cooperation. IOM helps returnees connecting with these agencies by inviting representatives to orientation sessions or job and microbusiness fairs (see box further below).

In Mauritania, the partnership with the National Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment (ANAPEJ) initially established in 2019 in the framework of IOM projects to assist victims of trafficking returning from the Gulf countries, is being extended to the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. It will cover the organization of training courses on microbusiness management for Mauritanian returnees. In addition, ANAPEJ will support the development of returnees' business plans and will monitor the income-generating activities established following their support. It is worth noting that while ANAPEJ usually targets youth aged 18 to 35, they accepted to adapt their selection criteria to take in older returnees assisted by IOM.

During the reporting period, IOM also formalized its cooperation with the National Office for Professional Training (ONFP) in Senegal, and with the Fund for the Support of Professional Training and Apprenticeship (FAFPA) in Niger. In Senegal this cooperation led to the referral of 60 returnees to training offered by the ONFP.

## PARTNERSHIPS WITH EUTF PARTNERS

IOM has formalized relations with partners benefitting from EUTF funding, in order to maximize synergies amongst different programs targeting similar beneficiaries.

The below examples show the efforts done by IOM to increase synergies with and referrals to these actors in different countries, despite important challenges faced and reported in the previous biannual reintegration report.<sup>8</sup> During the reporting period, some EU Delegations have taken the initiative to gather the different EUTF-funded actors to discuss synergies, which resulted in progress in this regard.

MoUs have been signed (or are in discussion) with the International Trade Center (ITC) in Burkina Faso, Guinea, the Gambia. In Burkina Faso, IOM and ITC are exploring a follow-up of the previously reported project to create cotton bags with eight migrants to be integrated into sewing training courses run by ITC. One of the eight beneficiaries, a very talented returnee, has been recruited in this reporting period to work for ITC's implementing partner NGO Cabes.

In Mali, 237 migrants have been referred to EJOM, another EUTF-funded programme managed by the Netherlands' Development Cooperation Agency (SNV). The previous report already indicated that 123 returnees had been referred to the programme but that only 12 actually received assistance (training and further support to establish microbusinesses in Kayes) under the EJOM programme due to issues with returnees' lack of identity documents. Building on this experience, and since the final selection of EJOM's beneficiaries is conducted by SNV, IOM and SNV met to ensure that a higher proportion of returnees referred would be able to benefit from future SNV activities.

Partnerships have also been formalized with cooperation agencies such as Enabel (Belgian Development Agency) in Guinea and Niger and LuxDev (Luxemburg Agency for Development Cooperation) in Niger.

In Senegal, MoUs are being prepared with the Italian, Spanish, Belgian and Luxembourg development cooperation agencies (respectively AICS, AECID, Enabel and LuxDev). Eight beneficiaries were referred to an EUTF-funded LuxDev programme 'Développer l'Emploi au Sénégal'. Through this initiative returnees received advice to set-up microbusinesses and attended financial literacy and vocational training. Another returnee with plumbing skills was referred to AECID's partner AIDA, to participate to a training on well drilling for individual and farming use.

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<sup>8</sup> E.g. mismatch of geographic locations or of beneficiaries' profiles, late starting date of several EUTF-funded programmes (as compared to the EU-IOM Joint Initiative), etc.



## BOX 1 : ONLINE OUTWARD REFERRAL MECHANISM

To facilitate referrals of migrants to other EUTF-funded programmes, and more broadly to programmes and services of relevance for returning migrants, IOM has developed an online platform - the 'online outward referral mechanism' - that is piloted in the Gambia.

(according to the returnee's reintegration plan) that offer reintegration assistance opportunities for returnees in the Gambia and that are registered to the platform (such as the Tekki Fii partners).<sup>9</sup> The outward referral mechanism connects with IOM's case management system (MiMOSA) and provides the targeted partner(s) with basic data about returnees (including biodata, contact details, and interests). This data can in turn be used by the partners to contact the referred returnees and assess their participation in their support activities.

The platform was developed to be as user-friendly as possible to encourage partners using it, and IOM organized meetings with key partners to explain its functioning and relevance. At the same time, IOM and its partners conducted mapping sessions to assess potential matching in terms of geographic locations and assistance opportunities.

As the sharing of returnees' data with partners can only be done following the signing of data sharing agreements, IOM in the Gambia signed such agreements with ITC, GIZ, IMFV and Enabel in August 2019. Since then, additional partners approached IOM in the Gambia to be included in the system, including the NGO Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), YMCA The Gambia, Catholic Relief Services, and the Sparkasse Foundation.

The pilot online outward referral mechanism became operational in October 2019 and its results will be consolidated during the next reporting period.

In Senegal, a MoU is in preparation with the German Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ), and 24 returnees were trained in animal farming and agriculture techniques by GIZ's partner, the Yeasal Agri-hub association. Another 75 returnees have also been referred to GIZ to participate in vocational training and received a start-up kit. IOM also referred five returnees to the Skills Training for Employment Program (STEP) implemented by World Vision and the NGO Enablis. Through this program, returnees attended a "Youth Ready" training, made up of modules on personal development, leadership and entrepreneurship. 10 returnees assisted with microbusiness support by IOM were referred to the local NGO La Lumière to gain further skills in business management, breeding and financial literacy.

In Nigeria, IOM is fostering partnerships with private sector entities to offer job placement, internship and sponsorship opportunities to returnees. To create this private sector support, a coordination platform has been launched with various Chambers of Commerce including the Nigeria American Chamber of Commerce (NACC), the Nigeria German Chamber of Commerce (NGCC), the Nigeria British Chamber of Commerce (NBCC) and the Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA). IOM in Nigeria also funded Google digital skills training for migrants and potential migrants in Edo state on 26 November 2019 and Lagos State on 5 December 2019, attended by 54 and 42 beneficiaries respectively. The objective of the training was to improve the returnee's digital skills to grow their businesses by learning how to build their digital presence, and prepare participants for their career leveraging on digital skills. Participants learnt how to list their businesses online, search for job opportunities online and access Google Digital Skills for Africa website.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Targeting returnees, this project implemented by ITC, IMFV, GIZ and Enabel was officially launched in June 2018.

<sup>10</sup> <https://learndigital.withgoogle.com/digitalskills?gpil=2637824>



In Mali, IOM facilitated the job placement of 72 returnees in private companies in the fields of construction, bakery, and security.

In Burkina Faso, IOM attempted to foster collaborations with microfinance institutions (MFIs) to support returnees' access to credit. However, some requirements to access these services, such as guarantors, have been difficult for returnees to secure. The MFIs disallowed returnees to be each other's guarantors due to the perceived risk that they could migrate again before reimbursing their credit. Another challenge for returnees was the reimbursement of lending rates. IOM in Burkina Faso therefore explored the possibility for returnees to access zero-interest loans through their implementing partners COFEC and ALERT MIGRATION which referred a hundred returnees to various State programmes. However, the lengthy timeframe for review and selection of the applications (the deliberation on the submitted files is not planned until the end of the year 2020) constitutes an additional important challenge.

The private sector and NGOs are also mobilized by IOM to provide social and psychosocial support to returnees. In Burkina Faso, medical and psychosocial care is provided through referrals to the Red Cross, while in Senegal, cases in need of medical support are referred to the NGO Medicos del Mundo. In Cameroon, returnees in need of psychological support are referred to the organization "Trauma Centre Cameroon" and in Nigeria, returnees with similar needs are referred to a private health structure, the Gracehill Behavioural Health Services in Lagos. In Mali, victims of trafficking are referred to the NGOs "What" and Environment Development Action in the Third World (ENDA) to receive counseling, while other returnees with psychosocial needs are referred to COOPI.



## Box 2 : Connecting returnees with reintegration opportunities: Job and Reintegration Support Fairs

On 10-12 September 2019, IOM organized a Reintegration Fair in Côte d'Ivoire, for returning Ivorians who had not yet been integrated into a professional reintegration project. 22 reintegration partners delivering reintegration support activities across Côte d'Ivoire in the framework of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, participated in the fair and presented their activities to 350 beneficiaries.



Figure 1: Over 350 participants attended the first reintegration fair for returning migrants in Côte d'Ivoire. Photo: IOM/Mohamed Diabate

Returnees were thus given access to a wide range of training and professional opportunities in several cities of the country and in multiple fields such as building and public works, poultry farming or transport. This event allowed returnees to choose their preferred opportunities in an informed manner, considering their area of return, and the type of support available, thus ensuring a good match between returnees' preferences and skills, and reintegration support opportunities.

In Burkina Faso, a job and microbusiness fair was organized in September 2019 in Ouagadougou. It brought together 100 returnees and 100 community members with young microbusiness entrepreneurs, private companies, microfinance sector and recruitment agencies, around four main activities: a) financing and coaching; b) product marketing; c) employability and CV writing and d) business creation and formalization. Each of these activities was presented in stands managed by representatives of private and public structures, including a mining company, "IamGold", that accepted returnees' CVs for their recruitment database. Out of 200 participants, a 15 per cent sample was surveyed to gather their feedback. Almost all (30 out of 32) defined the activity as relevant. The participants are monitored to further analyze the impact of such activity, the results will be available in the next reporting period.

Through these events, returning migrants were able to benefit from first-hand information on reintegration opportunities and the skills needed to access them, and expand their network to maximize their chances of employability.

## 2. SOPS ON ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

As extensively described in the first biannual reintegration reports, "Framework Standard Operating Procedures for Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Assistance" ("Framework SOPs") were developed at the beginning of the programme to guide IOM and its partners in the implementation of reintegration assistance activities. These Framework SOPs had to be adapted in each country, to reflect the country context and priorities, the support programmes available, and the actors involved.

By the end of January 2020, all countries involved besides Ghana had adapted the Framework SOPs to their specific context and had them validated by their main stakeholders. An overview of the status of the SOPs adaptation process in the countries targeted by the EU-IOM Joint Initiative is presented in the table below. Updates relating to the reporting period are highlighted.

COUNTRY	STATUS OF THE SOPS NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROCESS (END OF JAN. 2020)
Burkina Faso	SOPs validated in March 2019 (workshop). <b>Adaptations have been made to the document since the formal validation to integrate lessons learnt and address emerging issues.</b>
Cameroon	SOPs validated in September 2017 (PSC)
Côte d'Ivoire	SOPs validated in October 2017 (workshop). <b>The <i>Plan national de retour et réintégration</i> has been included in the Government's <i>Plan d'action prioritaire pour 2020</i></b>
The Gambia	SOPs validated in October 2018 (workshop). <b>SOPs on complementary Reintegration Assistance for Migrants Returning Involuntarily from European Union Member States, Norway &amp; Switzerland developed with partners in the Sub-Working-Group.</b>
Ghana	SOPs awaiting final validation by stakeholders after additional inputs from the Ghana Immigration Service
Guinea	SOPs validated in January 2019 (PSC)
Guinea Bissau	<b>SOPs validated and a workshop was held on 1 and 2 August 2019</b>

Mali	SOPs validated in March 2018 (PSC)
Mauritania	SOPs validated in January 2018 (workshop)
Niger	SOPs for Niger as country of origin (reintegration) validated in May 2019 (workshop)
Nigeria	<b>SOPs validated in October 2019 (TWG).</b> The official launch will be carried out later in 2020.
Senegal	SOPs validated in December 2018

*Table 2 : Status of the SOPs national adaptation process*

### 3. CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

IOM assists the target countries, state and non-state partners included, to strengthen their capacity on migration management in general, and on reintegration more specifically. This strengthening aims to improve the reintegration offer and enables faster and more effective assistance and care. It also aims to place the action undertaken by the programme in a sustainable dynamic whereby the partners will be increasingly able to support the migrants in their economic, social and psychosocial reintegration.

An overview of the various capacity building activities focusing on reintegration carried out during this reporting period is presented below.

	Capacity building activity			Participants	
	Type	Topic	Description	Number	Description
Burkina Faso	Training	Reintegration management	Training workshop for government actors on the integrated management of returnees, 15-17 Oct. 2019, Bobo Dioulasso.	23	Members of the decentralized structures of CONASUR
Cameroon	Training	Reporting, monitoring and evaluation	Capacity building of the PAARDIC implementing partner on IOM's reporting and monitoring and evaluation procedures, 20 August 2019	12	CSO PAARDIC
		Reintegration counselling, psychosocial support and mental health	Reintegration agents, and government and non-governmental stakeholders were reinforced on reintegration counselling towards mental health and psychosocial support, 29 Nov. 2019	26	MINREX, MINJEC, MINAS, MINSANTE, DGSN, PAARDIC, OEMIT
Côte d'Ivoire	Training	Reporting	Training for reintegration IPs on narrative and financial reporting, communication and visibility (27-28 Aug. 2019)	52	IOM, implementing partners and government counterparts
		Psychosocial assistance	Training for reintegration IPs on psychosocial assistance of returnees (4-5 Sept. 2019)	31	IOM, implementing partners and government counterparts
	Workshop	Migrant assistance	Workshop with all Regional Committees to combat irregular migration, including prefects of all regions, to present migrant assistance activities. Regional committees and local authorities have a role in the identification of the priorities at community level and in the selection of community-based interventions, in the selection of community members to benefit from these interventions, in supervision, and in the identification of synergies with local initiatives (Bassam 30 Sept. - 01 Oct. 2019)	40	IOM, 33 prefects, government counterparts (MIAIE), NGOs, religious and traditional leaders

		Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, including returnees	Workshop with Regional Committees to combat irregular migration of Abidjan and Daloa on trafficking, abuse and smuggling of migrants (including returning migrants) (Yamoussoukro 19-21 Nov. 2019)	43	IOM, MIAIE and MSCP, prefects of Abidjan and Daloa
Ghana	Training	Training on Return and Reintegration	Training to build capacity of implementing partner to provide full reintegration support to returned migrants (8 & 12 July 2019)	3	Africa 2000 Network
			Training to build capacity of implementing partner to provide full reintegration support to returned migrants (11-12 July 2019)	10	Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
		Workshop on reinforcing capacities to respond to Vulnerable Migrants	Training on Return and Reintegration with emphasis on the SOPs for reintegration of Returnees in Ghana (24-26 September 2019)	22	Various ministries, departments and Agencies, and academia
Guinea	Study visit	Youth employment policy and socio-economic strategy development for youth	Study visit of two officials from the Ministry for Youth and Employment to Senegal to learn and share experiences on employment policy and socio-professional integration strategy for young people (15-21 December 2019)	2	Staffs from Ministry of Youth and employment
	Training	Reintegration project design, planification, communication and awareness	Training workshop for the Organisation Guinéenne de Lutte contre la Migration Irrégulière (OGLMI) on reintegration, project design, planification, communication and awareness (12-14 November 2019)	34	Member of OGLMI
		Reintegration assistance and case management	Training workshop for social workers on reintegration assistance and case management in Conakry (11 November 2019)	10	Staff from Ministry of Social Affairs, Promotion of Women and Children (MASPFE)
	Material support	Logistical, material and IT support to the DNE (Direction Nationale de l'Emploi Jeune)	The eight administrative regions of Conakry, Labe, Boké, Kankan, Mamou et Nzerekore, Faranah, Kindia received materials support (1 Nov. 2019)	n/a	The National Direction of youth employment received IT support such as laptop, printers, and desktops computers.

		Logistical, rolling stock and IT support to the National Service of Humanitarian Action (SENAH)	The eight administrative regions of Conakry, Labe, Boké, Kankan, Mamou et Nzerekore, Faranah, Kindia received material support (13 September 2019)	n/a	The National Service of Humanitarian Action (SENAH) received IT support such as laptop, printers, desktops computers, and motorbikes
		Logistical, material and IT support to the National and regional directorates of Social Affairs	The eight administrative regions of Conakry, Labe, Boké, Kankan, Mamou et Nzerekore, Faranah, Kindia received material support (13 September 2019)	n/a	The National and regional directorates of Social Affairs received IT support such as laptop, printers, desktops computers, video projectors
Guinea Bissau	Workshop	SOPs on Protection and Reintegration	Workshop on “Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Protection and Reintegration of Migrants in Guinea-Bissau”, 1-2 Aug. 2019	19	19 people (F:9, M: 10) from six civil society organizations and five state organizations
Mali	Training	M&E	Conducting qualitative surveys to monitor AVR and Reintegration and to evaluate beneficiary satisfaction levels, 10 Dec. 2019	8	DGME; National Directorate of Social Development (DNDS)
	Material Support	Health	PPE for Ministry of Health for Covid-19 prevention, distributed on 1 Dec. 2019	n/a	Ministry of Health
Mauritania	Coaching	Reintegration training on business skills	The expert private trainer who conducted the microbusiness management training with returnees until 2019 coached ANAPEJ (state agency for employment of young people) trainers on the job. This was part of the handover of reintegration support functions to State actors. 4-15 Nov. 2019	6	ANAPEJ trainers
Niger	*Capacity building activities planned and implemented under other projects (funded by DFID, DANIDA)				

Nigeria	Training	Training on reintegration assistance and case management	IOM held a capacity building training in Edo State focused on Psychological First Aid (PFA) and socio-economic Reintegration Training for CSOs, Monitoring and Evaluation Expert Team (MET), and Case Management Expert Team (CMET) members from Edo and Delta States on 23-29 September 2019.	36	MDAs and CSOs
		Training on reintegration assistance and case management	IOM Nigeria held another capacity building training in Lagos focused on Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Socio-economic Reintegration Training for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Monitoring and Evaluation Expert Team (MET), and Case Management Expert (CMET) members from Lagos on 7-11 October 2019.	30	MDAs and CSOs
	ToT	ToT workshop on business skills training	ToT for MDA and CSO actors involved in reintegration, 1 Sept. 2019	37	MDA and CSO

Table 3 : Overview of the capacity-building activities on reintegration

## 4. SUPPORTING RETURNING MIGRANTS AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

### a) OVERVIEW OF REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

Between 1 April 2017 and end of January 2020, 59,518 returning migrants started the reintegration assistance process, including 19,716 migrants who completed it (33% of the returnees who started the process). This represents a 62% increase of completed cases since the previous report (i.e. during the six-month period between 1 August 2019 – 31 January 2020).

The breakdown per country is represented in the below table.

As of end January 2020	Assistance process started	Assistance process completed
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,518</b>	<b>19,716</b>
Burkina Faso	2,154	437
Cameroon	3,831	1,686
Côte d'Ivoire	5,732	1,391
The Gambia	3,048	3,019
Ghana	973	324
Guinea	13,627	4,561
Guinea Bissau	643	644
Mali	14,879	2,209
Mauritania	14	14
Niger <sup>11</sup>	579	135
Nigeria	11,991	4,367
Senegal	2,047	929

Table 4 : Numbers of returnees assisted in their reintegration (EU-IOM Joint Initiative in the Sahel and Lake Chad)

The table below shows the number of migrants who have already received some form of reintegration assistance in the economic, social and psychosocial fields. As of end of January 2020, 30,168 returnees had received economic, 10,773 social and 6,413 psychosocial support.<sup>12</sup>

As of end of January 2020	Economic support	Social support	Psychosocial support
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<sup>11</sup> The figure reported for migrants that started reintegration in Niger has decreased compared to the previous report. This is due to the fact that the figure reported in report 2 included migrants who returned from Niger to countries of origin not covered by the programme (for example Sierra Leone, Liberia, Benin) and whose reintegration assistance was managed and paid for by IOM in Niger through EU-IOM Joint Initiative funding.

<sup>12</sup> The number of beneficiaries assisted with economic support in Guinea decreased compared to the previous report because of corrections made in the reintegration database.



Total	30,168	10,773	6,413
Burkina Faso	959	584	1,190
Cameroon	1,686	3,548	821
Côte d'Ivoire	1,304	1,130	1,127
The Gambia	2,936	126	64
Ghana	248	97	710
Guinea	3,822	613	939
Guinea Bissau	293	237	221
Mali	7,615	1,993	262
Mauritania	7	2	1
Niger	257	6	1
Nigeria	9,789	2,191	1,011
Senegal	1,252	246	66

Table 5 : Number of returnees assisted in the economic, social and psychosocial dimension of reintegration

A total of 5,987 migrants returned from host and transit countries covered by the EU-IOM Joint Initiative in the Sahel and Lake Chad region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger) to countries of origin not covered by EU-IOM External Actions (such as Benin, Chad<sup>13</sup>, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo, among others). At least 1,948 of them had completed their reintegration assistance process by the end of January (including 1,233 returnees from Niger and 707 from Mali).

Host country CoO	Burkina Faso	Chad	Mali	Mauritania	Niger	Total
Benin	15	0	32	5	805	857
Chad	0	0	2	0	179	181
Liberia	94	6	324	42	1,232	1,698
Sierra Leone	84	1	609	329	1,703	2,726
Togo	7	0	13	6	147	173
Other	10	1	41	39	261	352
<b>Total</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>4,327</b>	<b>5,987</b>

Table 6: Returns to non-EUTF countries of origin

While these migrants are offered reintegration assistance following an individual entitlements approach and with no specific funds to build capacity of partners or create reintegration governance structures,<sup>14</sup> it is remarkable that in Sierra Leone IOM is exploring various opportunities to expand its approach to reintegration assistance, progressively moving towards an integrated approach to reintegration.

For instance, IOM developed a partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs whereby the Ministry and the NGO World Hope International (WHI) conduct psychosocial support sessions for all returnees. These sessions allow

<sup>13</sup> Chad has an AVR component but no reintegration assistance component under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative.

<sup>14</sup> Reintegration assistance is funded through the resources from the host country's project.

returnees to share their migratory experience, and discuss the reintegration assistance process and how to address tensions with their families and communities upon their return. Those in need can also rely on WHI to organize family-mediation sessions.

In addition, all migrants returning to Sierra Leone follow a basic business management training delivered through a service provider, the Domestic Helpers Organization (DHO). The training lasts for five days and gathers between 30 to 50 participants, who receive a transportation and food allowance.

Given the magnitude of the return phenomenon in Sierra Leone and the significant number of nationals from this country that are stranded on the Central Mediterranean route, these activities constitute encouraging developments.

## b) COMMUNITY-BASED REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

Since the beginning of the project, 255 community-based reintegration (CBR) projects have been implemented or are being designed in the region, benefitting approximately 5,509 persons, including 2,618 returnees and 2,891 members of their communities.<sup>15</sup>

This marks an increase of more than 300% in the number of CBR projects as compared with the previous report (82 projects), mainly driven by Côte d'Ivoire (from 32 to 163 projects at different implementation stages), the Gambia (from 2 to 22) and Guinea (from 11 to 25). A remarkable increase of the number of beneficiaries can be observed in these countries as well, with a 253 per cent increase in Côte d'Ivoire, a 347 per cent increase in the Gambia and a 49 per cent increase in Guinea.

The following table gives an overview of the community-based reintegration projects completed, implemented and under preparation in the different countries.

	Status (as of 31 January 2020)	Number of interventions	Number of beneficiaries *		
			Return migrants	Community members	TOTAL
Burkina Faso	Completed	2	375	450	825
	Preparation	8	275	275	550
Cameroon	Completed	3	4	26	30
Côte d'Ivoire	Completed	49	331	423	754
	Implementation	78	525	535	1060
	Preparation	36	64	49	113
The Gambia	Completed	2	9	38	47
	Preparation	20	101	50	151
Ghana	Completed	2	14	34	48
Guinea	Completed	7	96	57	153
	Implementation	10	93	43	136
	Preparation	8	45	30	75
Guinea Bissau	Completed	17	211	372	583

<sup>15</sup> The number of (direct) beneficiaries is tentative and can vary according to several factors. In particular, projects that are being designed can be expected to benefit a certain number of returnees or community members but end up benefitting more or less persons once implemented.

Mali	n/a	0	0	0	0
Mauritania	n/a	0	0	0	0
Niger	Preparation	5	350	350	700
Nigeria <sup>16</sup>	Implementation	5	91	49	140
	Preparation	1	28	12	40
Senegal	Implementation	2	6	98	104
TOTAL	Completed	82	1040	1400	2440
	Implementation	95	715	725	1440
	Preparation	78	863	766	1629
GRAND TOTAL		255 projects	2,618 returnees	2,891 members of community	5,509 direct beneficiaries

\* Numbers of beneficiaries are indicative and might vary depending on return flows to communities and the different phases of the project preparation and implementation

Table 7 : Overview of community-based reintegration projects per country

The above figures inform on the number of direct beneficiaries supported by IOM and its partners and actively involved in the projects (and not on the total number of persons actually or potentially benefitting from the interventions' outcomes<sup>17</sup>). The impact this type of activity can have on the local communities is illustrated in the below examples, while updates are provided on interventions reported on in previous reports.

## CÔTE D'IVOIRE: REHABILITATION OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURES

<sup>16</sup> A decrease in the number of beneficiaries can be observed as compared to the previous report, where it was anticipated that 497 beneficiaries would take part in community-based reintegration projects in Nigeria. This is due to the fact that a number of returnees had initially reported the areas where these projects are implemented as their final destination but successively decided to move to other (urban) areas. The scale of the projects has been reduced to match the lower number of returnee beneficiaries. However, these projects maintain a currently unutilized employment capacity and future returnees to these areas will have the opportunity to join the projects. As the number of beneficiary returnees will grow, additional community members (who are still numerous to express interest) will be integrated, too.

<sup>17</sup> For instance, returnees and community members working in a food transformation cooperative established under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative are counted, but the members of the community who can sell their products to the cooperative and thus have a closer and more reliable client are not counted.



Figure 2 : In Côte d'Ivoire, returnees and community members renovated together dilapidated primary schools. Photo: IOM/Mohamed Diabaté

Following the renovation of a school in Attécoubé in Côte d'Ivoire, presented in the previous reintegration report, IOM in partnership with the local implementing partner NGO Action Entreprises and with local authorities, trained and equipped an additional 160 beneficiaries (48 returning migrants and 112 community members) in construction while renovating dilapidated primary schools. In total, 239 beneficiaries (89 returning migrants and 150 community members) have thus participated in this type of activity, rehabilitating schools on three different sites. At the end of the training phase, the beneficiaries created three construction enterprises equipped to enter the job market. In Abidjan, the beneficiaries of the training were selected by the mayor to work on the renovation of additional infrastructures in the vicinity. Since the damages to the school buildings prevented children from regularly attending classes, with significant negative impact on their education, their rehabilitation had a fundamental social impact in the communities where the interventions took place. More than 900 children are benefitting from education in the rehabilitated schools in the outskirts of Abidjan (two schools) and Bouaké. The identification of the sites was done jointly by IOM, the implementing partner and the local authorities, ensuring a wide collaboration network, sharing of tasks and responsibilities and follow up.<sup>18</sup>

## GUINEA: TIMBI MADINA AND SAGARA AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

<sup>18</sup> More information on community based reintegration projects in Côte d'Ivoire are available at this link: <https://rodakar.iom.int/sites/default/files/document/publications/Booket%20projets%20-%C3%A9int%C3%A9gration%202018-20.pdf>

In Guinea, IOM has designed and implemented 25 community-based reintegration projects for the benefit of 364 persons (234 returnees and 130 community members) since the start of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative.

The community project in Timbi Madina, described in the two previous reintegration reports, saw a diversification of the type of cultivations grown. Potatoes remain the center of this community-based agricultural project, but maize, beans and cabbage have also been harvested. In addition, some of the beneficiaries invested a part of the profit to start the cultivation of honey, which has the potential for significant economic returns. Honey is not only a lucrative business, it is also an eco-friendly industry with a positive impact on preservation of more diverse habitat. The 33 beneficiaries (16 returnees and 17 community members) are still very motivated and keep on investing profit in the project. While it is difficult to calculate monthly salaries for each beneficiary, the beneficiaries are satisfied with their income. Each time the agricultural products are sold, one part of the revenues is immediately reinvested, one part is saved for long term investments or emergencies, and the third part is equally shared between the beneficiaries.

For example, out of a harvest of two tons of maize on four hectares, 500 kg was sold for an amount of GNF 1,750,000 (approximately EUR 1,600). That amount was re-invested in potato production. 500 kg of maize was distributed in kind among the members and the remaining 1,000 kg are in a storehouse for medium- and long-term investments or revenues. The project is regularly monitored by IOM's reintegration team and technicians of the local representation of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Sagara Community Project (in the Labe region), an agricultural project including potato and tomato production, celebrated its second anniversary. 19 people, including 10 women, are working on its third production rotation. The first sales have already yielded the sum of GNF 1,600,000 (approximately EUR 1,500). The president of the community project said: "For the moment, we are satisfied with the project. The group plans to expand the size of its field during the next rotation with the profits generated by this last crop campaign". The project is already contributing to the improvement of the living conditions of direct beneficiaries: "I am very happy, because with this project, I am able to have the minimum subsistence to meet my needs and the needs of my children. Before, I had hardly anything as an income, now it's better," said an active member of the group. IOM supports them with the Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) training, training in Economic Interest Grouping (EIG) governance, and material support. IOM has especially enabled the site (19ha) to be developed with the provision of agricultural inputs, a motor cultivator, two motorcycles and a tricycle, and the installation of eight wells and water points. In addition, the EIG benefitted from the expertise of an agricultural technician who supervised the production by promoting the use of good agricultural practices and of high-yield species.

## GUINEA BISSAU: ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY CASH-BASED COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES

In Guinea Bissau, community-based reintegration interventions are implemented in the regions of Bafata and Gabú. Returnees and community members are trained in agro-ecological projects. The production of lady fingers, bell pepper, tomatoes, chili, watermelons, bananas, papayas and lemons is ongoing and IOM has supported beneficiaries to get training for the creation of bio-pesticide and the construction of natural fences made from moringa and jatropha plants. More than 800 community members and returning migrants were trained in agro-ecology.

In addition, three cash-for-work (CfW) activities gathering 137 beneficiaries (72 migrants and 65 community members, 20 females and 117 males) took place in September and October 2019 in the region of Gabú (bringing the total number of such activities to seven since the start of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative)<sup>19</sup>. This activity, even though limited in time (it lasts three to five days) and thus in income generated, offers important advantages. It assures cash payment is immediately distributed in the rural communities where the beneficiaries live and work (as opposed to payment to a

<sup>19</sup> The seven CfW activities have reached 171 returnees and 126 community members.

goods supplier in the capital) and, more importantly, by giving something back to the community it contributes to improving the community's perception of returnees and increases their network of support.

For example, an environment-oriented CfW activity held from 2 to 5 September 2019 focused on tree planting in the community of Úmaro Mama, about two dozen kilometres from the city of Gabú. 50 persons were involved, including 25 returning migrants (all males) and 25 members of the community of Úmaro Mama (including 14 females). The group planted 200 plants of five different species, in an area of 13,400 square meters.

## BURKINA FASO: PROFESSIONAL TRAINING TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY FACILITIES

During the reporting period, 162 young returnees (23) and members of host communities (139) in Tenkodogo (Center East), Burkina Faso, benefitted from an activity combining professional training and job insertion in the construction and public works sector. The activity was conducted by the private consultancy and training firm COFEC from July 14 to August 18, 2019.

This activity, a follow-up of a similar activity organized in 2018 in the region of Manga and described in the previous reintegration report, supported young people in their professional integration through training (in professions such as masonry, plumbing, electricity, solar energy, installation and maintenance of refrigerators, painting, plastering, tiling, tailoring, paving) and successive support for the creation of service companies or through employment. They received a small "cash for training" grant to support their needs during the training period. Following this training, about 81 per cent of the learners had at least one employment contract. One contract generates an average amount of 165,914 CFA francs (about EUR 300), which corresponds to more than four times the national minimum monthly wage.<sup>20</sup>

During the training, the beneficiaries rehabilitated a primary school (painting), a police station (paving) and a maternity hospital (solar energy capacity) in Tenkodogo. These sites have been selected in coordination with the local authorities with the aim to improve the services for the local communities. After visiting these rehabilitated community facilities, a ceremony called "*La Nuit du migrant*" was organized in Tenkodogo on September 6 to award training certificates to the 162 young Burkinabè in presence of the Minister of African Integration and Burkinabe Abroad and the Governor of the Centre-East region.

<sup>20</sup> Set as 34,664 CFA francs a month in the formal sector:

([https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer47/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=EAR\\_4MMN\\_CUR\\_NB\\_A](https://www.ilo.org/shinyapps/bulkexplorer47/?lang=en&segment=indicator&id=EAR_4MMN_CUR_NB_A))



Figure 3: Returnees and community members on training site to rehabilitate community facilities. Photo: IOM/Judicael Lompo



### BOX 3 : UPDATES ON COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS FEATURED IN PREVIOUS REINTEGRATION REPORTS<sup>21</sup>

**Cybercafé in Bonua, Côte d'Ivoire:** The cybercafé project presented in the first reintegration report continues to have a multiplying effect: after a few months from the opening of the first cybercafé, the group decided to open a second one and a hairdresser salon. Today, as the two cybercafés continue to play an important role in the education of the students residing in the village, the group has grown and welcomed the arrival of six additional community members and consequently opened a shop of gas and a chicken cooperative. Moreover, the leader of the group and his wife (both returning migrants) decided to diversify yet again their businesses and invest in the construction of 16 flats in Akoupé, around 142 km from Abidjan.

**Waste management in Daloa, Côte d'Ivoire:** The implementation phase of the community-based waste management project in Daloa ended in September 2019. The beneficiaries received the equipment and training on waste management and were grouped into five micro-enterprises that share the waste management of the town of Daloa. At the end of the reporting period, more than 6,500 households had subscribed to the collection service.

<sup>21</sup> [Biannual Reintegration Report #1](#), published in March 2019, and [Biannual Reintegration Report #2](#), published in November 2019

After having identified the needs formulated by the local population, IOM and CARE International also supervised the construction of public toilets in the central market of Daloa. The beneficiaries of the project, a returning migrant and three community members, were trained by the National Management Agency Waste (ANAGED) in management, simplified accounting and hygiene and sanitation. Today, they are working together to ensure the maintenance and cleanliness of the premises which receive an average of 30 paying customers per day.

**Maranata Football School in Guinea Bissau:** the school presented in the previous report has expanded and continues to work with four instructors, two of whom are returning migrants. The community strongly supports the initiative, contributing with financial aid to carry out sports competition exchanges with other football schools. There are three soccer fields all located in the same neighborhood, to facilitate accessibility for local youth. This project also received reinforcements from IOM in sports equipment and materials: soccer balls, cones, portable computers. Two mobile goals were also built.

**Recycling project in Quinhamel, Guinea Bissau:** the project, which aims at producing recycled blocks made up of sand, cement and crushed glass from recycled bottles, as presented in the previous report, continues to employ four returnees and six community members. The production of two types of blocks has started and an office was built for the management of the business. The glass demolition machine, which faced a failure of the dynamo, was modified to work with an electrical system.



### c) PSYCHOSOCIAL REINTEGRATION SUPPORT

Psychosocial well-being is fundamental for returnees to be able to reintegrate sustainably in their community. Given the particularly harsh conditions experienced by the beneficiaries of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative during their migration process, as well as the magnitude of the stigma they face upon return in their CoOs, IOM and its partners had to substantially scale up their psychosocial support activities across the Sahel and Lake Chad region. A few examples of activities implemented under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative are presented below.

#### CONTINUITY OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOLLOWING TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES IN TRANSIT COUNTRIES



*Figure 4 : In Mali, IOM organizes family mediations to encourage family support of returned Malians. Photo: IOM/Seydou Tangara*

On 2 July 2019, 53 people were killed, and more than 130 others were injured, during an airstrike that hit the Tajoura Detention Centre outside Tripoli (Libya). Those who returned to **Mali** through IOM's Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme showed high levels of psychological distress. IOM's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) officers coordinated psychosocial support to reduce the further worsening of their mental health condition. An IOM psychologist in Mali provided individual clinical sessions to 11 survivors. In addition, IOM organized group psychosocial counselling, family mediation and specific psychoeducation sessions. This group decided together to set-up a collective reintegration project in the agriculture sector (ongoing).

On 4 December 2019, 62 Gambian and Senegalese migrants lost their lives while 87 survived a shipwreck before the Mauritanian Coast. A rapid emergency response for survivors was activated, including medical and psychological first

aid. Upon return in **the Gambia**, the survivors of the shipwreck (including 12 unaccompanied minors and two women) as well as migrants intercepted on another boat (for a total of 252 individuals), were provided with immediate emergency psychosocial assistance by IOM. In January 2020, IOM conducted a rapid psychosocial needs assessment in the main affected communities of return to prepare a range of MHPSS interventions with survivors, peers and community members (to be rolled-out ). IOM also trained and equipped volunteers in each affected community to support families and community-members with symptoms of distress.

## PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT UPON ARRIVAL AND IN THE FIRST DAYS AFTER RETURN

In all countries, immediate MHPSS assistance after arrival, including a rapid identification of psychosocial distress and mental health conditions, referrals for specialized mental health care and the provision of basic emotional and psychosocial support, continued during the reporting period.

For instance, in Nigeria, IOM is administering at the airport a pilot rapid screening tool to newly arrived returnees in order to identify signs of severe psychological distress. Within the reporting period, six referrals (5F/1M) have been made for urgent inpatient evaluations. The arrival assistance is conducted with the support of the Nigerian Port Health Service which offers medical screening staff support as well as ambulance services to refer cases requiring specialized support.

## MEDIUM-TERM PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Individual and/or collective psychosocial counselling and psychoeducation sessions are carried out with returnees in many countries involved in the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. These activities are often integrated into more comprehensive personal development, vocational and business skills trainings.<sup>22</sup> Such activities aim to provide a medium term psychosocial support to returnees (a few months after their return) and at the same time allow detecting those returnees whose high level of toxic stress, living difficulties, mental health conditions, psychosocial distress and negative coping mechanisms such as substance abuse, may hamper their sustainable reintegration, if not adequately addressed. It is well known that returnees who underwent highly stressful migratory path or who are very distressed about their return may not take full advantage of the livelihood opportunities offered to them through the reintegration programme. In fact, new opportunities demand organization, memory, attention, the ability to plan, while these cognitive functions may be impaired by high levels of stress.

As an example, a 90-minute psychoeducation group session is regularly conducted and has been successfully integrated by IOM during all business skills training carried out in **Nigeria**. This session is usually conducted by the business skills trainers, previously trained by IOM MHPSS team in basic psychosocial skills and in the provision of MHPSS to returning migrants. The session covers the psychological impact of adverse events, offers practical tips to normalize psychosocial reactions to past and current adversities by promoting the use of positive coping mechanisms, and highlights when and where to seek for additional and specialized mental health and psychosocial support if required. Between August 2019 and January 2020, 1,488 returnees attended it. Through this activity, seven returnees (five male, two female) were identified as particularly psychosocially vulnerable and received appropriate individual psychological support by IOM MHPSS staff.<sup>23</sup> In addition, the Case Management Expert Team (29 actors including 14 state and 15 non-state

<sup>22</sup> In the previous reporting period, IOM developed a guide on a psychosocial approach for reintegration counselling: <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/reintegration-counselling.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> The first vulnerability screening takes place before departure and is part of IOM standard screening procedures. However, detecting vulnerabilities is a continuous process, as some issues may arise and/or be disclosed only at a later stage after arrival (e.g. due to cultural issues). When vulnerabilities can be detected before departure, the Protection and Health teams in countries of

actors) in Nigeria, that mainly supports the economic reintegration of returning migrants, was equipped and trained on MHPSS skills (psychological first aid (PFA) and psychosocial approach to reintegration counselling) in October 2019.

Since the start of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, 1,481 **Senegalese** returnees attended a five-day personal development training including psychosocial group sessions. The sessions were facilitated by a network of 60 community facilitators, contracted as consultants, previously trained by IOM MHPSS staff and an external psychiatrist consultant from the Ministry of Health in basic psychosocial skills and on how to provide mental health and psychosocial support to returning migrants.

In **Cameroon**, a total of 799 returnees (645 M, 154 F) attended group psychoeducation sessions conducted by an IOM psychiatrist heading the MHPSS Unit. Out of this group, 16 more severe cases have been referred to the partner local NGO Trauma Center. Those collective sessions constitute an opportunity to identify returnees' needs and psychosocial difficulties. They offer returnees the possibility to exchange and share experiences lived during the migration journey and upon return. The feedback collected after PSS consultations was encouragingly positive, as illustrated by this comment from a participant: "We feel relieved and listened to".

During the reporting period, this approach was tested in **Mali** as well, in cooperation with the partner NGO COOPI. Similar sessions were organized within the one-week vocational training courses that some returnees attended as part of their reintegration assistance. Some key positive findings through internal monitoring of the integration of PSS group sessions into vocational trainings, such as increased self-esteem and psychosocial well-being among returnees, as well as higher motivation in learning and in carrying out a reintegration project, also observed by beneficiaries' family members, encourage IOM to systematize this approach of integration of psychosocial group sessions in vocational training courses.

In **Guinea Bissau**, all returnees have access to a clinical psychologist. In this reporting period, 106 migrants benefitted of an individual clinical interview or of therapeutic group sessions. The establishment of trust in the therapeutic relationship was one of the biggest challenges, which was overcome through the inclusion of family members. The involvement of other household members in fact helped address latent conflicts, feelings of guilt and devaluation, and social isolation. Another strategy was the use of relaxation exercises in group therapies, in which the beneficiaries' involvement was immediate and active.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, a session of collective drawing was organized in September 2019 for 10 returned children, to help young children who have been confronted with difficult situations during their migratory journeys express their emotions and free themselves from their anxieties through non-verbal, creative activities. Moussa, 8, said: "I drew a superhero because that's what I am! Is this activity every Wednesday? I wish it was!".

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origin are immediately contacted to ensure continuation of care. This paragraph only concerns those cases whose vulnerabilities are not apparent or disclosed prior to return or in the immediate aftermath.



Figure 5: Drawing sessions in Côte d'Ivoire allow returnee children to express their emotions. Photo: IOM/ Mohamed Diabaté

## COMMUNITY-BASED PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS

*"In a community-based MHPSS programme, the focus is on strengthening local supports, and on looking at psychosocial wellbeing from a relational perspective. The "client" of a community-based MHPSS programme is therefore the social system, and the focus is on strengths, resources, continuity and adaptation to changes. The activities supported by such an approach are often those that community members are already engaged in, but not solely. The focus is less on direct services, and more on offering a structure that promotes positive connection and social processes. Most often, this involves helping to reactivate old and build new connections between constituencies, and helping people recognize and enhance existing resources for recovery."<sup>24</sup>*

In the last months, a new approach to provide community-based psychosocial support was launched in Edo State, **Nigeria**. The pilot project, designed through the MHPSS technical working group led by the Ministry of Health and co-chaired by IOM, aims to set-up a mentoring system with former returnees. The activities will start during the next reporting period and will be presented in the next report.

<sup>24</sup> Definition from the Manual on Community Based Mental Health and psychosocial support in emergencies and displacement: [https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/mhpss/version\\_ii\\_-\\_manual\\_on\\_cb\\_mhpss\\_in\\_emergencies\\_and\\_displacement.pdf](https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/mhpss/version_ii_-_manual_on_cb_mhpss_in_emergencies_and_displacement.pdf)

## STRUCTURAL INTERVENTION AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY: STRENGTHENING MENTAL HEALTH NATIONAL SERVICES THROUGH CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Besides the above described activities focusing on migrant protection and reintegration at individual and community level, initiatives need to be set-up to strengthen structurally the mental health services in the countries targeted by the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. This is indirectly done by setting the topic on the agendas of ministries and other partners during the different coordination meetings. By organizing trainings, workshops, providing the necessary equipment, sharing best practices, mental health systems are also structurally strengthened in areas with high numbers of return.

**Nigeria**, like many other countries in the region, lacks sufficient mental health professionals to provide clinical intervention in remote areas of high return. IOM started in close coordination with the Federal Ministry of Health the preparation phase for the roll-out of the WHO Mental Health Gap Action Plan (MHGAP) training of trainers (TOT) for health professionals in areas with high numbers of return: Edo State and Delta State. The participants are trained on the identification and treatment of mild to moderate mental health conditions, with a further focus on the specificities of the mental health and psychosocial distress faced by returning migrants. This training is expected to be held in the first semester of 2020 and will be followed by an on-the-job supervision for a duration of three months. Advocacy meetings with the Healthcare Management Board, Government and Hospitals in Edo State and Delta State were conducted on 8 and 10 January 2020.

### 5. REINTEGRATION ASSISTANCE, SOCIAL COHESION AND AWARENESS RAISING

The nature of the relationship between a returnee and their host community is key to the sustainability of their reintegration. Strong social cohesion contributes to stronger bonds and can extend the benefits of the reintegration assistance to the entire community. On the other hand, weak social cohesion could negatively impact migrants' reintegration, as it contribute to frustration from community members towards reintegration assistance and its beneficiary and, potentially, to returnees' remigration. Through the EU-IOM Joint Initiative, IOM encourages social cohesion between migrants and returnees, and their host communities through activities bridging reintegration assistance and awareness raising.



Figure 6: Children paint graffiti on the walls of their rehabilitated school in Attécoubé, Côte d'Ivoire. Photo: IOM/ Mohamed Diabaté

For instance, on the occasion of the International Migrants Day on 18 December 2019, IOM in Côte d'Ivoire and in Ghana organized street art activities gathering returnees and their community. In Côte d'Ivoire, returnees, community members and school children decorated one of the schools rehabilitated through community-based reintegration projects (see section 5.b) with graffiti.



Figure 7: returnees and community members paint a mural on a community library in Ghana on International Migrants Day. Photo: IOM/Juliane Reissig

creative process alongside youths from local communities, enabling them to engage in conversations and to understand each other's situation better.

In **Guinea Bissau**, festivities were held on 13 – 14 December 2019 in Gabú, the main region of migration and return in the country. The activities involved community leaders, migrants, youth and other associations, as well as central and local government representatives. During these two days, group discussions were organized, along with radio shows, a three-kilometer march and a concert attended by more than 4,500 people. While returnees were part of the audience, they also took an active part in the event, with rap singer and returned migrant Abdul performing two songs. Theatre shows were also organized to raise awareness about the country's wealth and the risks associated with irregular migration, and returned migrants participated in the event to give their testimony of the situations represented in the play.



Figure 8: Returnees and community members take part in a march in Gabú, Guinea Bissau, during festivities. Photo: IOM/Paulina Mané

Beyond art, sports activities are also helpful in creating 'safe spaces' between returnees and local youths, allowing them to discuss and exchange ideas on the push factors of irregular migration, and the alternatives. In the **Gambia**, IOM partnered with Gambia Returnees from the Backway, an association of returnees, to organize roving football matches in communities with high rates of migrant departure. Similarly, through its FasoNooma ('Faso is good') campaign, IOM in **Burkina Faso** organized the second edition of the Maracana football tournament presented in the previous reintegration report. This tournament gathered returnees and local youths in the villages with highest rates of return to reconnect returnees with their peers, and encourage them to recreate bonds of friendship.



Figure 9 : Poster for awareness raising campaign FASONOOMA (Burkina Faso)

## 6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE REINTEGRATION COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAMME

This section is based on the results of quantitative surveys used at different stages of the reintegration process, as part of IOM's global M&E system for assisted voluntary return and reintegration. More information on this system and on the tools used is available in the reintegration report published in November 2019.

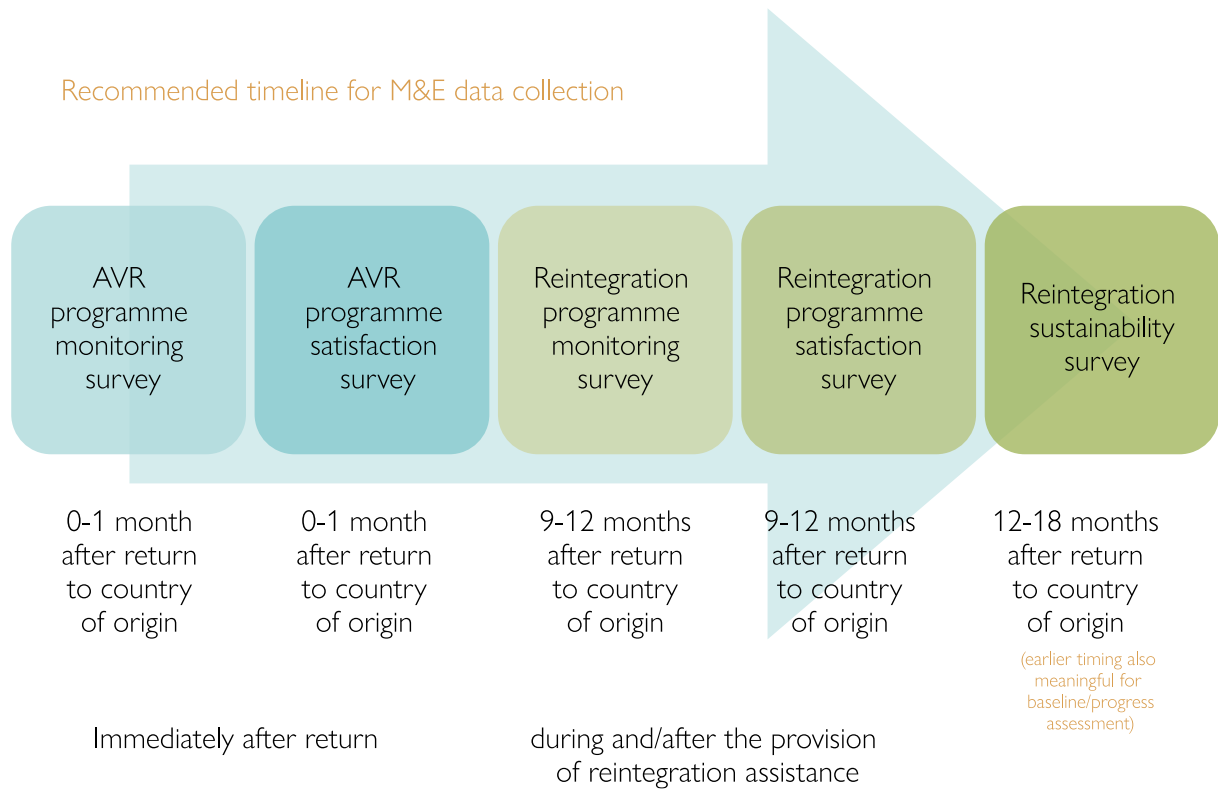


Figure 10: Recommended timeline for AVRR M&E data collection

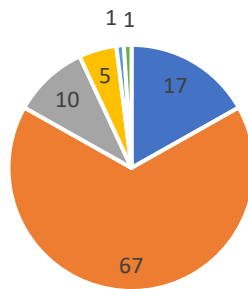


## a) RESULTS OF THE REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME MONITORING AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME SATISFACTION SURVEYS

The reintegration programme satisfaction survey and the reintegration programme monitoring survey are administered by IOM staff or enumerators 9 to 12 months after return. Between the start of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative and 31 January 2020, 3,900 satisfaction surveys and 3,373 monitoring surveys have been collected throughout the region.

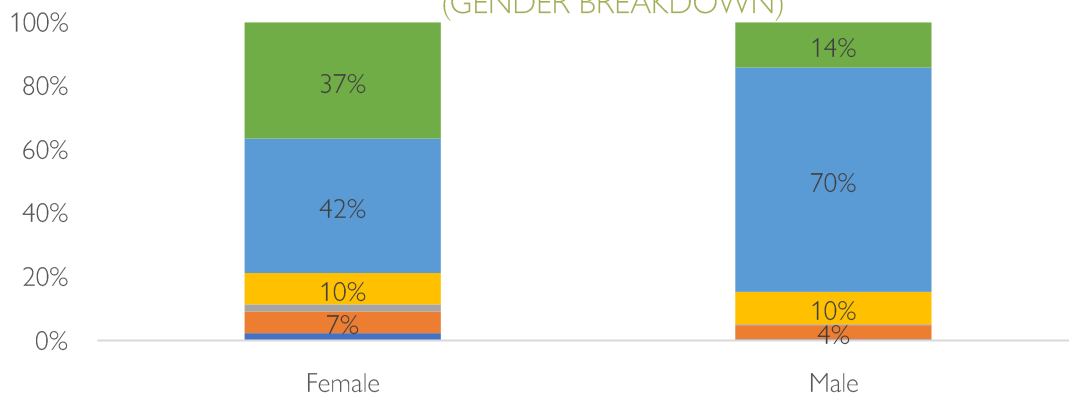
Measured in the eyes of EU-IOM Joint Initiative beneficiaries themselves, the programme’s reintegration assistance has proven to be effective for the vast majority of returnees. Regional reintegration satisfaction survey results (*n=3,900*) reveal that 84% of beneficiaries are satisfied with their reintegration assistance, including 17% who report being very satisfied. Of the remaining number, 10% described their assistance as ‘OK’ while 6% were dissatisfied. Some differences were observed in terms of gender, with more women giving feedback that they were very satisfied (37%) compared to 14% of men.

### HOW SATISFIED WERE YOU WITH THE REINTEGRATION SUPPORT OVERALL? (REGIONAL)



■ Very satisfied ■ Satisfied ■ OK ■ Dissatisfied ■ Very dissatisfied ■ I don't wish to answer

### HOW SATISFIED WERE YOU WITH THE REINTEGRATION SUPPORT OVERALL? (GENDER BREAKDOWN)

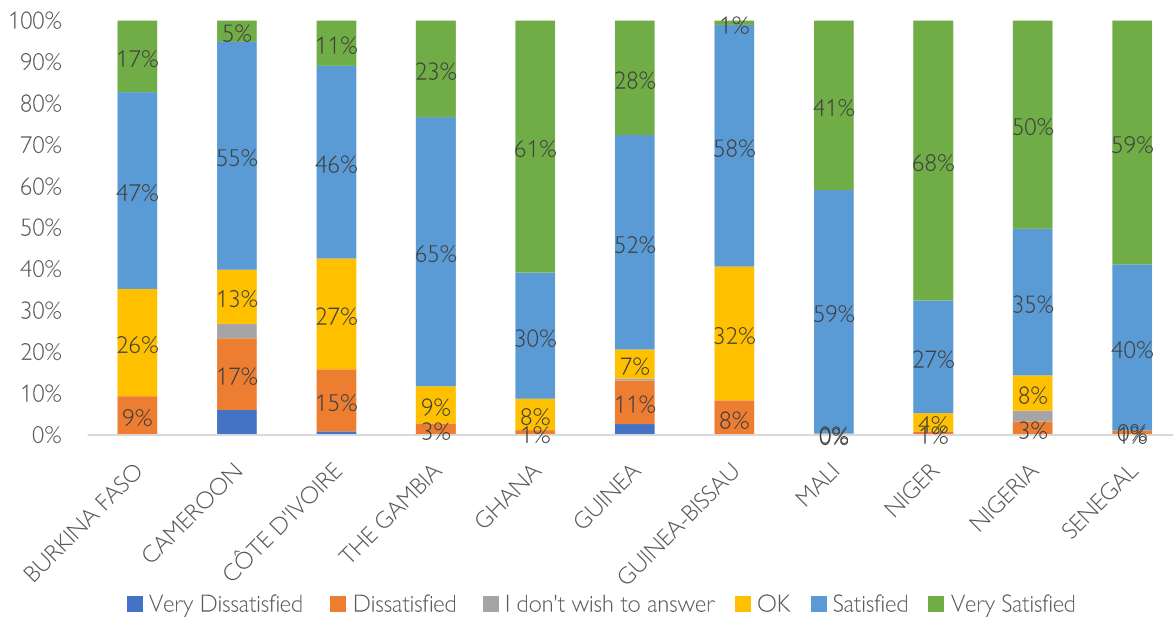


■ Very Dissatisfied ■ Dissatisfied ■ I don't wish to answer ■ OK ■ Satisfied ■ Very Satisfied

More substantial differences were observed along country lines. Close to 100% reported that they were satisfied in Mali and Senegal, an unrealistically high result that suggests the presence of ‘demand bias’ (beneficiaries deliberately voicing only positive feedback because they believe it will increase their chances of receiving future assistance). Data collection in Mali by reintegration staff who are also involved in implementation, and the collection of many surveys via phone rather than in person in Senegal, have likely increased the level of bias. To address these limitations, the programme is boosting M&E staffing to enable independent data collection in all countries and interviewing beneficiaries in person wherever feasible. However qualitative data collected in Mali confirms that the vast majority (if not 100%) of reintegration beneficiaries do appear satisfied. One returnee stated, “I’m very satisfied with the help from IOM which was very useful. I don’t regret having come back [from Algeria] and I don’t know how I would have made it without IOM’s help.”

Nigeria and the Gambia, where data is collected independently by dedicated M&E staff, also enjoy high satisfaction rates with 85% and 88% respectively. Côte d’Ivoire has the lowest beneficiary satisfaction rate with 55% (with another 27% describing the assistance as ‘OK’ and 16% dissatisfied) however beneficiaries in this country not only are more likely to feel comfortable voicing frank feedback due to independent field data collection by dedicated M&E staff, but also may reflect cultural issues which shape high expectations.

### HOW SATISFIED WERE YOU WITH THE REINTEGRATION SUPPORT OVERALL? (COUNTRY BREAKDOWN)

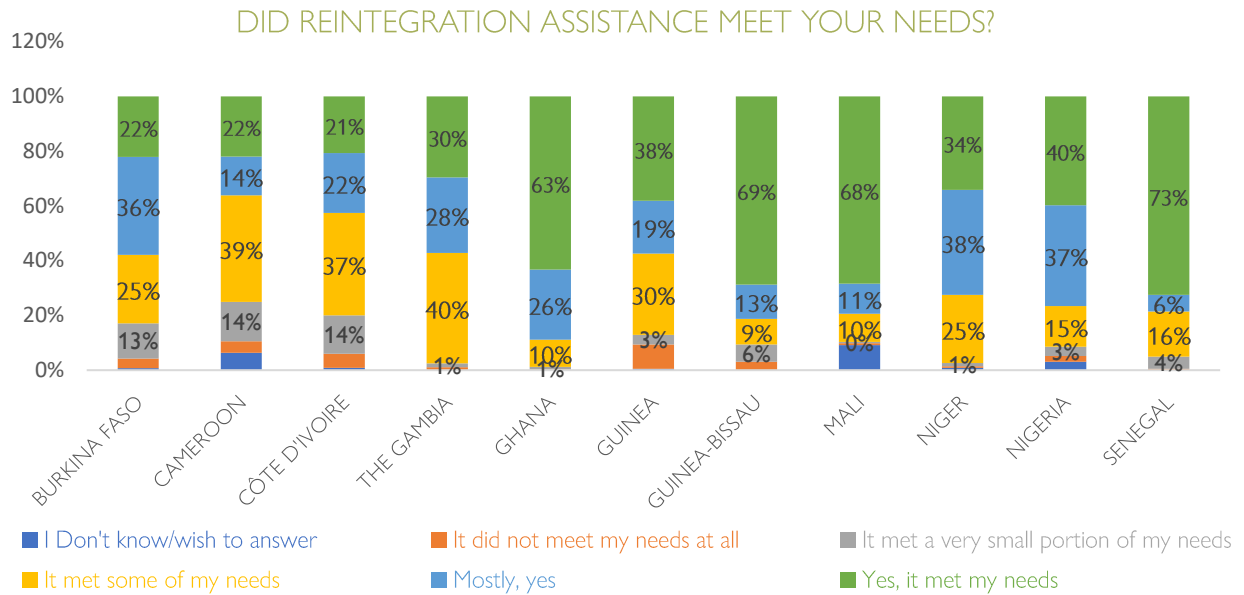


Drivers of dissatisfaction with economic reintegration assistance include continued financial struggles, often related to debts from the migration journey and family expenses outweighing microbusiness profits. Meanwhile, many returning migrants expressed satisfaction due to their financial independence being restored with the programme’s microbusiness support.

According to the Reintegration Monitoring Survey, 80% of beneficiaries surveyed in the region (n=3,373) state that they do not regret their decision to return. Only 2% say that they are taking concrete steps to re-migrate, such as saving money. The most common aspiration for the future, expressed by 49% of beneficiaries, is to expand their

business, while 25% want to launch a new business and 7% wish to pursue further education. Another 7% want to find a new job.

Overall, returnee satisfaction rates with IOM reintegration assistance and the return decision are high and beneficiaries report that the assistance enables them to meet basic needs and help support their families.



**b) RESULTS OF THE REINTEGRATION SUSTAINABILITY SURVEY**

The Reintegration Sustainability Survey was administered to 2,779 beneficiaries across the 11 countries of origin involved in the programme. More details on the respondents (sex, age, countries of origin, etc.) are available in the tables below.

**Overall reintegration sustainability: level of economic self-sufficiency, social stability, and psychosocial wellbeing**

In all countries involved, sustainable levels of reintegration were reported, with scores exceeding the 'composite reintegration sustainability score' of 0.5 considered by IOM to be the threshold at which reintegration may be considered sustainable. The average score under the EU-IOM Joint Initiative is of 0.62, with the highest score of 0.71 (Ghana) and a lowest score of 0.53 (Cameroon). The composite score consists of three separate dimensions; 'economic self-sufficiency', 'social stability' and 'psychosocial wellbeing'.<sup>25</sup>

When each of the average dimension scores are weighted alongside each other, the report found that the best performing dimension was the psychosocial (0.79), followed by the social (0.64), and finally the economic (0.61). Each score also differed in its variability, that is highest – lowest score discrepancy, with the social dimension showing the highest level of variability (0.31), followed by the economic (0.26) and finally the psychosocial (0.19).<sup>26</sup>

<sup>25</sup> N=2779

<sup>26</sup> N=2779

## COMPOSITE SCORES BY RANK

1	Ghana	0.71
2	Senegal	0.67
3	Niger	0.66
4	The Gambia	0.65
5	Mali	0.64
6	Burkina Faso	0.62
7	Nigeria	0.61
8	Guinea	0.59
9	Guinea-Bissau	0.58
10	Côte d'Ivoire	0.56
11	Cameroon	0.53

Males were generally found to slightly outperform females when the data is disaggregated by sex, with regional scores of 0.61 and 0.59 respectively. It should be noted however that respondents are overwhelmingly male with a regional beneficiary ratio of 88% male to 12% female. In addition to this, some female respondents in the region were as low as 1% (Guinea-Bissau with only one female beneficiary) and therefore no statistically valid conclusions can be drawn as a result. The table below highlights missions with especially low number of female respondents.

COMPOSITE SCORE DISAGGREGATED BY SEX AND NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS							
Country	Male	Female	Overall # respondents	Male respondents	%	Female respondents	%
Burkina Faso	0.63	0.53	184	181	98	3	2
Cameroon	0.54	0.52	354	258	73	96	27
The Gambia	0.66	0.59	240	236	98	4	2
Ghana	0.71	0.7	200	166	83	34	17
Guinea	0.6	0.56	134	126	94	8	6
Guinea-Bissau	0.58	0.63	109	108	99	1	1
Côte d'Ivoire	0.55	0.58	345	251	73	94	27
Mali	0.64	0.63	259	221	85	38	15
Niger	0.66	0.64	314	295	94	19	6
Nigeria	0.61	0.62	610	441	72	169	28
Senegal	0.68	0.55	30	29	97	1	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.59</b>	<b>2,779</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>12</b>

When disaggregated by age, the majority of respondents can be seen to fall between the ages of 18-25 at 78% with the next most populous between the 36-69 range at 17%. Lastly, those aged 17 and under, or minors made up 5% of the respondents, and those aged 70 and over made up less than 1%.

COMPOSITE SCORE BY AGE									
Country	Overall # respondents	Minors (17-)		18-35		36-69		70+	
		# resp.	Score	# resp.	Score	# resp.	Score	# resp.	Score
Burkina Faso	184	0	n/a	151	0.63	33	0.6	0	n/a
Cameroon	354	44	0.52	256	0.53	54	0.54	0	n/a
Côte d'Ivoire	345	4	0.57	278	0.56	62	0.54	1	0.64
The Gambia	240	6	0.7	213	0.65	21	0.67	0	n/a
Ghana	200	25	0.69	127	0.71	48	0.72	0	n/a
Guinea	134	14	0.56	113	0.6	7	0.78	0	n/a
Guinea-Bissau	109	0	n/a	94	0.58	15	0.56	0	n/a
Mali	259	27	0.6	187	0.64	43	0.63	2	0.6
Niger	314	7	0.66	235	0.66	71	0.66	1	0.74
Nigeria	610	13	0.56	496	0.61	101	0.59	0	n/a
Senegal	30	1	0.7	24	0.67	5	0.66	0	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>2779</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>2174</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0.66</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>5%</b>		<b>78%</b>		<b>17%</b>		<b>0%</b>	

## THE ECONOMIC DIMENSION

The economic dimension of reintegration covers aspects of reintegration which contribute to economic self-sufficiency. These include the ability to borrow money, the debt-to-spending ratio, need for food rationing, adequacy of employment, ownership of productive assets, etc. All missions but one in the region reported sustainable levels of economic reintegration. Cameroon, however scored 0.49 – one point below the sustainable threshold. Despite this, the region scored an average of 0.61, with the highest score being 0.75 (Senegal).

### ECONOMIC SCORES BY RANK

1	Senegal	0.75
2	Niger	0.70
3	Ghana	0.69
4	Mali	0.69
5	The Gambia	0.64
6	Burkina Faso	0.60
7	Nigeria	0.60
8	Guinea-Bissau	0.55
9	Guinea	0.54
10	Côte d'Ivoire	0.51
11	Cameroon	0.49

## FOOD SECURITY<sup>27</sup>

One of the aspects covered by the sustainability survey which is worth mentioning is the level of food security among the survey respondents. Food security was actually flagged as a concern, with a majority of beneficiaries (64%) having to resort to reducing food intake, with 32% of beneficiaries having to cut down on food often or very often, and an additional 32% sometimes reducing food. Cameroon was the worst-affected country with 24% of beneficiaries reporting having to reduce food 'very often' compared to only 2% in the Gambia.

## THE SOCIAL DIMENSION

The social dimension of reintegration reflects the extent to which returnees have reached social stability within the community, including access to services relating to housing, education, justice, health and other public infrastructure services.

Sustainable levels of social reintegration are reported in all countries involved. The region scored 0.64 on average, with the highest score being 0.84 (Ghana) and a joint lowest score of 0.53 (Côte d'Ivoire and Cameroon).

### SOCIAL SCORES BY RANK

1	Ghana	0.84
2	The Gambia	0.71
3	Senegal	0.66
4	Mali	0.65
5	Guinea	0.64
6	Nigeria	0.64
7	Burkina Faso	0.62
8	Guinea Bissau	0.62
9	Niger	0.60
10	Cameroon	0.53
11	Côte d'Ivoire	0.53

Continuing the trend, males outperformed females on average with regional scores of 0.64 and 0.61 respectively. Notable exceptions include Côte d'Ivoire (M: 0.52, F: 0.53) and Nigeria (M: 0.62, F: 0.67).<sup>28</sup>

Among the different aspects constituting the social dimension of reintegration are the access to and quality of housing,<sup>29</sup> healthcare<sup>30</sup> and education. When looking at housing circumstances, we can see that the majority of respondents (80%) described satisfaction with the standard of their housing with 6% claiming their standard was 'very good', 33% claiming it was 'good', and 41% claiming it was 'fair'. Negative perceptions made up for 20% with 4% claiming their standard of housing was 'very poor', 15% claiming it was 'poor' and 1% claiming 'I don't know'.

<sup>27</sup> N=2762

<sup>28</sup> Guinea-Bissau's one female beneficiary renders conclusions drawn unreliable.

<sup>29</sup> N=2762

<sup>30</sup> N=2762

Perceptions of access to healthcare within the region were found to be extremely positive, with 83% of respondents describing their access to health care as 'very good' 10%, 'good' 37%, and 'fair' 36%.<sup>31 32</sup> When asked about quality of healthcare, the picture was also overwhelmingly positive, with 83% of respondents claiming a satisfactory level of quality with 'very good' 10%, 'good' 37%, and 'fair' 36%. 12% described healthcare quality as 'very poor' 3, and 'poor' 9%.<sup>33</sup>

Data collected reveals that perceptions across the region with regards to access to education are extremely positive, with 88% of returnees outlining access as 'very good' 14%, 'good' 38%, and 'fair' 36%.<sup>34</sup> The region also saw high levels of children enrolled in school, with an attendance rate of roughly 80% of all returnees surveyed. It is worth noting that respondents surveyed were primary caregivers and were offered the following choices after asking whether their children were enrolled: 'yes', 'none', 'some, but not all', and 'I do not wish to answer'. We can be certain that there is an attendance rate of over 80% with the following answers: 'Yes' 80%, and 'Some but not all' 11%.<sup>35</sup>

## THE PSYCHOSOCIAL DIMENSION

The psychosocial dimension of reintegration encompasses the emotional, mental, and psychological elements of reintegration. The highest scoring dimension was found to be that of the psychosocial. The average sustainability score in the region was of 0.79. The highest scoring country was Niger with 0.88, with the lowest Cameroon, coming in at 0.69.

### PSYCHOSOCIAL SCORES BY RANK

1	Niger	0.88
2	The Gambia	0.86
3	Ghana	0.85
4	Burkina Faso	0.84
5	Mali	0.83
6	Guinea-Bissau	0.77
7	Nigeria	0.77
8	Senegal	0.77
9	Guinea	0.75
10	Côte d'Ivoire	0.72
11	Cameroon	0.69

When breaking down the psychosocial dimension into its constituent elements, feeling of belonging scored highly. This is evidenced by 91% of returnees expressing a sense of belonging in their communities of return, with 65% describing that they 'felt strongly (...) a part of the community' and 26% claiming they 'somewhat agree' that they have a sense of belonging in the community. Only 3% expressed negative feelings of belonging: 'I somewhat disagree' (2%), and 'I strongly disagree' (1%). Remaining answers (6%) were made up by the following answers: 'I don't agree or disagree' (3%), 'I don't know' (2%), and 'I don't wish to answer' (1%).<sup>36</sup> Countries that scored highest with perceptions of

<sup>31</sup> It is of note that these indicators measure perceptions of healthcare and are not in line with any objective markers. Further research would have to be conducted in order to ascertain the objective standard of healthcare available in country.

<sup>32</sup> N=2762

<sup>33</sup> N=2659

<sup>34</sup> N=2762

<sup>35</sup> N=2762

<sup>36</sup> N=2762

belonging included: Guinea-Bissau (99%) and Niger and the Gambia respectively (98%). The highest negative perceptions of belonging were found in Cameroon (7%), Nigeria (5%) and Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea (4%) respectively.

Participation in social activities appeared to be less high, with 53% of returnees claiming they engaged either 'often' (29%), or 'very often' (24%) in social activities. In contrast to this, 19% claimed they participated either rarely (11%), or 'never' (8%). The remaining respondents claimed they 'sometimes' (27%) participated, followed by 'I do not wish to answer' (2%).<sup>37</sup> The three countries that scored the highest with regards to social participation in the region were Niger (92%), Senegal (80%), and Mali (77%), those that reported the highest negative feedback were Côte d'Ivoire (35%), Cameroon (30%), and Nigeria (29%).

## INTENTION TO RE-MIGRATE

When surveyed as to returnees' intentions to re-migrate, 87% report that they feel able to stay and live in their country of origin.

### c) REINTEGRATION EVALUATION

As of the end of January 2020, IOM had launched an evaluation of the reintegration component of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative. The evaluation, planned to take place between January and March 2020, targeted 11 countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal. Besides quantitative results, this evaluation contains a lot of information gathered through qualitative in-depth interviews with key stakeholders and returnees. Its findings and related recommendations will be presented in a regional report to be published during the next reporting period. The main findings will also be presented in the next issue of this biannual reintegration report.

## 7. COMMUNICATION FOR MIGRANTS AND PRACTITIONERS

Several communication materials such as regional information leaflet, country-specific reintegration leaflets, and country specific videos on reintegration have been produced to provide potential returnees, returnees and return counsellors with information on the EU-IOM Joint Initiative as well as on the reintegration assistance process foreseen in the different countries of origin. These materials have been presented in the past issues of the report.

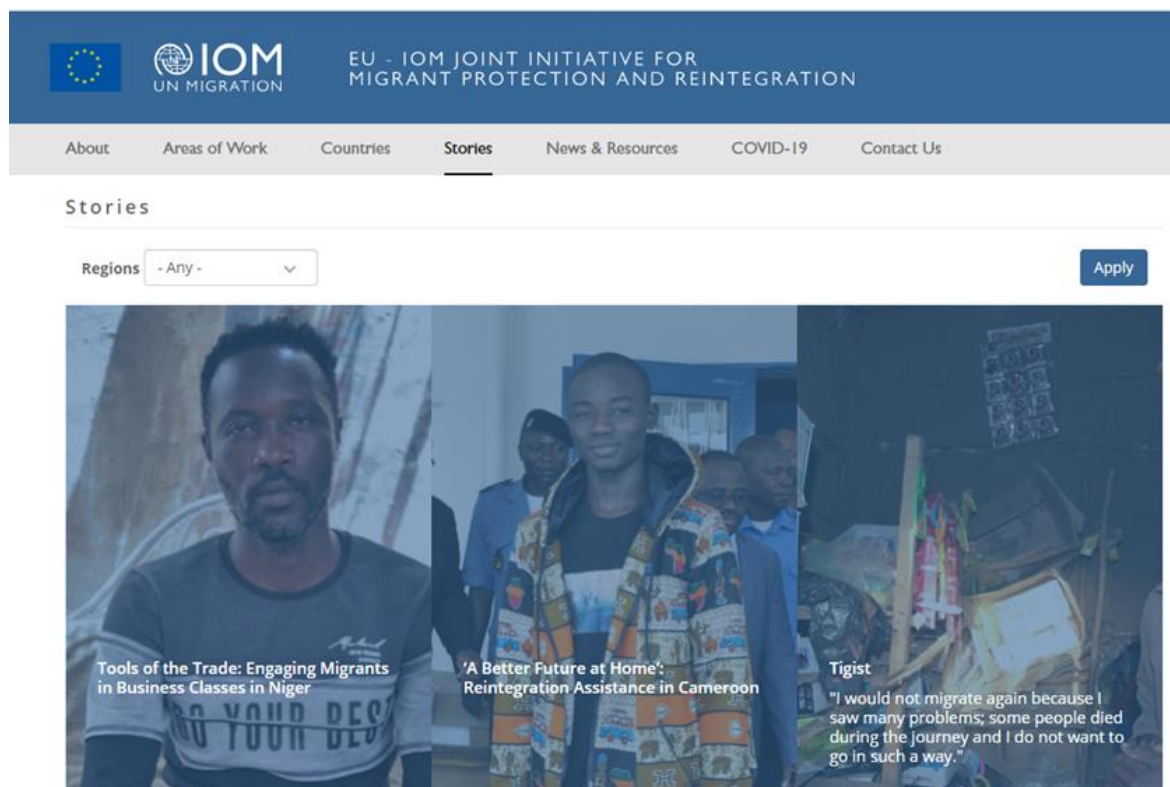
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<sup>37</sup> N=2762



## COMMUNICATION ON THE EU-IOM JOINT INITIATIVE REINTEGRATION ACTIVITIES

- a) **EU-IOM JOINT INITIATIVE'S WEBSITE**: Since its launch (18 September 2018), the EU-IOM Joint Initiative website ([www.migrationjointinitiative.org](http://www.migrationjointinitiative.org)) has been consulted 54,781 times by 12,798 unique users to access information, data, updates and testimonies from beneficiaries of the programme. The website provides the latest news releases, data, reports, videos and background information on the migration context in the Sahel, North and the Horn of Africa. It also provides human stories and testimonies on return and reintegration.



- b) **STORYTELLING AND CONTENT PRODUCTION**: To give a human face to reintegration assistance and ensure that migrants testimonies are shared widely, almost 100 stories, over 180 press notes and around 80 videos have been produced since the launch of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative (on average one new content published every two days). The stories cover a broad range of reintegration-related topics such as reintegration projects, psychosocial support activities, impact on communities as well as the return and reintegration process or challenges faced by returnees. Videos are available on IOM's EU-IOM Migrant Protection and Reintegration YouTube playlist at the following link: [bit.ly/34397pv](https://bit.ly/34397pv).

### Combatting the Stigma of Return



IOM - UN Migration **Returnees**  
Oct 21, 2019 - 6 min read



When Learning from Experience Becomes the Most Valuable Weapon



After over one and a half years trying to make it to Italy, Muhammad Saad returned to The Gambia in August 2016.  
© IOM 2019 / Miro Akasev

- c) **WEEKLY DIGEST:** to update IOM, the EU and other partners on the EU-IOM Joint Initiative's latest developments in the Sahel and Lake Chad region, IOM launched in November 2018 the Weekly Digest. While sent to 600 recipients every week, the Digest is opened on average by 360 readers for each issue.



- d) **SOCIAL MEDIA:** From November 2017 to January 2020, social media accounts from the IOM Regional Office in Dakar have known an increase of over 300% in audience on Facebook. Publications, including publications on the EU-IOM Joint Initiative have reached over 3 million people. Twitter posts have received a total of 4 million impressions.
- e) **THE OWL – OUR WEEKLY LESSON:** Since November 2018, the IOM Regional Office in Dakar has been sharing a series of communications tips to improve visibility on reintegration activities. During the reporting period, a guide on How to Acknowledge EU's Funding in our Communications was developed.

- f) **MEDIA ENGAGEMENT:** Engaging with media is key to enhance the public's knowledge and understanding of return and reintegration issues. To this end, in addition to the media workshops aimed at ensuring a more informed coverage of migration and better understanding of reintegration reported in previous reports, a platform on investigative journalism was created in June 2019. Promoting journalism in West and Central Africa, the platform will support fair and accurate media coverage of migration issues, including on the topics of Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration. Its activities will start in mid-2020.



*Figure 11 : Reza Deghati training returnees to become visual storytellers*

In December 2019, IOM, in collaboration with the world-renowned photojournalist Reza Deghati, organized a three-day photography training event in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Six young photographers, including three returnees and three journalists, were trained in photojournalism. The aim of this pilot project was to offer returnees an opportunity to become visual storytellers of their daily life back home, and help local journalists change the narrative on migration in the country. IOM and Reza will extend their partnership in 2020 to train more returnees and journalists in the region.





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**EU-IOM**  
Joint Initiative for  
Migrant Protection  
and Reintegration

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Photo : Mohamed Diabaté/IOM Côte d'Ivoire



Project funded by the European Union  
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